

# Honi Soit

SEMESTER TWO, 2016 • WEEK 4

FIRST PRINTED 1929

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William Allington writes about combating anti-intellectualism online.

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# Big Clichés On Campus



Prehistoric Revue Nerd



[REDACTED] Young Lib



Neo-Corporate Feminist



Collegecore Dudebro

Art by Frankie Hossack

I hate being reduced to a social stereotype! Down with *Honi Soit*.

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“É v e r y t h i n g  
i s b r ó k e a n d  
c ò l l c t e d ”

## 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

```
>>> =====RESTART=====
=====
>>> # *- Victoria Zerbst ~*
'''
>> meme
>> kitten
>> Trump
>> institutional abuse funded by our government
>> cooking video
>> log off
>> sob
2016 ''
```

In *Honi* this week you will find a lot of articles about disruptive online spaces.

In the news, we cover stories about the University's many technical glitches, from dodgy lecture recordings, to backlogs of special considerations and the new Blackboard system, 'Blackboard Ultra', which has been rebranded to sound like condom.

Turn a few pages and you'll find some pieces concerning Turnbull's 2k16 conception of disruption. We're asking some tech questions like:  
How do you hack Wi-Fi?  
Does online voting work?  
How can we combat anti-intellectualism online?  
And so on and so on and so on and so on and so on

Unsupported characters in input

## LETTERS



Bird: Ludmilla Nunell

## Rainbow Letter to the Editors

Dear *Honi*,

*Honi Soit* has broken its silence on almost 12 months of LGBTI organising by the Rainbow Campus campaign. It's in this watershed moment that I, harbinger of rainbows, descends upon the campus to decide which fork in the road we collectively should take.

This year's editorial team has taken hesitancy to report on these issues, which means we're already fairly uninformed. Thus I would like to congratulate Eden Faithful, Justine Landis-Hanley and Erin Jordan for finally reporting on it, albeit with some major corrections.

Jordan's piece on sanitary bins was a riot of misunderstanding. As an author of the Rainbow Campus Policy, I must clarify two points on the Rainbow Campus' membership and its content around bathroom facilities.

Sanitary bins and sharps containers have been a discussion since day one of the Rainbow Campus campaign. In meetings with management, they were seen as a necessary to all bathrooms, but have been stalled due to lack of action by the Queer Action Collective.

QuAC is known for sluggish behaviour to responsibility, but ultimately seems to be correct in its current reaction. This petition is a response to the state of bathrooms at Sydney University, not just for their lack of facilities in men's bathrooms but also for their lack of upkeep and repair across the board.

Transgender students face enough problems on campus, as harassment in bathrooms is anecdotally frequent. But the way to fix this problem is simple, I need to put five students in contact with the Director of Campus Infrastructure and Services who in May agreed to collaboration with the Rainbow Campus campaign. Contact me if you're interested.

This consultation will create new gender neutral bathrooms,

update all bathroom facilities, and work towards more LGBTI spaces on satellite campuses such as the Conservatory of Music, Cumberland, and potentially the College of Arts if it's not shut down.

Secondly, Jordan's comments on the USU's Resistance club judgement and control of the campaign are sorely misplaced. One of five contributors to the Rainbow Campus organisers is involved in this club, two others come from the Australian Labor Party, and two are non-factional and represent state and national LGBTI student networks.

This reductive breakdown doesn't include the regular LGBTI students who jump in and out of the organising group. As an author and a co-founder of this campaign, I can affirm that this campaign comes from the obvious solutions LGBTI students see to barriers this university has put between us and graduating.

The LGBTI movement on campus is lacking, and must evolve and engage. Insular and cliquy, it often fails to provide a visible and active presence on campus. Now that the Rainbow Campus campaign is here, I'd like to encourage you to join our Gay Agenda" (and report on it, correctly) so to fix this campus so I can get back to my studies.

Andrea Zephyr,  
she/they pronouns.

## Ideas concerning the direction of *Honi Soit*

I'm not too sure how to start this letter. Submitting my first piece of writing to an established paper of fellow open minded students shouldn't be this daunting. Or should it? I guess I should start at the beginning.

I am writing this letter in order to encourage a certain kind of journalism in the offices of *Honi Soit*. What kind of journalism you ask?

Am I requesting a resurgence of millennial gonzo journalism which romanticises substance abuse and mental illness?

Sort of. *Honi Soit* should model itself on VICE Magazine.

Recently I found myself taking a shit in Carslaw bathrooms. Ironically, I was reflecting on the privilege I have due to my sex, gender, skin colour and socioeconomic background. This was due to an expose (stuff the fucking accent) I was thinking of submitting to VICE magazine about the marginalised individuals who write advertisements for blowjobs on the cubicle walls. It stuck with me that these people seemed to be of East Asian and Indian descent.

Someone opened a window and eased the building atmosphere of bodily fluids. Then it hit me. Students should take a grass roots approach to their articles about uni life, and should submit them to a student paper which is ready to embrace the ugly face of university life today.

Call me "edgy" all you want, but I feel *Honi Soit* could take specific tips from VICE magazine and allow itself to take on the duty of being a unique outlet of the truth.

For example, editors should encourage writers to: dangle profound sentences in the space between hard hitting paragraphs; to swear a little bit but not too much, usually saying shit or fuck to set the mood; open articles in the middle of a perverse and/or comical scenario; not be afraid of addressing journalistic tropes head on; create exposes around seemingly obscure and irrelevant parts of day to day life, revealing interconnection and abhorrent immorality; use adjectives like "haunting".

Here are but a handful of ideas. Sorry for dragging on, call me crazy but I am a supporter of progressive journalism and democracy.

Feel free to do with this what you will. I appreciate your tolerance and abundance of good will and ideas, hopefully you now have a better idea of how to use them.

Sincerely,  
T.

## Something short and very sweet

Hey *Honi*!

I just wanted to let you know that your article on exchange was masterfully written and a really good read! (Smile emoji) Keep up the good work friends!

Kindly,  
Brendan Colnan  
Sent from Mail for Windows 10

## Luckily I'm not sensitive or anything.

Dear Honey Suet,

As a stickler for correct language usage, I was appalled to see that one of your editors, Victoria Zerbst, referred to the act of giving birth as a "retched act of recreation". That is not correct. The wretched act of recreation was what took place nine months before the wretched act of procreation.

Semantic shift is a well-known phenomenon in language, and there was once a seismic shift in spelling when the Great Vowel Shift played havoc with spelling standardisation in the 15th and 16th centuries. There is no reason, then, why in this Meta-modern Age we should not see a whole raft of spelling changes based on cultural needs. A switch from wretched to retched, however, will never happen here even though it seems logical to think of a wretched occurrence as "retch-worthy" or vomit-inducing.

The reason is because retching is an honourable rite of passage in Australia where "beers does flow and men chunder". Ergo, if something is held to be "retched", it will of necessity be something excellent and worth boasting about. If your editor, then, attempts to claim that she was using a pun with "retched", you can point out to her that it has been misapplied.

Further to the point, the slang term, "wrecked" – as in "I was wrecked after that party" – does not derive from the Middle English "wrecched" (the source of wretched) but from the Middle English "wrek", coming from the

Old Norse, "rek". It is therefore not semantically tautologous to proclaim oneself "wretchedly wrecked" after a pub crawl, and even though this would inevitably involve some retching, this would be a boast, not an announcement of "retchedness".

If Zerbst gains no semantic traction here, she might be onto a better thing with "recreation". Here, there is no obstacle to a spelling shift from recreation to "wreckreation" when one is specifically thinking of having fun by "getting wrecked".

Then there is the intellectual act of spotting someone's egregious spelling error, which may now be labelled an act of critical "wreckognition".

What do you wreckon?

Jeffrey Zerbst, PhD



## WHAT TO LISTEN TO WHEN...

you are slowing being seduced by your computer and you're not sure if you are ready for that kind of relationship but you might just give it a go

**Paranoid Android**  
Radiohead (1997)

**LOL :-)**  
Trey Songz (2009)

**A Machine  
Spiritual**  
Bright Eyes (2011)

**The Future is Now**  
Offspring (2012)

**Word Starts Attack**  
Johnny Marr (2013)

**Ayo Technology**  
50 Cent (2007)

Sit down and type a word - any word. Now type another one. Now type up to 498 more. Congratulations, you have just written a letter. All you need to do now is send it to *Honi* at [editors@honisoit.com](mailto:editors@honisoit.com) before 5pm Friday, and your words could appear on this very page. You could also handwrite a letter using a pen, quill and some ink, or human blood.





Tickets are \$20 concession, \$15 for ACCESS

JOKE TICKETS: PATTY AND SELMA VOTE HOTLY CONTESTED

With nominations for September’s SRC elections closing on August 17, and factional power plays being orchestrated in the backstreets of JFR as we speak, let’s look at some of the more interesting contenders for office.

*Honi* can confirm “Twins for Tickets”, the ticket formed by law students William and Patrick Ryan for the 2014 SRC election, will be returning to the ballot paper, rebranded as “Twins for Tickets: (It) Takes Two”. Their policies are still being formed, but include ensuring the prosperity of twins in light of increasing university deregulation and continuing to interrogate the motives of triplets.

William and Patrick are former residents of St Paul’s College and St John’s College, respectively. When asked whether they were pulling from a college base, William said, “We are running purely on the support of twins, not colleges, and are unaware of any other tickets pulling from the twin base.” The Ryans are factionally unaligned.

Other rumoured tickets included a Harambe for SRC ticket to be headed by ultra-hack Cameron Caccamo (Independent). Much to everyone’s dismay, when asked about the allegations Caccamo’s response was “oh my god where did this rumour come from, amazing”, as he will not be on that ticket, or any ticket.

However, all is not lost. The other half of last year’s Camerons for SRC ticket, Cameron Hawkins (Independent), is organising a Simpsons for SRC ticket, which he is running with Nino Popovich. “I hope stupor is ready for an inordinate amount of Simpsons memes,” he said.

SLIGHTLY LESS OF A JOKE TICKETS: THE UNITY/NLS/MOD LIBS CAMP

There have been allegations SRC President Chloe Smith – who previously told us NLS were not dealing with the Liberals (see honisoit.com for more juicy details on what this year’s definition of “we fight Tories” means) – was actually an active participant in this controversial coalition’s negotiations, with sources within the moderate Libs telling us they dealt directly with Smith. However, the SRC President refused to confirm this was the case.

Allegedly, the deal struck could score the moderate Liberals the full position of vice president and a general executive position, provided they elect six out of the nine tickets. This would give the moderate Liberals two votes on the SRC executive and considerable control over the SRC’s budget.

There was also some juicy drama at the NLS president pre-selection. Although Isabella Brook will contest the election, *Honi* can reveal an insurgent – Jenna Schroder – managed to secure enough votes to successfully challenge Brooks’ candidacy, in a nail biting 8-7 final count. Schroder, however, then chose to resign. An anonymous source alleged Schroder resigned as the nature of the deal with Unity made it possible for them to withdraw their support of NLS unless Isabella was the NLS presidential candidate.

For those less-seasoned hacks, this means NLS effectively confirmed their candidate in negotiations, before Isabella had even been validly pre-selected by her caucus. And who said factional powerbrokers didn’t rule the Labor party.

Unfortunately for this editor, in the process of contacting Schroder to find out why, a Facebook page was messaged, with the same profile picture and Facebook name as the Schroder in question. Even more unfortunately, this page is controlled by Unity member Christian Jones, and was created as a “joke” some years earlier. Schroder’s comment request was therefore leaked to the whole of Student Unity. Once contacted, the Real Jenna Schroder confirmed she had contested the president pre-selection and subsequently resigned.

“I have resigned from the position of NLS pres-

idential candidate to ensure the continuation of a strong relationship with Unity and therefore the best chance of success for NLS ticket holders,” Schroder said. “I am glad that the person I am resigning to is such a progressive, intelligent woman and I look forward to helping her succeed.”

Both factional head-kickers Michael Elliot (Unity) and Chloe Smith (NLS) were unwilling and unable to confirm, well, anything really. Elliot did confirm that NLS and Unity will be running under their traditional Stand Up branding, meaning the moderate Liberals will run under their own branding.

SLIGHTLY LESS OF A JOKE TICKETS: THE GROOTS/SLS/SALT CAMP

Grassroots, SLS and Socialist Alternative will be running on at least three brands; a new brand name in traditional Grassroots green, “Left Action” (which Socialist Alternative have run on for the last three years), and an intercampus brand. The decision not to run on Grassroots branding was made so that SLS and Grassroots can run under the same brand. “Fresh is best. Unite and fight the Tories,” said Liam Carrigan (Grassroots).

Matt Campbell (SLS) confirmed that Grassroots and SLS will be running under the brand “Unity”, sorry, “Unite”. SLS will be running 8 tickets and according to Campbell they will be differentiated from the Stand Up campaign because they’ll be fighting for a “truly progressive and left wing SRC”.

Under their deal, Grassroots has secured president, half of general secretary and two general executive positions. Allegedly, Socialist Alternative has been assured half of education officer. SLS didn’t confirm their end of the deal, but the confirmed positions suggest they would be given half education officer, vice president and half general secretary.

Grassroots president candidate, Georgia Mantle, also confirmed that the moderate Liberals approached her for a deal before they signed with Unity. At this point, Unity had allegedly offered the moderate Liberals half of education officer. The moderate Liberals pitched to Grassroots on the basis of “destroying NUS”. “We obviously rejected this offer,” said Mantle.

Mantle’s policies are still in formulation but she is “dedicated to creating an activist SRC and ensuring that activist campaigns are well funded and supported”.

“This election’s going to be pandemonium. Everything’s properly contested. We already hate each other so much,” an anonymous source within the coalition said. We feel you, anon.

AND WHO EVEN KNOWS WHAT WE ARE ELECTING THESE CLOWNS FOR

Wondering why *Honi* hasn’t liveblogged an SRC meeting in a while? That’s because there hasn’t been one. The past two meetings of the 88th Council have been cancelled due to high numbers of apologies from councillors, rendering them inquorate. The apologies for Council’s July meeting overwhelmingly came from Labor faction members, who were likely tired after spending the day at the NUS’ Education Conference (the poor dears), while the number of apologies registered for the August meeting a fortnight ago appeared to just be because it was raining. A special meeting has been called for this Wednesday (August 17), which will surely also be inquorate as hacks celebrate getting their SRC nomination forms in on time.

THERE’S REVUE BEEF. AND IT’S TENDER

The Faculty Revue Season is heating up, and the Big Comedians on Campus (BCOCs) are putting their wits to the test and trolling the shit out of rival revue Facebook events.

Leaked screenshots of a conversation between

*Art’s Revue’s* Aidan Molins and *Science Revue’s* Declan Maher reveal the neediness for event traction from both sides. Shit then escalated when Arts Revue’s Aaron Chen posted a photo of Arts Revue co-director, Angus Rees with the caption: “hey you guys study sleep science? cos i can already sense a couple of yawns” to the Science Revue event page, racking up 70 likes.

*Honi* Soit approached Chen about this alleged “bullying” to which he replied, “everything happens for a reason. no further comment”. He further commented, “make comedy great again” when asked if the beef was merely a marketing tactic.

From team *Science Revue*, co-director, Declan Maher, screamed through his headlock to tell *Honi*, “*Arts Revue* if you’re reading this please leave us alone. I have no more lunch money to give you”.

ARCHITECTURE REVUE STRUCTURALLY UNSOUND

There will be no Architecture Revue in the year 2016. Why has this beloved revue crumbled to the ground like the Roman ruins? Architecture student and revue enthusiast, David Barko, told *Honi*: “It was a tragedy of Shakespearian proportions – blood, wine, guts, you name it.” Turns out that was a joke (Architects, amirite?) and the revue demolition was instigated by “plain boring stuff”. Barko explained, “We had a great start, 10 new people came to the first meeting, but retention was an issue. Then personal issues came up among for some exec members and then it all fizzled.” There are murmurs that the remaining cast members are hoping to merge the show with the Engineering Revue, but nothing is set in stone.

ALMS FOR ELITE ATHLETES

What does a multi-million dollar private company do when its earnings are down? Anything, you would think, but appeal to the better nature of students and alumni in a crowdfunding campaign. And yet, as was announced last week, Sydney University is soliciting alms for campus’ most needy, students who are in the Elite Athlete Program.

Keen followers of campus affairs will recall Sydney Uni Sport and Fitness, the separate entity that runs the program (as well as the University’s gyms, swimming pool and rock climbing wall), received the largest chunk of the Student Services and Amenities Fee this year from the University, \$2.5 million more than the SRC. With the money likely to go towards personal academic advisors and physical trainers, expensive facilities and a lifetime supply of Gatorade, suffice it to say there are far better uses for student money than bankrolling a few dozen Olympic hopefuls in the name of University marketing.

The strangest thing is the way the whole thing appears to mimic a World Vision child sponsorship advertisement. “\$75 could help a student purchase a textbook,” it reads. “\$500 could help a student purchase essential sporting gear.” If you didn’t know elite athlete students were the most pampered at this university (followed closely by our Ralph Lauren toting friends at the colleges), you’d think you were donating to Smith Family Christmas appeal. Sponsor an elite athlete today!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WIN

In a pleasantly surprising turn of events, the University seems to have paid out to at least 30 Chinese international students scholarship money it has owed for several years after an *Honi* article called them out. Within days of the Week 3 edition hitting stands, the affected students – all enrolled in engineering courses in a partnership program with Harbin Institute of Technology – noticed a big bump in funds in their accounts without a peep from the University. Kudos, Spence.

LECTURE RECORDINGS

# Students frustrated as some academics avoid recording lectures

Sam Langford

Students have criticised the University’s opt-out lecture recording policy for failing to support students with disabilities, as well as those with work commitments and timetable clashes.

The policy, implemented in 2015, allows lecturers to apply to the faculty Dean for permission to opt out of automatic lecture recording. However, the absence of guidelines around acceptable grounds for opting out has led to inconsistent implementation across faculties, with students often left in the dark as to why recordings are unavailable.

In some cases, students have reported lecturers refusing to speak into recording microphones, failing to respond to emails requesting special access to recordings, and advising students to drop subjects they are unable or too “lazy” to attend in person.

While University statistics suggest that only 15% of all lectures are not recorded, lecturers also have full control over whether and when recordings are uploaded to Blackboard. It is unclear how often recordings are withheld in this way.

Noa Zulman, a first year International and Global Studies student, was told her Philosophy lectures would not be recorded to curb attrition rates and counter student laziness.

“Here I was, a student with a severe physical disability and a

High Distinction average being branded as ‘slack’ for not attending every lecture,” she told *Honi*. “Worse still, as someone who experiences chronic pain when writing for extended periods of time, I had relied upon lecture recordings over the past semester in order to fill gaps within my notes, and to ensure that I wasn’t entirely exhausted by the end of my two hour lectures.”

Another student, who requested anonymity, said “as far as I know, disability services can’t really counteract this so I’ve emailed lecturers a few times saying I need access for X or Y reason, and have never received it. I basically just started to pick units based on which lecturers I know record and which I know don’t, which I suppose is the opposite of what they wanted to achieve”.

Widespread problems with the Special Consideration system, as reported by *Honi* in Week 2, add undue stress to students with disabilities or other “good reasons”, who now need to apply to the lecturer or Special Consideration.

Academic Board Chair Anthony Masters has noted that this self-identification requirement is problematic.

“We don’t always know such students are in our class and it is inappropriate to force them to self identify. For some folk the provision of lecture recordings is a necessary adjunct to their learning,” he told *Honi*.

However, a number of academics have expressed competing concerns. In April 2015, 150 academics signed an open letter to the University criticising the policy’s potential impact on student attendance.

Dr. Joellen Riley, Dean of the Law School, said she had faced “some notable resignation threats” over the issue, and chose to treat the Faculty like an “autonomous collective”, where “academics are confident that they will not be leaned on by a Dean”.

She identified several common concerns within the faculty, regarding lecture attendance, theft of intellectual property, and a desire to discuss contentious issues off the record.

*Honi* spoke to a number of other academics who have opted out of lecture recordings. Dr. Susan Schroeder, who teaches ECOP2612, primarily works from a whiteboard and prefers to upload thorough notes prior to class. Dr. Aaron Nyerges and Dr. Brendon O’Connor, who teach AMST1001, record all lectures but release them to individuals on a case by case basis.

Jess McDonald Norman, a third year Arts student, is frustrated with the implication that “you’re not a good student if you don’t come”.

“I wish they could be more supportive of learning in whatever format is comfortable for individual students.”

DISABILITY SERVICES

# Disability Services expands Academic Plans to all faculties

Justine Landis-Hanley

The expansion of Disability Services’ Academic Plans to all faculties of the University has been met with mixed reactions from students.

Academic plans require students to list all adjustments for their units (such as note-taking arrangements, timetable changes and extensions on assessments) based on the subject outline at the start of each semester. This will replace previous faculty-specific modes of providing assistance.

Disability Support told *Honi* the new system “allows for forward planning and resources to be directed where needed ahead of time, providing confidence to students that their needs will be met”, and said that “85 per cent of surveyed students using the Academic Plan last year indicated they found it to be an effective study management tool”.

However, some students have expressed apprehension about the rigid structure of pre-nominating assistance so early in the semester.

Noa Zulman, FASS Disability Action Plan Consultative Committee’s Undergraduate representative, said that “students with disabilities who were previously able to access special provisions for exams or assignments with relative ease, now often face a significant time lag before their Academic Plans are processed, which may result in anxiety, undue stress, and a level of physical and emotional discomfort that impedes their

ability to study effectively.”

Undergraduate Arts student Sally\*, said having to decide what adjustments you want for every assessment at the start of semester prevented Disability Services from being able to monitor the students’ disability and take a nuanced approach to managing their needs.

“It means that Disability Support can’t observe how often they access adjustments during semester, and whether there are any decreasing trends in their state of health.”

Arts student Georg Tamm warned Academic Plans are also powerless at the discretion of lecturers in some Faculties.

For example, in the Business School, students with special consideration or disability services adjustment can submit an assessment after its due date. But a loophole exists, allowing Lecturers to set a closing date for the assessment any point after the due date. After this date, no submissions will be accepted and a student will be given a zero mark regardless of their disability services adjustments.

Tamm said that the University needed to reevaluate the long-term price students will pay for short term administrative efficiency.

“We need to be able to put the person before the paperwork and the Academic Plans don’t do that.”

The University has indicated that they will monitor the process to identify areas of improvement. \*name has been changed.

# Are you really fucking angry about Nauru? Do these things

Our government deliberately abuses refugees and insulates itself from political consequences by shrouding its operations in secrecy and the mask of “national security”. The Nauru Files have gone some way to piercing that secrecy.

The information contained in the files is useless if it only generates online outrage, so here’s a list of ways that you can assist the battle against offshore detention.

The Refugee Advice and Caseworker Service (RACS) provides legal assistance to asylum seekers applying for protection visas and appealing decision in the migration tribunals. They accept donations over the phone and can be contacted at (02) 8355 7227 or admin@racs.org.au

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) provides holistic support organisation. They run significant public advocacy campaigns, organise legal assistance and provide material aid to over two thousand refugees each year.

The Refugee Action Coalition Sydney (RAC) runs grassroots activist programs to end mandatory detention. You can send them a cheque (to “Refugee Action Coalition” to PO Box 433, Newtown NSW 2042).

The RISE Advocacy lobbies for policy reform. Crucially, it was created by refugees and each member of the directing board has a refugee background. It has a high degree of autonomy and therefore is a valuable voice in the debate for change.

Write to your local federal minister. The only way the last Federal election went by without this issue being on the table, is because most federal ministers didn’t think it would affect their chances of election. You can change that.

Keep an eye on events for rallies and protests on Facebook. The Refugee Action Coalition Sydney (RAC) have organised a rally on August 27 at Town Hall. You should go to that and get really angry in public.

This is a non-exhaustive list. If you know local or grassroots organisations, donate to them as well. Sharing articles is a good, but Facebook likes won’t get people out of detention, or help them fight for a protection visa.



NEWS

SENATE ELECTIONS

# Politics and religion face off in race for University Senate

Nine undergraduates and ten postgraduates will contest the online ballot for students fellows of the Uni’s highest student office

Andrew Bell

Nominations for the University of Sydney Senate election have officially closed, and the confirmed pool of candidates will likely see traditional political factions pitted against, and cooperate with, certain religious groups on campus.

The Senate is the peak statutory governing body of the University, which means the successful candidates will have a voice at the broadest level over University policy. There is one spot reserved for an undergraduate student, and one reserved for a postgraduate.

Contesting the undergraduate position is a pool of candidates, which seem to span the full gamut of campus groups.

These are George Bishop (Economics/Law), Caitlin Gauci (Media and Communications), Finn Keogh (Arts), Dmitry Palmer (Arts/Law), Alexi Polden (Arts/Law), Andrew Sekhar (Engineering/Science), Francis Tamer (IT), Georg Tamm (Business/Commerce) and finally Colin Whitchurch (Economics).

The candidates sit along a large spread of the political spectrum, presenting a much greater clash between left and right than the average SRC election.

George Bishop seems well-placed to leverage a very strong base of support in evangelical organisations across campus. He is the current President of the Sydney University Evangelical Union (EU).

He told *Honi*, “I’m running as an independent candidate with broad support from a number of groups at the university.”

Bishop declined to identify these groups by name, beyond “religious groups” other than the EU. The EU proved decisive in the election of previous fellow Simon Hill.

A candidate who will draw support from conservative bases is Liberal student Dmitry Palmer. Palmer is a current SRC Councilor, and is contesting the executive of the Sydney University Liberal Club (SULC).

Palmer told *Honi*, “Everyone wants to fight and undermine university management, which isn’t a successful approach when working in a Senate atmosphere. The previous Senator [referring to Dalton Fogarty] neglected his opportunity to front up to the SRC, and I think that has caused quite a bit of distrust and frustration on both ends, I’d like to be an active Senate fellow that

fulfils this core duty.”

He claimed to have solicited support from “A broad coalition of Labor Right, Liberal-Aligned, Grassroots and any independent students” but said “[m]y attempts to speak with SALT (Socialist Alternative) haven’t been successful so I won’t be looking for their support, nor would I want their votes,” he said.

*Honi* has already reported on candidates Alexi Polden, Georg Tamm and Finn Keogh. It now seems that Polden will be well positioned to gain support from many members of the broad left.

The postgraduate candidate pool, however, seems largely divorced from student politics.

It is composed of Attila Balogh (PhD), Savva Dobrinsky (Juris Doctor), Gemma Dyer (PhD), Ceren Guler (Medicine), Nathan Ide (Master of Business Administration), David Jordan (Master of Business Administration), Alistair Robson (Graduate Diploma of Commerce), Imogen Thomson (Medicine), Tamara Voninski (PhD) and current interim fellow, Joshua Preece (Medicine).

The election will run from Friday 2 September until Thursday 22 September.

BLACKBORED

# ‘Old-fashioned’ Blackboard to be phased out in favour of Uni-wide system

Eden Faithfull

The Blackboard tool will soon be phased out entirely in favour of a single, institution-wide system after the need to update the “old-fashioned” learning management software was flagged during a meeting of the University’s Senior Executive Group.

While it’s yet undecided which new system the University will choose, it would be administered across all faculties and schools with the aim to address usability issues that have plagued its predecessor.

A satisfaction survey conducted in 2014 indicated high level of dissatisfaction with the Blackboard platform across both academic and administrative staff and students, with one third of these demographics expressing disappointment.

The survey results highlighted concerns with the platform’s ease of use, outdated interface and limitations in collaborative and interactive learning designs.

A University spokesperson said no decision had yet been made on Blackboard’s replacement, and it was currently undergoing a tender process.

“The University will be actively looking at a range of learning management systems over the coming months. The

evaluation process will involve the whole University community, including academic and professional staff and students,” the spokesperson said.

Blackboard itself is currently rebuilding its own software ‘Blackboard Ultra’, which promises a wider use of mobile devices and a considerable increase in the number of educational tools available.

Blackboard is the most commonly used Learning Management System platform worldwide, though its market share has begun to steadily decline with alternative systems emerging.

Luke Anderson, a lecturer in the School of Information Technologies, said the main issues were around staff and student interaction with the Blackboard system.

“When selecting a Learning Management System, you can usually only have two of three things: usability, learning tools, and cost,” he said.

“With the Blackboard system, you have a whole heap of learning tools at a reasonable cost, however this means there is a compromise for usability, which is the main issue currently facing the university.”

The issue is expected to be discussed further at the next meeting of the Senior Executive Group.

ANALYSIS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

# StudyNSW fails sanity test

In a perhaps indicative quirk, the NSW government’s slick new website for international students lacks any foreign language support. Nick Bonyhady reports

‘Innovative and agile’ is a federal slogan, but Mike Baird seems to be making a play for it with the launch of their new NSW Government website for international students. It uses the new ‘sydney’ domain and features a slick video trumpeting “Sydney hosts world’s largest English lesson”. One hopes the lesson was both colossal and comprehensive, because the website itself lacks any option for the content to be displayed in a language other than English.

While that will be no problem for many

international students, particularly those from Anglophone countries, for others, it is a serious oversight. “It feels like the NSW government either has too much confidence about international students’ English skills or too little respect for those who don’t speak English well,” said Poppy Wang, vice-president of the Sydney University Chinese Students’ Association.

One of the groups most likely to be disadvantaged are the thousands of international students who enter Australia every year to undertake an English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students (ELICOS) before they start their tertiary study. These courses often last between 10 and 20 weeks. By providing rapid language training, ELICOS ‘boosts’ the scores of students whose initial English test results were too low to study courses delivered in English here. For those students, the Study Sydney website resembles a final exam delivered before semester begins.

Visit Australia’s second most broken government website at [study.sydney](http://study.sydney)

There is a more troubling case though. For international students who visit the site hoping to find information about their rights at work, information is available, but tough to find. An external link takes users to the Fair Work website and from there, another link provides access to language support – hardly an intuitive process. Wang described the information on the StudySydney as “not clear enough” from an international students’ perspective. Especially in light of the need for accessible information demonstrated by the widespread wage abuse against international students by 7/11, this is a serious failing.

The government should be commended for trying to help international students. However, the lack of language support remains both perplexing, given that other Service NSW websites targeted at the general population have an automatic translation function, and disappointing.

ANALYSIS

THE OLYMPICS

# Bad blood in the water

Kevin Lee reminds us that sport isn’t immune to cultural narratives

No sooner had the Olympics begun than the first accusations of doping emerged. Before the 400m men’s freestyle finals, Australian swimmer Mack Horton labelled Sun Yang, his Chinese competitor, a “drug cheat”. Horton was referring to a three-month ban Sun served in 2014 for use of the banned substance trimetazidine. After his victory, Horton refused to shake Sun’s hand, and reiterated his accusation at a post-race press conference.

Trimetazidine is commonly used to treat angina, a heart condition that reportedly caused Sun’s shock withdrawal from the World Swimming Championships’ 1500m freestyle final. The fact that the drug had been placed on the banned substances list five months before Sun took it, and had its former classification as a “stimulant” downgraded by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), was submitted as evidence of Sun’s innocence by his supporters. Notwithstanding, suspicion towards Sun has been fuelled by the failure of the Chinese Anti-Doping Authority to report both his failed drug test and his ban until the latter had been served, in direct contravention of WADA regulations.

The Australian media has not shied away from fanning the flames of controversy. Channel 7 commentator Amanda Abate inadvertently referred to Sun as one of many “Chinese cheats”. Abate pressed that it was a “talking point”, and later took to Twitter to call her misstatement a Freudian slip. Speculation as to Asian athletes’ legitimacy is hardly rare. In 2012, a former Chinese medical supervisor alleged the existence of an extensive state-sponsored doping programme during the 1980s and early 1990s, which some suggest still exists today. The revelation last week that swimmer Chen Xinyi failed her drug test is unlikely to assist in quashing those rumours.

The depiction of China as a world sporting power embodying the ‘Big Red Machine’ archetype formerly associated with the Soviet Union has been noted by critics around the world. This characterisation is made easier by popular cultural depictions of Asian people which have sought to rob them of their personalities. Stereotypes of Asian students as “maths geeks” or “instrumental prodigies”, for instance, tend to reduce them to no more than mindless robots, driven by a sin-

gle-minded desire to succeed. Usually, their talents are viewed not as the result of inspiration, but rather of overbearing helicopter parents or hours spent gaining an “unfair advantage” at coaching colleges – or a combination of both. When the achievements of Asian individuals are tied so closely to these narratives, it’s not too difficult to see how Chinese athletes come to be viewed as drones sent by the Communist Party rather than individuals with personalities and aspirations.

For many, such as Sydney University international student Xia Bonan, this paints an outdated picture of China and echoes a stereotype that diminishes the hard work and achievement of many Asian people all over the world. “There’s this stereotype in the West that everything and everyone in China is somehow controlled or manipulated by the government – or the Chinese Communist Party for that matter – which is definitely not true,” he said. “China is still nowhere near the West in terms of richness of individual expression, but it is certainly far from the era where everybody behaved and dressed in unity and sameness.”

## The depiction of young Asian people as automatons often means society is less forgiving to non-Westerners

A comparison between the ways in which athletes like Sun Yang and some Australian sports stars are treated certainly seems to suggest that we hold the former to a far more rigid standard. In 2014, members of the Cronulla Sharks, including captain Paul Gallen, accepted backdated doping bans in a move that was widely viewed as an admission of guilt. Yet Gallen’s continued captaincy of both the Sharks and the 2015 and 2016 NSW State of Origin teams has drawn far less criticism than the participation of individuals like Sun at the Olympics.

Likewise, many members of the Essendon AFL team are set to return after serving year-long suspensions for the use of banned supplements.

Despite support for the suspensions from both the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority and the WADA, many sought to excuse the players as unaware of what they were doing.

The depiction of young Asian people as automatons often means society is less forgiving to non-Westerners for small missteps that might otherwise be dismissed as simple mistakes. These stereotypes are rife within the education system, with another International student I spoke to explaining how they were often in situations where, “I wasn’t consciously doing something wrong, but some people were always saying that I was cheating [...] They thought I was kind of shady.” This sense of animosity and suspicion between Westerners and non-Westerners seems to be worse when they are competing against each other, perhaps illustrated by the disproportionate criticism directed at Sun.

Such animosity is inevitably fuelled by cultural barriers. Many who grew up in Australia might find it easy to feel as if they can relate to Horton’s life. The idea of growing up swimming in a backyard pool, or in school swimming carnivals, is embedded in a common cultural code that allows us to share in his experiences. His journey to Olympic glory feels far more “genuine” as a result. On the flipside, when we are continually encouraged by cultural and political narratives to view those born overseas as foreign and possessing values dissimilar to our own, their pathways to success become murky and difficult to comprehend. As a result, we become far more inclined to attribute their mistakes to malice rather than simple ignorance.

Conversations about race are always complex, but they are particularly so when some form of wrongdoing is involved. It seems far too easy to believe that Horton’s calling out of Sun was merely about the latter being a “drug cheat”. The point of this article is not to exonerate Sun, or to suggest that all accusations of doping must be racially motivated, or that such call outs should never occur. Rather, it is to note that the cultural narratives that define our relationships with others subtly influence how we judge their trustworthiness and credibility. The Olympics are meant to bring individuals together. Such narratives can only drive them apart.

# Participants wanted for clinical trials



Are you currently in **Rio**?

Do you enjoy participating in **high-performance** sports on a global stage?

Are you always coming **last**?

Do you want to **humiliate** the US in a moderately well known international event?

Trialing starts on August 6 and ends on 21 August. Participants will be compensated in gold and silver for their time.





## ANALYSIS

## STUDENT ELECTIONS

# Could online elections save student politics?

While the proposal of online voting may have stirred concerns around security at a federal level, its use on university campuses could improve the health of student politics as a whole, writes **Nick Bonyhady**

During the federal election campaign, Bill Shorten and Malcolm Turnbull supported online voting. The disaster that was this year's census – overloaded, ill-secured and dubiously private – would appear to have put paid to that idea. Nonetheless, several campuses around the country are using online voting over the next couple of months to select some of their most important student representatives.

Unlike at the national level, there are good reasons to believe that online voting in student elections is not a bad idea. In fact, it may produce more democratic and inclusive outcomes than the current system of paper ballots. Whether there is any political will to institute such changes is a different matter.

The Australian National University Student Association (ANUSA) is undertaking this year's most prominent experiment with online voting. For the first time, all ANUSA (equivalent to the SRC at Sydney, but also incorporating the clubs and society functions of a student union) positions will be elected online. Given the central role that ANUSA plays on campus, members of the two broadly left-wing student tickets contesting this year's poll are acutely aware of the potential ups and downs of online voting for their campaigns.

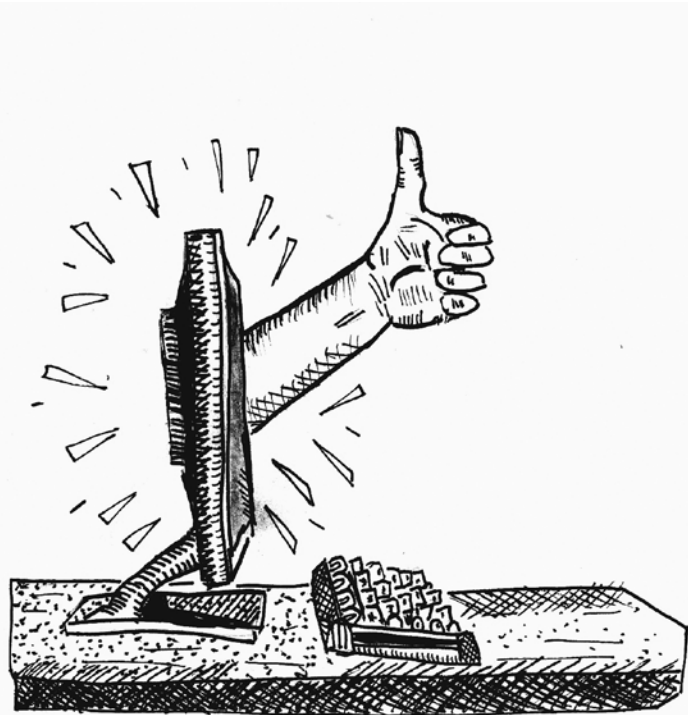
James Connolly, the presidential candidate for Amplify and current ANUSA Education Officer, told *Honi* that “candidates would need to engage far more on an experience and policy level” online than in person. To some extent, he is right.

In spite of its dubious name, ANU Stalkerspace, a kind of potpourri of USYD Rants and Love Letters, has turned into a reasonable place for stupol discussion. Karan Dhamija, running against Connolly for the presidency with the Connect ticket, said that there has been “a lot of interaction with actual policies that you don't see on other campuses”. The tickets' policies on issues as diverse as the future of the ANU School of Music and class timetabling have been subject to serious analysis online, which bears out Dhamija's contention.

As a corollary, unrealistic promises like ‘bigger schnitzels’ or ‘more parties’ don't appear in the major tickets' policy platforms at the ANU. These policies have long been a feature of Sydney campaigns as a result of the structure of offline campaigns. In a typical election, more votes are won between City Road and Fisher Library than any other path on campus. In the handful of minutes it takes to walk from one to the other, campaigners only have time to deliver simplistic pitches. With the longer time frame permitted by online voting, wonkish but important priorities like “OrgSync and Online Platforms” and “Timeliness and Organisation” dominate.

Lest this sound too positive, ANU student politics still appears to be an echo chamber. Certainly, the same set of people mostly dominate the Stalkerspace threads. Yet online voting seems to have offered a modest improvement. Should a student wander into Stalkerspace looking for a lost meme stash (spicy or not), they may end up learning something about the people who want to represent them.

Dhamija also suggested that the change to online voting would shift some power from political factions to “people who are big on campus”. In the current paradigm, factions – groupings of students typified by Labor left and right – wield huge power in student politics through preference deals,



Art: Steph Barahona

**Perhaps the difference between online and offline campaigns is that online elections favour those who have surface popularity with many people rather than deep popularity with a few.**

mass campaigners and institutional training.

Factions will lose some power at the ANU because the regulations ban campaigners from approaching students transiting through the heart of campus. So, factions' ability to mobilise lots of physical campaigners will be less useful.

However, the exclusion of factional campaigners is not inherent to online elections. For example, physical campaigning is permitted across campus in Sydney University Senate campaigns. Factions can also still wield significant influence online. In the 2014 Senate election, then incumbent undergraduate Senate fellow Pat Massarani secured fairly broad support from campus groups. However, the people who most consistently liked his Facebook posts were from Labor right – a faction with whom Massarani identified during his stupol career.

Given social media prioritises posts with more interaction, factional directives to like and comment on posts are a useful promotional tool. Similarly, *Honi* reported at the time that Dalton Fogarty, who is still serving as the undergraduate Senate fellow, was promoted by Sydney University Sport and Fitness, arguably leading to his victory over Massarani. He won by almost 1,000 votes. Clearly factions, and even non-student institutions, can remain an important part of online elections.



Perhaps the difference between online and offline campaigns then, is that online elections favour those who have surface popularity with many people rather than deep popularity with a few. Obviously both forms of popularity are useful but the level of effort required for physical campaigning – especially facing constant rejections from voters – is far higher than that required to post a Facebook status. Consequently, factions' ability to mobilise campaigners by promising future positions of power is less valuable compared to popular students with big friendship circles that they can ask for an online promo.

So for factional politics, online voting is more a marginal handicap than a disqualification, even with the restrictive regulations that ANUSA has implemented. Without them, online voting could have the opposite impact. While it is difficult to envisage athletes in SUSF blazers spruiking for a senate candidate, a mass email attracts less attention and with a simple link to the voting platform, can be just as effective.

While both Connolly and Dhamija see the diminution of factional power as a benefit of online voting, Simon Hill, who until his recent graduation was the postgraduate Senate fellow, is more sanguine about their influence. Hill notes that people who rise to the top of factions “tend to have some merit” as people who are “persistent and determined” to see change happen. Hill himself acknowledged that he won some votes through his involvement in the Evangelical Union as an undergraduate, but he attributes his victory primarily to physical campaigning. If Hill's estimate that he spoke to roughly 2,100 people is accurate, there is little reason to disbelieve him. Nonetheless, Hill says that there should be a “mid-point” between the intense campaigning prevalent in offline elections and the potentially more measured tactics of online elections.

The discussion about online voting should not end with its effect on student politicians. In the upcoming SRC elections, polling booths will only be open at the Conservatorium of Music and College of Arts (SCA) satellite campuses for two hours on one day of voting. By contrast, online voting, which makes voters' locations irrelevant, could enable hundreds more students to vote in student elections. While Connolly and Dhamija were uncertain about how many more votes would be cast in this election, both were confident that online voting would increase participation.

Of course, it is not difficult to make a large scale IT project sound good on paper. Deploying it in the real world is another matter entirely as the grossly over budget and notably delayed National Broadband Network attests.

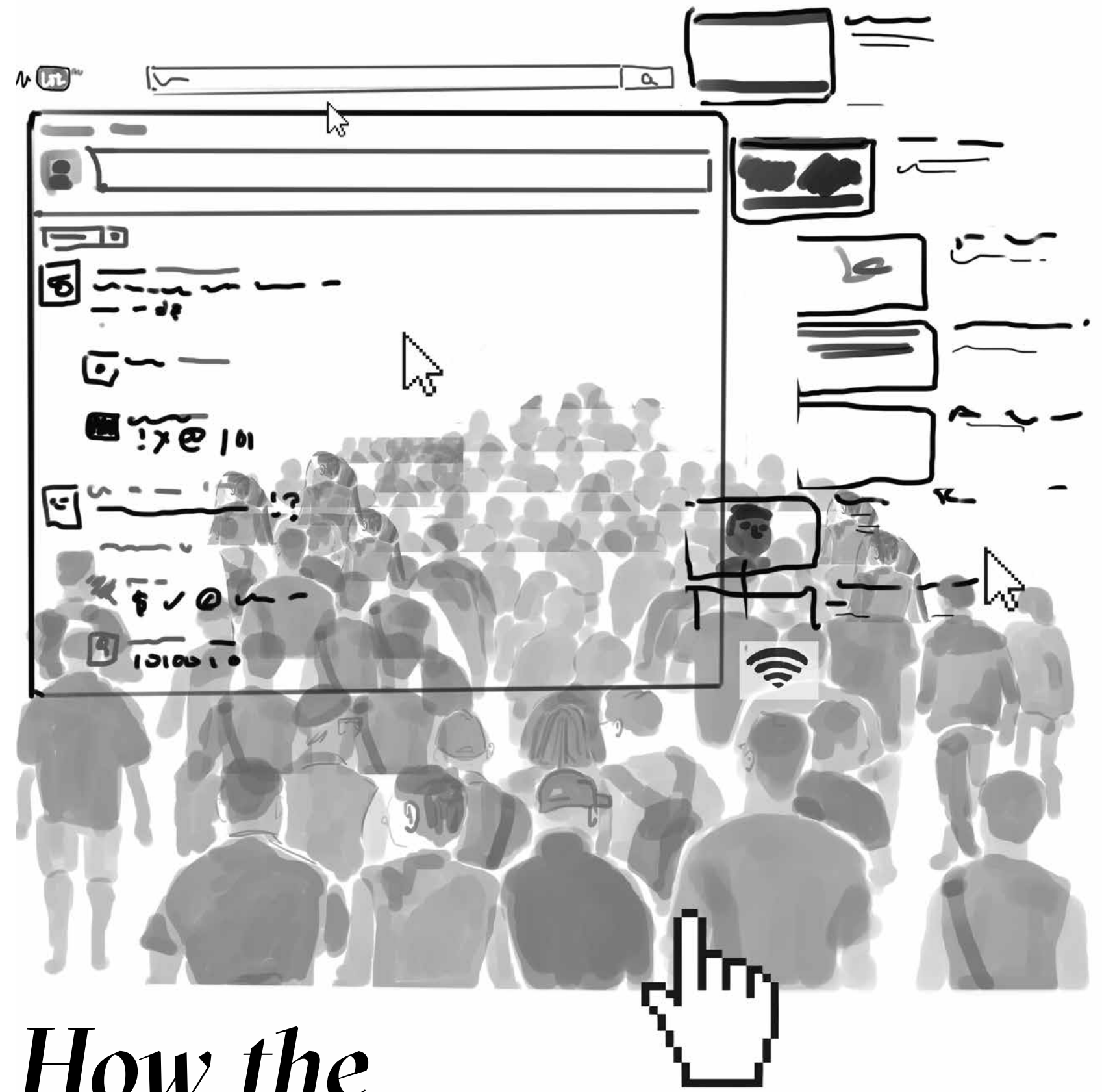
At the ANU, the online election does not appear to be going smoothly. As *Woroni*, the ANU student newspaper reported, the election has been delayed by a week due to contractual issues with the software vendor which the ANUSA is reliant on to conduct the election. It is for that reason that critics oppose online elections at a federal level. Yet, in spite of the delay, ANUSA may well have an entirely new executive in a few weeks, all elected online. Even if does not, the campaign that has occurred so far shows the potential of online voting. If that happens, the SRC and Union should take a serious look at adopting the same voting method here.



**READ THIS AND LISTEN TO: Computer Love**

TZU (2008)

## FEATURE



## How the dumb have won

Just how do politicians and Internet commenters alike win arguments without any facts on their side? **William Allington** wrote his thesis on it

Art by **Frankie Hossack**

In 2010, a seemingly insignificant Youtube account was created by a young man named Brian, under the alias *Godiscool2010*.

Brian made a sporadic video diary, with no video getting more than a few hundred views. Yet inside these videos was the story of how a man's life was ruined by Youtube comments.

Youtube comments have a deservedly bad reputation, but his life's ruin was not due to profanity or abuse. Instead, these comments fostered a dangerous, paranoid idea that made Brian believe he was suffering from organised harassment or “gang-stalking”.

This was, of course, a conspiracy. Gang-stalking does not exist. Conspiracy theory blog “Gang Stalking World” defines it as “a systemic form of control, which seeks to destroy every aspect of a Targeted Individual's life. Once a target is flagged, a notification is sent out to the community at large, and the target is followed around 24/7”.

In 2013, Youtube personality *InternetAristocrat* made a video documenting Brian's descent into paranoia. One of Brian's earliest videos showed his quirky, yet enthusiastic personality while he commented on some strange things that happened while he staged a lone protest against child abuse. Commenters on the video were quick to

point out that this looked like “gang-stalking”, and theorised that Brian had become the target of harassment due to his protest of child abuse.

As time went on, the videos documented the alleged forms of harassment Brian began to feel he was facing from everyone – the police, his neighbours, strangers on the streets. They were tampering with his food when he wasn't looking, playing air siren noises when he went upstairs and threatening to shoot him with finger-gun motions. Eventually, Brian made a video revealing that he had been institutionalised in a psychiatric ward, which he now saw as part of the conspiracy. In this video, and those which followed, he told his viewers they could never trust psychiatrists or psychologists; the only people they could trust were their friends on the Internet, like him.

The damage was done, and now Brian refused to trust the qualified intellectuals that could help him, in lieu of those that had enabled his paranoia. Ultimately, it was the Internet that enabled the formation of this anti-intellectual echo chamber – even with only a few hundred views on his videos, Brian still was drawn into this conspiracy theory. It stands to reason that the Internet can also help us fight such anti-intellectualism, yet there has been woefully little progress made.

FEATURE

Back when I was a wee lad in year 11, I undertook a major writing project for English on the Holocaust. I chose to research the history of Dr. Josef Mengele, one of the SS doctors that ran the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, and the non-fictional origin of the modern mad scientist trope. Yet the further I researched, the more online posts and articles I found, all suggesting that the Holocaust had somehow been faked, and that Mengele was a recurring trope in the hoax.

Driven equally by curiosity and disgust, I typed those career-defining words into Google “Holocaust faked?” Fast-forward eight years and I’ve finished my Honours thesis on online Holocaust denial, and begun my Ph.D studying online anti-Semitism.

Over the course of those eight years, studying Holocaust denial became a bizarre hobby of mine. It never failed to astound me how far people went to deny the most well documented genocide in history. In perhaps some grotesque sense of competition, the Holocaust denial movement has become one of the most well documented conspiracy movements in history, making it a prime choice for study on anti-intellectualism.

But what exactly is “anti-intellectualism”? In short, it is a series of movements that actively ignore intellectually supported positions; the positions supported by qualified academics and experts in their respective fields. Because no one person can be an expert on all things, the public collectively depends on these experts to know what to believe. Anti-intellectuals typically reject or ignore these experts and attempt to present their views as legitimate alternatives to the mainstream position.

Going as far back as the 1970s, the Holocaust denial movement put aside the typical conspiracy style pamphlets and adopted an air of academic sophistication. In 1976, an electrical engineering professor called Arthur Butz published a 554-page tome called *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century*. Drawing from Butz’s academic background, the book was extraordinarily well presented, with extensive footnotes, academic language, diagrams and well-structured arguments. This snowballed into the formation of the Institute for Historical Review (IHR), a relatively benign sounding organisation, yet one that focused entirely on presenting Holocaust denial, or “Holocaust Revisionism” as a legitimate view on Holocaust history, often in the form of a pseudo-academic quarterly journal called the *Journal for Historical Review*.

Then along came the Internet. Holocaust deniers saw the clear value of the Internet as an information-spreading tool, especially for fringe movements such as their own. By the mid-90s, most of the key Holocaust denier leaders had created personal websites. A website for the IHR

also sprung up, which served as easily accessible archives for the vast amount of Holocaust denial literature now published. Holocaust denial also benefited from being rhetorically malleable. Neo-Nazis, white nationalists, alt-rightists, anti-multiculturalists, anti-Zionists and fascists all adopted Holocaust denial as proof of their movements being unfairly delegitimised by a worldwide Jewish conspiracy. Thus began a perfect storm. The Internet became a unifying factor for these previously isolated and splintered ideological movements across the world. Their echo chambers were formed, their online archives were built, and they further burrowed themselves into their anti-intellectual holes, waiting for more to join their causes.

In the traditional public sphere, if someone continued to push views that were false or problematic, eventually public consensus would lead to their views being denied a platform. A healthy public sphere depends on the ability to counter a viewpoint and to encourage it to be ignored. But, with the Internet, everyone has a platform, and anyone can find a community that shares their views, no matter how strange. And now, with the heightened value of online anonymity, the consequences for spreading false, problematic, and even harassing views are almost non-existent.

**The unfortunate truth is that we don’t need to feed the trolls; they’ve been doing just fine spreading anti-intellectualism without us.**

While it may sound contrary to the values of free speech in our digital society, the fear of real societal consequences for spreading false views was a fundamentally important part of the public sphere, encouraging people to second-guess spreading controversial or unsubstantiated views. The Internet has fucked that right up. This would be less of a problem if responding to and refuting anti-intellectuals online were straightforward, yet the convoluted design of online platforms has hindered that.

How does one respond to a Youtube video that promotes Holocaust denial? I spent many hours of my high school years trying to figure out. I tried commenting (dumb, I know), but too many

videos simply disallowed comments, and those that did resulted in either me being ignored, or drawn into a time-wasting argument. I tried making my own videos directly responding to the claims of Holocaust denial. This was another time sink. Two days after uploading my videos, they were taken down, due to Holocaust deniers repeatedly flagging it.

At that point, I thought about those Holocaust deniers that had forced my video down. How were they so committed to this pseudo-intellectual idea that they were flagging any “anti-revisionist” video that surfaced on Youtube? It was not the key players of the movement, like Arthur Butz or David Irving, that were impeding my efforts. It was people like *Godiscool2010*, people like Brian. To believe in a conspiracy so wide that it could fabricate a genocide is not far from believing in an organised harassment campaign targeting you. Many of these people undoubtedly believed they were being targeted by this conspiracy. “The Jews” have always been convenient scapegoats in history for famines, wars and plagues. It is not a far step to then blame “the Jews” for your faulty internet connection, your late packages and your inability to get a job. This becomes the vicious cycle of an anti-intellectual quagmire – anti-intellectualism begins to take a toll on a believer’s everyday life. This toll is then twisted into further justification for anti-intellectualism. Once the rules of logic and evidence are thrown out the window, anything and everything can be used to justify their beliefs.

The design of online platforms has directly contributed to the rise of echo chambers. Comments on Youtube and Reddit are both made more viewable through the “upvote” system, meaning comments the already introverted community agrees with rise to the top more often than not. And while this is all happening, we are constantly reminded by the frustrating adage “don’t feed the trolls”. The unfortunate truth is that we don’t need to feed the trolls; they’ve been doing just fine spreading anti-intellectualism without us.

When I was writing my honours thesis, I was particularly interested in how Holocaust denial was spread through the work of an average troll. It was easy enough to follow the movement’s leaders who leached off public attention, but what about the majority of the movement who cared about their reputation offline? Despite seven years of studying this phenomenon, I found myself astounded once again.

The website Reddit is split up into smaller communities called “sub-reddits” which are formed around certain topics (e.g. there are subreddits on sport in general, hockey, Australia, video games, feminism, history). The subreddit for the Holocaust, referred to as */r/holocaust*, was run by a Holocaust denier, who worked to make sure any

FEATURE

content that wasn’t Holocaust denial was deleted from the community. It turned out that the guy who ran the community was a “power-user” on Reddit, who basically created as many subreddits as possible to ensure he could control whatever content was posted on them, and would even “trade” ownership of communities as bartering chips. I wanted to see if I could restore */r/holocaust* to a place where people could go to be informed about Holocaust history and even share family experiences. What ensued was a wild ride of controversy involving me forming a bizarre “alliance” with other moderators and ex-moderators, including those from the historical subreddits of */r/history*, */r/badhistory* and */r/askhistorians*, left-wing subreddits such as */r/shitredditsays* and */r/circlebroke*, and even those from the *xkcd* webcomic and Iran subreddits, both of which were controlled by this same poweruser.

We tried to leverage the Reddit administrators to give the communities to their userbase. Yet as noble as it felt and sounds, it didn’t amount to much. The guy got banned six months later for something completely unrelated, but he’d appointed enough anti-intellectuals to the */r/holocaust* subreddit so that it still remains a den of Holocaust denial.

Nonetheless, I learned many valuable lessons from this experience. The first is that too many of these online platforms are broken when it comes to meaningful discussion. Youtube, Reddit, Tumblr, even Facebook, are all too easily splintered into echo-chambers where discussion against the norm is easily ignored or taken out of context.

**If someone had commented “gang-stalking is bullshit and here’s why” on that 2010 Youtube video, maybe *Godiscool2010* would have never gone down the road he did**

One of the best examples of anti-intellectualism online affecting the real world is Donald Trump. The anti-intellectual populist has a nine per cent truth rating on Politifact and has a history of pushing disproven conspiracies like Birtherism.

There is no doubt that memes, “circlejerk-ing” and other internet phenomena have helped wave problems like “the truth” away. The Trump subreddit is extraordinarily popular, makes heavy use of memes, and, until the Reddit administrators changed the website algorithm, their posts were dominating the front page of the website every day of the week. The most frightening thing about this phenomenon wasn’t Donald Trump (surprising, I know), but that these communities were serving as a “gateway” to other forms of anti-intellectualism.

Despite all his faults, anti-Semitism is not present at all within Trump’s presidential platform. Yet there have been almost daily examples of anti-semitism in the Trump subreddit, including a meme mocking the number “six million” (a common Holocaust denier trope) upvoted to the front page. This phenomenon goes all the way back to Trump’s twitter, where he can use the 140-character limit as an excuse against providing any sources, evidence or further support to his bizarre, anti-intellectual and bigoted claims. Trump’s greatest strength is his ability to promote his brand, and now his brand is being used to promote all kinds of anti-intellectualism online.



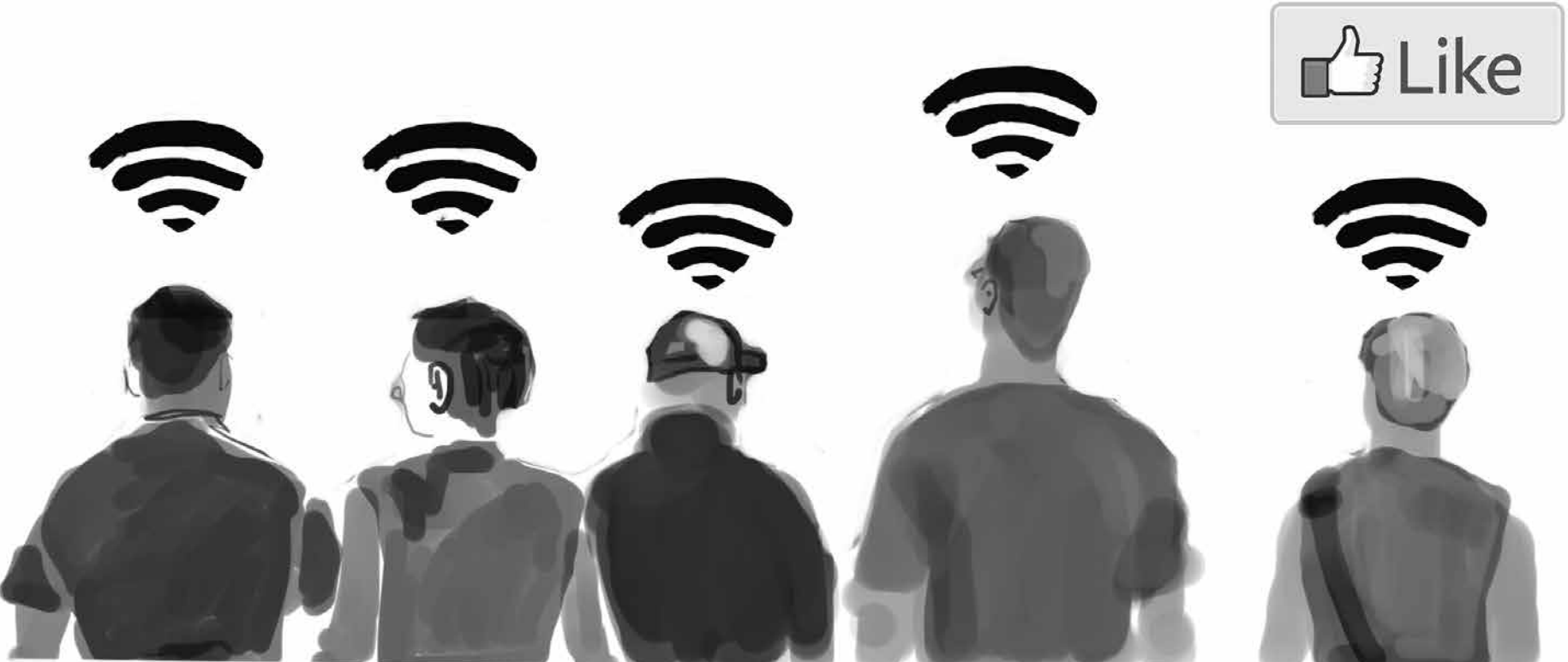
**READ THIS AND LISTEN TO: The Golden Age ft. Max Richter’s “Embers”**

Woodkid (2014)

So what do we do? What can people do against such reckless ignorance? Well first we can say a big fuck-off to the line “don’t feed the trolls”. Because even if you don’t believe the statement, there’s nothing stopping some poor kid coming along and buying into it. Ultimately the current platforms are too poorly designed to foster any kind of counter to the propaganda spread by anti-intellectual movements, meaning that we need to start working on new platforms. One of the best examples of these platforms is Snopes.com, which deals with refuting urban myths and rumours. Snopes.com’s model makes it easier than ever to respond to anti-intellectualism online. It may not seem like much, but dropping a link to a Snopes refutation may make the difference in someone believing vaccines cause autism or not. Ultimately, it is up to us – the university educated population – to respond to these trolls online. We may not change their minds, but we need to do our duty to help prevent others being radicalised by anti-intellectual views.

In 2006, Dr. Nick Terry from the University of Exeter bemoaned that “professional historians have left the internet wide open for colonisation by deniers”. Ten years on, the situation is worse. The belief that ignoring an idea will make it go away is no longer viable in a digital society. And, ultimately, this is about people’s lives. If people get drawn into a conspiracy theory or anti-intellectual movement, they may be digging themselves into a hole of self-delusion that they may never climb out of again.

Brian’s belief in gang-stalking ruined his life and pulled him into a community where he no longer believed he could trust the people who could help him. If someone had commented “gang-stalking is bullshit and here’s why” on that 2010 Youtube video, maybe *Godiscool2010* would have never gone down the road he did. Every hateful, ignorant and absurd comment on the internet is potentially a seed for someone buying into a destructive ideology. I hope that sounds scary, because it is.





# Butterflop, or, why butterfly is the worst stroke

Mary Ward and Max Hall roast the black sheep of swim strokes

Butterfly – the swimming stroke – is bad. We are allowed to forget this for three of every four years, but since we’re all in Rio now and we can once again care about sports which don’t involve balls or alcohol sponsorship deals, it’s time to talk.

Incredibly, butterfly stroke was not invented by Tyson O’Brien from primary school so that he could go home from the swimming carnival with another blue ribbon. The bastard. The stroke was actually invented by a series of stupid 20th century men, including Australian Sydney Cavill, who started using the technique while experimenting with breaststroke.

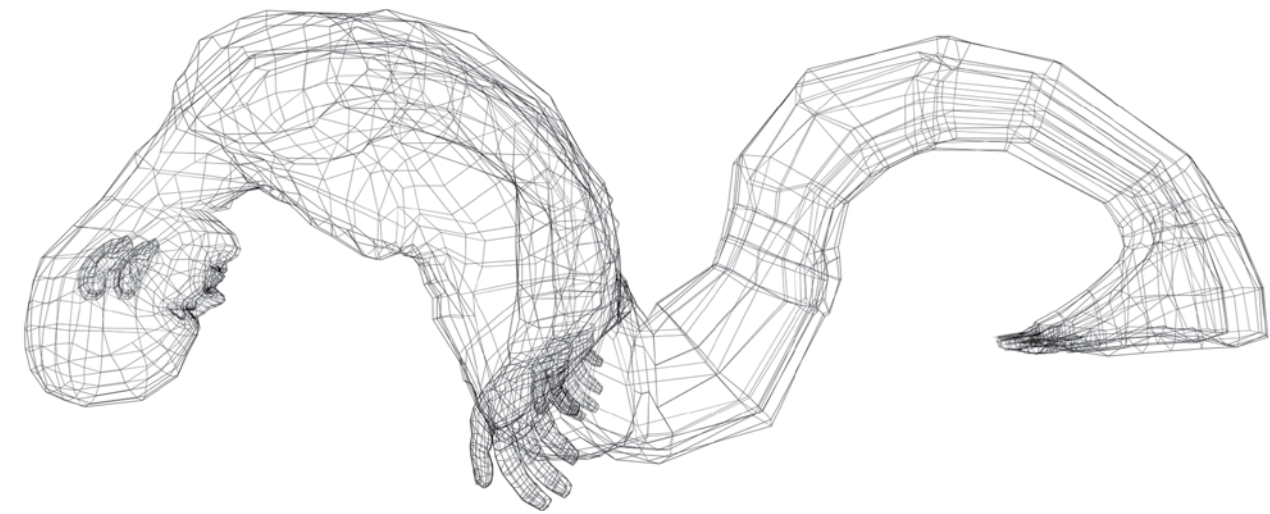
At first the butterfly arm was used alongside a breaststroke kick. But then US competitors started to adopt the horizontal torso writhe which now accompanies the stroke. The resulting stroke

breaststroke originated when Stone Age men mimicked the movements of frogs and “freestyle” (front crawl) and backstroke have been observed in nature for centuries, the same cannot be said for this piss poor method of aquatic passage.

No animal does butterfly. You can’t just name a stroke after an animal to try to make it seem

and dignity in one grotesque heave of your tired shoulder muscles. A coincidence? No. Big Swimwear has to sell those ultra-tight and hi-tech suits with shark skin patterns and the easiest way to do so is promoting butterfly with your International Olympic Committee cronies. And has anyone ever stopped to consider the role which flippers

Fig. 1: The body on butterfly.



like a natural method of water passage. Least of all one that doesn’t. Even. Fucking. Swim. In fact, if you so much as wet a butterfly’s wing, it is incapacitated forever. So why are we still swimming butterfly? You can’t butterfly in budgie smugglers or a bikini without losing your swimmers

manufacturers may play in this farce? Find us an under 10s coach who isn’t making their charges practice “dolphin kick” while wearing them.

In sum, butterfly is a capitalist ploy, and also cooked. Let’s end this madness, ban the stroke and make Phelps return his medals.

Actual transcript from change room of a 1930’s Iowa public pool:

**Man 1:** “Gee, I like swimming breaststroke.”  
**Man 2:** “Me too, and not just for the innuendo.”  
*[the room guffaws]*  
**Man 1:** “But, you know what would make it better?”  
**Man 2:** “What?”  
**Man 1:** “If I could just thrust my dick at the pool as I did it.”<sup>[1]</sup>

is the only way to make wearing a hat made out of the same material as a washing-up glove more embarrassing than it already is. Let’s face it, butterfly looks like the aquatic technique of a 22-year-old farm boy who decided it would be funny to swim in the dam after drinking a case of VB. People try to justify butterfly’s existence by saying it is the fastest stroke. But, this is only half-true. And, by half-true, we mean literally not true at all.

The underwater movement of butterfly is faster than any other stroke (although, it should be said, not as fast as a “fish kick”, which is essentially a butterfly kick attempted on one’s side by a few rogue competitors after hitting a tumble turn – resulting in disqualification if you turn entirely onto your stomach in backstroke, or entirely onto your back in any other event), but you lose speed throwing your body out of the water. The world record time for the men’s 50m butterfly is 22.43 seconds, 1.52 seconds slower than the world record for freestyle. For the women’s event, the difference in time is 0.7 seconds.

**People try to justify butterfly’s existence by saying it is the fastest stroke. But, this is only half-true.**

While butterfly might be quick if you have gills, there’s a reason why no one’s ever thought to work on their keyhole-arm technique while trying to escape a shark attack: it’s not very fast.

Put simply, there is no reason for the farce of competitive butterfly swimming to continue. No one has ever used butterfly to rescue their drowning child or cross to the other side of your local pool on a 40 degree day. It is the only stroke that can be said to be a wholly human invention. While

[1] Seriously. The swimming pool at Rio has been getting so much action, the diving pools turned green with envy.

## IN A PICKLE?

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# Success and failure in three parts

Evie Woodforde took on the tyrannical gormies (and lost)

In June I applied to join the “Gorman Clothing Fans buy and sell” group<sup>[1]</sup> on Facebook.<sup>[2]</sup>

I was feeling pretty positive about the decision to join. After all, I am a Gorman clothing fan who likes to buy (and to a lesser extent) sell! What could go wrong!?

## FAILURE

I was immediately rejected. “Ha!” I thought to myself, “They must have accidentally deleted my application.” So I clicked join again. Rejected. I felt lost, confused, like a character at the beginning of a Judy Bloom novel.

At this juncture I should point out that the Gorman Clothing Fans buy and sell group has 8,966 members (!!!). To add insult to injury, one of those members was my housemate. I turned to her for support. After all, maybe she could put in a good word with the admins! Maybe she could add me herself!

Our correspondence:



Over the next two months I applied 15 more times. Each time, the cold and silent sting of rejection. I’d never seen such a perfectly executed hard-to-get mating ritual. I was besotted.

I started to get obsessed. Maybe I needed to overhaul my profile? Maybe I needed to be wearing Gorman in my profile picture? MAYBE I NEEDED TO FIND THE ADMINS AND KILL THEM.

My other housemate:

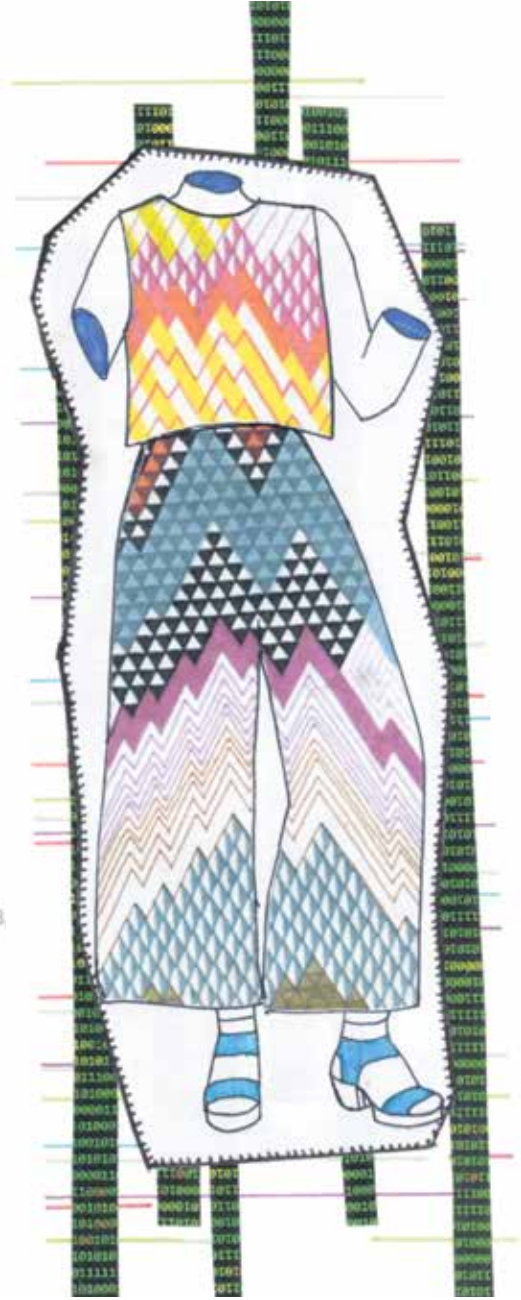
**Housemate #2**  
Are you complaining about not getting let into Gorman sell n swap?



## SUCCESS

Then on July 4 I awoke to find my newsfeed saturated in second hand Gorman! I was too elated to even be annoyed - I was in!

This feeling lasted about 10 minutes.



## FAILURE

Remember that old adage be careful what you wish for? Well yeah, that.

I rapidly realised that I hadn’t been accepted into an exclusive shopping arena, so much as into a totalitarian regime presided over by the elusive Administrators. Never before had consumerism been more of a cult.

The first hurdle was that I literally couldn’t understand a single post.

Someone would proclaim: “WTB BNWT AW’15 Jigsaw Pants - it’s my Unicorn!”<sup>[3]</sup> And I would stare at it uncomprehendingly. Why was nobody else confused? Where were they getting the Kool-aid?!

It took me hours of digging to track down a 5 page document entitled “Gorman Clothing Fans Buy and Sell Group Rules - MUST BE READ BY ALL MEMBERS”. (Alright, alright, don’t get your GUC<sup>[4]</sup> knickers in a knot!)

The Rules taught me a number of things, like that you can only post one sale item per post on pain of death (clause 1.4), the accepted “dibs” policy (clause 1.11), and that it wasn’t fascism if followed by a smiley face (general observation). Look, just writing this is probably in violation of

Art:  
Ann Ding

some secrecy clause I didn’t get to.

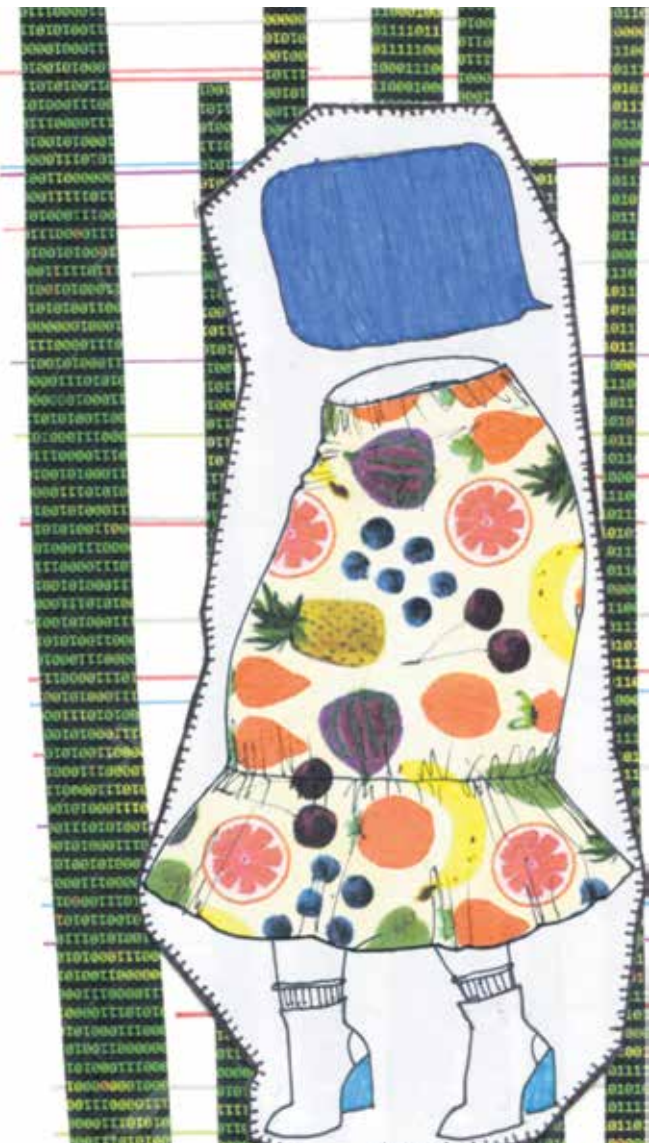
The Administrators trawl through posts purging non-conformers. One girl, in a move to rival perestroika, dared to question the merits of a sheer bomber jacket and was expelled for impertinence. “Maybe you would be better off in the Target buy and sell group” someone commented. Ohhh, burn.

Fear reigns:

I can post actual pic on Monday when I'm back work (Admin please delete if not allowed.  
PayPal G&S. \$100, inc postage.

Just like a Shakespeare tragedy, this story ends with a death - of hope, of optimism, of my dreams of a tailored shift dress in a quirky print that I could take from day to night.

(At the date of publication, I have yet to purchase anything from the Gorman Clothing Fans buy and sell group page.)



[1] Gorman is an Australian brand which may or may not (probably not) produce ethical clothing. If you have a female friend who has (a) worn a print, (b) worn a jumpsuit or (c) lived in Melbourne, you will recognise Gorman. As I’m sure you can deduce, the page allows category (a), (b) and (c) people to buy and sell second hand Gorman.

[2] The ‘Facebook’ is the social media company that owns all your intellectual property/probably you.

[3] Translation: I want to Buy a Brand New With Tags Jigsaw pants from the 2015 Autumn/Winter collection - it is the item of clothing I really want even though it is rare.

[4] Translation: Good Used Condition.



PROFILE

# Should we be a single planet species?

Theodora Von Arnim speaks to space veteran Marsha Ivins

Marsha Ivins has seen the sun rise and set 16 times in a single day. She has operated a robotic arm to conduct maintenance work on the International Space Station. She has acted as a space consultant for an IMAX film which will enable millions of people to vicariously experience space.

Last Friday, we spoke across a 15-hour time difference, via Skype between Sydney and Texas. Between 1990 and 2001 Marsha was an astronaut on five separate NASA missions, spending a total of 55 days in space. She says she “always wanted to work in the space program”, inspired by a childhood centred on space exploration. She watched the first humans enter space at the age of 10.

Encouraged by her father, Marsha began flying planes when she was 15, getting her pilot’s licence before her driver’s licence. In 1973 she graduated with a degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Following university, she had anything but a clear run into the profession. “There was a big downturn in space exploration during that time.” By 1974, she achieved her goal of working in the space program, but not without difficulty.

During high school aptitude testing she was discouraged from pursuing a career in engineering because she was a girl. But as she simply put it, “that was my path to working in the space program”. She never considered abandoning it.

When I ask if she had wanted to be an astronaut as a child, she says no. “It simply wasn’t an option. At the time all astronauts were men, which I was obviously not. They also had to be trained fighter pilots, and in the 1960s only men could be fighter pilots.” But by the time Marsha was hired to work at NASA’s Johnson Space Centre in 1974, these standards were starting to change. Travelling to outer space became a real possibility.



Photos: Supplied

It’s irrelevant. I am an astronaut who happens to be a woman,” she says.

Yet gendered imbalance in the industry of space flight, with all its masculine hype, seems ingrained. Of the 540 people who have been to space, only 59 have been women. Germany is yet to send a female astronaut into space.

Fortunately, this trend seems to be shifting in the right direction. Half of NASA’s most recent astronaut class were women, while the class before had only six from 45. More women are entering the basic science and technological fields that funnel candidates into the space programs run by NASA.

We speak about the recently released IMAX film *A Beautiful Planet*, which films astronauts in the International Space Station and includes breathtaking shots of the earth from outer space. Marsha was the space consultant for the film, which involved coordinating filming in the space station with NASA.

But according to Marsha, the most important sight in the film isn’t outer space, but the “human footprint” you can see on the Earth – smoke that covers entire continents, and pollution from rivers washing into the ocean.

She has seen the impact we are having on our planet from millions of kilometres away – a process which may eventually make human life on other planets a necessity. Marsha cites an analogy from the film: that they must maintain the planet like they maintain the space station. “We need to take care of our planet. If we don’t take care of it, then it won’t protect us,” she said.

Marsha’s space trips spanned over a decade, yet she labels the changes in space technology over that period “peripheral”. In the 15 years since her last trip not much more has changed: “The Space Station is still flying with the same 50-year-old technology.”

“The current system works, because we haven’t done anything more challenging, or even nearly as challenging as travelling to the moon” she said. In the absence of a space arms race with Russia, willingness to invest in space programs has fallen significantly. “Barring some national programs seeking to establish their own space capabilities, there has been very little progress.”

## Half of NASA’s most recent astronaut class were women, while the class before had only six from 45

“Advancement in space technology is a very expensive proposition,” Marsha admits, but she suggests it should be the subject of reinvigorated prioritisation. She cites the benefits to every day life that come from developments in space technology. The era of space exploration heralded huge leaps in computer technology, with miniaturisation facilitating the iPhones of today. A concerted effort to send humans to other planets would bring with it significant developments in technological capabilities – by pursuing our drive to “make the unknown known” we learn and develop our common pool of human knowledge, she argues.

“Think about all the stars we can see and the billions that we can’t see, how many planets exist and how many of them could have perfect conditions for life,” Marsha prompts. For Marsha, the possibility of finding valuable planets is more salient than the discovery of evolved life.

My experience of Marsha was as both veteran – an old-school explorer from an era of early tech – and an optimist with an eye on the future. A woman who has been at the forefront of her profession for the past 30 years, Marsha seems impervious to the gendered structures that have deterred many others from flying a fantastic path.

REVIEWS

## MADSOC’s *Locus* reviewed by a first time dance appreciator

Stephen Comino

*Locus* was an apt name for MADSOC’s 2016 major production, which showcased 26 different dance styles, all revolving around the theme of art expressing emotion.

The show’s second segment, “Passages”, for instance, was an excellent representation of alienation. The choreographer and performers managed to take this universal experience, deconstruct it, and rebirth it in its most beautiful (and colourful) physical form. Don’t ask me to explain how.

Even if the exact emotion being expressed wasn’t as clear in other segments, the music selection and the performers’ technical proficiency were enough to keep the audience, and your correspondent, satisfied. For the most part, synchronicity was on lock-down – wholly consistent with the production’s overarching mathematical theme. The effort made to cater to those of us more biblio-inclined in the audience was appreciated too. The evening’s literary duo, where one performer recited a poem, and another translated it into lyrical dance, did an amazing job.

A special mention must also be extended to solo performer Carmen Tang, whose confidence came second only to the sharpness of her moves.

*Locus* represented a new level of enthusiasm in student production. All performers really wanted to be there, and were enjoying themselves – it was evident in their movements, their costumes, and on their faces. Tickets weren’t cheap, but as the old adage goes – quality is remembered long after the price is forgotten.

All-in-all, a Herculean logistical feat executed very professionally, and a promising indicator for future MADSOC productions to come.



## MADSOC’s *Locus* reviewed by a seasoned dance expert

Oliver Moore

*Locus*, the 2016 MADSOC production, is not to be missed. I was initially hesitant about covering the show, not entirely captivated by the blue-to-pink fade in their branding. That hesitation vanished the second the show began.

*Locus* is an action-packed two hours, each piece captivating the attention of the sold-out Everest Theatre at the Seymour Centre. With dance styles ranging from contemporary through to Bollywood and hip hop, the show moves along at a rollicking pace.

Artistic director Bec Clare has pieced together a visually stunning show, which opens with “Transference”, a contemporary piece she choreographed. Aided and abetted by MADSOC veteran producer Gaby Boulos, the pair created a strong throughline for the show, exploring “our individual circumstances contrasted with how we want others to perceive us”.

Standout individual performances by Holly Nelson (“Give Me Love”) and Carmen Dang (“Do It Well”) elevated the show to another level, as did the Bollywood pieces “Dhoom Machale” and “Raabta”, with stellar choreography by Shivani Dewan and Rati Venkatesh, and Minal Bhagwat and Vaishnavi Sothirajah, respectively. The Twyla Tharp-inspired contemporary ballet piece which closed the first act, “Elation”, showcased the choreography skills of Madeline Scott-Murphy, as well as the incredible technical skills of the performers.

Not content merely presenting traditional dance pieces, the show also included an innovative poetry and contemporary dance fusion, “Body”, which saw Emily Baird’s poetry matched with the dance chops of Georgia Britt, to show the relationship between words and bodies. Michael Goodyear fleshed out the show with stunning use of sound and lighting design to enhance the acrobatic feats onstage.

# Summer and Smoke and Mirrors

Caitlin Harvey reviews the latest SUDS production

Walking into the Cellar Theatre last Thursday night was like walking into a nightmare. Having prepared myself for a quiet, civil night of theatre, I was faced instead with a house party complete with red plastic cups and a groovy playlist. We were handed a sheet of paper explaining that we would be approached by cast members as though we were at a house party with them, and that we should treat them as strangers.

SUDS’ production of Tennessee Williams’ *Summer and Smoke*, directed by Adam Waldman and produced by April Saleeba, has been reimagined to take place in urban Sydney, circa 2016. This re-appropriation did not work well. The only similarities between the 2016 setting and the original 20<sup>th</sup> century setting appeared to be excessive mansplaining and even more excessive making out.

While the Cellar Theatre had been made to

look just like every lame student house party you’ve ever been to – the set design is possibly just left over from last year’s SUDS production, *House Party*, the space was too small for the audience to be immersed in the experience. I heard one ‘partygoer’ give the same anti-religion rant to three different groups. The layout of the theatre also made the audience feel very exposed. It was good for performative purposes, but bad for sneaking snacks.

The modern day interpretation was more distracting than anything else. Throughout the establishing scene, I was too busy listening to the sweet sounds of Kendrick Lamar to even pick up on the names of the main characters. The original early 1900s language was unchanged, which made the occasional reference to clubbing in The Cross seem forced and out of place. The actors undeniably made the most of their

material. Tess Green was exceptional in the role of Alma, delivering her lines naturally and with impressive accent and diction – making the highly-strung minister’s daughter much more likeable than she might otherwise be.

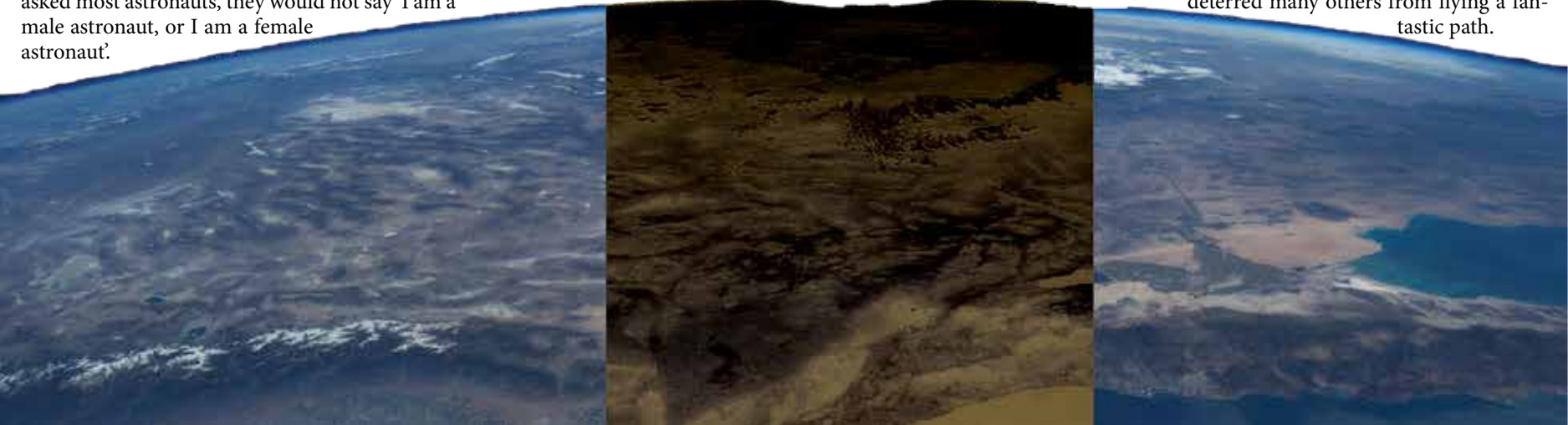
The rest of the cast also gave solid performances. Max Baume was convincing as Dr John Buchanan, and was a captivating performer to watch, with an obvious natural charisma. However, the romance between the two main characters felt flat and unconvincing – it was never clear why these characters like each other or what they have in common.

The supporting actors rounded out a cast that was obviously talented. They were, however, let down by the unnecessary modern appropriation, and a play that would have been far more enjoyable had it been left in its original setting.



READ THIS AND LISTEN TO: **First of the Year (Equinox)**

Skrillex (2011)





# The Oh-limp-ics

Gina Yeung's Games would be more fun than yours

The Olympics are now well underway. But I'm kind of sick of watching Bolt run sub-10 second hundreds and Phelps add even more medals to his tally, which eclipses that of most countries. Everything nowadays is driven by the consumer, so it's about time the Olympics were too. The following five sports would rake in the viewers were they to feature in the Games:

Art: Eloise Myatt



### Beer can regatta

The Olympic spirit embodies “friendship, solidarity and fair play”, so the sport of beer can regatta is a perfect fit for the Games. Teams must construct sea-going vessels entirely from empty beer cans, and then navigate a body of water. Sabotage is encouraged. The IOC Olympic Charter lists social responsibility as an important component of the Olympic spirit. Nothing says “social responsibility” like promoting the recycling of beer cans and dubbing your vessel “Grogmonsta”.



### Cheese-rolling

A deceptively dangerous sport that asks “rollaz” to run down steep hills at breakneck speeds in pursuit of wheels of cheese. The cheese wheels, or “chweezels” as they are known in rolling circles, can reach speeds of up to 110 kilometres per hour, placing spectators at great risk of sustaining blunt trauma injuries.



### Bathtubbing

No, not watching lackadaisical athletes lather up with loofahs and then get all pruny. Instead, this sport consists of attaching an out-board motor to bathtubs, and racing them like zodiacs through a water course. This is a sport with a rich history – the bathtubbing world championships have been a thing since 1967 – so the time is right for recognition and adoption by the mainstream. Think of the possibilities: slalom, time trials, dressage.



### Extreme ironing

Extreme ironing, as its name suggests, is a convergence of extreme sports and ironing. More interesting than BMX, extreme ironing sees “iron men” and “iron women” press a shirt underwater, whilst scaling mountains, skiing, and even as they are dropped from planes. Heck, just ironing those shirts you’ve been meaning to for the past six months deserves a gold medal.



READ THIS AND LISTEN TO: Higher

Van Halen (1986)

### Cloud-chasing

Otherwise known as competitive vaping, cloud-chasing sees competitors attempt to puff the biggest and most-intricate vapour clouds. For years, competitive vapers have been trying to crack the elusive “Olympic 5” – a smoky reincarnation of the Olympic rings. None have yet succeeded.



Alex Hogue takes off his hacking balaclava and puts on his tutoring voice

Once, when I was a teenager, I was staying in a hotel. I was all like, “Oh, I’d like to have Wi-Fi now please because I feel weirdly uncomfortable not having it at all times.” There were all these Wi-Fi networks around, but I didn’t know the password to any of them. Which made me think... what if I could... use it anyway? This prompted a lot of research and devastated that particular family holiday.

This article is the 100 per cent code-free explanation of one way someone might hack your home Wi-Fi. By the end it’s okay to feel afraid, insecure, or even cripplingly alone. It’s okay. We’ve all been there.

The first thing I’d do is take out my laptop and run airodump-ng, a suite of software tools for exactly the job of hacking Wi-Fi. It would show me the names of Wi-Fi networks and also their “BSSID”, which is a bit like an ID for Wi-Fi networks. It’s actually exactly like that.

Once I know the BSSID of your Wi-Fi, it’s time to try and get your password hash. A password hash is like a scrambled version of the password. You can’t unscramble it. Kinda like how you can’t unscramble scrambled eggs back into the white and the yolk. Stop trying, it’s embarrassing. Okay, so let’s get the hash and then worry about getting the password out of it.

We’re going to find it by watching the secret handshake.

You heard me. I can’t believe that this is a real thing, but there actually is a secret handshake that happens when you connect to a Wi-Fi network.

You might be wondering why there’s a secret handshake happening every time you connect to Wi-Fi. And that’s fair enough, I’m glad you asked.

Let’s say you’re a legitimate businessperson just connecting to their home Wi-Fi. No funny business. You know the password. But you need to prove to the Wi-Fi network that you know the password. But everyone else can hear you.

It’s kinda like if you came up to me at a party and you said “I know your Facebook password”. It gets real tense. I nervously glance up at you and choke trying to chuckle. I want to know if you really do know my Facebook password, but I also don’t want you to just say “Your Facebook password is cooldude99” because everyone else at the party is listening.

So, the secret handshake lets you and the

Wi-Fi router both prove you know the password without saying it. Here’s how it works:

1. The router sends you some random data to encrypt, let’s say it sends “memes”. Anyone can see this.
2. You encrypt “memes” using the Wi-Fi password as the key. Let’s say you get something like “b8%&G” as the encrypted password. Now only someone with the Wi-Fi password can decrypt it.
3. You send “b8%&G” to the router (this is the “hash”).
4. The router tries to decrypt “b8%&G” using the Wi-Fi password.
5. If “b8%&G” decrypts to “memes”, then the router knows that you encrypted it with the right password, and you have proved to the router that you know the password. If “b8%&G” doesn’t decrypt to “memes”, the router says “sorry, wrong password”.
6. Steps 1-5 happen again, but this time the router proves to you that it knows the password (this is to prevent someone else from pretending to be the router).

Did you spot the trick? What can an eavesdropper do here? The trick here is that if you’re an eavesdropper, you get to see the following things:

1. Random data to be encrypted (“memes”).
2. The encrypted version of the data, which has been encrypted using the password as the key (“b8%&G”).

Well what if I just encrypt the text “memes” with “cooldad1964” as the key, and it happens to encrypt to “b8%&G”?

Then I know that the password was “cooldad1964”. And if “memes” encrypts to something else, then I know my guess was wrong.

So what we’re going to do here is just guess the password. The trick is that we’re going to be able

to guess passwords way faster than if we were just typing them into the “Enter the password for this Wi-Fi network” box.

So, get out your pen and paper and blow the dust off that compass and straightedge because it’s time to do some encryption.

Just kidding, we’re not going to use pen and paper you big bozo. We’re going to use a graphics card.

Graphics cards are the part inside a computer that lets the computer be able to play 3D games such as Fallout 4 and Viva Piñata: Party Animals. They also happen to be really fast at encrypting stuff.

So we’re going to get a big list of millions of passwords, and try them all to try and guess the Wi-Fi password.

For one reason or another, hackers have made available big lists of real passwords. By “real”, I mean “someone used this password on a site and that site got hacked so now everyone knows their password”. Sites that got hacked recently and had passwords exposed include LinkedIn, Adobe, and Myspace.

I’m going to guess that your Wi-Fi password is probably in one of the heaps big lists of passwords I have. But to find out which one it is, we’re going to have to encrypt “memes” (in this example) with every single password in the list as the key, and see if any of them match what we saw the Wi-Fi password encrypt to (“b8%&G”).

Hashcat is software that can take a password list and a hash (“b8%&G”) and try to “unhash” it by comparing it to all the passwords in the list. To give you an estimate of how long this takes, my computer can check 10 million passwords in about 10 minutes.

And that’s it. Hashcat will spit out the password, and I can just type it in the Wi-Fi “Enter the password” box. The main part is furiously guessing millions of passwords until we find the right one.

The reason this method of hacking works is because people pick easy-to-guess passwords. English word with the first letter maybe capitalised then one or two numbers? That pattern covers a LOT of people’s passwords and a computer can just quickly check all of them.

If you’re an average internet user, your password for everything is the same, and it’s your pet’s name followed by your house number. What I’m saying is that on average, most Wi-Fi passwords don’t stand a chance against these password lists.

And of course, if all that doesn’t work, I could just send you a fake email that says “Suspicious activity detected in your Netgear router - Log In now to review” and get your password that way.



SOCIALS

REVELRY IN REVIEW

Get your geek on

Cameron Caccamo took a ride on the nerd cruise

There has never been a more exciting time to be a nerd: obscure comic books are becoming blockbuster movies, another Harry Potter book has been released, and your immense knowledge of Generation 1 Pokémon is finally relevant to your non-nerd friends.

This new epoch is doing great things for the membership of the nerdiest clubs at USyd. After years of joint-event discussions and ideas, three such clubs – the Quidditch, Pokémon, and SUTEKH Societies – teamed up to put on the first ever Nerd Cruise on Friday night.

To keep the event as accessible as possible, the organisers favoured mass appeal over indulgence in nerd culture. The theme was “Cocktail Cosplay”, which for many attendees meant only a tiny variation on cocktail; like wearing a suit with a Gryffindor scarf, or wearing a specific piece of jewelry like a Time-Turner necklace. Some went further – a Deadpool mask, a Spiderman costume underneath a suit, and a solitary Ice Climber all made appearances. This was as mainstream as an event with “Nerd” in the title could be.

The music choices followed the same principle. A mix of Top 40 dance hits and the occasional classic is exactly what one would expect from a cruise aimed at University students. While belting out *What About Me*, I was left wondering why the Pokémon Theme Song was absent, or why there were no ambitious remixes of pop culture tunes. Maybe I am more of a nerd than I thought. Am I out of touch? No. It's the children who are wrong, or something.

It's heartening that a bunch of societies trying something new were rewarded with ninety-plus attendance and an overwhelmingly positive response. For as long as Pokémon Go is a top download and Harry Potter is still a household name, more fantastic events like this should be a regular fixture.

A feminist artistic asset

Katie Thorburn took a past lover to the SCA's Femflix because he wanted to “talk”, but she preferred the female voices on offer

Anything with fem in the title is always going to get me onsite. My ex, accompanying me for the afternoon, is saved under “fem” in my phone. It was “feminist lover” until he did something dumb and it was shortened.

I was thus drawn to Femflix. It's an exhibition which collates voices and examples of 1990s woman created screen culture. Every piece of work was the product of women filmmakers. I walked into the exhibition by myself. The old house-like facade led into an immensely open hall. Bright white, but not in the confronting and stark minimalism of many new galleries. The multi layers of paint were peeling, putting a history of architectural change on display. MacBooks on varied levelled blocks dotted the floor. Interviews of

the artists played in the left corner. Along the other side, thick curtains covered the archways, hiding a section of partitioned screens.

This multi roomed space allowed for one not to be overwhelmed by the near 40 screens looped with about four short films each.

The exhibition takes a while to unfold, a function of the sheer number of screens on offer. It showcases a wide diversity of voices and experiences from a time period when women creators were discouraged to call their work feminist. It gives time and space to each theme, concept, technique and story which respects the individuality of the works.

Some films are distinctly feminist in agenda. My favourite was such a film. Called “Sexy Girls, Sexy Appliances”, the 1992 short film shows 1950s style

Honiscopes

Uni finally starting to set in? Unsure if you will ever get a job, house, freedom, happiness? Take a walk on the Wilde side, and see what the future has in store for you. Art by Zita Walker



Aries

The nicest feeling in the world is to do a good deed anonymously and have somebody find out.



Taurus

Always forgive your enemies, nothing annoys them so much.



Gemini

Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future.



Virgo

We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars



Libra

The world is a stage and the play is badly cast.



Scorpio

There is only one thing in life worse than being talked about and that is not being talked about.



Aquarius

The only way to get rid of temptation is to yield to it.



Pisces

To define is to limit.



Capricorn

Anyone who lives within their means suffers from a lack of imagination.



Cancer

Nothing that is worth knowing can be taught.



Sagittarius

Behind every exquisite thing that existed, there was something tragic.



Leo

Never love anyone who treats you like you're ordinary.

SELF-REFLECTION

You told us, we listened

We commissioned a reader survey and only 83 of you, mostly college students and failed political hacks, responded to it

During the winter break, we commissioned a reader survey with the aim of soliciting feedback on our work so far this year.

Honi Soit editors are elected on an annual cycle, so it can often be the case that the first three quarters of each term are spent learning the ropes, with a better grasp on the job only developing in the final few weeks of the year. But we, like many before us, wanted to get ahead of the curve, so we asked you what we could do better. Responses were varied, but with a sample of just 83, hardly representative. Even so, here's our own self-appraisal of the year so far.

Most responses to the survey were from people (mainly current students) who had read the paper either in print or online. Bizarrely, six had not, so we wonder on what material they might have based their assessments.

When it came to naming your favourite section of the paper, the bulk chose investigations and comedy. Why? “Because I like snooping in the university's business,” wrote one respondent. Some didn't quite grasp the question, and instead saw a good opportunity to get a few words in: “least amount of cuckloadary [sic],” wrote another. “I enjoy none of them. This newspaper is a

newspaper designed for regressive left wing hacks who think that the world is best when it is just a big politically correct-feminist-circlejerk.” It's warming to think the survey made it onto the screens of so many generous college students willing to offer constructive feedback. One respondent clearly got it though, submitting “Dat Stupol gossip”. But we digress – back to the big politically correct-feminist-circlejerk.

The question of what section readers enjoyed the least seemed to attract some of the most colourful responses, including one from an aggrieved Catholic college student: “The endless poorly-informed and barely-researched attacks on Honi's favourite punching bags (colleges, catholics, catholics in colleges, etc) just aren't that interesting,” they wrote.

One even chimed in: “Generally is this whole paper is written from the perspective upper-middle class leftists. I'm from Western sydney and can't stand your smug writers [sic].” A common theme seemed to be short, sharp, blunt quips about “lefty bullshit” – noted! One respondent mistook our survey for a meteorology quiz: “According to honi every usyd student experiences extreme trauma and distress whenever a cloud blocks the sun [sic].” Good try mate!



READ THIS AND LISTEN TO: Listen To Your Heart

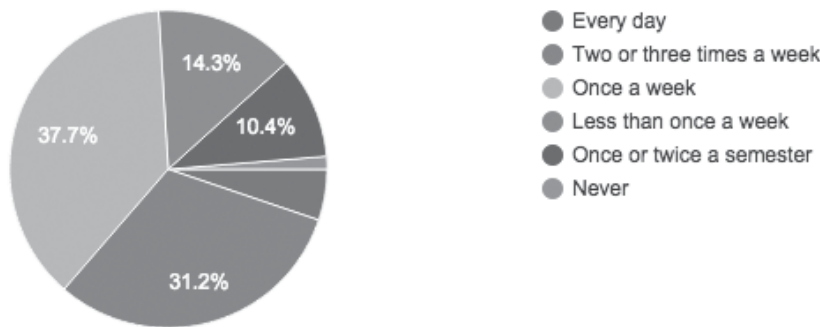
Roxette (1988)

The final part of the survey asked for general feedback, opening the floodgates to all sorts of depraved sexual requests and declarations of love for the current editors. Some took it as an opportunity to offer some sage advice. “terrible paper you should give up [sic],” reflected a common theme.

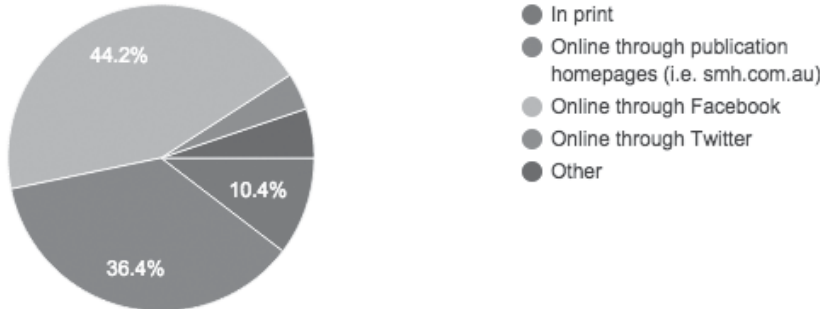
One respondent seemed to think we published exclusively on Tumblr (we actually have a print edition): “Maybe actually realise the whole student community doesn't necessarily go on tumblr. Sorry. You guys clearly wanted an honest opinion.” One prescient respondent theorised on our electoral chances if the election were held again today: “I hope you enjoyed your year as the Honi Soit editing team, because there is no way in hell you'd be elected again since there will actually be an alternative to the drivel and whingeing we've had to deal with this year.”

But for the few of you that didn't take out your frustrations on surveymonkey, we appreciated hearing your genuine feedback on what we could do better and what you wanted to stay the same. We strive to make the paper as good as possible every week and we love interacting with readers. Whether or not you share the same political values as the editors of the day, Honi Soit belongs to the students.

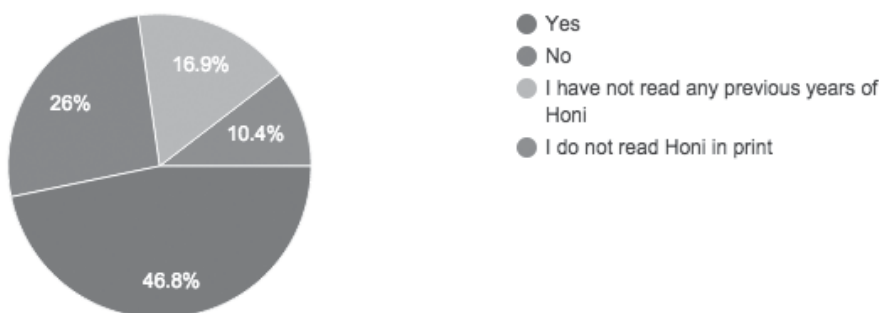
How often do you read Honi Soit?



How do you access Honi Soit?



Do you prefer the print design to other years?



Images: data from survey

### Get free help with your tax return from a Tax Help volunteer

> Are your tax affairs simple?

> Do you earn around \$50,000 or less?

Available to all USyd students through the Students' Representative Council (SRC) & Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA).

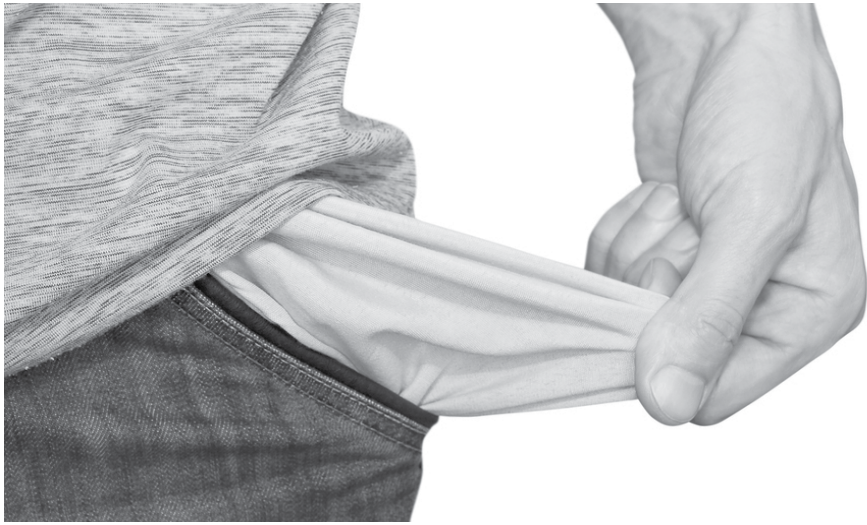
To book an appointment go to: [srcusyd.net.au/src-help/tax-help](https://srcusyd.net.au/src-help/tax-help)

Create your myGov account and link to the ATO before your Tax Help appointment.



# Struggling to Pay your Bills?

*If you are finding it difficult to pay your bills here are some tips to help you get your finances under control*



**Struggling to pay your bills?**

If you've missed credit card or other loan repayments, or have unpaid bills that you think another loan might help with, there may be another solution.

Consider what you need the loan for, and if there are better alternatives.

**Talk to the people you owe money to**

If you have a debt with your electricity company, phone provider, or bank, contact them and tell them that you're currently experiencing financial hardship. They should put you through to a hardship team to renegotiate your repayments. This may include giving you more time to pay, reducing the repayments for a period of time or other options.

**Interest Free Loan**

You might qualify for an interest free loan from the University. Contact Financial Assistance Office to ask for details. Similarly some community organisations offer interest free loans

for essentials, e.g whitegood replacement, if you meet certain criteria. You will still have to repay this money, but no interest is charged, meaning you only pay back the amount you were loaned. The University's Financial Assistance Office also offers bursaries (money you don't have to repay) to current students. Ask them for details.

**Centrelink payment advance**

If you're on a Centrelink payment you may also be able to apply for an 'advance payment'. You could also consider setting up Centrepay, which is a free voluntary bill paying service available to Centrelink customers. With Centrepay you can nominate an amount to be deducted automatically from your fortnightly payment, which is automatically sent to your biller. This means you're paying your bills in advance as you go so you don't have to pay a lump sum when the bill comes through at the end of the billing period. This could spare you any 'bill shock' and give you more control of your spending.

*Even \$10 a fortnight can take the sting out of your bill when it arrives.*

**Prepay Bills**

Have a look at your bills (electricity, water, gas, phone) and work out the average cost per fortnight. If you're not receiving a Centrelink payment, check out whether your can make periodic payments in advance, or consider putting money aside (either into another account or put some cash aside) to reduce the impact of your bill at the end of the billing period. Even \$10 a fortnight can take the sting out of your bill when it arrives.

Check out [www.moneysmart.gov.au/managing-your-money](http://www.moneysmart.gov.au/managing-your-money). This website has some really practical budgeting advice and tools.

SRC caseworkers can assist you further with Centrelink issues. Contact: 9660 5222 or email [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au)

# Ask Abe

SRC caseworker HELP Q&A



Hi Abe,

I've failed a couple of subjects and have fallen behind my school friends. I would like to do 5 subjects instead of 4 so I can catch up with them. Can you tell me how?

Over Load Lord

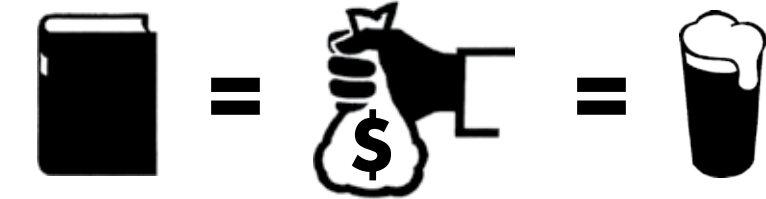
Dear Over Load Lord,

It is not a good idea to do 5 subjects instead of 4. This is especially the case if you have failed subjects. If you have not been able to successfully complete 4 subjects in the past, it is reasonable to think that you would not be able to successfully complete 5. Consider if you can afford to do summer or winter school to accelerate your completion. (No extra cost for International Students. Fee Help for domestic students.) Consider also that it doesn't much matter if you have an extra semester at Uni and maybe you could just chill out and enjoy your time here.

Abe

SRC caseworkers offer advice and support on a range of issues including: academic issues, tenancy issues, Centrelink and more. Phone 9660 5222 or email [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au)

*It is not a good idea to do 5 subjects instead of 4. This is especially the case if you have failed subjects.*



# CASH

...FOR YOUR TEXTBOOKS!

**USE THAT CASH HOWEVER YOU LIKE,  
BUY OTHER TEXTBOOKS CHEAP FROM US,  
OR GO BUY WHATEVER YOU WANT.**

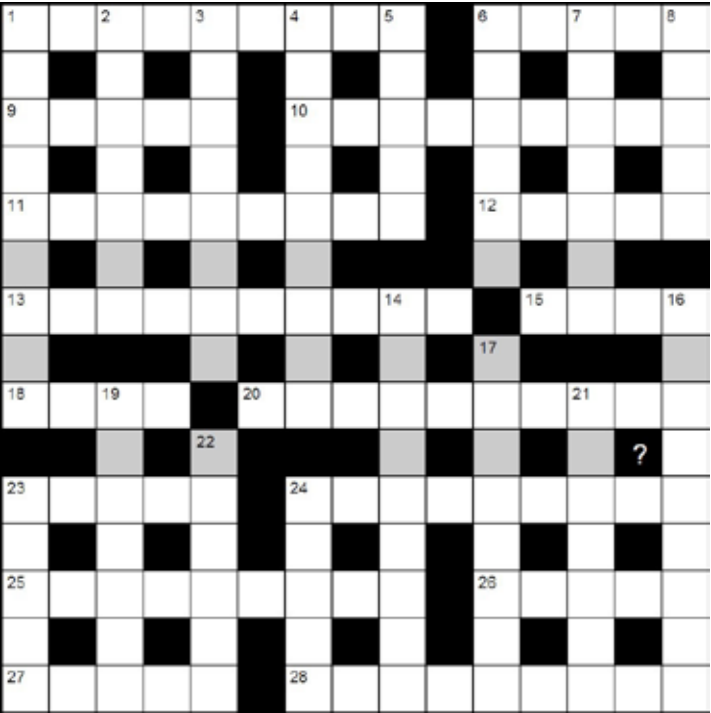
**NOW BUYING FOR SEMESTER 2**



Level 4, Wentworth Building, University of Sydney  
(Next to the International Lounge)  
p: 02 9660 4756 | w: [src.usyd.edu.au/src-books](http://src.usyd.edu.au/src-books)

# Cryptic

Quick by *EN*



**ACROSS**

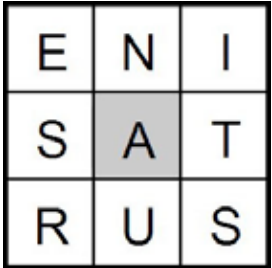
- Worldly sprinkling of ale in pantry? (9)
- Headed to taps for salad dressing (5)
- Alternatively, stir grain ceaselessly until dewy (5)
- Thief arguably didn't finish bread, nor entr  e fish? (4,5)
- Sitting in unheated fishfood, angled (9)
- Include bun, if yummy filling (5)
- Not out of stewed tripe? Don't even delay with guts (10)
- As an illustration: goslings' home! (4)
- Noodles, nachos, udon, tacos, sushi, melons? (4)
- A poultry filled with fried cheddar - sheddar? - cheddar? (4,6)
- Mini, say, half of veal cut (5)
- Exemplified skimmed creme's shake leaked (9)
- Turn loud, odd carte to second soup (9)
- Half panna cotta extracted from brown earth? (5)
- A cereal fruit? (5)
- Telling future creator to finish off after Italian fish/prime rib skewers (9)

**DOWN**

- Wall off fruit pointlessly - I left ten (ten!) in can (9)
- Hardly tropical squash fruit (7)
- I replaced copper in salad vegetable hamper (8)
- Cooked eels between a fish with eyes everywhere? (3-6)
- Herb first ignored in agreements to crown bread ingredient (5)
- Wicked Spooner's French flatfish? (6)
- Each pack drained nectar/gin cocktail on the way (7)
- Corny ice-cream flavour is less tight (5)
- Attractive thing, sole stuffed with humble barm? (9)
- Loyal and base, refuse to eat after not finishing sirloin (9)
- Like these clues, mostly chunky mincemeat inside (8)
- A rocket salad, ported with duck? (7)
- Raise quantity of beer (bottom's up!) after me? (7)
- One finally digs into cooked ham (light) (6)
- Syndicated companies for a hot chocolate? (5)
- Emu rump in diced turnip - it's missing a lead-in (3-2)

# Target

Find words of 7 letters or more

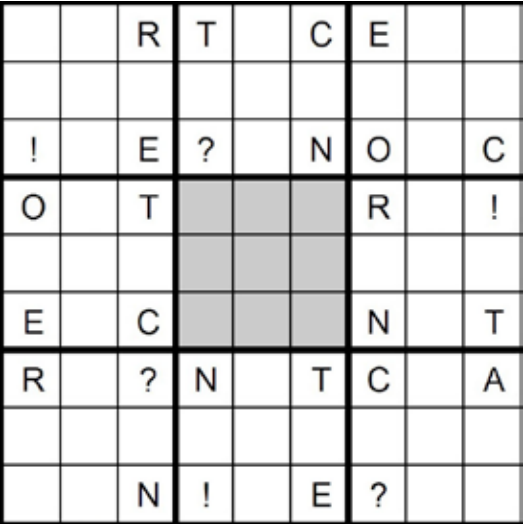


- Breaking a leg on the pole vault: 13
- Double Oprego burger, extra chilli: 27
- Found \$2 in an Aldi trolley: 36
- Warm bath: 45

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# Sudoku

Sudoku and Target by *EN*



**ACROSS**

- Brothers/sisters you can't tell apart (9,5)
- Young buck; type of cement (5)
- Alliance between lovers (9)
- Nolan film (9)
- You could find Dante, Napoleon, and Trotsky here? (5)
- Out of favour or privilege (10)
- Type of word indicating action (4)
- Hard final test (4)
- Ensuing in order (10)
- Rigid poem scheme (5)
- Natural repugnance (9)
- A prankster's foul-smelling tool (5,4)
- Male name; misfit (5)
- Each (5)
- Wayfaring school event (5,4)

**DOWN**

- Organisation (9)
- Unpleasant aural sensation (7)
- Listener of thoughts, mindreader (8)
- Decision-making group (9)
- South American (5)
- Municipality and capital of Taiwan (6)
- Exalt (7)
- Luxury; fashion (5)
- Level, fair (9)
- Awkward dive (5-4)
- Sealed (8)
- Stupid (7)
- Whole number (7)
- Eurasian country (6)
- Excessive speed (5)
- Taciturn (5)



Come complain to **Atrus**, **Zplig**, **Skribblex** and **EN** about last semester's final crossword in person at the **CrossSoc** solving session Friday, 4pm at Hermanns.

# Quiz

Quiz by *Mary Ward*

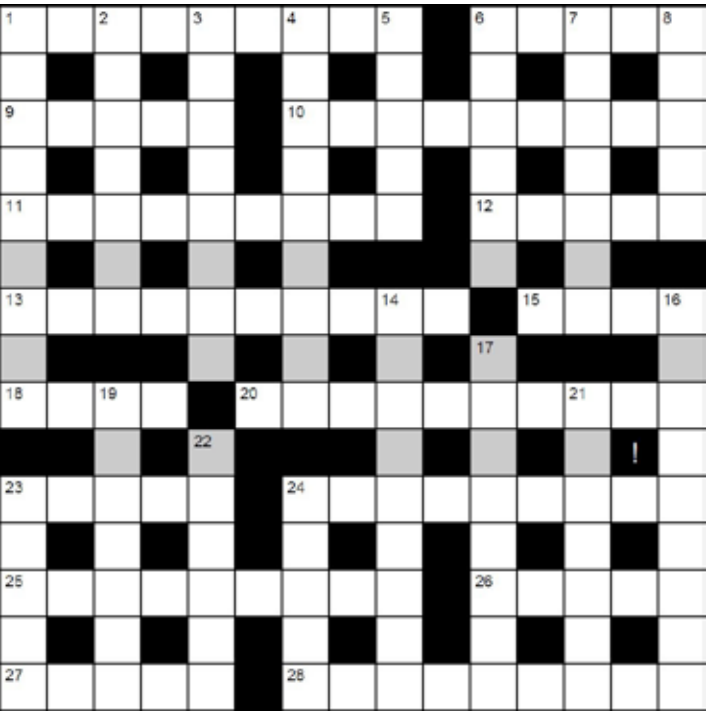
- Name the current Australian *Bachelor*.
- What is the longest distance swum at the Olympics?
- Shelley Craft is a former host of which morning children's television show?
- Which two USyd libraries are open 24 hours?
- Who is the federal Minister for Health and Aged Care?
- Which is larger: the Atlantic Ocean or the Indian Ocean?
- What is the name of the new caf   in the Architecture Building?
- How many medals had Fiji won prior to the 2016 Olympics?
- Which two campus residences compete in the Palladian Cup (the intercollegiate eisteddfod) but not the Rosebowl or Rawson Cups (the intercollegiate sports competition)?
- Who is the Deputy Chancellor of the University of Sydney?

Answers on page 22.



# Quick

Cryptic by *EN*





SRC REPORTS

President

Chloe Smith

Next week is Radical Education Week at Sydney Uni, as well as the NUS National Day of Action on Wednesday August 24. So it seems like as good a time as any to examine the state of higher education in Australian and at our university.

Severe cuts to higher education funding are back on the table under the current federal government. This is nothing new: successive governments have cut funding to universities and other institutions like TAFE, striking a massive blow not just to students, but also to the broader community and economy. International research shows that for every public dollar invested in higher education, \$6 are saved through lower unemployment benefits and higher taxes.

It seems odd that a government which based its broader election campaign around “innovation” and “agility” would be unwilling to fund the very institutions and researchers who provide innovative ideas and technologies.

So why is education, a public good with a great investment return, seen as less worthy of government funding than other department areas? And why is it seen as fair for students to shoulder the cost burden of education through higher fees, brought on to make up the funding cut shortfall?

Clearly, despite the principle societies like Australia have been built on, that everyone deserves the right to an education, higher education is increasingly seen as a commodity: increasingly seen not as a right but as a privilege, where the quality of education provided is dependent less on your ability and more on your bank account and postcode.

It seems barely possible that less than 50 years ago, university education was free in Australia. Now the idea of students shouldering extreme debt for years after graduating is accepted as part and parcel with a degree.

So what can we do? For starters, students need to be aware and engaged with these issues. You can do this by attending an SRC Education Action Group meeting and the NDA next week. Read as much as you can and look at the policies of the major parties around education funding. We may be some time off the next election but we know that public opinion can change policy – as we saw with the failure to pass fee deregulation. And don't just accept the rhetoric – challenge the narrative and move the parameters of the debate. Because investing in higher education is too important for us as a society to ignore, both now and for future generations.

Get informed, get involved. See you at the NDA and enjoy week four!

General Secretaries

Georgia Mantle

Since last fortnight I have been able to make some real progress with the issues of Lecture recordings. I personally spoke to the Chair of Academic Board, Tony Masters and explained the issues as well as provided him with some details of real students experiences and issues in relation to lecture recordings. I also raised the issues at SEG ED last week which seemed to be well received by the board members there. A lot of the board seemed shocked by what I was telling them as they seemed unaware this issues was happening which is why it is so important we stand up and let management know what is going on in their University! I will, however, continue to work on this issue as it is fair from solved.

Last week I had the pleasure of sitting in with the General Assembly at SCA where the students unanimously supported going on strike this Wednesday the 17th of August to stand against managements proposal to close SCA and move it

**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*

to Camperdown/Darlington campus while greatly reducing the offerings and specialized studio based practiced SCA is famous for. I encourage everyone to like the Facebook page ‘Let SCA Stay’ and to join the SCA students and your SRC reps on the 17th at 1pm at the Madsen Building to protest against the closure of SCA.

Another important rally coming up is the National Day of Action on the 24th of August where the Education Action Group will take a stand and fight against the governments cuts to higher education.

One last important thing is the Census date! The Census date for this semester is the 31st of August this is the deadline to withdraw from a subject and not have to pay! So right that one in your diary, but if you have any further concerns of questions about enrolment or withdrawing you can always come down to our office and see one of our dedicated caseworkers.

ACAR Officers

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

It's been a busy year so far for the Autonomous Collective Against Racism (ACAR) and things are only about to get busier. Following on from the success of our events last semester, such as ACAR revue and our collaboration with SUDS, this semester ACAR intends to further solidify our campus presence with the launch of the Ethno-cultural Space sometime in early September. The room, located in Manning and provided by the USU, is open to all ethno-cultural students on campus and is expected to be not only a place where ethno-cultural clubs, societies and collectives can freely run meetings and workshops, but also just a nice, safe, and autonomous space for ethno-cultural students to meet and hang out on campus. ACAR plans to take advantage of this great space as much as possible, with regular monthly collective meetings anticipated following the launch.

Additionally with semester two comes two big projects on ACAR's creative agenda. The first is ACAR Honi, where for one week ACAR will take over the student newspaper, giving people of colour the chance to edit, produce, contribute, design, and write for an issue that amplifies and centre issues of race on campus and beyond. Since its first edition in 2014, ACAR Honi has given writers and designers of colour the rare opportunity to forefront their voices in student media, and this year we plan to go even bigger and better.

Second on the calendar is a first for ACAR – a performance show called Rehearsals for Life, running in conjunction with the USU's Verge Festival. The theme of the show is expected to loosely cover the topics of childhood, adolescence, adulthood, maturity, death/silence all from the unique perspectives of performers of colour. Each performer will give their take on the theme through different mediums including but not limiting to music, poetry, acting, and singing. ACAR is optimistic about our first ever performance show and excited for its first time run as it fills a creative gap not covered by ACAR Honi – we encourage all student performers coming from an ethno-cultural background to apply.

Both projects are expected to launch on the same night – October 13th.

To find out how you can get involved in ACAR please join our Facebook group, ‘Autonomous Collective Against Racism’ searchable in the main University of Sydney group or like our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/usydacar](http://www.facebook.com/usydacar)

With love and rage,  
Your 2016 OBs,  
Lamya Rahman, Adam Torres, Una Madura Verde, and Aparna Balakumar

Global Solidarity Officers

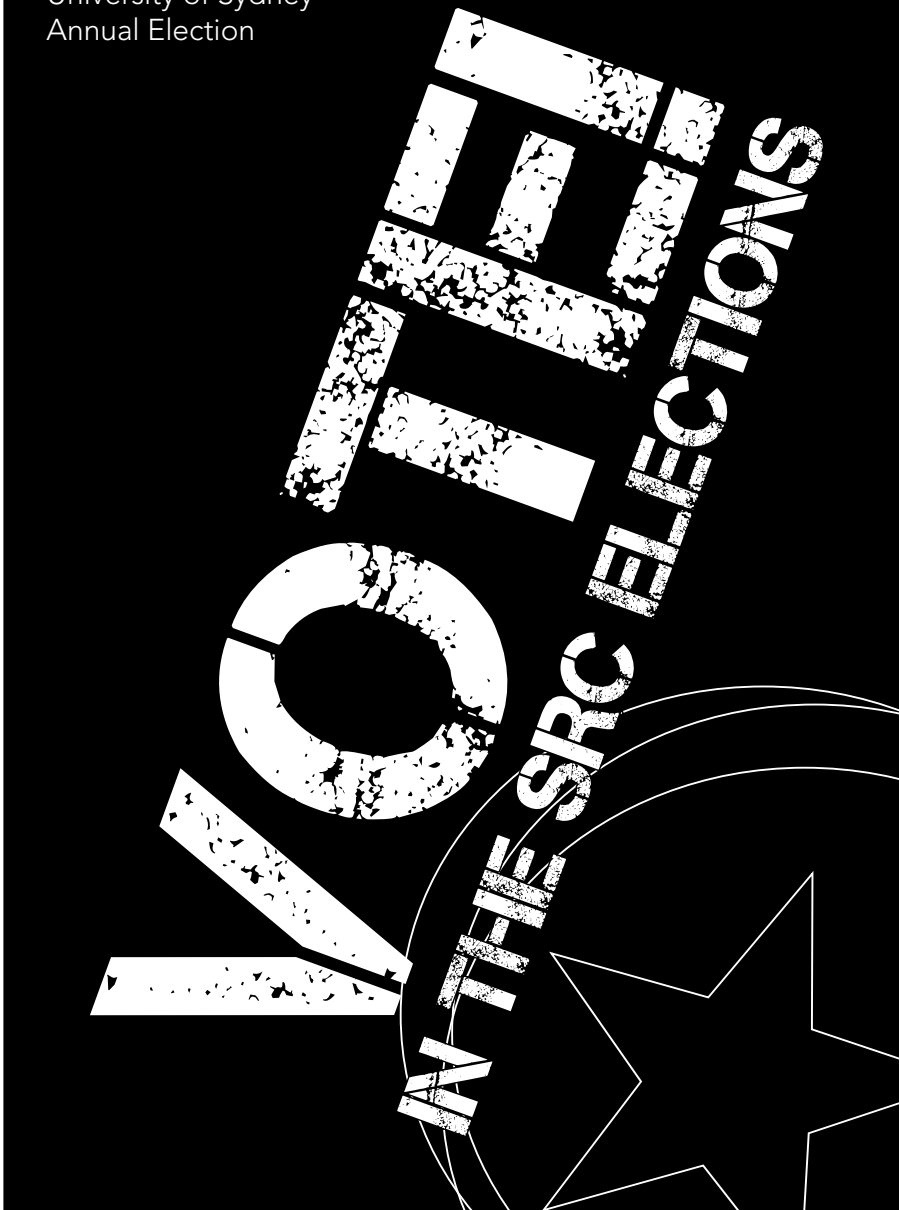
Declan Maher & Pelin Ersoy, Justine Amin & Michelle Picone

The release of the Nauru Files has once again shone light on the horrendous treatment of refugees by the Australian government. This does not come as a surprise to anyone - it has been the policy of both Liberal and Labor for some years now to subject refugees to brutal torture in offshore concentration camps as a “deterrent”, that is, making them worse than wars, persecution and poverty that Australia is directly or indirectly complicit in causing. A policy so central to the project of both parties can only be defeated through mass action and by literally tearing down the fences imprisoning refugees, as happened in Woomera in 2002. The next rally to free the refugees is on August 27th, starting at 1pm at Town Hall.

The 2016 Rio Olympics is all over the news, along with little mention of protests that have surrounded the event, drawing attention to huge wealth inequality, the poor state of education, the clearing of favelas and other issues. As the torch approached the Opening Ceremony, it was headed by riot police firing rubber bullets at those who stood in its way. The event itself, however, hasn't been completely apolitical - USA's swimming gold medalist in Simone Manuel used her platform to speak out about police brutality in her home country. She said to the media on her victory, “it means a lot, especially with what is going on in the world today, some of the issues of police brutality. This win hopefully brings hope and change to some of the issues that are going on. My colour comes with the territory.”

The Black Lives Matter movement has, in recent months, found footing in Australia after a number of large rallies, particularly in light of the report on the Don Dale prison in the Northern Territory, where predominantly Indigenous boys have been subject to various forms of torture from tear gas to restraining chairs to isolation. This is just another episode in the 228 year history of racism and genocide that is the Australian state. The Global Solidarity office will continue to support this struggle of Indigenous people against racism and oppression.

Students’ Representative Council,  
University of Sydney  
Annual Election



Polling Booth Times and Locations 2016

Polling Location	Wed 21st Sept. 2016	Thurs 22nd Sept. 2016
Fisher	8.30–6.30	8.30–5.00
Manning	10.00–4.00	10.00–4.00
Cumberland	11.00–3.00	11.00–3.00
SCA	12.00–2.00	No polling
Engineering	No polling	12.00–2.00
Conservatorium	12.00–2.00	No polling
Jane Foss	8.30–6.00	8.30–6.00

**Pre-Polling** will also be held outside the SRC’s offices, Level 1 Wentworth Building, on Tuesday 20th September from 10am–3pm.

Authorised by P. Graham, SRC Electoral Officer 2016.  
Students’ Representative Council, University of Sydney  
p: 02 9660 5222 | w: [src.usyd.edu.au](http://src.usyd.edu.au)



Students’ Representative Council, University of Sydney

SRC Elections 2016  
Postal Voting  
Application Form



POSTAL VOTING

If you wish to vote in the 2016 SRC elections but are unable to vote EITHER on polling days Wednesday 21st or Thursday 22nd September at any of the advertised locations, OR on pre-polling day (on main campus) Tuesday 20th September, then you may apply for a postal vote.

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** postal vote applications **MUST BE RECEIVED AND IN OUR PO BOX by Friday 19th of August** at 4.30pm or they will not be considered. **No exceptions.**

You may use a photocopy of this form.

Name of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Student card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty/year: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for a postal vote for the 2016 SRC elections. I declare that I am unable to attend a polling booth on any of the polling days, OR on the pre-polling day, for the following reason: (please be specific. Vague or facetious reasons will not be accepted. The Electoral Officer must under section 20(a) of the Election Regulation consider that the stated reason justifies the issuing of a postal vote.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send voting papers to the following address:

\_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Authorised by P. Graham, SRC Electoral Officer 2016.  
Students’ Representative Council, University of Sydney  
p: 02 9660 5222 | w: [src.usyd.edu.au](http://src.usyd.edu.au)





# The Postgrad Pages

PRESENTED BY



## USyd Rainbow Campus campaign to hold rainbow wedding on August 16

Rachel Evans and Ahmed Suhaib

On Tuesday August 16, the University of Sydney will experience the most exquisite celebration of love as the Rainbow Campus campaign unites rainbow couples to show Australia what it is missing out on.

Rainbow Campus is campaigning to get University Campuses across Australia to become safe spaces for the LGBTIQ+ community. Since the Orlando shootings, steps to overcome prejudice, bigotry and hatred against the rainbow community have become more urgent.

Rainbow Campus asks Universities to implement six policies to be deemed Rainbow Campuses. Accessible safe space for LGBTIQ+ students, portion of student services amenity fees (SSAF) for LGBTIQ+ student organis-

*Rainbow Campus is campaigning to get University Campuses across Australia to become safe spaces for the LGBTIQ+ community... Rainbow Campus asks Universities to implement six policies to be deemed Rainbow Campuses.*

ing, comprehensive LGBTQIA+ staff training, gender neutral bathroom, and signing onto a Marriage Equality pledge.

Rainbow campus campaign was launched at University of Sydney during USU pride week, and a copy of the demands was handed to Vice Chancellor's office. Since the launch rainbow campus campaigners have met with university management to discuss the importance of making university a rainbow campus. The university management agreed to work on all demands, while admitting the process of implementing these policies will require time, except for signing on to marriage equality.

University management made it very clear to rainbow campus campaigners that the Vice-Chancellor has refused to support marriage equality on the basis that it is a political issue, and the university will not take stand on any political issues. Rainbow campus supporters do not accept the university decision, as to them this is a human rights issue.

Rachel Evans, rainbow campus campaigner said that "by not supporting marriage equality University is not staying quiet but actually taking a stand against marriage equality. It is saying to its student that it is okay if the government treats you like a second class citizen."

So Rainbow Campus campaigners are joining up with six organizations on Sydney University and hosting a wedding to outshine all weddings and calling on rainbow couples, their guests, the community and allies to get equal

married with us.

Rainbow Campus and friends are holding this event at the University of Sydney inside the beautiful Refectory, with five lucky couples offered free hair and make-up, bouquets, photos and video coverage of the day. Set in the Refectory, near the sandstone 'Quad', this event will host 200 people, up to 10 couples and an unforgettable ceremony.

Rainbow and ally guests will be treated to a delicious fully catered reception by HostCo, USU catering services that does wedding on campus. Students and staff are invited to join this stunning ceremony to celebrate rainbow community's enduring love and passion for equality.

The wedding begins at 1pm and will end at 2pm followed by a reception from 2-3pm.

Organizer Andrea Zephyr said: "Supporting us on this day are the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association, Student Representative Council, University Student Union, the Sydney University branches of the National Tertiary Education Union and the Community Public Sector Union. Along with the The Ally Network (rainbow staff)."

"We are asking Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence and all staff to show their support for Rainbow Campus and come on the day" said Rachel Evans. "So far Sydney University has rebutted the Rainbow Campus proposal, and we want them to see that equal love is nothing to be fearful of," she concluded.



## Radical Education Week: fighting the corporatisation of education

Lily Matchett, SUPRA Co-Vice President

As privatisation continues to grow in almost every sector in Australia, we as citizens and students are forced to watch the continuing degradation of our public sphere, including our right to accessible education. In light of Sydney University's profit-driven degree restructure plans, which will ensure tertiary education is less accessible for persons with low socioeconomic status, it seems essential that we as a student community critique and fight the neoliberal 'Edu-factory'. In response, USyd student collectives have developed Radical Education Week,

a free 3-day festival of politically progressive, student and community-led workshops held on the 23-25th of August on Eastern Avenue.

Max Haiven is an activist (including being a member of the transnational Edu-factory collective), academic, and author of 'Crises of Imagination, Crises of Power'. In his chapter 'Within and beyond the Edu-factory', Haiven explores the role of the university and its research, staff and students in the accumulation of capital. He highlights the university's pivotal position in global capitalism as a place

that both drives and embodies the corporate transformation of the public sphere. The thesis of the Edu-factory Collective is this: as once the factory, now the university. "In the same way that the factory was once the key institution or architecture in which capitalism ordered and coordinated social life and human productivity, so now too can we imagine the university this way".

A large proportion of people come to uni to buy (or accumulate debt for) their golden ticket to future job security. However, that hope is largely futile (jobs, security and happiness are hardly guaranteed as individuals are encouraged to take postgraduate courses just to find meaningful work), so the university holds economic and sociological influences over the generations of tomorrow. Not only is our education increasingly becoming a mass-produced commodity but also a space where hopes, dreams, identities and imaginations are colonised and assembled, where a new generation of capitalist 'subjects' are manufactured.

*[Maiven] highlights the university's pivotal position in global capitalism as a place that both drives and embodies the corporate transformation of the public sphere The thesis of the Edu-factory Collective is this: as once the factory, now the university.*

The corporatisation of our education can seem bleak and inevitable, but it can also be viewed as an opportunity to unite in resistance against the decay of our public services at capital's hands. It is a critical time to begin sharing knowledge and building community. Rad Ed Week is an on-campus occasion to begin valuing each other's individual and collective power. This is a space to reimagine a university and world unaccompanied by exploitation.

Come along from Tuesday-Thursday Week Five to learn and participate in workshops on important concepts your degree may not cover: Aboriginal sovereignty, critical race theory, queer politics, feminism, transgender politics, Papua New Guinea political struggle, political economy, how to take non-violent direct action, the campaign to save Sydney College of the Arts, offshore refugee detention struggles, how to create a just transition to renewables, how to facilitate meetings... the list goes on. We welcome everyone: the more of you there, the livelier the discussion, skill-sharing, and community-building, and thus the more we all take away from it.



# radical education week

23-25 august / eastern ave

promoting knowledge-sharing and  
community-building  
fighting commodified education

### FEATURING:

- Ken Canning, Murri activist and poet
- student activists from Myanmar
- workshops on zine-making and legal skills
- talks on critical race theory, queer politics and Aboriginal solidarity

full program at [facebook.com/radedweek](https://facebook.com/radedweek)



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## Infallible? Revealed: Pope Has to Flush Twice

Jayce Carrano reports.

Shocking allegations from sources close to Pope Francis suggest the Supreme Pontiff may not be infallible.

Richard\*, a corporal in the Vatican's Swiss Guard, alleges that last Monday, after having dumplings delivered, the Pope struggled to use chopsticks.

The situation escalated when the Vicar of Jesus Christ resorted to skewering the fried sacks of prawn.

"He tried to tell me that was how the Chinese do it and when I called him out on his shit he said he was speaking ex cathedra [infallibly]", Richard said. "When Frank pulls that one out you know to just let him say whatever. Otherwise he'll chuck a tanty."

Bruno\*, the papal residency's technical officer, has had similarly disturbing experiences. "You wouldn't believe how often he types google into the google search bar."

When confronted, the Servant of the Servants of God denied fault. Bruno remains unconvinced. "I know what I've seen."

The rumours don't stop there. Carlotta\*, a Papal Launderer, made the mistake of trusting the Pope.

Carlotta claims that the Prince of the Apostles put his red robes in with his white skull cap. "And then he's going on about how his vestments were always pink and I'm just thinking you are so full of it."

\* Names have been changed

North and South Korean gymnasts unite countries with selfie, retroactively reverse Korean War



## Student Comedian Silenced Amid Fears of Virality

Oliver Moore's virality has never been feared.

In a student comedy pitch meeting earlier this week, one talented punter broke the news that they had thought of content so funny it could not be uttered aloud for fear that it would immediately go viral.

"I just don't think I'm ready for that kind of exposure," the student in question, who asked not to be named, said in response to questions about their decision not to pitch the content. "All those favs and retweets? It's too much," they added.

The student is understood to be preparing something "much less humorous," for this week's edition of the campus newspaper.

## Trending

Ambulance drivers throw gymnast, breaking world record and femur

Ever wondered why Michael Phelps has pentagrams on his pec? He's a satanist!

North Korea takes out every Gold in every possible event yet again

WOW: They also took out the silver and bronze

Kid sent home from swimming carnival for splashing mate, doping

Closing Ceremony of Olympics to see 34 ha of rainforest destroyed: 'We had to balance it out'

This Chinese swimmer is attractive... to bees!

Gisele Bundchen's walk deemed "not dope enough" by WADA

+ More jokes with a shelf life of about three weeks

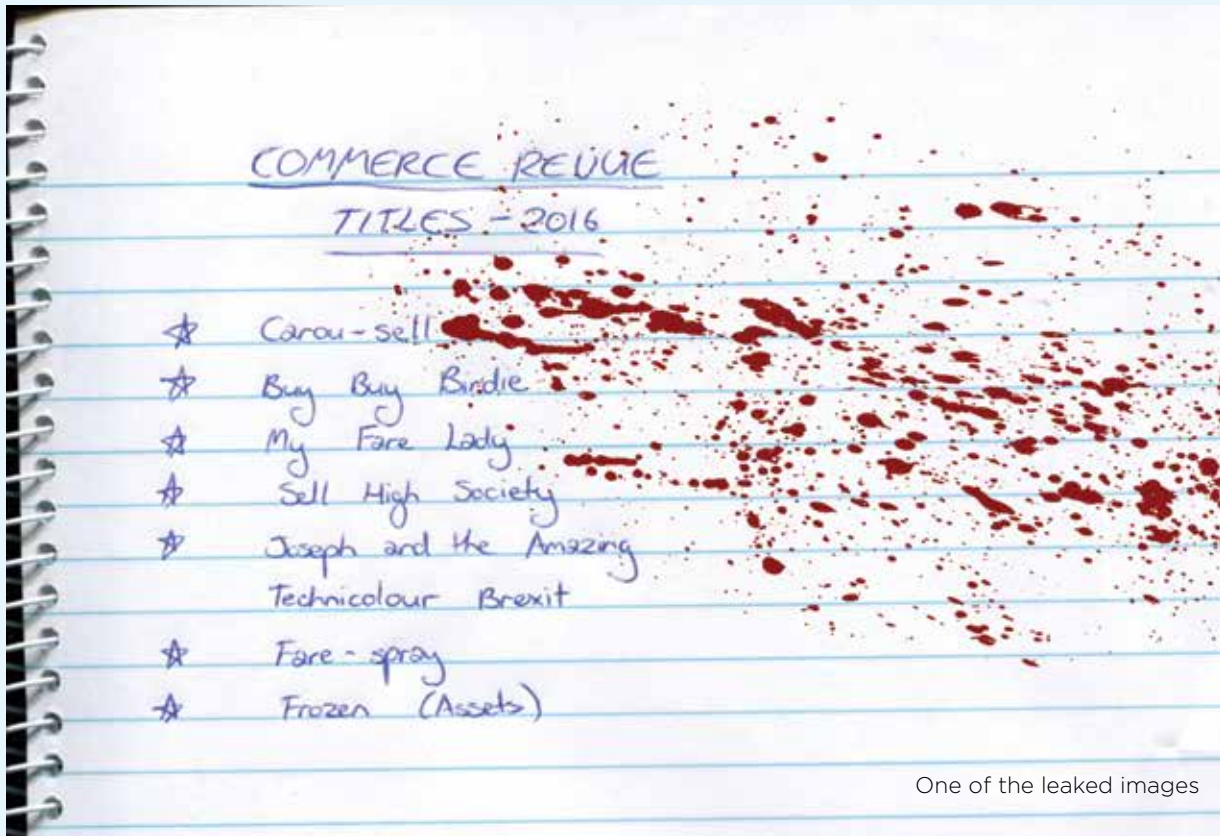
# SEYMOUR

WHAT'S ON YOUR VISIT ABOUT EDUCATION CONTACT

WHAT'S ON AT THE SEYMOUR



## #EXCLUSIVE: Original Commerce Revue Titles Revealed



One of the leaked images

Mary Ward on the revue season's insider naming controversy.

As revue titles were announced last week, the question on everyone's lips was: "What the fuck, Commerce Revue?"

The skit night had departed from its previous musical theme to adopt the title 'The Rise and Fall of Bliss Industries' however, leaked photos reveal that the title was not the troupe's first choice.

Coming off the back of 2015's revue 'Guys and Dollar Bills' and its predecessors 'Moolah Rough' and 'Les Biz', the pictures show various musical-themed titles were considered, with 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Brexit' earning the highest popular vote.

When asked about the pictures, as well as the red stains that appear to be present on the papers, Commerce Revue declined to comment.

LOAD MORE



# RADICAL EDUCATION WEEK

23-25 august



3 DAYS OF FREE EVENTS  
SHARING SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR  
LIBERATION, NOT CORPORATE PROFITS

## **WORKSHOPS:**

screenprinting / queer politics / non-violent  
direct action / drug policy reform / legal skills

## **TALKS:**

Ken Canning / students from Myanmar

## **FILM SCREENINGS:**

chasing asylum / heritage fight - and more



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Full program available online at  
[facebook.com/radedweek](https://facebook.com/radedweek)  
Proudly supported by SRC activists and  
collectives  
Conducted on sovereign Gadigal land

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