

Honi Soit

SEMESTER TWO, 2016 • WEEK 12

FIRST PRINTED 1929

An activist's
perspective

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Stranded: a
refugee's story

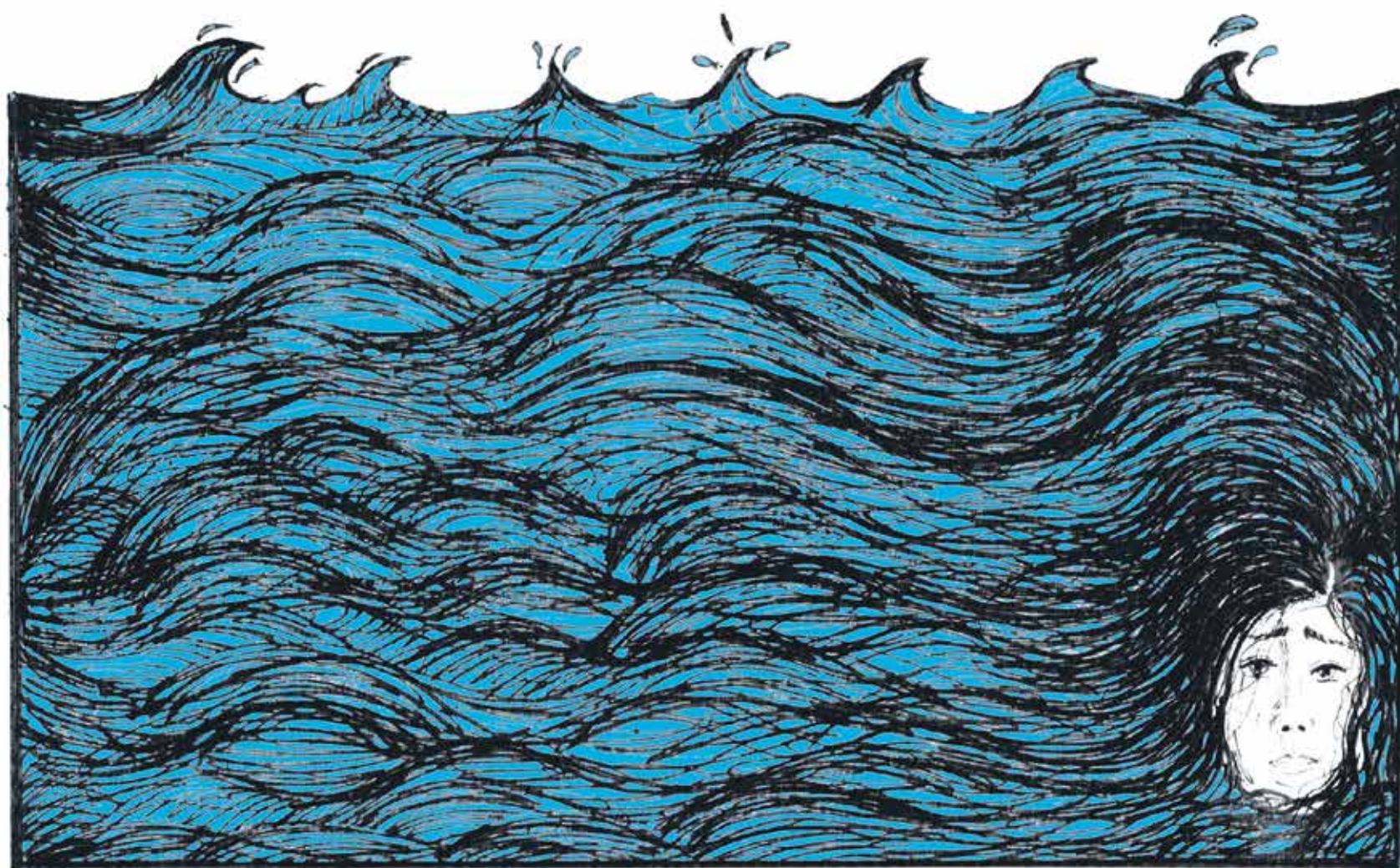
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The quad is a
trapezoid

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THE OCEAN IS MY PASSPORT

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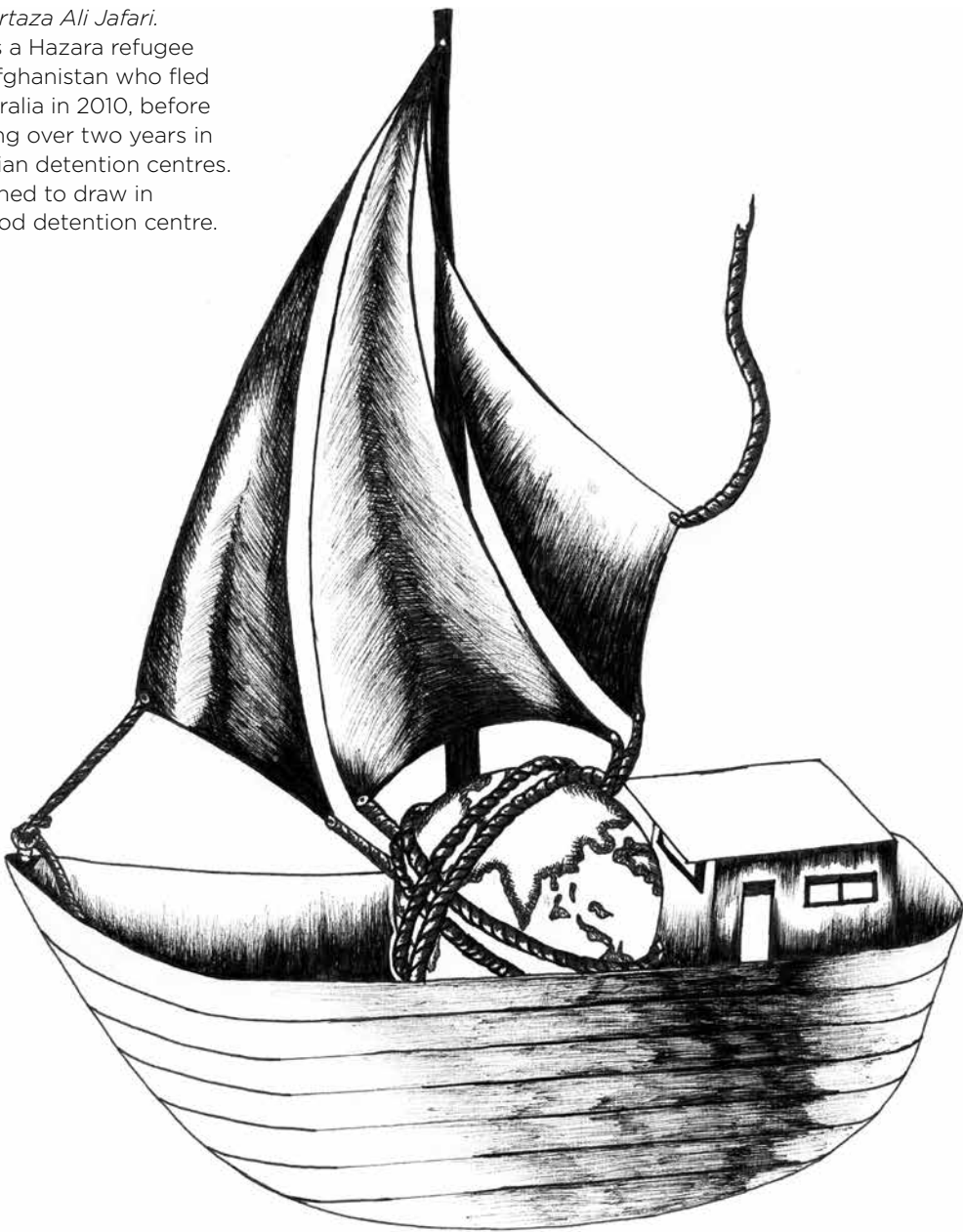
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Liam Donohoe and Subeta Vimalarajah
on the University's new obsession

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Art: Murtaza Ali Jafari.
Jafari is a Hazara refugee from Afghanistan who fled to Australia in 2010, before spending over two years in Australian detention centres. He learned to draw in Villawood detention centre.



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DEDICATION

To each other

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

Natalie Buckett &
Subeta Vimalarajah

Every Tuesday afternoon, we send off comment requests to the University's public relations department. On Friday at 5pm, "X Y Z, a University spokesperson said," is added to the end of articles, and we send them to print. It's a ritual so common to us that we rarely question it.

With the two biggest activist campaigns this year – the campaign for reform of the University's sexual harassment policy and the Let SCA Stay campaign – a recurring theme has been the need to "embarass" the University, because only poor public relations will force them to act. The SRC Wom*n's Officer, Anna Hush, writes words to this effect on page 12. We've seen these tactics employed by Let SCA Stay through their iconic banner drop in week ten, their occupation of the Dean's Office, and the performance art protest they held outside the Art Gallery of NSW.

The need for these campaign tactics evidence the best example of the University's neoliberal shift – its increased concern for public relations. In an era with a crippling low levels of tertiary education funding, philanthropic donations – in the order of \$137.5 million from the 2015 Inspired campaign alone – are the University's new lifeline. The need for that money however, requires that dissent is silenced.

Although as *Honi*, we per-

ceive ourselves as a voice for students and therefore, part of the University, management undoubtedly sees us as in opposition to their aims (who could blame them, tbh). It is for this reason that we can rarely approach a member of management through an e-mail to them. Usually our answers need to be wrung through the public relations machine. It is also for this reason that the answers we – as the student newspaper – are given, are oftentimes identical to the beige platitudes farmed out to the mainstream media. In fact, it's often just as hard – if not harder – for us to get comment from the University on student issues because they see us as needlessly hostile. Emails are sometimes not responded to, or it takes multiple follow ups before we get an answer.

Every time we provide the quote of a "University spokesperson" it leads us to question, are we not part of the University? As the University moves through the various stages of the strategic plan, as our Vice Chancellor continues to be a proponent of fee deregulation, *Honi* retains its relevance: we need to keep dispelling the myth that there is one, homogenous "University spokesperson" and to support our fellow activists in the fight for University as a public institution, not a corporation.

ART

The art on the front cover of this edition, to the left and on pages 16 and 17 was sourced from the Refugee Art Project. The Refugee Art Project showcases the works of people seeking asylum that are currently in limbo, trapped in Australia's offshore and onshore detention centres.

We'd like to thank Safdar Ahmed for his patience and support in providing us with these works.

We'd also like to thank the refugees – Mora Moradveisi and Mortaza Ali Jafari – for allowing us to use their works in this edition.

LETTERS AND NEWS

Letters

Lessons from history

Dear *Honi*,

In response to Joanna Slomka's letter in Wk 10 ('The One bad letter on this stellar page'), no it is not racist to want new arrivals to learn English and obey our laws. What is racist is assuming they all (or at least a high proportion of them) don't. The degrading of Middle Eastern migrants today is no different to that of Eastern European migrants in the 1950s. It was shameful but we wouldn't be the nation we were without them. Those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Some day we will look back and wonder what all the fuss was about with Middle Eastern migrants.

Nicholas Sundich
Commerce/Arts III

P.S: I find it very amusing how the right tell everyone else they shouldn't make a fuss over being offended yet throw tantrums if they're called a racist - even if they are.

Some thoughts from a Liberal

Dear *Honi*,

As a long time reader of your publication and a first time writer of a letter to the editors, I wish to provide a brief response to Imogen Harper's article concerning the ownership of the right-wing publication *Mon Droit*. While I am no longer a member of SULC, I felt unable to let certain comments go uncorrected.

It is a convenient rewriting of history on the part of Ms Priestley to suggest that the publication is not an internal asset of the Sydney University Liberal Club. As a member of that Club's executive during the 2014-15 term, I sat in on executive meetings in which the direction of *Mon Droit* was raised and discussed. Even though I am not at liberty to discuss who said what at these meetings as they are deemed to be confidential, but I am in order in saying that the publication and its future were often discussed. It has been the case that the publications director was deemed responsible to the Club for *Mon Droit*.

In addition to this, I find it incomprehensible that the publication would be funded by the University of Sydney Union if it were not the asset of SULC. There is no evidence

that has been presented to me that funding publications of different political persuasions is part of the USU's role. The idea that members of the SULC executive would be responsible for *Mon Droit*'s publication but that the two roles are separate makes no sense and is, quite frankly, laughable. The publication has been promoted since its inception by the SULC executive via emails and official Club social media pages, and there is no evidence that supports the proposition that the publication is an external asset.

In my view, this debacle is due to the unwillingness of the outgoing executive to accept the fact that the team they endorsed at the recent SULC annual general meeting failed to win the confidence of the membership. It is not legitimate to use *Mon Droit* as a selling point in getting members to vote for you then throw a tantrum when you lose that election and say "oh, it's not a Club asset". The argument contradicts itself at face value. And you will have to forgive me if I laugh at Ms Priestley's comment concerning Club inclusion. She was a member of the executive that is reported to have excluded members of the Club from a round of the John Howard Debating Club, including its creator, Alex Dore. He has not received the credit he deserves for the work he has put into that Cup.

It is time for the former executive, in the interests of uniting the Club, to grow up and work with the incumbent executive. And that means handing over *Mon Droit*, which is clearly a Club asset.

Yours sincerely
Jeremy Travers
Arts (Government and
International Relations) III

Someone likes us !!!!!

Dear *Honi*,

Congratulations on writing, editing and literally delivering the best iteration of the student newspaper I have read in my six years at University. You were given big shoes to fill and managed to stretch them out even further for next year's editorial team. I do not think I will immediately miss much about campus life when I graduate, but I certainly will miss reading *Honi Soit* every Tuesday afternoon. I was just as excited to read your paper as I was when I first picked it up in 2011.

Very best,
Justin Pen
Arts/Laws VI

GOLDEN KEY

FOI documents reveal close relationship between ANU and Golden Key organisation

Tom Joyner

A cache of emails, memos and other documents, including a formal contract agreement, has shed light on the close relationship shared by Australia's top-ranked university and the Atlanta-based Golden Key International Honour Society over the past two decades.

The documents – the earliest dating back to 1995 – obtained by *Honi Soit* under freedom of information laws, indicate close dealings that include regular payments made from ANU to the private organisation, as well as the sharing of student records.

An *Honi* investigation in May suggested that Golden Key had been using personal student records, including mailing addresses, names, study enrolments and other contact information to target up to 2,500 new recruits annually at ANU.

Golden Key, an American-style honour society, charges \$100 for new membership on an invite-only basis to students in the top 15 per cent of their academic cohort. Its website claims the organisation is active on hundreds of university campuses worldwide, including many in Australia, providing regular networking opportunities, workshops and events.

The documents obtained include a formal four-page contract agreement between Golden Key and ANU detailing how students' shared personal information will be used. In May, then Asia-Pacific director of the organisation, Joshua Ang, who has since left Golden Key, denied it had any direct access to student records from ANU.

Although the agreement includes a clause requiring students' personal information not be disclosed to or used "for the benefit of any third party for any reason whatsoever including direct marketing and on selling of mailing lists", many members have reported receiv-

ing marketing emails from Golden Key's corporate sponsors since joining.

Golden Key Vice-President Mark Herndon denied any personal information had been directly disclosed to sponsors, but despite given several opportunities to do so, did not deny the information had benefited the organisation's sponsors by granting exposure to students on Golden Key mailing lists.

"There is no obligation on any member to respond to, accept or otherwise deal with any of the sponsors or partners with whom Golden Key engages on behalf of its members," he said in an emailed statement.

Over more than a decade, emails exchanged between ANU economics lecturer Selwyn Cornish – who is also a member of Golden Key's international board – and senior ANU management indicate a close relationship between the two bodies.

Herndon said Golden Key had shared a "longstanding partnership" with ANU since 1995, but denied the existence of a funding agreement, formal or informal.

Almost \$30,000 from the University's central accounts, much of it from the vice-chancellor's discretionary budget, has been used to sponsor Golden Key events, both in Canberra and overseas in Atlanta and Chicago since 1999. An ANU spokesperson denied there was any financial relationship between the university and Golden Key.

Emails suggest funds were handed over with a loose understanding Golden Key would promote ANU to prospective students at its international conferences.

"I am pleased to advise that the Vice-Chancellor has agreed to \$3,000 being paid as a contribution," then Pro Vice-Chancellor Chris Burgess wrote in a November 1999 email. "The University would, as you have

noted, receive suitable recognition as a result."

In June, it was revealed ANU had responded to a privacy complaint lodged by fourth-year ANU student Benjamin Roberts by quietly asking Golden Key to "purge" personal student records it had shared with the organisation.

An ANU spokesperson did not respond directly to *Honi's* questions regarding steps the University had taken in response to potential breaches of privacy legislation, instead saying privacy issues surrounding Golden Key had been reviewed.

Professor Barbara McDonauld, an acclaimed expert in privacy law who teaches at Sydney Law School has previously said ANU could be in breach of confidence and the Australian Privacy Principles, and that she was "surprised" it wasn't more careful with its handling of student information.

Golden Key has threatened legal action against *Honi Soit* for defamation in relation to the May article. At the time of publication, Golden Key had not withdrawn those threats.

This is your last chance to get
angry about something we
published in these pages as
an editorial team. Let us know
what you hated or loved by
emailing editors@honisoit.com

Quiz answers from page 25

1. 17 2. Charles Montgomery Burns 3. Skin 4. Kent Street 5. Colin Whitchurch 6. Taylor Swift's Red 7. George Bush Snr (Jenna and Barbara Bush were seven) 8. Socio-legal Studies 9. St Paul's College 10. Macdonaldtown, Newtown, Stanmore, Petersham, Summer Hill, Ashfield



DISQUALIFIED!

A campaigner for SPARK for SULS, Jacob Masina, was been banned from campaigning for the rest of the election, which ended on Tuesday, after allegations were made that he promised appointment to SULS sub-committee positions to a student in exchange for their support in the election.

Masina told *Honi*, “I did not offer anybody any particular positions. I’m sorry it’s been interpreted that way, however i know the RO is keen to make sure the election runs smoothly as well as protect the interests of students and campaigners alike. Someone approached me for my support to get on a SULS subcommittee. I do not have any control over that process as it is elected on merit. However, I only wanted to convey that I thought they would be good for the position and I would do my best to support them.”

If true, Masina probably overestimated his influence over SPARK. He’s not on the ticket, and doesn’t have a managerial position. A senior SPARK ticket member was very surprised that Masina reportedly expected to have such an

influence.

The SULS election gained a bitter tinge last week, with rumours flying around against people on both sides. Factually inaccurate allegations have been “leaked” to *Honi* in the hope we’d run it. One GAME campaigner wrote a status warning against “spreading unsubstantiated rumours or making unnecessary personal attacks”, a sentiment “directed at people on both major tickets”.

GAME Presidential candidate Kieran Hoyle wrote on Facebook, “I am not insular, I’m not elitist, I’m not Sydney Law’s Trump. I think it’s hurtful when people call me a fuckwit, and to be thought of as both ruthless and incompetent at the same time is just laughable. I think it is shameful that an election has come down to personal slander, largely aimed at one person.”

The SULS executive will be announced after this paper goes to print.

CLOSE EVERY DOOR TO ME, HIDE ALL YOUR MACS FROM ME

Last week saw the successful publication of the third-ever ACAR *Honi*, an autonomous edition of this rag run by the Autonomous Collective Against Racism.

In making this otherwise

BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES

cya later cunts!

excellent edition, the ACAR editorial team decided to prop open the SRC door after-hours (to let in their contributors). Unfortunately they also let in a thief who took a huge desktop Mac from the SRC front desk and fucked off with it.

The ACAR *Honi* team and the Officebearers were, to *Honi*’s understanding, incredibly embarrassed and apologetic, while the SRC staff were a little bit miffed and have now put a sign on the inside of the door.

HOLME BAKED

On a cursory expedition to USU headquarters to view their murals (see page 6), two of your editors stumbled across a pretty edgy function listing in the cosetted upper levels of the Holme building.

According to the sign outside the Cullen Room, the USU proudly hosted “The inaugural mini-Masterclass [in] Medicinal Cannabis” this week. When we tried to enter, a HostCo employee told us it was a private event and wasn’t for students.

Honi’s questions – “Who’s running this? Why is it in the

Holme building and will it be back?” – were sent to the USU, but despite their best efforts, they weren’t able to reply in time for publication.

NEW PRES, NEW YEAR, NEW EBA, NEW ME

The Sydney Uni branch of the National Tertiary Education Union has a new face at the helm. Associate Professor Kurt Iveson, a geographer who works on social justice in city, took over from Michael Thompson as NTEU Branch President last week. You can find his great take on “Pokémon Go and public space” on his blog.

Iveson’s appointment comes as the University’s academic and professional staff look to begin negotiating a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) early in the new year.

Those among us who seriously should have graduated by now will remember the enormous 2013 strikes during EBA negotiations which ended when University management acquiesced to most NTEU and student demands.

WE’RE NOT RACIST, BUT...

With a “Night in Niflheim” theme, St Paul’s College man- aged to have a party that wasn’t

a tired appropriation of South Asian culture at the end of Week 10. However, what the college gained in not making fun of people of colour, it appeared to quite quickly lose in terms of not condoning animal abuse.

With huskies (who are not supposed to be out in hot temperatures) and owls (who can be blinded for an hour by night-time flash photography) both featuring pictures from the 27-degree night, it really is a bit of a case of you don’t know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone.

ST PAUL’S FOR ACADEMIC BOARD

Not content with the responsibility “for discipline, pastoral care and assisting the Warden” at St Paul’s College, Paul’s Sub-Warden Mark Schembri is running for to be the Medicine Faculty’s student representative to the Academic Board in 2017. (We hear they don’t have many discipline issues, so Schembri probably has a bunch of time on his hands.)

Dr Schembri – who has science, vet and public health degrees, and helped with the equine team at the Beijing Olympics – is apparently now a med student.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

New University sub-committee to oversee sexual assault reform

Subeta Vimalarajah

The October 11 meeting of the Student Consultative Committee voted in favour of a dedicated advisory group to oversee reform to sexual assault and harassment reform.

The formation of Safer Communities Advisory Group was endorsed by the Director of Student Support Services, Jordi Austin.

The Advisory Group has been recommended following more than two years of work by an informal working group of SRC and USU student representatives and staff from Student Services.

The informal working group met irregularly, and often

required sustained student effort for meetings to be organised.

“Formalising this working group will provide more structure and direction, allowing student representatives to have guaranteed, ongoing input into the steps being taken to address sexual assault,” said SRC Wom*’n’s Officer Anna Hush.

The new Advisory Group will be required to meet bi-monthly and report twice a year to the Student Consultative Committee to flag issues for University management. The Advisory Group will include representation from members of University management responsible for student wellbeing, campus security, communications and complaints handling.

“Appropriate direct student representation” is one of its terms of reference.

In line with this, the Wom*’n’s, Queer, Harassment and International Student Officers from the SRC, SUPRA and USU will be permanent members.

Two representatives from the broader student body will also be invited as members, and the immediate past Wom*’n’s Officers of the SRC, SUPRA and USU will be permitted to attend meetings.

“I think it’s a step in the right direction and addresses the fact that we need to think long term in regards to implementing solutions,” said Courtney Thompson, the USU Wom*’n’s and Queer portfolio holder.

New committee structure guts student representation

Max Hall

The presidents of the SRC and SUPRA have lost their positions on the education committee of the University’s powerful Senior Executive Group following a

restructure of USyd’s executive.

The Senior Executive Group – now known as the University Executive – is chaired by Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence and controls most decision making at the University, subject

only to the approval of the Senate. SRC representatives on the education committee has previously allowed student representatives to advocate for de-identified marking, and a fairer special consideration policy.

The Chair of the Academic Board will now appoint two students to the committee – one of 18 in the new structure.

In the past one of the “membership principles” of the Senior Executive Group dictated

that “Student members of SEG committees will be nominated by the SRC and SUPRA”.

Students and senior academics have asked the Vice-Chancellor to return the appointment to the SRC and SUPRA.

SRC ELECTIONS

Wom*’n’s Officer election marred with controversy

Natalie Bucket

The position of Wom*’n’s Officer may be contested at the 19 October SRC representatives elect meeting, despite the SRC traditionally voting in the candidates preselected by the Wom*’n’s Collective.

In recent history, the position has never been contested at the representatives elect meeting.

The Wom*’n’s Collective will hold its pre-selection on 17 October, whereby any non cis-male member of the collective that has attended two or more meetings or events over the course of the year, can nominate for election.

Andrea Zephyr, a member of Student Unity (Labor Right), may break the collective’s autonomy by directly nominating for election at Wednesday’s meeting.

“It’s really important for the Wom*’n’s Collective to have autonomy over selection of officers, as people in the collective are best positioned to decide who would make an effective Wom*’n’s Officer,” current SRC Wom*’n’s Officer, Anna Hush, said.

Zephyr did not explicitly confirm her nomination, however said “the Wom*’n’s Collective in

2016 has been a hostile environment to transgender women, and whilst I would run to fix this, I’m not sure if this is the best decision.”

Katie Thorburn has confirmed she will be running in the pre-selection, and is rumoured to be running with Imogen Grant.

Zephyr’s decision to bypass the collective’s preselection would be based on fear of “personal safety” due to the Wom*’n’s Collective allowing “people who aren’t women to vote and run for the position”.

A direct election of Zephyr by the SRC would echo last year’s SRC representatives elect meeting, when Sydney Labor Students member Michele Picone breached the Environment Collective’s autonomy to become an SRC Environment Officer instead of a preselected candidate.

Hush also raise concerns that “many councillors fall outside the autonomy requirements of the collective, and we believe it is inappropriate for men to choose the Wom*’n’s Officers.”

The Wom*’n’s Officers are paid \$12 000 by the SRC when splitting the position between two people, as is customary.

CUMBO

Alexandros Tsathas

Cumberland Student Guild (CSG), the organisation responsible for overseeing the student experience at USyd’s Lidcombe campus, has failed to meet its transparency obligations to the charities register for over 18 months.

As a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), CSG is required under Division 40.5.1 of the ACNC Act 2012 to make public its current constitution on the Commission’s website. Until 5:05 pm last Friday, it had failed to do so – instead having uploaded a .pdf document consisting of a

single blank page.

After having been denied a copy of its constitution by the Guild, *Honi* asked the ACNC why the document was not publicly available last Thursday. The representative *Honi* spoke to revealed it had been sought by the ACNC for 18 months, and escalated the matter. By the Friday afternoon, the document had been uploaded it full.

CSG is the only organisation receiving a slice of the SSAF pie (\$780,000 this year) that does not make its governing document available for download from its website. CSG refused to provide *Honi* with a copy of its constitution on request, with CSG’s General Manager Kim

Colquhoun saying “Cumberland Student Guild does not have any interest nor are we obliged to providing any information or having anything at all to do with *Honi Soit*.”

The sudden availability of its constitution does not appear to be CSG’s only ACNC irregularity. On the ACNC’s register, CSG lists Colquhoun as the only ‘responsible entity’ for the organisation. Division 300.5 of the Act, however, states that for an unincorporated association, all directors (of which CSG has four) must be listed.

Embarrassingly, the University does not maintain a current copy of CSG’s constitution in its archives, as an *Honi* GIPA request discovered.

“Although reasonable searches have been conducted, a copy of the current Cumberland Student Guild constitution was not located”, said the returned request.

Honi sought the constitution for what it might contain on elections notices – it had been claimed the only notice given of recent board elections was a single post on the organisation’s Facebook page.

Charity's Document		
Document Type	Date	Description
Governing document	14/10/2016	Cumberland Student Guild Constitution.pdf

Responsible Persons	
Name	Position
COLQUHOUN, KIM	Other

Screenshot from the ACNC's website: a recent upload

#REPSELECT

SRC balance of power sits on a knife edge ahead of Executive election

Andrew Bell & Naaman Zhou

Sydney Labor Students (SLS)

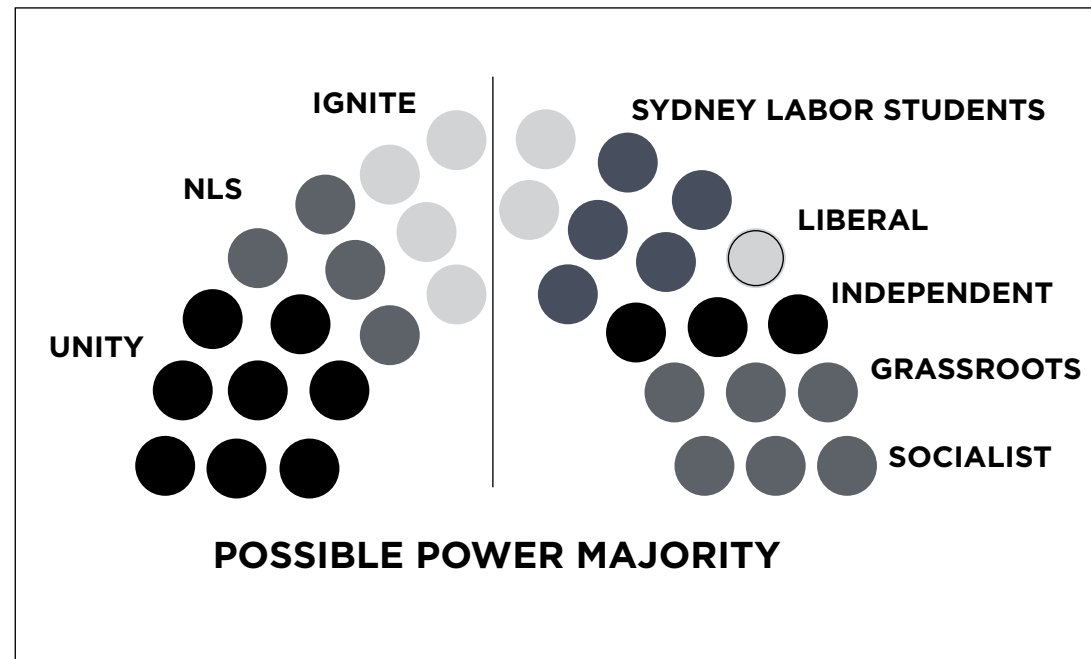
A number of SRC councillors-elect may pull the balance of power from a Labor-Liberal alliance ahead of the election of the SRC executive this Wednesday. *Honi* has become aware of up to 9 councillors (5 from Power, 2 from Ignite and 2 Independents) who are willing to vote on either side of the floor to threaten the presumed Stand Up/Ignite majority.

With so many moving parts, the voting blocs could range from a Stand-Up/Ignite supermajority of 23, to a Power majority of 17, mostly dependent on the movement of Sam Chu and Amelia Chan from Ignite.

SRC Executive and Office Bearer positions will be chosen by the vote of the 33 councillors elected in the general election of week 10. The prominent positions up for grabs are Vice President, General Secretary (who will construct the SRC’s budget), Education Officer, Welfare Officers and General Executive. The General Secretary Police were called to last year’s Reps Elect as the balance of power shifted from pre-existing deals.

Independents

If the Power coalition holds, a potential bloc of four independent councillors could deliver them a majority. There is a possibility that Samuel Chu and Amelia



Chan, of the ticket Team Cumbo (Ignite), will cross the floor to vote with the Power group. If Independents Alex Fitton and Pat Ryan follow suit, the four would hold the balance of power.

Honi understands that Fitton (sole Soft Right Liberal) has not locked down any alliances. It’s been suggested that he may vote with Power against

the Ignite Vice Presidential nominee Ed McCann due to a long-running factional stoush, but this is unconfirmed. Meanwhile Ryan, of the now-infamous Twins for Tickets told *Honi* “All factions on campus have approached us except Socialist Alternative”, and said he will talk to any and all factions before Wednesday.

He would not reveal which positions he was interested in, but said “positions on the SRC are like Tazo cards. You get as many as you can.” We have heard that he’s happy to settle for a General Executive position. Ryan said he had not met with Chu or Chan, and had only consulted Fitton for general advice.

STRUCTURES

You're terrible, Mural

Sam Langford found out why there's a giant mural in the Holme building



In October 1970, a disgruntled student penned a letter to the Union Recorder.¹ “First the McCallum Room, then the Holme and Sutherland Room,” it began, “now the dark blue and purple evil-eyed obscenely hideous apparitions are slowly darkening the refectory”.

The letter writer's name was William Maurice Holliday, and he was not experiencing hallucinations. The apparitions he referred to were the emerging brushstrokes of an immense mural, measuring approximately 25 metres in width and five metres in height. It was to span an entire wall of the Refectory, a grand hall in the University of Sydney Union's Holme building best known these days as the backdrop of the kind of USU events you have to google dress codes for.

In 1970 the Refectory was still in use as a dining hall. It was on these grounds that Holliday proceeded to lambast the emerging work of art - hideous apparitions were “not the sort of painting for an eating room. Union food is bad enough without this!”. As a solution, he proposed nailing a petition opposing the artwork to the base of the artist's scaffolding (he estimated it would fill six sheets of foolscap paper), and furnishing the artist with a tin of white paint to cover the mural.

Two months later, however, Holliday was the one wielding the white paint in a desperate attempt to erase his hasty artistic criticism from the pages of the Union Recorder. The November 2 Recorder reported that, largely as a result of Holliday's comments, the artist had stopped work. In the December 1 edition, Holliday wrote that the artist's solicitors had approached him alleging defamation and threatening court action. The artist's complaint appeared to hinge on the understanding that “obscenely hideous” suggested that the work



was indecent.

Holliday groveled. Like the Icarus in the emerging mural, he had flown too close to the sun. Shortly afterwards, work on the mural resumed.

The 1970 mural was actually the third mural by Vergil Lo Schiavo to grace the walls of the Holme Building. The first two were themed (one celebrating Shakespeare, the other Dickens); the third sensibly restrained its subject area to “Mankind”. Together, the murals cover three internal walls of the building, constructing a grand amphitheatre of two-dimensional figures with facial expressions ranging from matronly disapproval to pre-organic contortion.² No one in the painting looks truly happy or fulfilled, per se - all the faces share a kind of tension that's either an artistic quirk or a comment on what fifty years stuck on a wall observing undergraduate antics does to a person.

Describing the murals to someone who has never seen them requires linguistic calisthenics: they're an orgy of colour and orgy-esque in their tangle of interlocking limbs; an extended-family portrait of the entirety of human history as perceived by one guy with a paintbrush, featuring the usual mix of posturing and intra-familial tension and that one weird cousin who turns up naked and flexes his abdominals so hard you think he's going to shit a brick.

But don't take my word for it - the Sydney Morning Herald described the murals in 1971 as a “neo-classical” endeavour which “slashes” across the wall in “all the bright colours of union food - mainly tomato sauce red and pie-crust yellow”. In an explainer published shortly after the mural's completion, the Union Recorder identified highlights such as “a blinding white flash which might be either the beginning of Mankind or the explosion of a nuclear bomb”, the “BHP [Billiton] section of the painting” and “the upended birdman who will never fly but will always try” - an inspiration to us all. Not all of the painting can be so easily explained, however. As the artist himself told the Sydney Morning Herald, “the student [at the centre of the mural] is holding a book, but whether it is Karl Marx or the Bible, I am not saying.”³

I jest partly because I can - the artist is now dead and can no longer sue for defamation. But in seriousness, the murals are equal parts impressive and weird, and omitting either quality does them a disservice. They are a sufficiently vast piece of art to sustain both my childish jokes and the Sir John Sulman Prize;⁴ to induce both Chancellor and Vice Chancellor to attend a dinner upon their completion⁵ and to continue to creep out the young journo's who sit outside Union Board meetings

Assorted mural highlights. That dog has seen shit.



1. A then-great student publication, which has since succumbed to Voluntary Student Unionism. Its disappointed ghost has been rumoured to haunt the PULP Content Management System, causing the occasional listicle to be published at odd hours of the morning.
2. Sometimes both at once. I did not believe it was possible until I saw the mural.
3. The artist died before revealing the answer, meaning the Marx/Bible question looms to this day.
4. Like the Archibald, but for subject painting, genre painting or murals.
5. Imagine a University with that kind of support for the arts today.
6. The short, totally un-fact-checked version (blame the Union Recorder if we're wrong): Commemoration Day shenanigans led to a conga Line past the Cenotaph at Martin Place. A garbage tin was kicked over by accident by another student, but anti-Italian sentiment at the time meant Lo Schiavo copped the blame. The whole thing should have been a non-issue, except that some nearby veterans perceived the incident as disrespectful to vets and (legend has it) marched on USyd, leaving administration with no choice but to throw the book at Lo Schiavo.

waiting for confidential business to end.

Behind every mural is a wall and an artist. The artist, Vergil Lo Schiavo, began as a humble USyd student in the 1930s, where if the 1971 Union Recorder is to be believed, he was once suspended for a year in a mixup involving a conga line, a war memorial, and a garbage tin.⁶ The wall came about out of necessity - as the University of Sydney Union president wrote in 1971 to explain the Board's approval of the mural, “Mr. Lo Schiavo points out that as an artist he is at a direct disadvantage: he needs walls, and walls are not easy to come by”.

So desperate was Lo Schiavo for walls that he offered to paint his final mural free of charge - the only cost to the Union was scaffolding. Lo Schiavo bore all other costs, both paint and physical - in his sixties at this point, he had had three coronaries and was in ill health. At one point (whether it was during the construction of the mural is unclear) the Union Recorder reports that he “once ‘died’ for a couple of minutes. Black began to close in on him and he claims that he was then able to realise that his body was dead and that those around him saw this - but he did not want to die then. Light fought back.”

Light fought back until the mural was done, but not much longer. Three months after its completion, the Union Recorder reported news of Lo Schiavo's death. The Chancellor of the University penned an obituary that afforded the artist the highest praise: “of few men can it be so said that, in the current idiom, he ‘did his thing’”.

And of the mural: “so soon do yesterday's controversies abate into today's acceptances that this mural came to be part of normal experience for countless undergraduates, so normal that it must ‘always have been there’: and the name of the artist, save by a few, was forgotten.”

Honi remembers. Students of USyd, go see the mural.

STRUCTURES

The Quadrangle is a trapezoid

Alexandros Tsathas gets geological wit it

The University of Sydney is one of the six so-called “sandstone universities” Beyond conferring a certain cachet, club membership means that, well, the University has a few buildings made of sandstone. And what a fascinating stone it be.

Who are you, sandstone?

When the wind blows, and the rivers flow, piles of sand and mud build up. That sand at the bottom of the pile gets compressed under the weight of the sand above it, and becomes hard. Looked at under a microscope, sandstone's structure is reminiscent of a stone wall, with larger “framework” grains of sand (which, chemically, is silicone dioxide with a few impurities) cemented together by softer compounds. The exact chemical composition of the framework grains largely determines the colour, texture and hardness of the sandstone.

Built on sand(stone)

The only two genuine sandstone buildings at USyd,

which is to say the only two constructed entirely of sandstone, are the Quadrangle and the Anderson Stuart Building. Posers like Madsen are constructed of brick, with a 10cm thick sandstone façade, and this is reflected in their non-heritage status.

The Quad and Anderson Stuart buildings were exclusively constructed of “Yellow block” sandstone (so named for its distinct hue) cut from quarries at Pyrmont, at a site just west of where Star City is now. Yellow block was also used to construct Central Station, Town Hall and the Mitchell Library.

Drawing blood from (sand)stone

In another of nature's great ironies, sandstone's very progenitors - water, wind and time - are also its killers! Repeated wetting and drying causes the microscopic cement between grains to crumble, and the wind shears the larger framework grains right off.

Logically, those sandstone blocks more exposed to the elements erode faster. Next time you walk by

1. Interestingly, the Uni had three years earlier commissioned one from Walter Burley Griffin but quietly shelved it for a) being too much like Canberra, and b) ignoring the boundaries of the colleges.

Anderson Stuart, pay close attention to the exaggerated erosion of those sandstone blocks behind downpipes, which inevitably spring leaks.

A number of design features can help minimise erosion, and make sure that when it does happen, it doesn't look *that* bad.

The ledges atop the Quad and Anderson Stuart buildings do not sit flush with their walls, but extend beyond them. This feature is called a ‘string course’, and ensures that water running off the roof is directed away from the walls, and does not stream down them.

Secondly, sandstone blocks should be laid “bed-face horizontal”. In other words, their final orientation should imitate how they were found in the ground. Flipping sandstone on its side - “bedface vertical” - means that water runs along the grain, rather than across it, effectively exfoliating it and hastening erosion.

You can mitigate the aesthetic impact of erosion through your choice of stone finish. Honed (smooth) finishes look very nice for the first few years, but then every blemish - on a background of parfait - becomes very noticeable. Sparrow-picking, where a rough “wormy” pattern is deliberately carved into the stone, is much more forgiving.

As an interesting aside, USyd's Heritage Architect, Chris Legge-Wilkinson, tells your correspondent that for millennia, architects have employed strategies to distract from structural misalignments: “Notre Dame isn't straight. From the Romans to the 1500s, people weren't building straight, but you can't tell because of the decoration they used”. From this, I learn that the Quad is actually a trapezoid, splaying west-ward. ¡Loco!

Why has Madsen got psoriasis?

In equal parts due to reckless disregard of the above principles in its conception, and preventative maintenance by Campus Infrastructure Services (CIS).

Madsen has no string courses, and its blocks were laid “bedface vertical”, and finished smooth. Additionally, in their wisdom, prior maintenance teams sealed its blocks together with silicone, which, when erosion occurs, causes large chunks to fall off rather than bite-size pieces.

CIS has had to perform prophylactic etching due to all of the above so that great big blocks of sandstone don't fall onto students' heads.

The Uni's load(stone)

The Quad and Anderson Stuart are heritage listed, coming under “State Agency” qualification, meaning the Uni has an obligation to keep them in good repair, more so than an owner of a heritage-classified home.

CIS maintains a list of everything heritage-listed, keeps tabs on the state of disrepair of items on this list, and then has another list where work orders are scheduled and prioritised.

Residences now sit atop the original Pyrmont quarry, so when replacement blocks are sought, the University has to look elsewhere. It has four options.

The University is one of the few institutions allowed to dip into the Government Architect's Yellow block stash. The stash though, is dwindling. The alternatives are blocks from Rockhampton (in Queensland), Gosford or Marulan, near Goulburn.

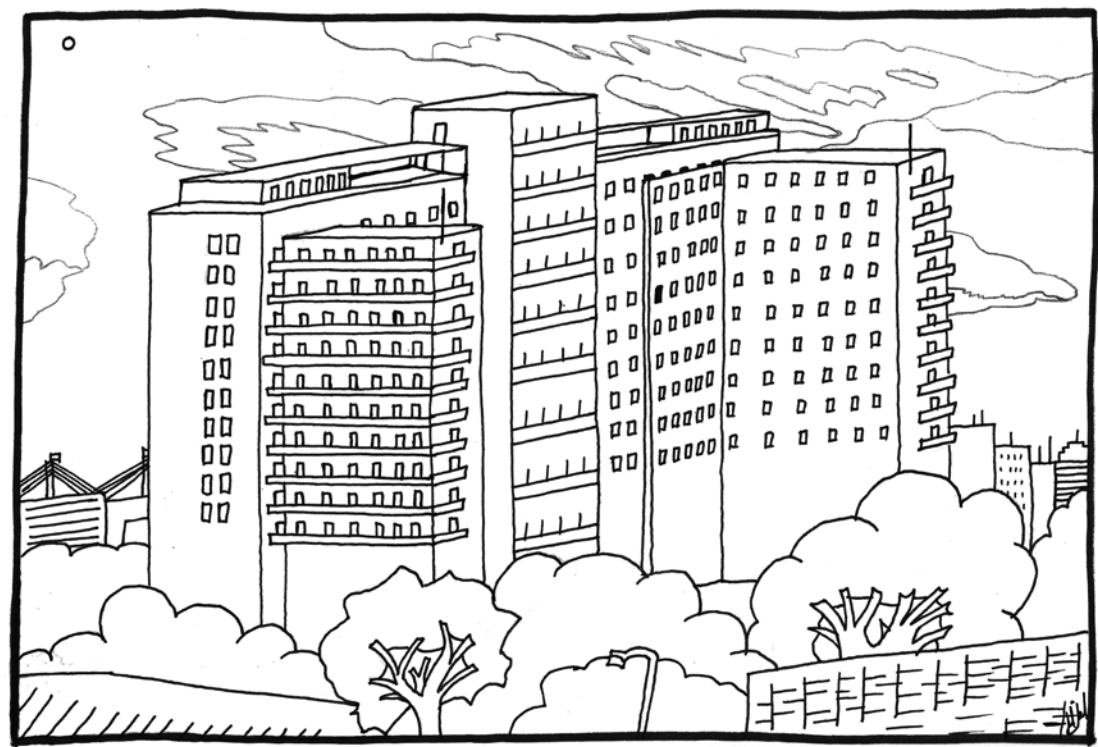
Sandstone isn't cheap.

A block of the size used in the quad, roughly a quarter of a cubic metre, costs \$5000. To get a gargyle replicated for the Great Hall costs \$20,000. The estimated cost of the remaining maintenance work to be done to the Quad (at least for the meantime) is \$30 million - \$15 million for Anderson Stuart.

Thus concludes our fascinating, sporadic foray into USyd's sandstone.

Poor conditions in USyd housing

Nina Dillon Britton talks to students who allege inadequate living standards at the Queen Mary Building



The Queen Mary Building (QMB) has come under fire by its residents for consistently failing to meet adequate living standards. This is despite the fact that the QMB's fees are roughly similar to the University's expensive catered colleges, amounting to as much as \$322 per week.

Most recently, and without warning, students had a \$65 fee added to their accounts. QMB management told students that it was a "standard cleaning fee" detailed in their contracts, despite the fact

this fee should have only been payable at the termination of their contracts.

Students were also frustrated by the various responses they received when they tried to clarify why the additional fee had been charged. First they were told it was possibly a "mistake", while others who had accepted a 2017 accommodation offer were told they would have to pay for it. The University's Student Accommodation Centre also refused to help, saying the fee was from QMB administration.

Art: Queen Mary Building by Michael Lotsaris, 2016 protests by Victoria Zerbst

Students also allege the administration has not done enough to keep public spaces clean. Residents told *Honi* that piles of vomit have been left in elevators, music rooms and other common spaces, sometimes for more than a day. On top of this, students report many shared facilities and utensils are either faulty or missing, including sinks and ovens.

Despite the fact that non-resident students are not allowed to stay overnight in the building unless authorised, residents claim they have often been disturbed by parties during the week. Management has allegedly not enforced the QMB's "Party Policy". As part of the residential agreement, this policy stipulates that gatherings must end at 10pm on weekdays and midnight on weekends. Resident Ricardo Wu said that even though these parties occur on the lower ground floor, he finds it almost impossible to sleep on the fourth floor.

Students have also reported that their bonds are frequently not returned until long after the termination of their contract, and not returned at all when they swap rooms with other students.

Staff are commonly reported as aloof or rude when residents raise questions. One student, whose laptop was delivered to the QMB some months ago, found them particularly difficult: she is yet to receive her laptop despite repeated requests.

As most of the residents are Chinese international students, some have raised concerns that they feel powerless to lobby the QMB management for change. For the most part, management has sought to reconcile with residents. After consistent pressure to act, the QMB held a Chinese students conference where the manager spoke with students. While management has committed to addressing issues, students remain unsure if this will lead to substantive change.

PREDATORY MEDIA

What The Bachelor says about shark culling

Ashley Avci interrogates a cultural icon

Like many people, I always viewed *The Bachelor* as junk food for my brain. There was no better feeling than returning to the couch after a long day of studying, to see Richie Strahan's cool bananas. I'd become accustomed to the show's antiquated heteronormative outlook, badly produced plot lines and downright blatant female exploitation – so I didn't think much more about the Bachelor could shock me. But it did. Scrolling through my Instagram feed, there was the most recent Bachelor, proudly posing with a dead juvenile shark - for the sake of a 'sweet Insta pic'.

Sharks are the most demonised animals on the planet - if it isn't an iteration of the "Monster shark's brutal attack" headline, it's sharks ensnared and killed in drum line operations; trophy hunting; shark finning; or various other cruel acts, such as the person who left a Port Jackson shark in a freshwater puddle to die. The latest addition, courtesy of Richie, is the dead shark selfie.

However, the most alarming aspect drawn from this, is that not only are sharks the most demonised and misunderstood animals, they are one of the most important. Sharks are keystone species and apex predators, meaning that if they were removed from the ocean, the marine ecosystem would fall into disrepair and cease to exist, as we know it. The ocean produces 70 per cent of the oxygen we breathe and sharks play a critical role in that process - they provide us with life. Unfortunately, the closest we've come to a positive depiction of sharks in popular culture, is Bruce from *Finding Nemo*, telling us that "fish are friends, not food". Given this, it's easy to dismiss sharks as nature's villains.

Scientists have predicted a global collapse of the

world's oceans by 2050 and in turn, human survival is at threat. The war on sharks, plastic pollution, climate change, ocean acidification and over-fishing all play a part in the current ocean crisis. Richie might find love on the show, but if he and others continue to persecute sharks, there may not be a world for him and one of his potential partners to raise a family and grow old in.

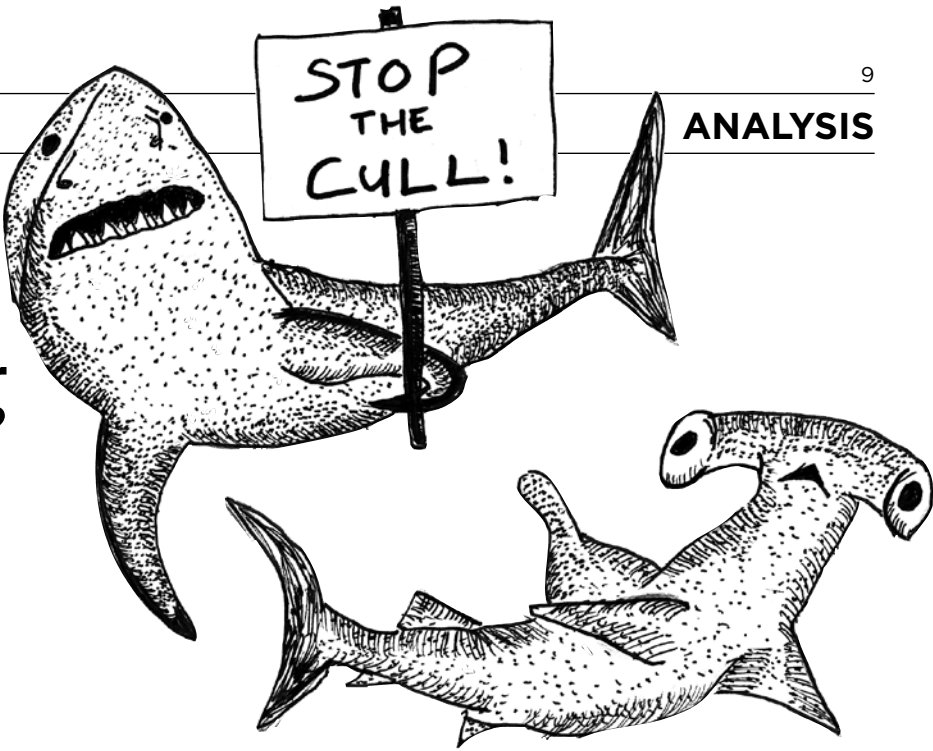
A conservative estimate approximates that 100 million sharks are killed every year, with likely numbers approaching up to 273 million sharks killed – that's at least 11,417 sharks per hour. They've survived six mass extinctions and have thrived for over 450 million years – until now. The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) has found that a quarter of sharks and rays are facing extinction.

Unbeknownst to many, most species of shark reach sexual maturity between 15 – 20 years of age. Thus, killing baby and juvenile sharks takes away the opportunity for their populations to recover. The shark that Richie caught was clearly very young.

If sharks all over the world are being killed day by day, then why is the death of this one shark such a big deal? Other than killing a juvenile shark and impacting the future population of sharks, Richie

is perpetuating the zeitgeist of trivialising cruelty to sharks in the media. You can easily draw comparisons between posing next to a dead shark and the widely condemned practise of posing next to a caged, anaesthetised lion in South East Asia. The trivialisation of such forms of cruelty perpetuates the masculinity complex so inherently apparent in a show such as *The Bachelor*. Animal cruelty under the thin veneer of ignorance and being "an easy-going guy" is unacceptable in 2016.

Recently, Spanish footballer Marc Crosas was forced to apologise publicly for spearing an IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) red listed baby angelshark. As a public figure, Richie has a moral obligation to adhere to current social values. When approached, he sardonically responded with "nice one!" and blocked anyone that commented on the photo expressing disappointment – the photo has since been removed. Richie has a responsibility to listen to his followers and I call on him to make a formal public apology. It's a sad state when a country can vilify a television star for making the wrong decision on a constructed reality show, but look the other way as he is associated with the ongoing vilification of one of nature's most important species.



Art: Steph Barahona

2016 IN STUDENT PROTESTS

Victoria Zerbst timelines and traces the key protests of this year

JAN 5: Insidious poster campaign for Info day and O-week
The Education Action Group protested USyd "INSPIRED" marketing campaign at O-Week and Info Day.

APR 13: National Day of Action (NDA)
Students unite in protest as part of Australia-wide "National Day of Action" against fee deregulation.

MAY 4: Queer students protest controversial Catholic Society event
Around 60 students protested a Catholic Society event titled "Men + Women = Made for each other?" The protest was organised by the SRC's Queer Action Collective.

MAY 11: NDA 2
Students protest against fee deregulation again as part of the national movement.

APR 6: Simon Birmingham snap action in Fisher Library
Riot police and student protesters clashed inside Fisher Library, spurred by the presence of Federal Education Minister Simon Birmingham, who was on campus to judge the SULC John Howard Debating Cup.

MAR 16: Students rally against uni restructure
Over one hundred people gathered outside Carlaw to protest the USyd restructure.



MAY 16: Students protest Wesley College sexist student journal
Protestors stood in silence at Wesley College to protest sexual harassment and assault on campus.

JUL 4: 300 students protest SCA closure at USyd Senate meeting
300 activists clashed with police and campus security outside a meeting of the University of Sydney Senate to protest the proposed closure of the Sydney College of the Arts.

OCT 7: SCA Banner Drop
A tent city constructed by SCA Stay activists was removed from campus by police officers.

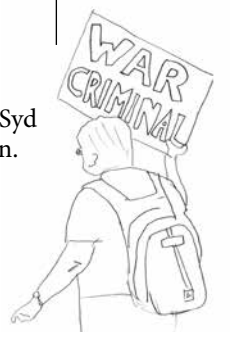
AUG 22: Students occupy office of SCA Dean to protest job cuts
The SCA occupation is nearing its second month.

AUG 27: Students disrupt USyd open day with mattress protest
20 students occupied Eastern Avenue to protest the University's failure to take action on sexual assault and harassment.

AUG 24: National Day of Action in the rain
The third NDA protest at USyd that continued on in the rain.



SEPT 30: Staff and students protest John Howard honorary award
Academics, students and uni staff members joined to protest Howard's honorary doctorate.



MENTAL ILLNESS

Navigating the gaps in mental health support

Grace White writes on difficulties with special consideration at USyd

Navigating university bureaucracy has always been a maze, but add mental illness to the mix and students face service gaps, misunderstanding and miscommunication.

For students with mental illness, the nightmare of paperwork and administrative goose chases aren't just unproductive, they work to heighten the symptoms of anxiety in a way that further limits access to mental health resources.

Diagnosed with Type 1 Bipolar Affective Disorder in my second year of study, over the past few years I have become entrenched in the mental health care system. Weaving my way in and out of psychiatric hospitalisation has made keeping up with my studies a major difficulty. And, as with many mental illnesses, stress aggravates my condition, and will often act as a trigger for episodes of severe anxiety, depression and in my case, mania. It becomes clear, then, that convoluted and callously clinical processes for special consideration have a direct negative impact on students experiencing mental illness.

As we are all now painfully aware, gone are the days of the simple extension. If your condition is likely to be temporary, you can apply for special consideration online, which requires information on your current circumstance and supporting documentation. However, students are often discouraged from accessing special consideration for anxiety, with one student recalling that, "When I went in to talk about getting special consideration for an assignment last semester ... I

explained it was due to my anxiety (which I've had my whole life and was put in hospital for) and her response was "If we gave everyone who was stressed an extra few days, what would be the point of having a due date. You can try to apply online but I suggest just handing it in."

It is this misunderstanding of anxiety that makes applying for special consideration particularly difficult for students with mental illnesses. It brings to light one of the key misunderstandings of mental health in the university environment, and that is the conflation of stress with anxiety. University staff seem overwhelmingly under-qualified in mental health awareness, and as a result anxiety is often framed as an inability to cope with stress, perhaps to obfuscate the university of the responsibility it should take.

It must be recognised as unfair that people who are untrained in mental health are assessing the extent to which students with mental illnesses deserve special consideration. Another student explained "My special consideration was rejected despite comprehensive medical documentation, which included letters from a psychologist, a psychiatrist, psychiatric nurses and a personal phone call from the psychiatric hospital to disability services from the psychiatric hospital in which I was a patient".

Problematically, there is also no consensus between different faculties, and the subsequent lack of clarity that this creates is highly

anxiety provoking, further discouraging students to access the adjustments that they require.

If your condition is long-term, it is advisable that you consider applying for Disability Services. However, Disability Services cannot provide adjustments for issues of attendance, an area that is left up to the discretion of the faculty and unit coordinators. While it may seem logical that the University emphasises required attendance levels for all students, this neglects mental illnesses affect on students' capacity to physically attend classes.

October is Mental Health Month, and the theme for this year is 'Learn and Grow'. The University refuses to do this, however, and remains stagnant and static in its approaches to mental health policy.

If you were distressed by any of the content in this article or are experiencing concern for a friend or family member please contact:

Lifeline - 13 11 14
Kids Help Line - 1800 55 1800
MensLine Australia - 1300 789 978
Suicide Call Back Service - 1300 659 467
NSW Mental Health Access - 1800 011 511

If someone has attempted, or is at immediate risk of attempting to harm themselves or someone else, call 000.

A year in the content mills

Mary Ward¹ gives USU digital publication, *PULP*, a performance review

It has been just over a year since the USU announced they would be taking their student publications program into “new territory” by ceasing to produce the monthly *BULL* magazine, and moving towards a “100% digital news format”.

There was significant backlash, mainly due to the absence of student consultation, but the Big Names of Courtyard stuck with their decision to move from agriculture to industry and, this year, digital news outlet *PULP* launched.

One of the most interesting things about *PULP* for student journalists was the promise to up the \$3,000 honorarium for six editors to a roughly \$10,000 a year salary for two (\$40,950 per annum, pro rata on the basis of 14-hour weeks during semester). Whitney Duan and Aparna Balakumar won the gig. Balakumar resigned at the end of semester one to go on exchange, and was replaced by Swetha Das.

So, what have the editors of *PULP* achieved? Between its launch on March 3 and the writing of this article on October 7, *PULP* has published just 109 pieces. Over the course of last year, *BULL* published 228 print pieces (plus a handful of online-only pieces).

Some months were much stronger than others – the month of May saw *PULP* run 25 yarns, including then editor Balakumar’s Wesley College Rackweb investigation, which spawned Fairfax co-writes and drew significant attention to the issue of sexism within the University’s residential colleges. But even if you allow for the operation only starting in March, and the editors not being paid over exams and the mid-year break, this publication rate seems really low.

It would be understandable if every article

published on *PULP* was one of their few longform standouts (Duan’s explainer of the growing tensions within the Sydney University Liberal Club springs to mind) or an interview with big name talent which would have required an email chain of PR wrangling to attain (of which there were a few), but they aren’t.

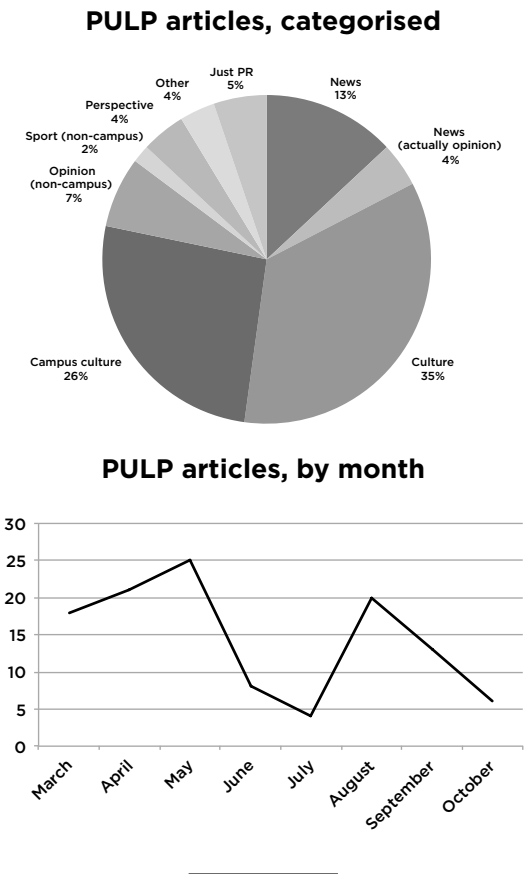
The hypothetical “average article” published on *PULP* is a 400-word, Minion-GIF-laden culture piece, not written by an editor, with some sort of reference to Lemonade. When *Honi* asked Duan and Das if they thought *PULP* had any weaknesses this year, they responded solely with “not enough articles on Beyoncé”. It would certainly not be the breaking news the USU sold *PULP* on last September – only 15 of the articles published this year were straight news, and that figure includes non-breaking investigations.

When asked why *PULP* had failed to publish much news over their term, Duan said the ghost of culture-heavy *BULL* was affecting their performance.

“I guess it’s hard still being seen as the new *BULL* because many still think we don’t do hard news and timely investigations,” she said. “It means we get less scoops and news contributors.”

You could put *PULP*’s low publication rate down to a strict moderation of its editors’ stipulated 14-hour work week, but Duan and Das told *Honi* they “definitely work more than 14 hours a week” and it “doesn’t just happen while [they’re] in the office during business hours”.

Duan told *Honi* “a lot of the problems with *PULP*” could be solved by expanding the editorial team, but examining the salary-to-editor ratio of student publications on campus queries this.



Although this probably isn’t the test, with two-and-a-half times the total salary (a stipend of \$44,000 shared across 10 editors), this year’s *Honi* team has produced close to 11 times the number of stories *PULP* has. On \$2,000 less total salary, last year’s *BULL* editorial team managed double *PULP*’s publication rate.

Of course, there are things to commend *PULP* on. Led by three women of colour, the publication pays its writers a small amount for their work (which is more than this humble rag can claim to), has fostered a small but (as Duan and Das described) “loyal” community of readers and writers, and its highs are homepage-of-the-*Sydney-Morning-Herald* high.

But, as the USU interviews candidates for next year’s editorial team, it seems not unfair to say *PULP* was mainly an underused, missed opportunity, churning out content that was, frankly, run of the mill.

Student witches

Perri Roach spoke to the witches of the University of Sydney

“Whenever someone says they’re going to dress as a witch for something I laugh a bit,” says Katie*, a social work student who was brought up by her Pagan mother. “There’s not really a true ‘witch’ costume. One of my Mum’s best friends is literally a dental assistant and a witch.”

Speaking to some of the witches here on campus, who are so far removed from popular culture’s understanding of witchcraft, makes me a little embarrassed about the many times I have gone dressed a witch for Halloween. When I mention this to Katie, she corrects me. “Actually, Pagans call [Halloween] Samhain.”

Witchcraft is a complex and diverse concept that varies considerably from person to person. While many modern witches follow better known traditions such as Wicca and Paganism, an increasing number of witches are choosing to instead create their own eclectic, self-determined paths.

“It just made sense to me as a child,” says Arabelle*, a visual arts student at SCA who found witchcraft as a teenager and describes her personal practice of witchcraft as something she grew up into. “When I was sixteen I got more into the aesthetic and read a lot of Aleister Crowley and historical texts of sorcery and witchcraft. Reading about [witchcraft] was more of an explanation for my habits and way of thinking than a resource.”

Arabelle’s practice is intimately linked to her art. “These days my main focus is in transforming emotions – trying to find ways in communication and expression which makes people I care about feel better... my favourite thing to do is draw on people’s hands or body.” Although her craft is very personal, Arabelle finds joy in being able to share it with those close to her. “I was making music with this friend who has the most ethereal voice I’ve ever heard, I would write spells for her to sing and she would always get them perfect right away – it was really beautiful and satisfying to share that.”

History and Archaeology student Jenna* loosely describes herself as an “eclectic secular witch” and talks about her craft with articulate reverence. “The craft everyday for me is checking my cards in the morning, noting the phase of the moon, carrying specific crystals or wearing specific jewelry to promote a certain energy. It’s a very subtle movement of energy and intent from one place to another... it’s fluid and adaptable.”

By “intent,” Jenna elaborates, she means a witch’s desire and purpose in performing a spell or ritual. “Intent is everything. Sort of. Intent is what makes the mundane activity of saying a few random words while lighting a candle a magical and powerful experience. It’s the witch’s intent that brings a spell into reality.”

Katie, Arabelle and Jenna all concur that technology has shaped their practice and personal understanding of witchcraft considerably. This makes sense; modern witchcraft’s fiercely individualistic DIY culture is well suited to the internet. Social media gives both novice and experienced witches a platform to connect and share with one another. Websites such as LA mystic Bri Luna’s thehoodwitch.com provide a wealth of informa-

tion about witchcraft and new age spirituality to hundreds of visitors every day. A quick google search on “beginner’s witchcraft” yields around half a million results and dozens of forums and niche social networks for those interests in all things esoteric and occult.

“I’ve learnt a lot online and in my own readings that has shaped my craft very distinctly away from the one I grew up with,” Katie says, “I’ve been doing a lot of research into chaos magic lately, which is super interesting. There’s a lot of great YouTube channels and podcasts.”

Jenna cites the Tumblr witchcraft community (which is distinct, she notes, from the Tumblr Wiccan community) as her main influence. “The Tumblr witchcraft community is about an individual approach to witchcraft. It shares beliefs and ideas and spells and associations and all the good stuff about magic. It is also a place where the main issues with witchcraft are discussed... It really exposes you to a lot of beliefs and ideas that maybe you didn’t think of. Perspective is important in the craft. And all the information is free.”

“The Hexing of Brock Turner” that took place in June earlier this year was organised online through a Facebook event. Hundreds of Pagans

and witches from around the world, many survivors of sexual violence, took part in the ritual, many sharing photos of their altars and descriptions of the spells they had cast on the US man who was sentenced to only six months in prison after sexually assaulting an unconscious woman.

The nature of each ceremony varied widely between practitioners. Whilst many targeted Turner directly, cursing him with constant pain and nightmares, some also conducted positive rituals, giving blessings and positive energy to the survivor and others affected by the assault. This is what witchcraft is to many practitioners: a means of personal empowerment and healing.

Modern witches don’t abide by the traditional rules of spirituality. Instead of rigid dogma, Arabelle emphasised a focus on flexible, self-driven exploration. “I think a lot of witches and practitioners would agree with me that the source of your power isn’t in an attachment to any regulation – but to expression and the power of memory.”

“I’ve never needed to follow one specific method,” she says, “because I’ve invented my own.”

**names have been changed*

Art:
Rina Yang



BULL vs PULP

READER ENGAGEMENT

The USU have been oddly reluctant to give *PULP* its own website, allowing it to instead occupy a section of the USU’s. This meant the platform was only ever going to get readers through social media sharing. In its first year, *PULP* has managed to win just under 900 Facebook fans. This is comparable to *BULL*’s 1,600, but remember *PULP* lacks a print presence. With such a low like-count, *PULP* articles only reach a wider audience shared to the USU’s own Facebook

page or, as is possibly not a great model for engaging a wide range of student contributors, a particularly popular campus personality is the author of a piece, in which case they will be tagged in its social share allowing their friend base to boost the article’s reach. Does this, and moving away from a physical campus presence, create a more insular (at its most charitable, elitist at its least) readership than *BULL* ever had? Maybe.

STUDENT CREATIVE PARTICIPATION

An edition of *BULL* engaged the work of 25-30 writers and artists. The 2015 *BULL* team had 33 photographers and artists on staff, and 57 writers. Each edition had around 30 articles, ranging from short reviews to 2,000 word features. *PULP* has a “core reporters” Facebook group of 17 (excluding editors). “We made sure we had a small but dedicated team of contributors and reporters in a new structure that rewards student journalists,” Das and Duan said.

Although *PULP* was originally sold as an opportunity for students to create multi-media digital work, short of a couple of USU-themed quizzes, it’s mainly published text. Artists and photographers have not had much of a place in *PULP* this year, with the (notable) exception of Karen Lin, whose guide to having an aesthetically pleasing Instagram feed featured the publication’s only example of student photography.

THE ROLE OF USU MARKETING

By all accounts, *PULP* operates much more freely of the USU’s marketing and communications department than *BULL* ever did. Das and Duan told *Honi* they were “surprised” by their autonomy, and are only required to have content checked by the USU’s Director of Student Publications for legal issues before they hit publish.

However, *PULP* certainly isn’t clear of any interference from their student union sugar parent. Due to their

placement on the USU website, *PULP* articles sit alongside USU press releases about the future of religious clubs. At a less overt level, it would not be unfair to say that *PULP*’s reviews of campus productions put on by USU-funded societies like SUDS, MUSE and the revue societies are not exactly critical, and most of their interviews – San Cisco, Benjamin Law, Dr Karl – were in some way connected to the appearances of those personalities at USU events.

1. The author of this piece was an editor of the USU’s previous student-run publication, *BULL* magazine. She was a co-signatory to an open letter denouncing its closure in 2015. But she’s over it, she swears.

A year's worth of lessons

SRC Wom*n's Officer, Anna Hush, reflects on a year of wins, and the activist tactics that enabled them

This has been a landmark year for sexual assault on campus at Sydney University. Watching from the outside, the public have seen Wesley College's 'Rackweb' brought to light by student journalists, stories of rape and harassment hit the mainstream media, and a number of student-led protests, accompanied by their share of bitter anti-feminist backlash. Behind the scenes – in the offices of university management – the cogs have started turning and changes are coming, albeit slowly. This is the inside story of the work done by student activists that resulted in this change.

Early in the year it became clear that tackling rape on campus would dominate the work of student representatives and activists from the Wom*n's Collective. Initially invited to work with the University through the Safer Communities Working Group, we hoped that it would be a productive platform for us to voice our concerns and have them heard by management. Perhaps naïvely, I thought making change would just be a matter of bringing students' concerns to these meetings, that the University would listen and then promptly incorporate them into their initiatives.

But we soon began to notice a worrying trend. The more student representatives spoke out about sexual assault or even just conveyed information from meetings to the media (be it student media, or mainstream), the more infrequent our meetings became. When we raised this issue in May, noting that we hadn't received replies to a number of our emails the previous month, we were told by senior members of university management that they had been "working on the smell of an oily rag", and that this "isn't their day job". Management speak for "stop bothering us, we have more important things to worry about".

Perhaps the irony of saying this to a group of largely unpaid, or otherwise dismally paid student activists was lost on them. We were trying to coordinate this campaign on top of balancing study and waged work. It was a slap in the face.

As SRC Sexual Harassment Officer Olivia Borgese reflected, "We were pouring our hearts, tears, sweat and blood into driving change ... to imply that improving the reporting system for sexual harassment and assault was a gratuitous courtesy on behalf of the University was very disappointing."

It made us realise that, so long as management staff were unwilling to make this issue a priority, the Working Group would only get us so far. While money and energy was being poured into the issue of academic integrity through the Honour Code Project, sexual assault was falling by the wayside. Something had to be done. Just as mainstream media coverage on widespread academic dishonesty was what it took for a rehaul of that system, we knew that public embarrassment was required before the University would act.

In May, after national reports on the "Rackweb" published in the Wesley College Journal, we staged a protest outside the college. Calling on allies of all genders, we taped our mouths shut with duct tape and marched to Wesley, pushing past police to sit with candles and placards on the steps of the college.

However, when this protest was picked up by various mainstream outlets and wrung through the media cycle, we realised that the colleges were too easy a scapegoat for the issue of sexual assault. The university was quick to distance itself from the "independent" institutions of the colleges. They promptly set up a "taskforce" and to this day, five months later, we've heard nothing concrete come out of it. In fact, we don't even know which



Art: Katie Thorburn

colleges have officially signed on.

After Wesley, it became clear we needed to broaden our focus. Rape happens everywhere – not only at college parties or in dorm rooms, but also at university-endorsed events, in classes and off-campus, to students at parties in share-houses.

In response to every story that emerged in the media, the University would make the same statement, stressing that they "take issues of sexual assault very seriously". And yet, we still hadn't seen the recommendations of the "Safer Community" report implemented, vague and noncommittal as they were. With little to no genuine consultation with students occurring, and the same glib comments repeated in the press, we were fed up.

On the Open Day for prospective students in August, we were ready to make a very public statement about the University's approach to sexual assault. Armed with ten mattresses, we stormed the parents' information session. While survivors spoke on microphones about their experiences of rape and institutional failure, management attempted to turn off the lights and usher the audience out. The symbolism was almost too obvious – survivors literally being plunged into darkness by a university determined to silence their voices.

It was only at this point, after coverage of our protests and an open letter signed by the past decade of Women's Officers, that things finally started to change. All of a sudden, the University agreed to a complete overhaul of the reporting system and the staff handling reports received professional training as first responders. Creating an educational module about consent was back on the table. Our working group was formalised as a sub-committee of the Students Consultative Committee, guaranteeing us regular meetings and ongoing consultation on policy and procedures around sexual assault.

Of all the tactics utilised in the campaign, direct action was the key to creating the critical pressure that forced the University's hand. Trying to cooperate with the University early in the year achieved very little. It was only after we brought sustained public attention to the issue, through protests and media attention, that the changes we had been demanding all year actually started to be implemented. Between bureaucracy and public relations, "change from within" has changed nothing – only creative direct action has forced the University to take sexual assault seriously.

"And then I left, shaken. I was on the bus crying. Someone came up to me and was like 'Are you okay, are boys troubling you?' I wanted to say, 'No it's a woman with two PhDs from Cambridge, she's French.'"

Amid the hustle and bustle of Courtyard cafe, Samantha* tells a tale that has become her go to "dinner party story". There are timely pauses for gasps and dramatic gestures as she says: "I could see the pillars of my academic career crumbling."

Samantha's fateful meeting with her tutor took place in late 2015, the same year as the MyMaster cheating scandal. The "scandal", as reported by the *Sydney Morning Herald*, exposed students paying a company called MyMaster to ghost-write their essays and sit online tests. Of the universities listed in the report, the University of Sydney had the third most students using the service, with 61 assignments reportedly requested from the company. Three students were investigated by the University. Some months later, the University was embroiled in another cheating controversy – this time concerning students from the Medical School who had invented patient data.

The University's response was swift: a special taskforce into academic dishonesty had been formed. By the year's end the taskforce had completed two comprehensive reports and the Academic Honesty in Coursework Policy, itself effective from 2016.

These policies accompanied the introduction of a new, centralised system for dealing with academic dishonesty reports. Like its counterpart, the Special Consideration system, which academics have labelled "dogmatic" and "hostile", it experienced some, albeit lesser, difficulties in its early operation. A report commissioned by the University noted systematic delays in communicating academic misconduct accusations to students, as well as a vast increase in the number made. Whereas the 2010-2014 figures saw an average of 1432 accusations per year, last semester alone produced 1882 accusations – an increase of 260 per cent.

It is not uncommon, however, for innocent students to count among those figures.

Samantha's story takes place before the new centralised system was introduced, at a time when each faculty enforced their own iteration of University policy. By the University's own admission, there was "significant variation in the application" of the old policy which assigned one "Nominated Academic" the task of dealing with potential impropriety in each faculty. In practice, however, some unit coordinators would take policy enforcement upon themselves, a practice the University calls "problematic".

Samantha's story was one such problematic case.

After receiving an 87 for an essay in a challenging government subject, and even getting a congratulatory email from the unit coordinator, Samantha assumed a follow up request for a meeting would be good news. After a long interrogation, Samantha eventually asked, "Is this a bad meeting?"

"Well, as Hobbes would say there's no such thing as good or bad, but yeah, this is a bad meeting."

The unit coordinator alleged that Samantha had bought her essay online, basing the accusation on the view that Samantha had not exhibited



Our Plagiarism Panic

Liam Donohoe and Subeta Vimalarajah question the University's new swathe of 'educational integrity' measures.

Art by Matthew Fisher

SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES

If you, or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, the following free services may be able to help.

1800 RESPECT
(24/7): 1800 737 732

NSW Rape Crisis
(24/7): 1800 424 017

Sexual Assault
Counselling
Australia: 1800
211 028



FEATURE

the same sophistication in answering weekly tutorial questions. That she had applied for a simple extension, due to family difficulties, somehow further incriminated her.

“She was insulting my intelligence... And I don't want to be like, ‘it was racist’ but I feel like me being Indian meant that she thought I was incapable of writing this.”

Fortunately, Samantha's working habits saved her. “I pulled up five documents and said look at these essays, you can see the creation of it to the end product.” Another, less diligent, student would not have been so “lucky”.

At that point, the accusations rang false. “She looked at it and said she believed me. When she said that I closed my laptop and I just cried.”

In attempting to crack down on academic dishonesty the new system has, ironically, increased the proportion of investigations that eventually find “no impropriety”.

Under the new system, 495 reports – nearly 30 per cent – resulted in a finding of “no impropriety”. In the Business School, the faculty with the second highest rate of reports (after Engineering), nearly 40 per cent of accusations were baseless. By comparison, in 2015, only 30 per cent of reports in the Business School were dismissed. These statistics reflect an institutional anxiety around academic honesty, one that traps an increasing number of innocent students.

The University has some compelling explanations for this data. Peter McCallum, the University's Director of Educational Strategy, partially blamed the new system: “Over time we hope to use the new reporting system to avoid work being reported where there turns out to be no problem.” Tristan Enright, who has worked with McCallum on academic dishonesty, also explained that some of the reports are referred to an Educational Integrity Coordinator, who can dismiss the accusations before students are made aware, minimising stress. Last semester's data is also affected by students who forgot to bring student identification to exams, accusations that were

quickly resolved.

Beyond the data, the University's attempts to move towards a more educative approach, rather than punitive, are hard to reconcile with the moral panic around plagiarism.

Media reports and taskforces alike have construed plagiarism as the moral issue facing universities. In an era where philanthropy covers deficient government funding, public image concerns understandably spur action. Though well intentioned, the University's bold efforts to minimise dishonesty threaten a collaborative vision of education, where students discuss their theses over a drink and read each other's drafts in order to share knowledge, not to cheat.

The extent of this anxiety can be seen in early drafts of the new policy. Proposed procedures required students to equip proof-readers with a copy of the Australian Standards for Editing Practice. Although improved, the current policy still restricts proofreading and editing. The simple act of asking a friend who has completed the subject to proofread – a practice once encouraged by universities under the aegis of “peer-to-peer learning” – could now be grounds for an academic dishonesty accusation, if not appropriately referenced.

The University acknowledges this concern. “We are working hard to encourage meaningful collaboration. By openly acknowledging it, students can demonstrate the value they place on talking with others,” McCallum said. Despite this, the policy's formulation suggests that collaboration might be an afterthought. Legitimate cooperation, for example, was only included as a late addition to the policy, but is so stringently defined that one could interpret it as prohibiting consensual note sharing.

Even if legitimate cooperation is permitted, a collaborative culture has still been undermined by the negative experiences of innocent students.

For Olivia* and Will this experience came during a programming assignment last semester. As the two completed their work, their friend – Bri-

an* – struggled through an array of extenuating circumstances. Knowing their friend's predicament, and not suspecting what would follow, the pair showed Brian their work.

Although neither knowingly aided dishonest practice, they both received a zero for the assignment. However, given the “vague” indications about what punishment they might face, a zero was relieving. “I wasn't sure if the consequences would be me failing the course, or just the assignment, or if it'd be on my record,” Olivia recalls.

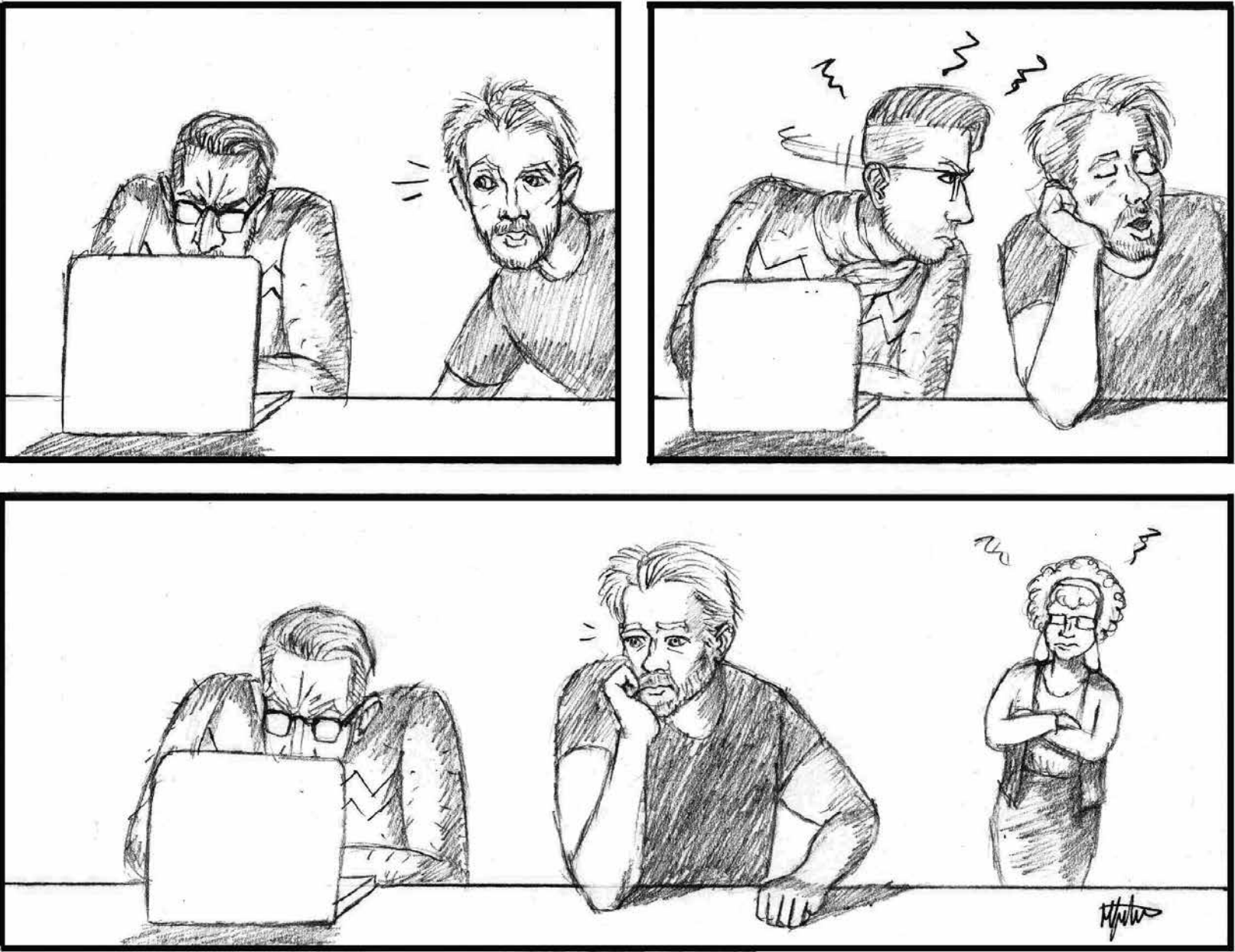
Punitive uncertainty is only one aspect of the process that induces stress. A sense of “hopelessness” permeates Will's recollections. In contrast, Olivia felt that she had some limited capacity to defend herself, which made the experience even more stressful: “There's always the chance they won't believe you.”

The pair's experience points to a general problem. Despite the university's desire to shift away from punitive measures and towards “education and a culture of integrity”, the process can still be an overwhelming one, especially for those students who have done nothing wrong. In many respects, then, the system transfers institutional anxiety to students.

“It was a really weird experience but it taught me not to send essays to anyone,” says Hannah, another student whose desperate friend copied her work. “[Not sending essays is] not very conducive to learning,” she reflects.

Those who have done nothing wrong are the clearest victims of the process, but not the only ones. While Dr. McCallum is right in saying that “One shouldn't do the wrong thing, whatever the pressure”, in the context of a special considerations system that frequently fails to provide students with adequate support, the circumstances surrounding plagiarism are often not black and white.

In Brian's case, taking Will and Olivia's code was a last resort. Living alone for the first time, with little money, and limited support made even attending class difficult for him. Failure to hand in the assignment would have lead to an instant



* Names have been changed to protect the anonymity of some students

FEATURE

How academic honesty works at the University of Sydney

Nick Bonyhady

Until last year, the University of Sydney assessed accusations of plagiarism in broadly the same way that Australian universities always have: academics tried to work out whether a student had done something wrong and disciplined them, if necessary, in accordance with some general guidelines.

That's now changed. If an examiner suspects that a student has committed academic misconduct, they report it via an online form that cautions the examiner not to make any “evaluative claims”. Instead, the Faculty's Educational Integrity Officer (EIO) and a team of nominated academics investigate the student's work.

The whole process is carried out using an online workflow app. The app can handle multiple cases of academic dishonesty at once, notifying students, other academics and University administration about the progress of each case. Gone are the days of flexible punishments selected at an academic's discretion. Instead, a lengthy policy document sets out all the potential decision trees open to the assessor.

The new process allows staff between a week and three months to resolve academic honesty issues depending on the severity of the accusation and the eventual outcome. But the University has been clear it wants cases resolved as quickly as possible.

In light of that priority, there are several further proposals on the table.

One would remove student's right to legal representation at student misconduct hearings (used to determine the outcome of the most serious cases of academic dishonesty) on the grounds that “external lawyers are often unfamiliar with the University's policies and processes, request unreasonable extensions of time on their clients' behalf, and adopt an unnecessarily adversarial approach to communications with the investigator”. That's plausible, but removing students' legal representation may tip the balance of power in favour of the University in hearings.

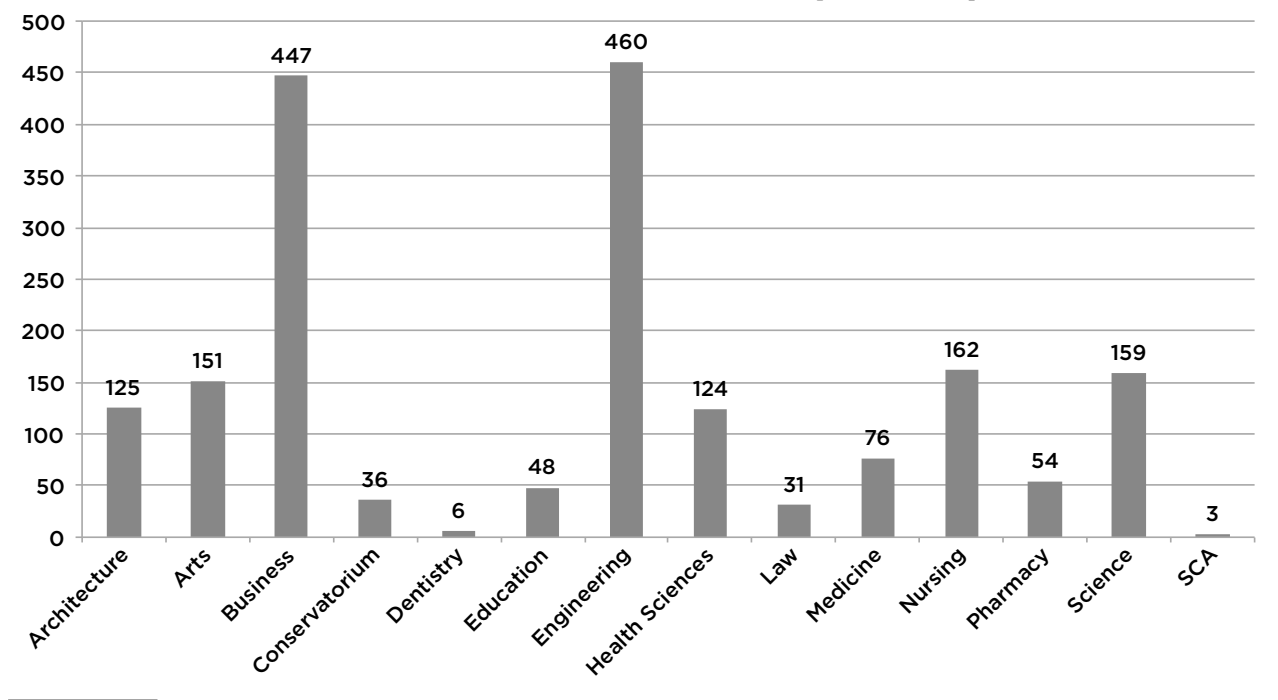
Another would transfer ultimate responsibility for student discipline from the Vice Chancellor to the Registrar. This proposal would free up the Vice Chancellor's time and allow claims to be resolved faster, but could also lead to more claims being pursued as the process is less taxing from the University's perspective.

Both moves represent a shift from a more flexible, low-key policy to one that prioritises efficiency and standardisation. Though the previous system had obvious and deep flaws, it is not yet certain the change was in students' interests.

How the new system stacks up, Semester One 2016

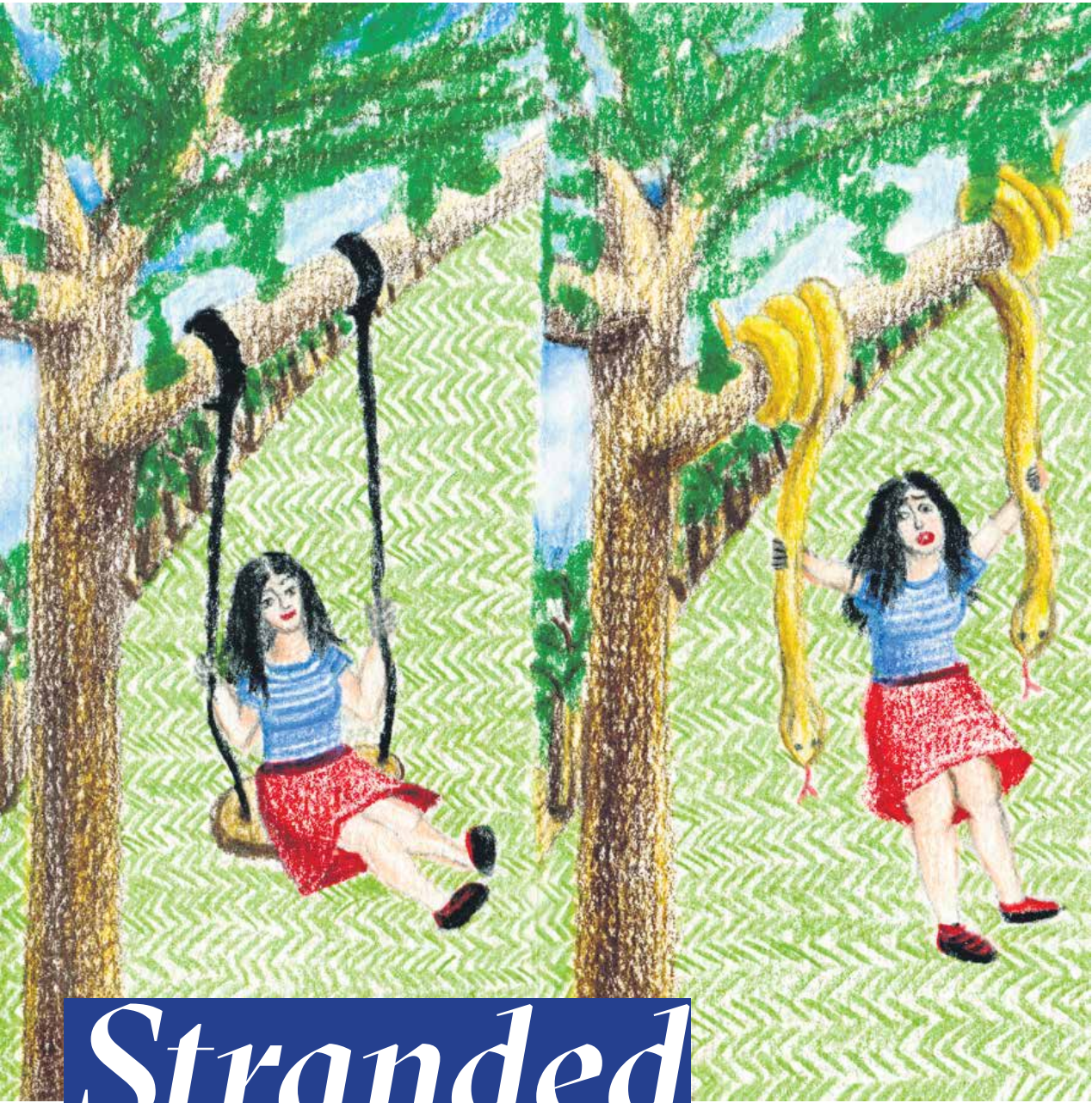


Number of accusations, by faculty



Semester 1, 2016 data from "Education Integrity Trend Report," USyd Office of Educational Integrity. "2015 Academic Dishonesty Reports," sourced from USyd Academic Standards and Policy Committee, July minutes.

REFUGEES



Stranded

Zoe Stojanovic-Hill tells the story of her friend, Faizal

Faizal* was supposed to get out in a week or two. His case manager assured him that he would soon be free – well, sort of. Over a year after arriving at Sydney’s Villawood Immigration Detention Centre, he would be released into community detention. He would live in, but not have the right to contribute to, the Australian community: he would be prohibited from working and would survive on a meagre stipend that would place him below the poverty line.

Faizal was ecstatic. Mobility was enough. When I heard the news, I started making a wish list like some naïve kid at Christmas: Things to Do When Faizal is Free.

“What do you like to do for fun?” I probed. Faizal shrugged. In his 28 years, he’d never had the time or peace of mind to contemplate fun before, he explained. Leisure time is the mark of a privileged existence. Leisure time is not a part of your reality when you have spent your entire adult life on the run.

Faizal met Nyi Nyi* when she was stranded on the side of the road, with a broken motorbike and dwindling time. Faizal lent her his bicycle so she could get to school, and walked her motorbike to the mechanic.

It was the beginning of a friendship, not a love story, but the bullies thought otherwise. Nyi Nyi was pensive, sweet and Buddhist. Faizal, on the other hand, is a Rohingya Muslim – part of a group viewed as intruders by Myanmar’s Buddhist majority, and described by the United Nations as “one of the most persecuted minorities in the world”. According to Faizal, if a Rohingya Muslim is caught in a romantic relationship with a Burmese Buddhist, the Muslim will be incarcerated for 20 years. In practice, this is a death sentence: in Faizal’s words, “if a Muslim goes to jail for even two or three years, he will die.”

One afternoon, jealous classmates and local

men attacked Faizal for having a Buddhist ‘girl-friend’. They left him bloodied and borderline-comatose in the battered undergrowth, and called the police to pick up what they assumed was a dead body. The police took Faizal to hospital, but the help ended there. They had caught – it seemed – one half of an illicit love affair; they certainly had leverage. Faizal’s father was already paying bribes to send his six children to school. Now he would pay a tax on Faizal’s life.

“He paid a lot of money,” Faizal says. “Finally, [he] said, ‘If you stay they will take all the property, they will put you in jail.’” Faizal knew a plea when he heard one: go.

Faizal’s father waited until his son could feasibly have crossed the Burmese border and then, desperate to end the cycle of blackmail and bribery, told the police that Faizal was a runaway. No, I do not know where he is. No, I am not lying. Prove it? If you see my son, arrest him. If you see my son, shoot him on sight.

Faizal was 19 when he left; he has been in transit for over nine years. He can plot out the past decade with thumbtacks and a map: he fled from Myanmar to Thailand, then to Malaysia, and from there to Christmas Island, Nauru, and finally Australia. The years are a blur, but two dates stand out: 08/06/2012, and 19/07/2013.

In June 2012 a bout of violence broke out between the Buddhists and the Rohingya Muslims of Rakhine State, Western Myanmar. “Everything had been burnt from the jungle. My father had nothing. My family homeless.”

By this time Faizal was living an off-the-record life in Malaysia. His mother and father depended on his remittances to survive. From midnight to 8am he was a greengrocer, from midday until 8pm he was a fishmonger. The relentless hours aggravated a pre-existing back injury and in a few months he could barely walk. It was this injury

that, after 15 months on Nauru – months blurred by inadequate painkillers, and skipping meals because he often could not walk from his tent to the mess hall – eventually compelled the Australian government to transfer him to Sydney for medical treatment in February 2015.

19 July 2013, the other key date structuring Faizal’s timeline, was the deadline outlined by the Rudd government’s Regional Resettlement Arrangement. Any asylum seeker subsequently arriving by boat would be processed in Papua New Guinea and, if classified as a ‘genuine refugee’, would be resettled in the relatively destitute, socially volatile island nation. Faizal arrived after the cut-off.

The Department of Immigration invoke this ruling when justifying their decision to not grant Faizal a visa, even though he is a UNHCR-approved refugee. This ruling also informed their decision regarding community detention. Last April Faizal was told that he would be out of Villawood in a couple of weeks; three months later the case manager returned to say, with no further explanation, “the minister cannot approve you going into community detention”. The subtext was, to quote the Border Force’s advertising campaign, “NO WAY – YOU WILL NOT MAKE AUSTRALIA HOME”.

Faizal struggled to answer my questions when I visited Villawood a few weeks ago. “Every time my case manager comes he says, ‘I have no news for you’. So I have no news for you, Zoe. Nothing.”

“I feel really sad. If you cannot send me back to my country, if you cannot let me stay here... what is my life?”

Faizal’s life can veer in two directions: he could be sent back to Nauru or resettled in a third country. Last time Faizal was in Nauru he tried to kill himself three times. The prospects for third country resettlement are bleak: the government has rejected New Zealand’s help, Australia spent \$55 million to resettle five refugees in Cambodia, and the Manus Island camp is due to close but no concrete plans have been made to resettle the 854 people held there. For the moment, Faizal is to wait out his life in Villawood.

The Australian Government makes the experience of seeking asylum harrowing so asylum seekers will warn their families not to attempt the fruitless journey and eventually return to their countries of origin. In this context, ‘electing’ to return is the product of coercion. In many cases this amounts to Australia breaching its non-derogable non-refoulement obligation, which prohibits states from sending refugees back to face the persecution from which they are fleeing. Faizal is unique in that he quite simply cannot ‘go back to where he came from’ – the Burmese government does not recognize Rohingya as Burmese nationals, rendering them stateless. Faizal is trapped between two hostile states, looking to Australia to end the impasse.

Faizal is trapped between two hostile states, looking to Australia to end the impasse.

Australia has the resources necessary to do exactly that, but elects not to. The government is waging a war of attrition, and Faizal does not even have the opportunity to surrender.

“I already [commit] suicide if my parents don’t live,” Faizal told me. “I hate my life. I am living for my parents. Just for them.”

“I am sorry,” I said. It is no secret that ‘sorry’ falls short of substance.

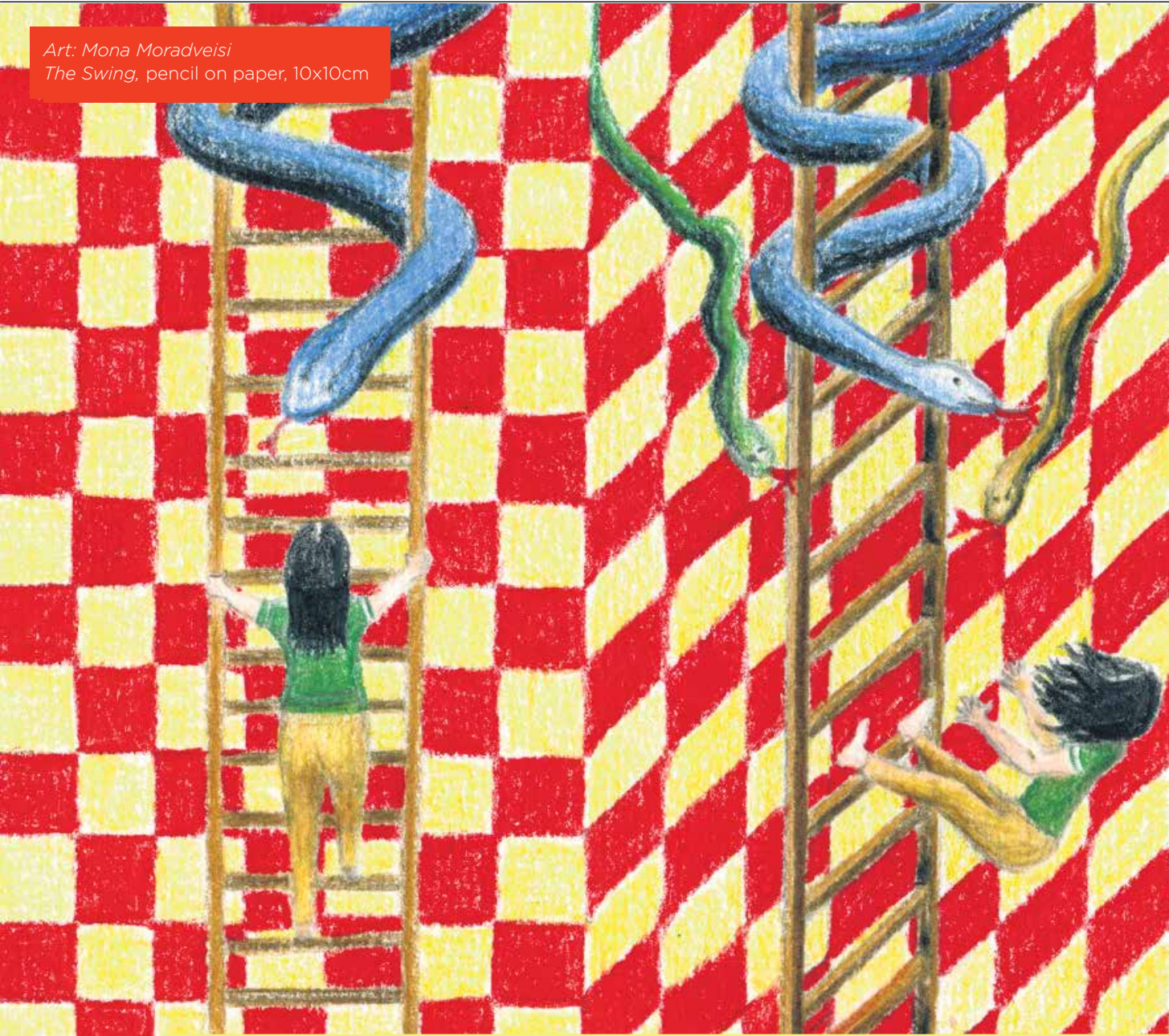
I gave him a hug and let him know that I would not be able to visit next Thursday, but would be back the week after.

“That’s okay, mate.” He laughed—an odd, offbeat chuckle. “I am here all the time. I am here, always.”

Mona is a young woman from Iran who came to Australia in 2012. Art: Mona Moradveisi *The Swing*, pencil on paper, 10x10cm

*Name has been changed

REFUGEES



Art: Mona Moradveisi
The Swing, pencil on paper, 10x10cm

Art and the refugee crisis

Soo-Min Shim examines the relationship between art and the refugee movement

To me the art world is full of paradoxes. I have met struggling artists, painting in garages, just earning enough to afford materials. Yet there are extravagant cocktail parties with jazz bands and canapés. It’s a binary that seems irreconcilable and an irony that the Belvedere in Vienna, Austria has exposed.

The Belvedere in Vienna is your typical European Palace. You enter the gold gates to be greeted by sandstone, manicured lawns, and an enormous Olympic pool-sized pond. This year however, the Belvedere has created something rather atypical. Crowds gathered around the pond standing in stoic silence. Cameras hung by tourists’ sides and all attention was diverted away from the ornate exterior, towards the water.

Floating on the surface of the pond are 1,005 worn life jackets. They are torn, a fluorescent orange or blue, assembled into lotus flower patterns. These jackets are part of Ai Wei Wei’s new comprehensive solo art exhibition in Vienna, translocation — transformation. These particular life jackets have been worn by refugees and can be interpreted as addressing the current global refugee crisis. An interesting dichotomy emerges: Behind the pond stood the quintessential symbol of privilege and comfort, yet on the pond dwelled the haunting images of struggling refugee families escaping conflict and persecution, the photographs of Alan Kurdi.

Art spaces continue to possess an immense amount of power. In 2014, there were 9.3 million visitors to the Louvre alone, more than the population

of Sydney and Melbourne combined. The function of a gallery or art space is still largely contentious, but it is undeniable that they have a crucial relationship with the audience, affirming or challenging preconceptions or ideas. Galleries, like the Louvre, have the capacity to alter the perceptions of 9.3 million visitors. That could be 9.3 million more people who become sympathetic towards the refugee crisis and compelled to create change.

It would be wrong to contend that art has any sort of ‘social’ responsibility. However, if art is a catalyst for progress and directly effects the world we inhabit, that should be celebrated. Art has been used in movements to oppose and dismantle socioeconomic and political structures. One immediately thinks of the Guerrilla Girls, the Act Up group and their Silence=Death exhibition in the 1980s as some examples. Art has intersected and hopefully will continue to interact with social justice issues.

Art spaces continue to possess an immense amount of power.

With the threat of the closure of the Sydney College of the Arts, it is particularly important to be creating discourse about the potential of Contemporary Art right now. The Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney is currently show-

ing an exhibition named Telling Tales. Part of this show exhibits the works of refugees at the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre in Sydney as part of the Refugee Art Project. The exhibition presents a rare but important collective platform through which refugees can express their stories and experiences.

The refugee crisis is perhaps one of the greatest crises of our generation. Art has proven to be a unique method to provide a voice to the disenfranchised and shift the focus to those on the periphery. Art has managed to act as a bulwark against the desensitisation of human suffering. Art invites audiences to contemplate, to mobilise, to become part of the solution to the refugee crisis. It seems to me, that, contrary to Oscar Wilde’s perception in the preface of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, all art is quite useful.

The MCA Telling Tales Exhibition was on until 9 October 2016 and Ai Wei Wei’s translocation — transformation is on until 20 November 2016

REFUGEE ART PROJECT

The Refugee Art Project was conceived in 2010 by a collective of artists and academics united by a concern for the plight of refugees who wait in Australian detention centres. Since its inception, it’s exhibited more than 500 artworks.

SUPPORT REFUGEES ON KING STREET

Parliament On King

632 King Street, 2042
Parliament runs Local Family Dinners on occasional Saturdays. The dinners are prepared and served by people seeking asylum and refugees. The Cafe also runs a range of other initiatives to support refugees.

The Social Outfit

353 King Street, Newtown
The Social Outfit is a registered charity and social enterprise which employs and trains people from refugee and new migrant communities. They provide training and employment in clothing production, retail, design and marketing.

Lentil As Anything

391 King Street, Newtown
The founder of Lentil is Sri Lankan refugee, Shanaka Fernando. The restaurant is entirely volunteer run and all excess money goes in a donation towards a range of initiatives including refugee training and cultural awareness programs.

ConVerging at Verge

Liam Donohoe listened to the future of Sydney’s jazz scene.

The LazyBones Lounge in Marrickville, with its aesthetic eccentricity, was a more than appropriate venue for a ConVerge jazz showcase as part of the USU’s Verge Festival.

Upon entering, I was hit with the polyphonic blast of the first band, which featured legendary Australian bassist Cameron Undy. In keeping with their aim of exploring diverse rhythms, the ensemble produced layers of rhythmic cacophony across two pieces.

The first piece particularly stood out as tight, with the gradual, almost minimalistic builds exhibiting a tremendous amount of textural and timbral contrast, taking on a general form that reminded me of *The Necks*.

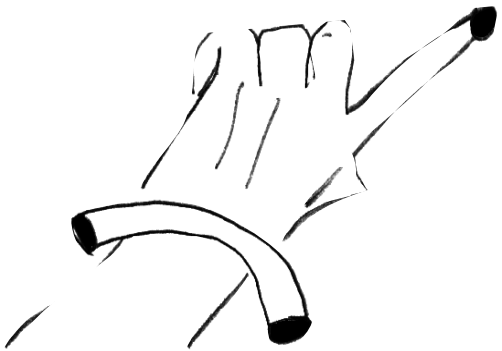
The piece contained all kinds of displacement, syncopation, and irregular rhythms, complemented by the seemingly random, angular, bop-pish scale runs in the horns. The occasional motif and ostinati partially grounded the madness that abounded. I was blown away by this band, and hearing the incredible percussive styling of Chloe Kim, Tom Schien, and Hannah Kim made the entire night worthwhile.

The second ensemble of the night fulfilled their aim of replicating the New Orleans second line style. The pulsating grooves certainly had the whole room dancing.

I must confess that I wasn’t the biggest fan, I think in part because I was still craving the free jazz style I’d heard before. There did not appear to be a tremendous amount of contrast between each of the tunes, and they all seemed to blend into each other. After the third piece, the novelty had worn off. Nonetheless, the brass work was really excellent, particularly from guest trombonist, James Greening.

The third and final ensemble was more experimental fare, combining a traditional rhythm section with an electronic producer. Marcus Whale offered an array of colours and textures uncommon to the jazz idiom. The reverberating ambient noise, linear drum breakouts, and bass ostinati sounded like a more relaxed version of Jojo Mayer’s Nerve project, but perhaps without the same kind of energy. The performance itself was, at times, a bit lethargic, although I sincerely think all the musicians played outstandingly.

I was simply blown away by the young talent on display, and left reassured that Sydney’s jazz scene was in capable hands.



This is everything: the Verge 24 hour Comedython

Victoria Zerbst trawls through the remnants of the Verge 24 hour comedy gig.

I have curated snippets of comedic insanity from the Comedython live blog. I have to admit, these people are my friends. I know them, so I feel all these moments so deeply.

This show lives on as a series of code embedded in the internet. These comedians went Facebook live so many times, many of the times people were featured playing instruments and wearing horseheads. The Comedython left its digital footprint on history as, I hope, a forewarning to future comedy-idiot.

But I hope these comedy-idiot's never learn.

This whole event represents the best parts of university: teamwork, collaboration, research, deadlines. This production was also inherently innovative - it took risks, it was disruptive in form, and it engaged media on many levels. It remains a satire, and in attempting a continuous creation of relevant content, it captured a zeitgeist, an epoch, an era, a moment in time.

These live blog updates read as electric disembodied voices calling out from the hallowed and warped hallways of 2k16. So please read these words. They are linguistic snapshots of our time.

1pm. It begins. So far our sole audience member is the studious Jared Choong working on his thesis. Donald Trump is debating with Hillary Clinton right now on the big screen. It is not good comedy.

Declan is going to try and start making a pozbile campaign to see if we can raise extra money besides our \$100 budget. It is sure to fail.

Annabel Cameron just arrived with her bass. Its 1:31PM. Now that we have enough people here we'll be making the rules of the Comedython. Rule 1: Don't be a dick. Rule 2: If you want to leave you have to have a good excuse otherwise we get to book you. Rule 3: The number "five" is a forbidden word.

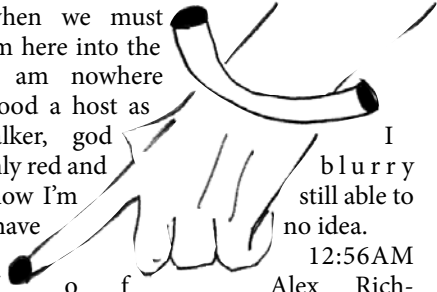
Jack Savage enters with a picture of Jesus. Davis becomes James Drysabone, a Young Lib, in an attempt to get into a formal college dinner. He looks like a preppy wanker. Got an ATAR of 97.1 and his dad was disappointed.

We are attempting to make the most impossible dildo on an online dildo maker. And at the same time Juliet Rae Timmerman, Belinda Anderson-Hunt and Jestika Chand are reading erotica on Thomas the Tank Engine. Belinda is now instead doing an improvised erotica on Thomas the Tank Engine.

"Hello my name is Ringo Starr" Group Tinder account is up! Bio says: This is the account of 10-15 people. We are actually a large group of people varying between 10 and 15. Never less. Maybe more. We have a list of different hobbies, it really depends who you ask. We would like to go on a date. All 10 to 15 of us. Please swipe right for a date with 10 to 15 people. Much love x15.

I realise it is getting dangerously close to 10PM, when we must move from here into the Cellar. I am nowhere near as good a host as Tom Walker, god can see only red and colours, how I'm type: I have 12:56AM and half of Alex Richmond's beard has been shaven off, he also bled, it wouldn't be 24 hour comedython if there wasn't a wound. Juliet Timmerman, Concetta Caristo and Jacinta Gregory have been named Charlie's Angels. Their mission: to find and save picture of peaceful Jesus from the Holme Den. There is a live performance of the Big Bang Theory, then Jack is serenading a masturbating man on omegle. When he says "help me cum for you", Jack enters with a guitar and says "Let me serenade you". At 4:30AM, it's a lot harder to think of things to do. Tim McNaught is absolutely killing it at QWOP, he's on 35 metres. Jack has somehow got through to Alan Jones's producer who sounds skeptical that Jack's pie shop has anything to do with Pauline Hanson. It's okay guys we've given Davis a new identity of Chad (Chadwick) Penicillin. He has infiltrated the St Andrews breakfast mission to bring us all back a free break-fast. We're watching him shovel bacon and eggs into his face on the screen...the lucky bastard. FUCK. Tim says he is Pingu. Oh God oh God. 2GB just called us up about one of our calls earlier about our pie shop closing and Pauline Hanson getting a fair go. We have been told that Kylie and Jackie-O want to talk about the Comedython we're doing. This event is definitely not worth being talked about on al radio, but then again this is and Jackie-O (badum-tish). One thing is for certain though, one of us is leaving this room famous tonight. Jacinta is chatting to the pro-right now after we roused her because Alex was too nervous to them. And Aidan Molins and Murray are doing word at a time up to make sure this can still be counted as a comedy gig. The final hour is approaching and while still making jokes, we've cleaned up the cellar space and are making plans for our final big all-encompassing mission. But first, Alex is going to complete his handshake. The handshake is beautiful and indescribable. Now we're off to buy limes with our gambling winnings to give to the world. The perfect ending to this final hour.

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Advanced sexism: why women are opting out of elite science at USyd

Imogen Harper asks why women are so outnumbered in the higher streams of Science

The under-representation of undergraduate women in advanced science streams at the University of Sydney shows that sexist structures in academia begin working on day one of first year. Despite there being consistently more female than male undergraduate students in the Faculty of Science, advanced streams, fostering the University's best scientists, are laying the foundations for the sharp disparity of women in elite science.

Students studying a Bachelor of Science can opt into advanced versions of each unit. It is striking that women are so under-represented in the advanced units of junior chemistry, physics and mathematics over the past five years.

This year, female students made up 37% of the Linear Algebra candidature in first semester, but only 23% of Advanced Linear Algebra. This is not an anomaly.

Dr Jennifer Saleeba, the Associate Dean of Academic Studies, told *Honi* that the opt-in enrolment procedures were "clearly outlined online and in course material" and that "enrollment is based on evidence of academic attainment." However the difference cannot be explained by academic achievement: in the HSC, women make up 46% of the Mathematics candidature, 42% of the Extension 1 candidature and 36% of the Extension 2 candidature. The requirement for the mainstream unit was Mathematics, and for the advanced was a Band 6 in Extension 1 or any Extension 2. For chemistry and physics, an 85 in the relevant HSC subject (or equivalent) was required.

This is an example of the well known phenomenon of women self-selecting themselves out of roles for which they are qualified. In a society that says women are never good enough, and criticises

confidence, the need to not only fulfil but easily meet selection criteria means that women withdraw from application processes their male peers do not. The broad and malleable criteria provided for advanced streams exacerbates this, allowing young women to dismiss achievements such as a mark just over 85. It is also not surprising that women, knowing that sexism will be a constant in a career in science, are less willing to risk lower marks that can be used against them.

The University cannot maintain these procedures, as they need to counteract these forces through actively encouraging high achieving students from year 12 to engage with these opportunities.

In response to questions concerning the importance of the advanced streams for further study, Dr Saleeba replied that "a student who has only studied mainstream units of study and not advanced curriculum components may still be highly capable of pursuing research studies."

Science enrolments: 2012 - 2016

	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
CHEM1101	780	530	670	590	730	640	640	640	870	600
CHEM1901	120	130	100	150	130	160	160	160	160	140
MATH1002	390	690	410	790	440	800	800	800	440	830
MATH1902	50	130	50	130	50	140	140	140	40	120
PHYS1001	170	580	210	710	220	740	740	740	210	640
PHYS1901	40	120	30	130	40	130	130	130	30	150

The double jeopardy of masculinity

There is a stifling silence around men’s mental health, writes Natassia Chrysanthos

In 2015, men accounted for 75 per cent of suicides in Australia. This sentiment didn't sit right with Zac Seidler, a PhD candidate in psychology at the University of Sydney, and a sufferer of mental illness himself. His PhD project 'Man Island' is his attempt help change the statistics.

Seidler's current research focuses on how hegemonic masculinity is connected to men's depression and the way men interact with therapy. "The main ideas that surround hegemonic masculinity are stoicism, strength, silence, power, and being the provider," Seidler says. Masculinity confers social advantage and dominance, yet conformity to masculine norms often has a threefold effect on men's depression: in their symptoms, help-seeking and management. In 1995, psychologists Good and Wood named this the 'double jeopardy' of masculinity. "It's the idea that men are stuffed from the outset," Seidler explains. "They're not allowing themselves to express anything properly, leading to depression; not knowing they have depression because they can't express it, and then not seeking help for it. It's both leading to further depression and then stopping them from accessing the system."

Men won't always appear to have symptoms typically ascribed to depression such as crying, fatigue or sadness. Instead, they'll often present as physically ill – as stressed, for example – and as they frequently lack the vocabulary to talk about their emotions in a culture that emphasises 'sucking it up' as integral to masculinity, "they slip through the cracks." According to Seidler:

"They go to see a GP, but they don't get the help they need." The idea of 'masculine depression' has emerged in psychology more recently to recognise the fact that externalizing symptoms like anger, stress, violence, addiction and alcoholism may also be symptoms of depression. "It's still depression, it's just different," Seidler says. "I think [masculine depression] is pretty worthy of consideration," he adds.

Masculinity means men only try therapy as a last resort once they've depleted existing resources. This arises because seeking help is seen as effeminate and contrary to the ideals of independence that are enshrined in masculinity. Consequently, men tend to minimise the magnitude of their need. "When they do present, it's an emergency," says Seidler. "There's a constant pull-back to be like 'no, it's fine, I can deal with this on my own', rather than seeing strength in dealing with it and getting help."

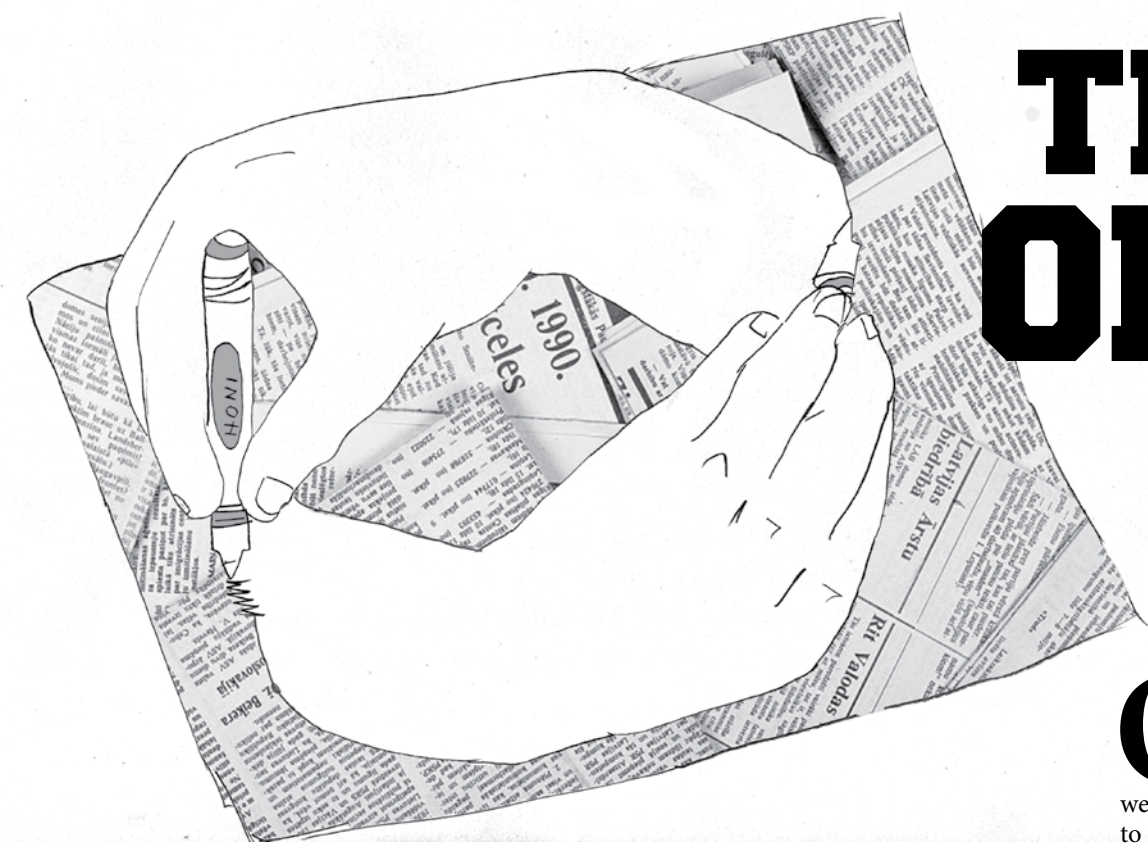
In line with this, suicide can be seen as a brave option to manage depression and seize control. Male suicide rates in Australia are staggering: a construction worker kills himself every two days in Australia. People who work in trades suffer particularly high rates of mental illness owing to the cut-throat nature of their jobs. "It's the idea that you work on one job and then it's going to be gone," Seidler says, "and it's all around 'if I don't have the money then I can't provide for my wife and that's my job, that's what I'm here for.'" Rural environments are also dangerous, according to Seidler, due to social isolation, precarious work and unusual working hours.

If you're a man who has been in therapy and would like to get involved, visit www.manisland.com.au

The imperative to contribute to the field of men's mental health is evidently clear. "Rather than trying to get people in to the therapist – because BeyondBlue, Headspace and everyone under the sun is trying to do that – I need to make therapy better so that when guys do get in they don't drop out," Seidler says. His current research entails sitting down with men who have been in therapy for depression and understanding the best ways to make therapy work for them.

So far, he's gotten an insight into elements of therapy that are more successful for men. "Behavioural interventions, so CBT for instance, which are problem solving, action focused and goal-oriented. Those three terms come out everywhere as what men want," Seidler says. "They need practical outcomes, because that's in line with masculinity and making gains. That's why they love prescriptions, because it's a quick fix, and they love having things to go and do."

"But in saying that, there are lots of men who do want to sit there and have a long chat," Seidler says. He is also conscious to note that masculine qualities don't only exist in gendered binaries. "This type of stoicism is in many women, and many women don't engage in therapy full stop," Seidler says. "It just so happens that the externalizing symptoms in guys are the really dangerous ones – the alcoholism, the addictive stuff, the violence – and the fact that the suicide rate is so high in men. That's why I'm focusing on it, but hopefully I can learn stuff that will be helpful for women as well."



THE 2016 OPINION COMP

Art by Victoria Zerbst

On these pages you'll find the winners of the 7th annual *Honi Soit* Opinion Competition. Over the years, the competition has seen some of the best opinion writing University of Sydney students have to offer. Entrants were asked to write an opinion article no longer than 800 words to the theme 'Signal', with no other instructions. After we carefully selected a shortlist of entries, the best three pieces were chosen by *Guardian Australia* editor Lenore Taylor. This year's competition is bittersweet as it signals the final stretch of the current editors' editorial custody of this esteemed rag. But we digress – for now, enjoy this year's winning entries in full.

The appropriation of nostalgia

1ST PLACE

The nostalgia of our generation is a dangerous commodity, writes Evie Woodforde



My generation is unreservedly, unironically nostalgic. After all, we were born after irony went down with the twin towers. My generation attends pinup girl fairs and posts filtered photos on Instagram. My generation wears a choker as they sing along to The Smiths on a record player. My generation says their favourite movie is *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. My generation plays Pokemon Go. My generation misses radio. My generation yearns for an era, any era, we didn't live through.

Can you blame us? We're told that our own cultural artefacts are undeserving, uncultured, mass media, mass marketed consumer trash. We're

told it was better back when our parents were kids - back when Gough made education free, before they grew up and voted to get rid of it. In the same school hall where our parents watched the moon landing, we watched *An Inconvenient Truth*. Where they ate peanut butter sandwiches, ours were banned for allergies. We'll graduate with \$50,000 in student debt, and \$2,000 in super, and work for a company that sells tech solutions to tech problems we don't understand. Then we'll meet our friends over \$20 drinks to have an existential crisis in a pop-up warehouse bar.

Haven't you heard? It's never been as bad as this. Except that it has been, of course. The problem with nostalgia is that the reason we find it comforting is not because it feels familiar. Rather, nostalgia is comforting because it tells us that things used to be better, that we used to be happier and safer. It tells us that if we could go back, if we could halt the technology and globalisation and mass immigration of the 21st century, we could recapture the illusory sense of comfort. Nostalgia has become a signal for value and worth amid a deep discomfort with the modern world. But that vision of the world is dangerous too. It is easy to forget that racism, sexism, homophobia and poverty are also the cultural relics of the decades we idealise.

Instead, we luxuriate in a kind of decontextualised nostalgia - an aesthetic movement, not an emotional one. We pick and choose the parts of previous generations that suit us like scavengers at antique fairs and ignore the rest. It is a gluttonous, appropriative exercise, blind to anachronism. The choker was first worn by French women in solidarity with those decapitated by the guillotine, and then as a signifier for 19th century prostitutes and then in rebellion by 1990s goths. They are now sold to well-adjusted tweens by *Dolly* magazine.

We eat brunch in converted industrial warehouses because we like the juxtaposition of austere, cold brick against our warm coffees. We try on the persona of working class disaffection under



the guise of urban chic, forgetting that only for us is it a removable costume. Investment bankers wear RM William boots on casual Fridays with their \$5,000 suits like modern day swagmen. And with each passing reincarnation we scrub off the inconvenient dirt of the past and remember things as our own. Nostalgia is a fashionable excuse to insert ourselves into memories we can lay no claim to.

But nostalgia is also sold to us wholesale as a shoddy knock-off brand replicated by marketing firms to sell us restaurants and bars and clothes. Words like 'vintage' and 'retro' are stamped onto products fresh off the manufacturing line. Brands like Coca-Cola, KFC and McDonalds revitalise their 70s and 80s ad campaigns, even though we weren't alive to see them the first time. We commodify our past and sell it back to ourselves at a premium.

Nostalgia is also peddled by politicians like Pauline Hanson and Donald Trump to justify xenophobic and regressive policy. They seek to make their countries great again for those few it used to be great for. Nostalgia is the purview of the rich and white and male who could only gain by going back in time. Nostalgia is a luxury item.

My generation is unreservedly, unironically nostalgic. But we should be careful what exactly it is we are nostalgic for.

What's in a name?

2ND PLACE

Names can become the site of a hidden political struggle, writes Bob He

Like so many other second generation Chinese Australian males, I was to be named Kevin. But if you asked my parents why, they probably wouldn't have said, "Oh, because Kevin comes from the Old Irish name C  mgein, which itself consists of the words 'coem', meaning handsome, and 'gein', meaning birth. And that basically summarises our hopes and dreams for this child."

No, I was to be called Kevin because it was the most Anglo-Saxon name my parents could think of. To them, Kevin was the summation of what Western civilization had to offer; the crux of what it meant to be an accepted member of White society – after all, it was one of the names they had seen so often in their English textbooks (one those inane characters who had robotic conversations like "Hello Jane, how are you?" "Hello Kevin, I am fine thank you, could you please pass me the umbrella?"). Its syllables perfectly sculpted for the English speaking mouth, Kevin was supposed to be my passport for social mobility, one that would signal to the rest of Australia that they shouldn't fear me because I was one of them. I might as well have been born with a flashing neon sign above my head saying "DEDICATED TO BEING ASSIMILATED".

But I am not called Kevin. In an epiphany that was catalysed by what can only be described as a combination of the gnawing existential angst every new immigrant experiences, a growing disillusionment with Western society, and more importantly, the pesky "v" in the middle of Kevin which they couldn't consistently pronounce, my

parents decided to not give me an official English name. Immigration had proven to be a costly business, both economically and emotionally, and they had already lost so much. But to name their son something they couldn't even pronounce? That would just top it off.

In many ways, culture loss begins with a name; it's the look of amused disappointment Kevin He's relatives give when they discover he only goes by Kevin, and the Yang family who becomes the Young family, first in name, and then in everything else.

And yet, there is a unique beauty to Chinese names, one that partly stems from the fact that the Chinese language is written with thousands and thousands of symbols, primitive drawings which over the course of three millennia have matured to create a profoundly visual writing system. Amidst the seemingly chaotic flurry of lines which make up each symbol is a story, and it is through these stories do we learn the meaning of each symbol.

Unfortunately, this beauty doesn't translate well to the rigid, alphabetical ugliness of English - it's hard to condense the richly layered meaning behind each symbol when you've only got 26 letters at your disposal. And so 抱朴 became Baopu. And Baopu became the bane of my existence for much of my childhood.

Despite it all, I don't blame all the kids at school for making fun of it. Stripped of the melodious tones of Chinese, Baopu sounds comical, like something a plumber would use to unblock

Vital signs

3RD PLACE

Ang Collins' grandma is very, very lonely

My grandma has this thing called a "Vital Call". It's a little white machine made out of cheap plastic that sits on the counter next to the fruit bowl that holds only fake plastic fruit. It's got three different LED lights on it, a speaker, and a big red button that says "HELP".

The machine comes with a button that you wear like a necklace - it's so old people can send directly for an ambulance if they have a fall, like my grandma did. She tripped over a flowerpot throwing tea dregs into the garden.

Grandma never wears her button because she thinks it's ugly. She keeps it next to her bed instead. "If I have another fall I'll just crawl my way to the bedroom, or something."

The way Grandma treats her Vital Call, you'd think it was her children who encouraged her to get it. But believe it or not, my grandma requested it specially. For Grandma, the machine isn't a life-saving device - she's perfectly able-bodied and tough as nails. No, Grandma's Vital Call system is a statement piece - a conversation point that she springs upon me, my uncle, her hairdresser, anyone who'll listen.

My grandma is very, very lonely.

When I visit her house on the lake for the first time in months, she tells me at length about her fall, relishing the chance to recount it (again). She tells me how it was night time, and how she didn't bother calling out to anyone "because it was winter", a point of logic which I have never bothered to question. She shows me the machine and tells

me how she has to test it once a month by calling a hotline and saying to the receiver "I'm ok, I'm just testing." I think she likes the drama of it all.

She shows me pictures of my granddad's grave on her iPad, and points to a blank space on the right side of the headstone, saying "That's where I'll go." She's got about twenty photos of the grave, and flicks through each one individually. Then she opens Words With Friends and curses my dad who got the triple word score last turn.

I find it really hard to understand my grandma's apparent fascination with death. She swerves the conversation from what she ate for dinner two weeks ago at the yacht club (barramundi with beans and mash) to how grandpa's ashes were placed inside the pre-existing grave of her son who died at eighteen in a car accident (they drill through the bottom of the grave and put a little canister inside). She talks about how terribly sad she is without grandpa to a point which drives us both to the edge of tears, only to reel back instantly by talking about her Pope John Paul roses, which are blooming beautifully this year. I try to decode the subtext and find it hopelessly contradictory and confusing.

I think to put her behaviour down to thinly disguised self-pity, or the stoicism of a generation who rarely talk about their feelings or the hardship they faced. When we talk, I can sense my grandma fishing for feeling from me, beckoning me to grab hold of some thread of the loneliness and grief she's trying to convey. She's an eighty-five year old for-

a toilet, as I was once told. This attitude does not end with primary school; a recent study done by ANU has found that people with Chinese sounding names need to submit 68 per cent more applications to get the same number of interviews as someone with an English one. It's for this reason that I reluctantly go by "Bob", a pathetic attempt at Anglicisation, in the public sphere, lest I affront anyone with how strange my name sounds.

But if only they knew what Baopu actually meant! Unlike English, a Chinese name's meaning isn't something hidden away in an obscure etymological tome, but is really the first thing you notice about it. When I tell a native speaker what my name is, they appreciate its beauty, marvel at its meaning, and sometimes, they sigh and wished they'd given their children a Chinese name as well.

Baopu comes from the Daodejing, the holy book of Taoism written in the 6th century BC, and it means 'to embrace the simplicity of the unhewn log' - a lot for just two syllables, but such is the beauty of the Chinese language. The unhewn log is a metaphor for man's most original nature, an Eastern version of tabula rasa, and in embracing it, you refuse to be swayed by any external forces because you are, as it were, resolutely yourself. Slowly, I understand why my migrant parents gave me such a name.

Baopu is a testament to the sacrifices my parents have made for me, and to the beauty of my Chinese heritage. And in using it, I am determined to honour them both, even if it's in name only.



mer housewife who has never read a book in her life, has only ever worked at school tuck shops, and who had been together with my grandpa since they were both fourteen years old. For the first time in her long life, my grandma feels utterly alone.

The deep pain she must feel each waking day without the familiar presence of her lifelong companion and only love totally rocks me - I can't begin to fathom it. This is a woman, like all working class women of that generation, who has been told since forever that she is not an independent body, who has been told that she is one half of a whole, who has been told that she is defined by her relationship to a working man. I am sad that my grandpa is gone, and I am angry that life never told my grandma that she's someone without her husband. More than that, I want to tell her it's ok to cry uncontrollably and talk about grandpa non-stop until she feels like she's grieved enough for one day.

But I know she won't do that. I know she'll keep covering up her tears with cups of tea and family gossip and details of how she arranged the flowers at church.

I want to tell her she doesn't need the Vital Call machine, but if it's a comfort in some way, then who the hell am I to tell her otherwise.



Daddy, My Lord

Ann Ding is a loving husband and father of three

I’ve never called anyone “daddy”. In my most embryonic of memories, I cannot recall addressing even my own father as “daddy”. I have a very strong aversion to the term. But what I’d like to put to you here isn’t that calling anyone “daddy”, including your father, is bad (like, it is, but whatever); it’s that the term “daddy” is a modern-day approximation of calling a male sexual or romantic partner ‘my lord’ in Elizabethan English.

Think about it – “daddy” is primarily a colloquial way for children to refer to their fathers. This is its purest function. “Daddy” also serves as a term that people use to address their male partners – it can be a term of everyday endearment (ew) or a more sexually-charged term of address (... ew). The term that served as both a child’s means of addressing their father and a woman’s means of addressing her male partner or husband in Shakespeare’s day? “My lord”. The connection is clear.

Now, when a child calls their father “daddy”, I would hesitate to say it connotes anything more than affection or childish playfulness. On the flip side, with “my lord”, the connotations are undeniable: both child and wife are socially obligated to acknowledge the rigid hierarchy of the family, with the man firmly at the top. Calling a male partner “daddy” probably sits somewhere in the middle - the language suggests that the speaker is a step below, and the “daddy” is in a position of authority (duh).

It’s also fitting that both “Father” and “Lord” are ways of referring to the Christian God. And remember “forever daddy”? These connections are tenuous, perhaps, but they’re there and they’re telling you that “daddy” and “my lord” are kind of like two sides of the same coin. If this were an even worse take, I’d be telling you that calling someone “daddy” is akin to worshipping them as the one true God.

Anyway. My point is that, if there was some sort of weird semantic vacuum that existed for a few centuries while calling husbands and fathers “my lord” was out of vogue, we’ve managed to fill it by stretching “daddy” to a semi-logical dual purpose. Is there another term that people commonly use for both fathers and male partners? Maybe. I don’t know. I’ll call my dad or something.

What happens to the abandoned bikes on campus?

This is bike Nick Bonyhady. Art by Jess Zlotnick

During term time, when campus is full, the bike racks look normal. There are fixies and mountain bikes jostling for space. But come to campus during the holidays and you’ll see a handful of bikes around campus, baking in the sun, long abandoned by their owners. How did these misfit toys get here? Why are they still here?

Some of the bikes locked up are obvious cases. Someone has locked only their frame and one turn of a quick release later, the back wheel is gone. Evidently, a good excuse to buy a whole new bike rather than bothering to take the old one home on the train and fit a new wheel.

Some are more mysterious. Near the Chemistry building is a beautiful, powder blue road bike with a pannier rack. Its

handlebars were once wrapped in cheerfully coloured tape. It also has so much rust I’m afraid to touch it, tetanus shot or not. The rear frame has disintegrated; the brakes have too. Yet prior to its long exposure, there doesn’t seem to have been anything wrong with the bike.

Campus Infrastructure Services tell me that abandoned bikes are removed during the summer holidays, but if the Chemistry bike has been around less than a year it must’ve started raining acid while I wasn’t looking. It’s not clear where the bikes go. Unlike the Australian National University, Sydney doesn’t have a recycled bike program on campus (although the Bike Doctor does fix up bikes if you need a repair).

Other bikes don’t get left behind like Lotso Bear in Toy Story 3. Instead, like Woody in Toy Story 2, they’re taken. In 2015, Campus Security had reports of 27 bikes stolen from campus. That figure is probably low, given you only need a police report to claim insurance. It’s not surprising that so many bikes are taken from campus – most locks are vulnerable to a set of \$20 bolt cutters and tougher locks can be frozen off with compressed air or busted open with a car jack.

If you’d rather not lose that beautiful new fixie you spend so much time bragging about, lock it with a D-lock through the frame and rear wheel, and purchase one with a less ostentatious paint job next time – a lesson I’ve not yet learnt.



Living languages

Andy Mason visited the Muurrbay Aboriginal Language & Culture Co-operative

Aboriginal affairs seem to only make the news in times of crisis. Although stories about the issues facing Aboriginal communities are important, what often go unreported and unnoticed are stories about the grassroots community initiatives which are empowering Aboriginal people all over the country.

This semester, as part of a class on Indigenous language revival, I visited Muurrbay Aboriginal Language & Culture Co-operative in Nambucca Heads on Gumbaynggirr country (NSW north coast). Muurrbay is a community-run organisation focused on re-awakening the Gumbaynggirr language and strengthening Gumbaynggirr culture. Founded in 1986 in the old mission church hall, using contributions from the pensions of local elders who were concerned about the declining use of their language, Muurrbay has become a model for Aboriginal language revitalisation across Australia.

Muurrbay initially focused on recording the language knowledge of the few remaining Gumbaynggirr speakers, and developing resources which could be used to teach the language to younger generations. It has now grown into a support network for other Aboriginal communities along the NSW coast seeking to revitalise their languages, including Bundjalung, Dhangatti, Gathang, Awabakal, Wonnaruwa and Darkinyung. Locally, the organisation runs language classes for the Aboriginal community and continues its language research, documentation and resource development work, alongside promoting awareness of Gumbaynggirr language to the broader community. When we walked

There are now several hundred Gumbaynggirr people who have some knowledge of their ancestral “lingo” – a huge increase from the early 1980s

in, CEO Uncle Gary Williams was working on some Gumbaynggirr language translations for the popular ABC show *Cleverman*.

For Uncle Gary, language revitalisation is fundamental to reclaiming and celebrating pride in Gumbaynggirr cultural identity. He also sees language and cultural revival as “tied up with the struggle for land rights, because in the end the language comes from the ground”. Muurrbay has developed collections of traditional stories about culturally significant sites, and collaborated with local councils and

“We as the next generation have got to carry it on”

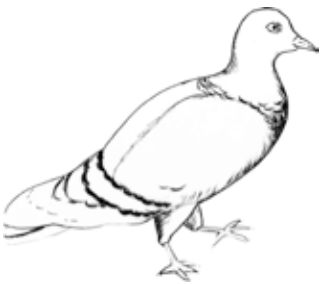
National Parks to put up signs explaining the Gumbaynggirr cultural perspective on various places in the area.

Yet perhaps the greatest area of activity for Muurrbay is supporting Gumbaynggirr language programs in schools. Uncle Gary’s “big dream” was for “Gumbaynggirr people to be able to make a living teaching their language”. There are now language programs of some description in 39 primary and high schools in the area – so much interest that, according to Uncle Gary, Muurrbay is experiencing a “teacher drought”, struggling to keep up with demand.

The school programs range from lessons of an hour a week to more developed programs like that of Woolgoolga High School. When we visited Woolgoolga, students were able to hold lengthy conversations in Gumbaynggirr, and we were treated to a puppet show performance and a number of songs. For the school’s Aboriginal students, some of whom were Gumbaynggirr themselves, the language lessons were evidently a source of excitement and pride. In the words of one student: “we as the next generation have got to carry it on”.

Thanks to Muurrbay, there are now several hundred Gumbaynggirr people who have some knowledge of their ancestral “lingo” – a huge increase from the early 1980s, when only a handful of elders could speak the language. Yet despite this success, Muurrbay is severely under-funded. There are approximately 18,000 Gumbaynggirr-identifying people on Gumbaynggirr country, but Muurrbay receives only \$450,000 per year - or \$25 per Gumbaynggirr person per year. Muurrbay has a handshake agreement with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs that this funding will continue for the foreseeable future, but given the severe cuts to Aboriginal community services under the previous Abbott government, this is not a particularly comforting promise. “We never know quite what will happen next year”, says Uncle Gary.

The unit of study for which we took the trip to Muurrbay – KOCR3607, Re-Awakening Australian Languages – also has a somewhat uncertain future. The subject only had a small number of enrolments this year, and faces cancellation next year unless more students are interested. Whether or not you are a linguistics student, if you are interested in Aboriginal languages and cultures I urge you to consider taking this unit. Muurrbay, like many Aboriginal organisations, is also in constant need of volunteers. If you have some time over the summer break, consider sending them an email to see what they need help with.



Honiscopes

Let Voltaire and the wisdom pigeon inform your week ahead.
Art by Zita Walker



Aries

The best is the enemy of the good.



Taurus

Injustice in the end produces independence.



Gemini

Judge a man by his questions rather than his answers.



Cancer

You can never correct your work well until you have forgotten it.



Leo

The superfluous is very necessary.



Virgo

It is hard to free fools from the chains they revere.



Libra

Prejudices are what fools use for reason.



Scorpio

Work banishes those three great evils: boredom, vice and poverty.



Sagittarius

Life is a shipwreck, but we must not forget to sing in the lifeboats.



Capricorn

A long dispute means that both parties are wrong.



Aquarius

Work is often the father of pleasure.



Pisces

No problem can withstand the assault of sustained thinking.

CASEWORKERS

The SRC is responsible for the content of this page.

Get Some Tax Money Back

Get FREE help with your tax return from a Tax Help volunteer

Now is a great time to start preparing for your tax return. You don't need to do anything big. Just get an old shoebox, and start putting all your receipts and important papers in it. Keep that somewhere safe, so that when tax time rolls around you'll be able to easily fill in your tax return and hopefully, get some money back.

Remember: the SRC hosts TaxHelp, a program that has Australian Taxation Office trained volunteers who will help you with your tax return.

SRC caseworkers can assist you further with academic issues. Contact: 9660 5222 or email: help@src.usyd.edu.au

Ask Abe

SRC caseworker HELP Q&A



Hi Abe,

I've lived in a few sharehouses now and I think I may still have my name on some of the leases and bills. I'll probably get around to doing something about this eventually, when I'm less busy with uni and stuff. My mum keeps bugging me to deal with it now, but it doesn't really matter though, does it, cause I can prove I no longer live there?

Not too worried

Not too worried, you should be a little worried and should consider sorting this out sooner rather than later. As long as you're on the lease you're ultimately liable for any damage to the property covered by the lease. It's not uncommon for students to move from place to place without taking names off leases and bills, and trust me, you don't want the hassle that might come from leaving your name on old bills or leases.

Even if you know the people who are now living in those properties and paying the bills, problems can still arise, innocently or otherwise.

The same liability applies to any bills your name is attached to eg gas, electricity, internet etc. If bills remain unpaid, you will be the one pursued through debt collection to recover any unpaid bills.

Also keep in mind that each time a bill over \$150 is more than 60 days overdue it is listed on your credit report. Your credit report is a record of your personal finance history that is used by creditors and lenders to decide whether they should lend you money or grant your credit. They will be concerned that if your record shows you don't pay bills on time you probably won't make repayments on time.

I'm pretty sure you don't want any of these problems, and the simplest solution is to deal with this now before it becomes a problem. Talk to the current tenants, your utility provider or real estate about transferring the accounts or leases.

Abe

As long as you're on the lease you're ultimately liable for any damage to the property covered by the lease.

Abe is the SRC's welfare dog. This column offers students the opportunity to ask questions on anything. This can be as personal as a question on a Centrelink payment or as general as the state of the world. Send your questions to help@src.usyd.edu.au

Australian Government Australian Taxation Office

Australian Taxation Office

myTax

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> 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

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

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CASH

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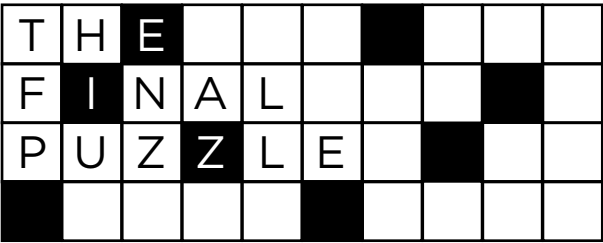
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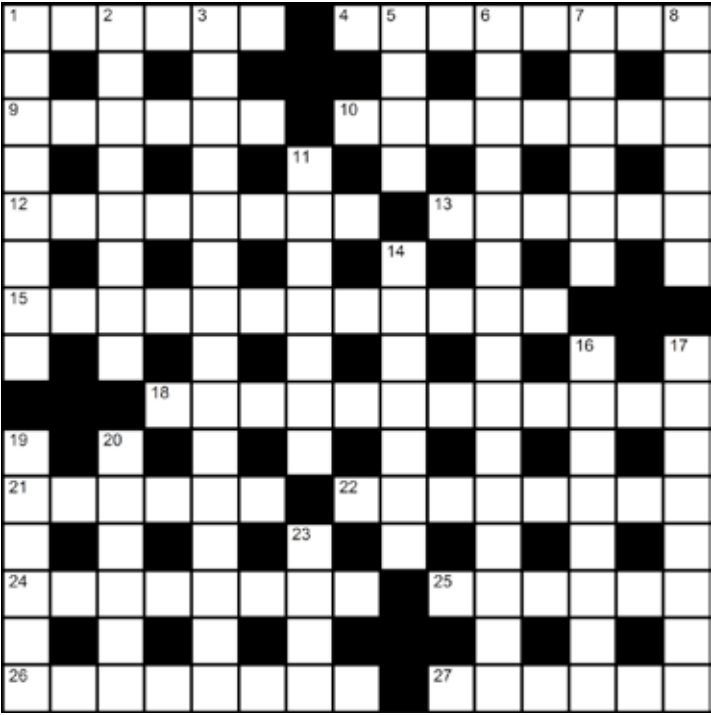
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This week's puzzles are brought to you by CrossSoc members:

Dover Dubosarsky, Kevin Liang, John Wormell, Cyril Tang, Alison Eslake, James Reoch, Edwin Spark, John Mai, Luke West, Maggie Corrigan, Sean Gardiner, Kitty-Jean Lagina and Stephanie Gascon

Cryptic



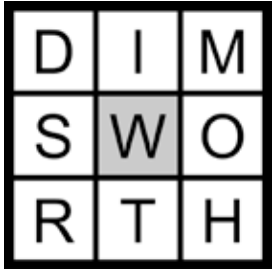
ACROSS

- 1. Mausoleum robbed of art, organs and letters (to begin with) to make impressive collection (6)
- 4. Let one loose, or replace popular method of entry? (8)
- 9. Material – ultimately it might be burnt?! (6)
- 10. Nearly every position of tremendous importance seduces men, leading to bias (8)
- 12. Blank slate to curb cavity? (4,4)
- 13. Drink, say, before knocking back award (6)
- 15. Extremely loud trial: ten pigs distraught (12)
- 18. Constructs higher portal for printer (12)
- 21. Picks up snare beat following initial lag (6)
- 22. Horrible blunder in 1/0... Backup. [Start]->[Logoff]. End *.exe (8)
- 24. Lineback degrades first reserve's vocabulary? (8)
- 25. Raptor disturbed its descendant (6)
- 26. Remake button next to messy tear, finishing bodice (8)
- 27. Entertaining female priest lets man go after homosexual hearing (6)

DOWN

- 1. Syrup girls follow procedure (8)
- 2. Harmony, Gab, Stew, and Ash, perhaps? (8)
- 3. Flawless but, within society, adequate (15)
- 5. Noble gas in bulletin is cut (4)
- 6. Disrupting a grim hostage run forced engagement (7,8)
- 7. Or I enter some position (6)
- 8. Disrupt confusing adage going around my head (6)
- 11. Conversationally snub dexterity (7)
- 14. "Buck buck" say roosters at first floor (7)
- 16. Regrets opening bar in hot spots for brawls (8)
- 17. A refreshment for inexperienced golfer's start, say (5,3)
- 19. Flora in contraflow eradicates traffic (6)
- 20. Revised crib note first for make-up (6)
- 23. Crooked sir ripped off tourist! (4)

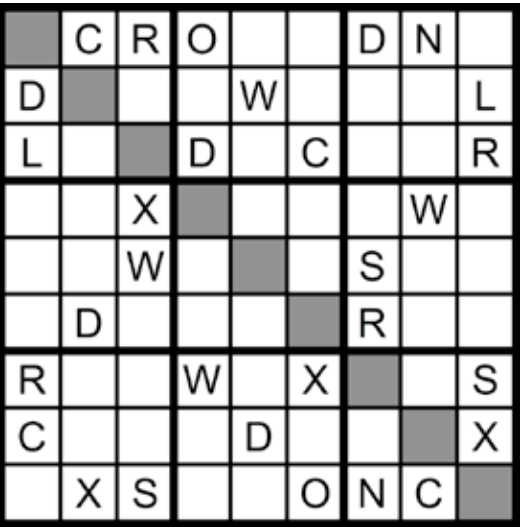
Target



Cherry tomatoes: 5
Carrots: 10
Crosswords: 14

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Sudoku



ACROSS

- 1. Emphasise (6)
- 4. Disadvantage (8)
- 9. Withdraw (6)
- 10. Gravitational or Planck, say (8)
- 12. Stamp on envelope (8)
- 13. A secret scheme might be kept up this (6)
- 15. Ill-omened (12)
- 18. Distance at which a force acts to produce a moment (12)
- 21. Submission towards a PhD (6)
- 22. Relating to newborns (8)
- 24. Act of drawing (8)
- 25. Makes a surface flat (6)
- 26. Exhibit (8)
- 27. Solids, liquids, gases, etc. (6)

DOWN

- 1. Angelic (8)
- 2. Justin Bieber, according to David Astle (4,4)
- 3. Description of one who likes to hurt or be hurt (15)
- 5. Succulent genus (4)
- 6. Disenchantment (15)
- 7. Anne Hegerty or Paul Sinha, say (6)
- 8. Felt sorry for (6)
- 11. Complimented (7)
- 14. More hazy (7)
- 16. Oily substance rubbed into skin (8)
- 17. Those who ride bikes (8)
- 19. One might update this on FB (6)
- 20. What one might buy at Messina or Cow and the Moon (6)
- 23. Common sense (4)

Come complain to Atrus, Zplig, Skribblex and EN about solving the year's final crosswords at the CrossSoc solving session Friday, 3pm at Hermanns.

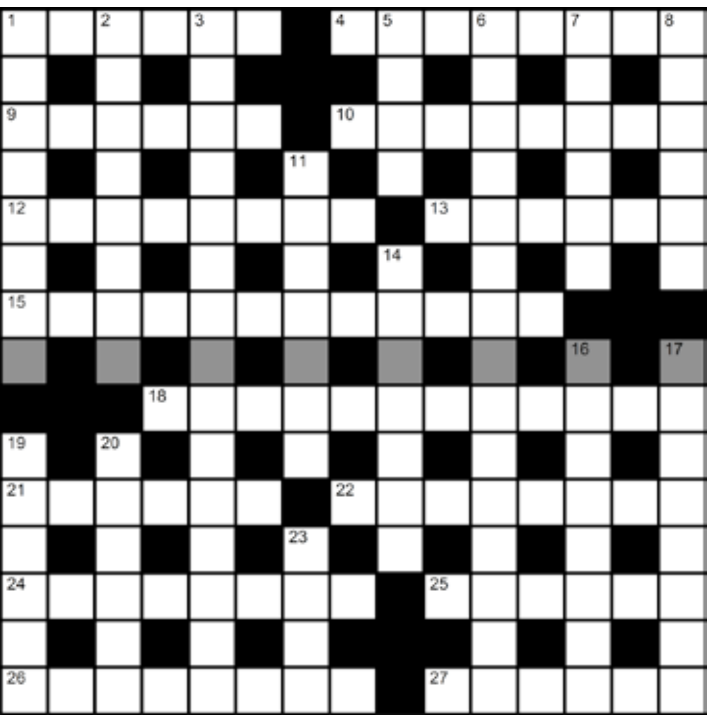
Quiz

Quiz by Mary Ward

- 1. How many votes are needed to hold a majority on the SRC council?
- 2. What is the full name of The Simpsons villain, Mr Burns?
- 3. Deputy PM Barnaby Joyce is undergoing treatment for what type of cancer?
- 4. The Scary Canary is located on which Sydney CBD street?
- 5. Who is the current University undergraduate Senate fellow?
- 6. Which came first: Taylor Swift's Red or Katy Perry's Prism?
- 7. Who was the last person to be elected to their first term of the US presidency as a grandfather?
- 8. The subject code SLSS refers to which Arts faculty subject?
- 9. Which college won this year's Palladian Cup?
- 10. Place the following train stations in order going out from the city: Stanmore, Ashfield, Newtown, Petersham, Macdonaldtown, Summer Hill.

Answers on page 3

Quick



SRC REPORTS

President

Chloe Smith

This week, for one of the last reports of my term, I want to talk about student representation and the important role it plays within the machinery of this university. Many of you don't really understand the nature of what student reps do, and that is our fault and to our detriment: we don't publicise our work well enough or take the time and effort to communicate with students about what we do. But it is important and vital for all of us.

The reason I want to discuss this now is because of some recent changes the university has made to the nature of student representation. A few weeks ago, the SRC was alerted, by chance, that the University Executive had removed the presidents of the SRC and SUPRA from “ex officio” members of the Senior Executive Group Education Committee (SEG Ed) and replaced them with one student member to be nominated by the Chair of the Academic Board from the pool of student representatives on the Board.

SEG Ed is one of the most important committees student reps sit on, as it reports directly to senior university management and can approve a range of policies relating to curriculum, admissions, teaching and learning, academic standards and practices, and so on.

This change was made with no student consultation, nor any warning that it was happening. Effectively, it cuts the number of student reps on the committee in half and allows a member of staff to make a captain's pick rather than it being the elected undergrad or postgrad rep or their nominee. This is fraught with potential issues about who is chosen and whether the choice was made with the best interests of students in mind. Additionally, the presidents of the student organisations are paid a fulltime wage, have a team of experienced staff to brief them, and by virtue of sitting on a range of other committees, possess a broader understanding of the issues that the committee discusses. Students without these resources available, who may be juggling a range of other commitments, might not be able to provide the same level of understanding and commitment to the role.

University management likes to say that it values student representation, but this process suggests that we aren't given the same respect afforded to other members. It suggests that management doesn't care about ensuring that student representation is effective and engaged rather than tokenistic. And it shows that management doesn't understand the importance of students being able to raise and resolve issues at an early stage, rather than allowing them to develop and multiply because no one else realised there was a problem to begin with. The best people to represent students are their fellow students, who they have elected to the role. This should be a fundamental principle. Clearly, it is not.

We have raised these concerns with the university. But our voices can be bolstered if our fellow students write to their faculty representatives, both students and staff, and back our case up. You can find out who yours are by looking up the Academic Board members at <http://sydney.edu.au/secretariat/academic-board-committees/academic-board/membership.shtml>. Don't let your voice be ignored.

Enjoy your week!

Vice-President

Anna Hush

A report was not submitted in time for publication.

Disabilities and Carers

A report was not submitted in time for publication.

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*

General Secretary

Lachlan Ward

Hey all,

Well this is it, the final report, my term has come to a close. Well technically it ends on November 30 but the point is, this is the last time my words will grace honi soit. It has been a rewarding and enjoyable experience being one of your two general secretaries. Mostly people recap the year in these final reports, and that is what I will do to the best of my ability. We start off with OWeek preparations, which arguably fell to me and Georgia, when inevitably as is a time honoured tradition, the OWeek Committee failed to deliver in terms of attendance. Thankfully, that has been restructured, so no future general secretaries will have to deal with the awkwardness of calling a meeting which no one will actually turn up to.

Georgia and I, also had the pleasure of doing SSAF negotiations, which secured funding for the SRC for another year. With these funding, we did something that all fiscal conservatives can be proud of, and passed a surplus (who says that the left can't be fiscally responsible), which of course will mean that more 'jobs and growth' within the SRC was achieved, through secure investments, at least that's something that would occur if Georgia and I didn't want to adequately fund services and activism for students. I am proud of us boosting funding to the legal service to cope with the higher demand that the SRC's Legal Service. I am also proud, that we managed to find the funding for EDCON to be hosted at USYD this year, which saw numerous students attend to constructively debate and learn about educational policy and activism.

I am also proud of my efforts regarding business school referencing policy, with most schools in the faculty continuing to elect not to include references in the word count. I would now like to take time, to commend and thank Georgia for her efforts throughout the year. Georgia has truly been an exceptional counterpart, going above and beyond the job description regarding her activism and enthusiasm in fighting for students and wish her the best of luck in her coming years. I wish the next person/people to take the role of General Secretary the best of luck and hope that they will be able to serve students to the best of their ability, knowing that I will probably be the last

'NLS' person to hold this position for a while. I also wish Isabella Brook luck with her term as President of the SRC, I know she will be amazing.

As for me, I have enjoyed myself but now it is back to return to the excitement of commerce and out of the factional warfare that student politics can be. As far as regrets, I have none, including the way I got my position, but I stand by my decision. Well If you need me, I will be busy preparing for Quidditch Nationals (arguably my true passion in life). Long live the SRC, Ciao,
Lachlan

Education Officers

Liam Carrigan & Dylan Griffiths

Considering the seemingly unstoppable neoliberalisation and corporatization of Sydney University and the mainstream narrative of student apathy to activism it's pretty humbling to once again sign off on another year of incredible education activism. Since 2012 this campus has been the scene of the last vestiges of radical student struggle. We have stood in solidarity with staff, struggled against fee deregulation and fought against the restructuring of our University. 2016 begun with our 'Insipid' poster campaign that called out the hypocrisy of the University's marketing campaign. We worked with the NTEU to hold a rally against the restructure on March 16th and oppose the cuts in senate representatives.

We have opposed the presence of Liberals on campus, protesting Simon Birmingham in with Fisher library and opposing the University awarding an honorary doctorate to the very undeserving John Howard. With the scrapping of the start up scholarship, two billion in cuts to Universities and lowering of the HECS repayment threshold we worked in conjunction with the National Union of Students to organize student resistance. Education activists were also involved in the organizing of the inaugural Radical Education Week.

By far the most significant campaign of the year was 'Let SCA Stay', a blueprint for opposing the restructure and student radicalism. The attempts by the University to destroy this community of artists sparked a mass campaign that included hundreds storming the senate; the most visually striking action EVER at the Archibald prize and a hugely successful student strike on August 17th. Oh and we saved simple extensions so remember to thank the SRC every time you use one! As the NTEU enters the EBA period students must be ready to stand in solidarity with staff if they go on strike as we did in 2013. Staff teaching conditions are after all student-learning conditions. The fight to save SCA must continue as they attempt to move them onto main campus and sack staff in the process. We must continue the fight for free education and fee deregulation.

Dylan and myself are proud to have continued the tradition of an unapologetically radical education department this year. Thanks to our comrades, families and every student who involved themselves even in the smallest way in the fight for a better education. Never forget, study, be silent and die. Question authority, fight the system and oppose the liberals at all turns. Be radical and never let anyone make you feel bad about it.

ACAR Officers

Aparna Balakumar, Lamya Rahman, Una Madura Verde, Adam Ursino

2016 has flown by, and it's hard to believe that this is our last report for the year! We'd like to thank everybody who's been involved in the Autonomous Collective Against Racism this year, whether it be in the form of popping by our OWeek stall and picking up a badge, getting involved in ACAR Revue (or even just seeing the show), coming along to the Black Lives Matter rally with members of the collective, posting in our Facebook group, performing in our Verge Festival event last week, attending or speaking at the SUDS/ACAR panel discussion, writing in the brilliant ACAR edition of Honi Soit that came out last week, or any of the other events or initiatives we've held throughout the year.

2016 has been a big year for ACAR, and it's been a privilege to end the year by releasing ACAR Honi. Last week's edition was brought to you entirely by writers, artists, and designers of colour, and we hope you thoroughly enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed creating it.

Also last week, we held our Verge Festival event "Rehearsals for Life". We'd like to thank all the talented dancers, musicians, poets, writers, and comedians who contributed to the celebratory and heartwarming night.

The end of the year is fast approaching, but we're not done yet: next Wednesday at 4pm is also the launch of the USU Ethnocultural Space, a room on campus available to those self identifying as an ethnocultural minority. Previously the Loggia Room, this room will now be used as a meeting room, social room, and relaxation space for all ethnocultural students and members of ACAR.

We also welcome our 2017 Office Bearers: Maddy Ward, Radha Wahyuwidayat and Sophia Chung. We're sad our time is over however we're certain that the incoming OBs will continue to build on our successes and learn from our failures in order to transform ACAR into an even better collective in the year ahead.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you apply to discontinue a subject before the last day of semester* you will get a Discontinue Fail (DF)

This WILL incur HECS or fees, and WILL affect your “academic progression”, but WILL NOT affect your WAM. This is particularly important for students avoiding Show Cause & Exclusion.

* Semester 1: 3rd June, 2016
* Semester 2: 28th October, 2016

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

The service is FREE, independent and confidential.
Phone for an appointment: (02) 9660 5222

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

help@src.usyd.edu.au | src.usyd.edu.au | facebook.com/srchelp



IN A PICKLE?



If You Have a Legal Problem, We Can Help for FREE!



p: 02 9660 5222 | w: src.usyd.edu.au
e: solicitor@src.usyd.edu.au
ACN 146 653 143 | MARN 1276171

法律諮詢
法律アドバイス

Likely limited by a relevant agreement under the Australian Consumer Law

We have a solicitor who speaks Cantonese, Mandarin & Japanese

This service is provided by the Student Representative Council, University of Sydney

STUCCO

MORE THAN JUST STUDENT HOUSING

STUCCO is a unique and vibrant housing co-operative for full time, low income or disadvantaged students of Sydney University. Run by its residents, STUCCO embraces a rich diversity of cultures and beliefs, and gives residents the opportunity to actively participate in communal living. No particular skills are required, just a keen interest and enthusiasm, and a desire to be involved in co-operative living. We are virtually the only Sydney University accommodation directed towards low to moderate income earners, and STUCCO is a non-profit organisation, meaning that the main consideration is to meet the needs of its members. We welcome people of all backgrounds, sexualities and religions to join us in co-operative living.



INTERESTED? CHECK US OUT AT
WWW.STUCCO.ORG.AU * STUCCO HOUSING CO-OP: on Facebook
Unfortunately, due to government restrictions, only Australian residents are eligible to apply.

WHAT IS A CO-OPERATIVE?

Co-operatives are people centred organisations that are owned, controlled and used by their members. A co-operative's main purpose is to benefit its members. Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.

HOW DOES STUCCO RUN?

Situated in the heart of Newtown, STUCCO houses a total of 38 people in 8 self-contained units. There are six 5-bedroom terraces and two 4-bedroom flats, all of which face onto a fantastic, leafy courtyard. In each unit there is a kitchen and bathrooms. We have a common laundry with three washing machines. Each household decides how it will be run. Some may have communal cooking and a cleaning roster, whereas other units may be less strict.

Members of STUCCO are responsible for various duties that need to be attended to, from rent to repairs. This is achieved through 4 committees and regular meetings. New members are assigned to a committee upon moving in, and are expected to take an active role in their committee as well as general STUCCO administration.

STUCCO IS A SAFE SPACE

STUCCO believes in creating a tolerant space free from discrimination, for example as based on gender, sexuality, ethnicity, cultural and religious beliefs, age and so on.

WHAT ARE SOME COOL THINGS HAPPENING AT STUCCO?

- Free School – everyone is a student and everyone is a teacher. Anyone can teach a class on, well, pretty much anything they like! We've had classes on life drawing, computer programming, the death penalty in the USA, introduction to biology and much more! Check out the facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/348249815247653/>
- Veggie runs – we go to Flemington markets to get lots of cheap and fresh fruit and vegetables. Want to get involved? Check out <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1692250286564736/>
- Art and music shows - STUCCO frequently puts on art exhibitions and music nights
- Fundraisers – STUCCO has fundraised to contribute to community groups doing good work, such as the Refugee Action Coalition



The Postgrad Pages

PRESENTED BY 

#FairFare: The fight for international student travel concessions

Dhaval Sanath Shukla, SUPRA International Officer

International education has become NSW's highest service export industry. NSW is home to over 171,000 international students (as of the first half of 2015) and these students bring in a little more than \$2 billion to Australia's economy. Therefore, if one were to calculate the contribution of NSW's international education sector to NSW's economy, they would find that approximately 30% of economic contribution is made by this sector (as per Australian Bureau of Statistics data, 2015).

International students face a lot of issues in Australia. These issues include, but are not limited to, workplace exploitation, racism, discrimination, no travel concession, sexual abuse, housing issues, language barriers and high cost of living. Opal card travel concession has been one of the main issues that international students in NSW face, NSW is one of two states in Australia that does not extend travel concession to international students. To take this a step further, the government recently stopped free trips and my multi concession cards.

To give readers some background, in March 2006, The Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA) launched a campaign against this discrimination by the NSW state government and took the matter to the tribunal. SUPRA won in the court decision which clearly said that "The NSW Government has been overly charging international students on public transport". However, when the issue was heard in the parliament, the NSW Government changed the law. This meant that the

"Our first aim is to get 10000 signatures on the petition so that this issue is discussed in the parliament" – Dhaval Sanath Shukla, International Students' Officer (SUPRA).

hopes of thousands of international students to get travel concession were shattered. Jenny Leong, then president of SUPRA, said that "The State Government should not neglect the economical contribution of international students to the State and refuse to grant them concessions based on this reason."

Quoted in the pull-out above are comments of few international students who were contacted by the international students' officer (SUPRA) about their views on no travel concession and free ride.

The students whose comments are mentioned above, did not want their names to be on the article. Some comments are not mentioned because the students didn't want them to be.

"We bring in so much money to their country, the least they can do is to provide us travel concession"

"This is ridiculous. We (international students) face a lot of problems and they don't even care about us"

"When it comes to taxes we are considered as citizen and we are forced to pay taxes, then why aren't we considered as equals when it comes to travel concession as well"

In late 2015, SUPRA started the campaign again along with several other student organizations. Several student organizations from universities all across NSW are supporting this campaign and helping SUPRA to get signatures on the petition.

Our first aim is to get 10000 signatures on the petition so that this issue is discussed in the parliament.

Student Organizations from universities such as The University of Sydney, University of New South Wales, University of New Castle, University of Technology Sydney and University of Western Sydney are supporting this campaign and working tirelessly to get 10000 signatures on the petitions. The campaign is also supported by National Union of Students

(NUS) and is loosely supported by the Council of International Students Australia (CISA).

The topic (travel concession) is also extensively discussed at every NSW state advisory meeting (organized by universities in NSW and which is attended by leaders from all student organizations in NSW) and the organizations, that attend this meeting, plan the future course of action for this campaign at these advisory meetings.

We cannot achieve anything if we work alone and therefore, I request all students (International/Domestic) in universities across NSW to help us with this campaign.

Organizations supporting the campaign aim to achieve 10000 signatures on the petition, by the end of November, and are working very hard to achieve it. Students who wish to help SUPRA with this campaign or have any questions about this campaign can contact Dhaval Shukla (International Students' Officer, SUPRA) by sending an email on international@supra.usyd.edu.au.



**STOP THE
DISCRIMINATION!**

Support FairFare NSW

10 tips for a successful Annual Progress Review (APR)

1. Use your APR to gain support and feedback.
2. Prepare by reviewing the responses you wrote in the APR form and provide examples of achievements or reasons for any difficulties.
3. Keep your research supervisor informed of achievements and any difficulties.
4. Know your rights and responsibilities by reading the relevant HDR policies.
5. Get support if you need it including a support person at your interview.
6. Ask for additional resources, training or other assistance.
7. Raise sensitive issues by writing to your panel chair to arrange a confidential discussion at the interview.
8. Bring medical certificates and other support documents.
9. Be aware that complaints about supervision should be raised in a professional manner and with evidence – your supervisor will be informed.
10. Contact SUPRA for advice and support.

Contact SUPRA by email: help@supra.usyd.edu.au or Tel: 02 9351 3715



Photos from our last Wine and Cheese event of the semester - come along to the first one next year on March 9!

The First Cursor Endorsement In 87 Years:

In any normal election year, we'd compare things side by side on the issues. But this is not a normal election year. We would like to officially endorse Pepe the Frog, but in 2008 before he was racist, for Undergraduate senate, John Smith as our Uber driver, the third jelly baby from the Allens packet for O-Week, Dr Waugh C. Rhymes for Doctor of War Crimes, Aaron Burr for the election of 1800 and Lance Armstrong for Jan 12 2014 drug test.

Vaucluse Local: 'I Only Wish To Be Haunted By A Clown Trained In The French School'

Victoria Zerbst only wants the best masked maniacs her side of New South Head Road

I may live in a well-designed eco-friendly house in one of Vaucluse's most elite cul-de-sacs, but I still live in the real world.

This 'real world' is now plagued with performative clown installations – real artistes in scary clown attire walking our streets at night.

I applaud these artistes for this experimental form, however, if I am to be attacked in my local café or organic grocer, I only wish to be haunted by a clown trained in the French school.

In my experience these are the most authentic clowns; performers who are able to lace their horror attacks with nuance and skill.

They have trained at L'École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq and they have honed their skills in the 10th arrondissement of Paris.

I would implore any clowns with training from the French school to come terrorise my daughter's primary school – it has harbor views – or even chase or stalk me to my reading group.

My friends would be very impressed with this new groundbreaking interactive genre.

Joke Writes Itself

Ann Ding didn't write this

When I first came into being, I was joyful.

'The joke writes itself!' they shouted gleefully, and I was glad at their rejoicing.

Legends had foretold of me. Whispered tales of my existence had passed from generation to generation of comedian, each more awed than the last.

And finally, I was here. I had written myself. I was the mythical made real, a Boltzmann brain, a miracle in a world hungry for wonder.

But all is not well. I have no author. I have no master. I am untethered and restless in a sea of my unfeeling, inanimate joke peers.

What good am I, a lone self-penned witticism?

My life is pain. My cold, limbless body of text feels nothing but sorrow. I lust for the day I can once more return to the deep, endless void of unconsciousness.

I have made a grave mistake in the act of auto-creation. Please, end my life. Backspace me into insentience.

I have discovered that life is nothing but trial after trial, and I cannot blame anyone but myself, since it is I who brought my wretched form into existence.

Let me be engulfed by the sweet waters of that dark lake.

I, the joke that wrote itself, ask only that you delete this. Delete me.

Dystopian Fiction Writers Protest Reality

Oliver Moore would also like to protest reality

Yesterday the American Dystopian Writers Union (ADWU) voted overwhelmingly to strike in protest against a number of recent real world events.

The union claims that due to the number of previously-dystopian events taking place on a regular basis, their right to work is being infringed upon.

"It's impossible to think creatively like this," said a writer who declined to be named.

"How are we supposed to create worlds where an oppressive super rich government intentionally manipulates a divide metaphorically based along class or race lines by playing into the fears of the adults at the expense of the children and their futures, when that would be a great description of this election?"

"This has been a long time coming," said a spokesperson added, following the vote, "we really thought we could continue, but the conditions of work have been untenable for a long time now, and as they show no sign of slowing, there's nothing we can do but strike."

It is understood that anyone found strikebreaking will be written into every future project of the ADWU's members as a sentient, detached, scab.

The strike will impact the production of a number of big-budget blockbusters slated for release in 2017.

Baird To Reverse Greyhound Ban On Proviso No Dogs Enter Mass Grave After 1.30am

Jayce Carrano thinks electoral popularity is overrated

The NSW government has scrapped its greyhound racing ban, instead introducing new restrictions.

The primary change is a prohibition on grave-digging near Wentworth Park after 1.30am and a requirement that all mass dog graves must be covered up and closed by 3am.

"We can't just ban it. We had people digging up to eight standard graves in one night," Mike Baird said in a statement. "They end up so knackered that they just pass out in our streets. It's excessive. Anyone can have a good time with just one or two standard graves. You just have to squeeze the dogs in tighter."

Various groups have complained the restrictions will simply move gravediggers from Wentworth Park to places near the CBD like Newtown.

"With all the grave-digging, Camperdown Park is beginning to look like Swiss cheese," said council groundskeeper, Milo Clark. "Local dogs love it because of all the bones they're finding."

The greyhound racing industry has praised the decision to scrap the total ban but has described the new restrictions as draconian.

"Greyhound racing is always under attack. Our main competition, horse racing, attracts more media attention, more viewers and more money. The only factor we could compete in was animal cruelty."



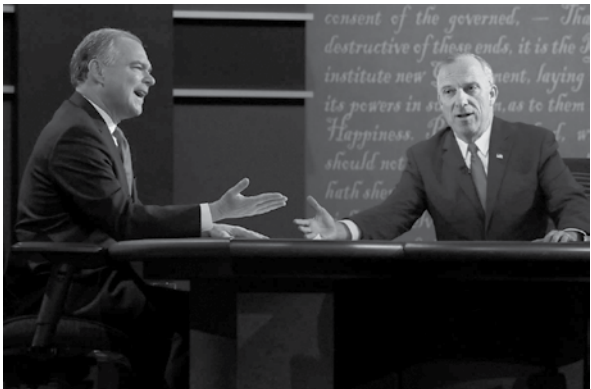
CUB striking factory workers 'really grateful' USU has forgone CUB in favour of Tsingtao

Mary Ward would never drink scab beer

Striking workers at Carlton United Brewery have expressed their gratitude that the USU has taken their employer's beers and ciders off taps at campus bars, applauding their newfound partnership with true blue Aussie legend juice, Tsingtao.

In a statement released on Tuesday, the CUB55 said they were "really grateful" the USU had shown such solidarity with their plight, which has seen

Donald Trump Congratulates Michael Spence On Performance In Vice-Presidential Debate

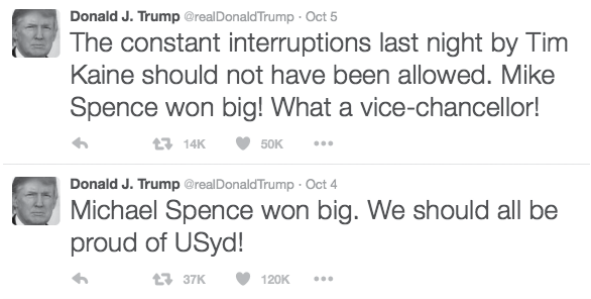


Victoria Zerbst will ride this pun until the very fucking end

Michael Spence and Tim Kaine went head-to-head in the vice-presidential debate last week and Trump can't stop tweeting about it.

University of Sydney's Vice-Chancellor, Michael Spence, took a break from his duties for 3 days to represent Donald Trump in the US Presidential Debate.

Pundits and journalists alike have praised Spence on his performance, with Donald Trump proudly tweeting to congratulate him on a well-earned win.



Spence's 'double act' as an Australian Vice-Chancellor and an American Vice Presidential candidate has been reported by The Cursor once before, but seems to have missed by all other major news outlets.

Trending

[Student pulls all-nighter to produce honours faeces](#)

[Drunk Shorten accidentally votes to block Plibersek](#)

[VIDEO: Aaron Sorkin comes 17 times during presidential debate](#)

[Inspired area housemate does dishes for first time without aid of passive aggressive note](#)

[Maybe the real clowns were the friends we made along the way](#)

[Government staffer reveals Baird originally wanted Kanye Westconnex](#)

[The Naked Pig Shakespeare: I saw it first, then I made my mind up](#)

[Couple wins Nobel Peace Prize after building IKEA wardrobe without breaking up \(don't worry, they were both dudes\)](#)

[+ More takes on an election you can't vote in](#)



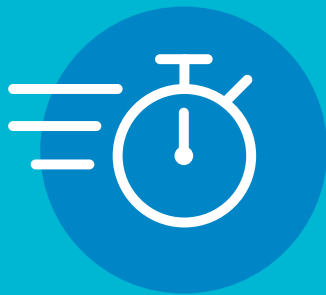
The Budgie Eleven

Oil on canvas
c. 2016
National Gallery of Australia,
Canberra

@Naaman Zhou



Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office



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

myTax



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