

**PRINT
ISN'T
OVER!**

IF YOU WANT IT

Happy reading, from Honi Soit.

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

As I write this editorial, the staff of one of Australia's most influential media companies are mid-way through a week-long, illegal strike, lodged in response to the news that a quarter of *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* journalists will be let go.

It does seem like the end is nigh for print journalism. When Sydney's most prestigious newspaper isn't going to be covering the federal budget, when paid jobs are steadily replaced by desperate, unpaid interns, when it's looking like we may become a one (News Corp) newspaper city; it's hard to argue otherwise.

I think about this a lot. I also think about how *Honi* fits into this cycle; about the role of student media.

Honi is currently in its 88th year of print. We are free. Our advertising revenue has almost entirely dried up. And yet, the SRC continues to spend thousands of dollars to print our paper each week.

I hopelessly like to think that this is worth more than the University's love for old stuff. In my fantasy, the powers that be realise that we exist as a training ground for the next generation of journalists and see that as important. That we foremost exist for our writers.

As editors, the greatest thing we have is 28 pages each week, given to us without a quota of sales or clicks to fill. It means young journalists can practice on our pages, they can experiment, they can see their name in print and feel the excitement that comes with that.

Our content may not always be perfect, professional or polished — although, man, we try — but it is still here, against the odds.

I dedicate this edition to all the journos facing the loss of their jobs, but moreso, the future generations of young journalists who will never get the chance to start their careers should the hostility continue. **MT**

P.S. Support a competitive media industry and pay for your news.

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What's on this week

According to a Union Board candidate



COOL PROV #006: Hardprov
When: Wednesday 10 March, 7pm
Where: Hermann's Bar
Price: Access \$3 | Students \$5 | Adult \$7

Hey, are you heading to the improv at Hermann's? Mind if I walk with you for a little bit. So you're into improv comedy? Me too, I love it when people improvise new things to say. Hey, you know what else I love; do you know about the University of Sydney Union? I'm currently running as a Board Director because I want to see every student get involved in the best student culture in the country! Do you have two minutes, polling booths are just over there ...

Entombed A.D.
When: Wednesday 10 March, 8pm
Where: Manning Bar
Price: \$66.70

Hey, are you heading to the Entombed A.D. gig? Mind if I walk with you for a little bit. So you're into metal music? Me too, sometimes you just gotta let your hair down and rage, right? Hey, you know what else rages; do you know about the University of Sydney Union? I'm currently running as a Board Director because I want to see every student get involved in the best student culture in the country! Do you have two minutes, polling booths are just over there ...

Fan mail

Also shame SA!

Thank you, Joseph Tesoriero, for having the balls to say in public what I've only dared say in private. Such is the oppressive force I feel emanating from the Socialist Alternative. My first interaction with the group was on O-Week, at their tent, where I expressed interest in signing the petition for the fair treatment of refugees. It ended with their representative calling me a 'neo-nazi', for reasons that are still unclear to me. I put it down to my views not aligning 100% with hers. (Gotta say, their recruiting rhetoric is A+). Since this introduction, I've been somewhat terrified of the group; a terror built upon by stories of photo-copying people's names from petitions to add to later ones, or members abusing 'outsiders' who wrong them (so again, Joseph, brave move leaving your name). Whether these claims are true or not isn't really the point here. The point is the matter of SA's reputation. From what I can tell from discussions with other students, it isn't positive. I understand the radical approach to Uni, and the noble history of student protest, but given I'd probably sign the same petitions if presented by a more approachable group, I'm not sure these guys are on the right path to making a difference. They say they fight against oppression, but I'm sure I'm not the only student living in fear of the red fist of the SA.

– S

Dam!

Dear Eds,

It's with exasperation that I reiterate my letter to yourselves dated 2 Sep 2015 where I rebutted the assertion in Amelia Zolt's article that dental dams were ineffective in preventing the transmission of sexually transmitted infections. I note with displeasure that these views were again espoused by Honi Doctor in last week's edition. I also note that this was in fact the spurious work of a guest "doctor", and not the true Honi Doctors, who were on hiatus, and whose knowledge on sexual health I know to be incontrovertible.

I would refer this guest to the Centres for Disease Control fact sheet on barrier contraception, and on STI

prevention in WSW, and the WHO white paper on HIV transmission in prison populations (Jürgens, 2007) (cn: these and later references are primarily academic writings and use gendered terminology).

While not many people use dams while performing oral sex on people who have vaginas, it is not difficult to get (or give) STIs like chlamydia or gonorrhoea or herpes from oral sex (including giving someone genital herpes from a cold sore: HSV-I and -II both cause both oral and genital herpes).

Further, there have been reported cases of HIV transmission (both ways) from oral-vaginal sex (Marmor et al, 1986, Ann Intern Med; Monzon et al, 1987, Lancet; Rich et al, 1993, Clin Infect Dis; Troncoso et al, 1995, Medicina; Hawkins, 2001, Sex Transm Infect).

Dams reduce the risk of these transmissions, just like condoms reduce the risks if a penis is involved. We also know that latex is more or less impervious to viruses (Lytle, 1997, Sex Trans Dis; Weller, 2002, Cochrane), which are pretty much the smallest things you have to worry about. This hasn't been as well studied in dams as in condoms, but it doesn't mean it's not an effect. Think about it - it's a literal barrier. Further, dams are thicker than condoms.

STI checks should be least yearly for sexually active young people, depending on who you and your partners are. I recommend the Sexual Health Clinic at RPA Hospital (it's FREE). More information about safer sex practices and STI prevention and treatment are available from the Sexual Health and Family Planning Alliance, Family Planning NSW, and your GP and pharmacist.

Cheers,

Joel Hillman MSHP RPh, PhD II

No intervention in Syria

Donald Trump, with support from Malcolm Turnbull, has stepped up US imperialist aggression in key hotspots around the world with deadly consequences while escalating the possibility of war.

From Syria, to Yemen, to North

Korea and the South China Sea, the US and its allies are flexing their military muscles.

Trump's firing of 60 cruise missiles into a Syrian air base in retaliation for Bashar al-Assad's use of chemical weapons can only escalate the Syrian war and result in even more civilian casualties. The strike was about restoring the imperialist credibility of the U.S. in the Middle East. It has increased tensions in Syria; increased the likelihood of even more civilians being killed and has done nothing to help the people facing the dictator's onslaught.

Conservative and liberal media have all praised Trump's aggression.

Yet Trump has revealed his complete hypocrisy. Only days before the bombing, Trump played down his opposition to Assad. Now he says that Assad has no role to play in Syria in the long term. However, the bombing doesn't represent a fundamental shift in U.S. policy. The U.S. is quite willing to leave the repressive core of the Assad regime in place.

Australia's ruling class has been complicit in the civilian bloodshed since it joined the US coalition to bomb Syria in 2015. In March this year coalition bombing in Raqqa killed 30 civilians seeking shelter in a school after fleeing ISIS held territory. This is just the latest horror story.

Australian forces had already been helping the US military destroy Iraqi society following the 2003 invasion. As a consequence Iraq is riven by sectarian conflict and has suffered over 1 million dead.

Intervention by the U.S. and its allies has always been about maintaining US influence and strategic gain.

The Assad's regime's use of barrel bombs and chemical weapons against civilians is a continuation of his brutal repression of the popular democracy movement that rose against Assad in 2011. A consistent anti-imperialist, anti-war movement must oppose all imperialist intervention in Syria and oppose the Assad regime.

There is no sense in which the Assad regime is involved in an anti-imperialist struggle against the US - support for Assad is not 'anti-imperialist', but is simply implicit support for a brutal regime against a popular uprising and

support for Russian imperialism.

The left needs to clearly oppose the bombing by the US and Australia. The horror in Syria is the result of two things: (i) the Assad regime's effort to crush the popular revolution against his regime, and (ii) the intervention of rival imperialist powers—Russia, the US, and regional powers like Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

All of these powers want to extend their own influence in the region and are as afraid of a revival of the popular revolt from below as Assad is.

This is why we need an internationalist anti-war movement that rejects Western imperialism without being beholden to dictators or the West's imperial rivals.

We call for:

- Opposition to Trump and Turnbull's imperialist intervention

- and opposition to brutal dictator Assad and his regime.

- The withdrawal of all Australian and US coalition troops from the region.

- An end to the military alliance with the US; and to close all US military bases.

- Solidarity with the popular uprising against Assad

- and to those activists in the Middle East still organising protests against both the regime and other reactionary military forces.

Kelton Muir (NTEU member Usyd, General Staff, Bachelor of Arts, Refugee Rights Officer) and 30 other signatories.

Got mail?

Send your irreverent takes and reverent rants to editors@honisoit.com by 12pm each Friday for publication. Keep it under 300 words and include your name, degree, and year.

Oops...

Aidan Molins did not conflict off the article 'What happens at (faculty) camp' from week 7's edition.

Sydney Film Festival Launch
When: Wednesday 10 March, 6pm
Where: Customs House Library
Price: Free

Hey, are you heading to the Sydney Film Festival Launch? Mind if I walk with you for a little bit. So you're into films? Me too, I heard Festival Director Nashen Moodley is going to showcase the diverse range of films to be premiered at the festival. That's heaps cool. Hey, you know what else is cool; do you know about the University of Sydney Union? I'm currently running as a Board Director because I want to see every student get involved in the best student culture in the country! Do you have two minutes, polling booths are just over there ...

The 2017 Sydney Uni Revue
When: 11th-12th May
Where: Seymour Centre
Price: Access \$15 | Students \$20 | Adult \$25

Hey, are you heading to the Sydney Uni Revue? Mind if I walk with you for a little bit. So you're into student comedy? Me too, I heard this is the best of all the other revues, which are pretty good. Hey, you know what else is pretty good; do you know about the University of Sydney Union? I'm currently running as a Board Director because I want to see every student get involved in the best student culture in the country! Do you have two minutes, polling booths are just over there ...

PoC Revue: RoboPoC
When: 11th-13th May
Where: Seymour Centre
Price: Access \$15 | Students \$18 | Adult \$20

Hey, are you heading to the Person of Colour Revue? Mind if I walk with you for a little bit. So you do Identity Revues? Me too, isn't it just a fantastic initiative to get more comedy on campus? Hey, you know what else is fantastic; do you know about the University of Sydney Union? I'm currently running as a Board Director because I want to see every student get involved in the best student culture in the country! Do you have two minutes, polling booths are just over there ...

Arts faculty late penalty increase delayed

PRANAY JHA

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) has delayed making a decision on a proposed increase to late assessment penalties following discussions at its most recent Faculty Board meeting.

Honi reported on Thursday, April 27 that FASS was considering increasing late penalties from two per cent to five per cent per working day, which would mean students automatically fail assessments handed in more than 10 days late.

However, Students' Representative Council (SRC) General Secretary Daniel Ergas told *Honi*, "After a long discussion, the chair of the meeting took a straw poll which indicated the increase did not have the support required to pass".

According to a University spokesperson, the current penalty is "anomalously low in relation to the practices of other Faculties and is not an effective disincentive for the late submission of work".

They said an increase to five per cent would bring the Faculty in line with "the minimum penalty most commonly applied across the University".

While supporters of the change believe an increase in penalties will assist the organisational habits of students, Ergas claims such arguments are "out of touch with students' actual experiences".

In his opinion, the penalties will disproportionately penalise international students and students from low socioeconomic backgrounds who are most likely to submit assessments late due to external pressures of living costs.

SRC President Isabella Brook shared these sentiments, suggesting the move would target vulnerable students who are "already under immense pressure to meet inordinate living costs and should not be unfairly punished".

Additionally, some academics and student representatives raised implications of more significant late penalties considering reported failures of the current special considerations system.

FASS student representative Max Hall said, "students who ought to receive special consideration but are deterred by a draconian system often rely on minimal FASS late penalties to survive academically".

Although the decision has been pushed back, Ergas claims "the fight isn't over yet ... several staff members indicated their preference to increase the penalty to 10 or 20 per cent and its likely a similar proposal will come up at the next meeting."

At this stage, it is unclear whether the change will be implemented, with the possibility of a vote at the next FASS board meeting on June 9.

USyd awards feminist champion Anne Summers an honorary doctorate

ISABELLE JURUKOVSKI

Renowned feminist and writer Anne Summers was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of Sydney in recognition of her outstanding contributions to society, last Wednesday.

She was awarded the title at a graduation ceremony held in the Great Hall.

Summers has previously been awarded an Office of the Order of Australia for her services to journalism and women as well as honorary doctorates from Flinders University, the University of New South Wales, the University of South Australia and The University of Adelaide.

As the family and friends of graduates filed in and found their seats, a video of accomplished and well-known alumni occupied the big screen ahead, conjuring up memories of USyd's 'Inspired' poster campaign which featured many of the same faces, including Summers'.

Her inclusion amongst these 'visionary' movers of change in society, however, appeared somewhat ironic considering how she, as a student, rallied against the notion of the insti-

tution and its prestige — she told the audience she did not attend her own graduation ceremony as it "was not cool to gown up and front up".

Summers' *Damned Whores and God's Police* (1975) is the first book to be accepted by the University as a PhD.

This was foregrounded throughout her presentation as a landmark achievement, not merely because it was unprecedented but also because Summers was a woman.

Both Summers and Pro-Chancellor Dorothy Hoddinot highlighted that women now make up 57 per cent of students at the University.

Yet Summers was quick to note "that it wasn't always the case", stressing the vast improvements since the 1970s, when Summers and female students and teaching staff were in the minority.

She went on to discuss the "pantheon" of female honorary recipients that have gone before her, emphasising how unpredictable the path beyond University can be and how our lives can "turn out differently from the way we expect".

Summers spoke about her activist days of student protest and politics, of strikes and of establishing groups like the Elsie Women's Refuge, the Sydney Rape Crisis Centre and Refractory Girl, the first women's studies journal.

Summers acknowledged in her address that "the University of Sydney made me". In this way, the speech showcased an alumnus who has dedicated her life's work to pioneering women's rights and whose revolutionary desire for change, which was formed and fostered at University, laid the groundwork for her future pursuits and achievements.

Honorary Doctorates allow the University to celebrate not only particular distinguished alumni but also the special cause or work that they have devoted themselves to.

Awarding Summers this Doctorate signifies the continued relevance and importance of women's issues in Australian society and student life, and highlights the capacity to "be bold" and "have fun" as Anne stated in her speech, still retains urgency.

An open letter: students should not be locked out of Budget Lock-up

HONI SOIT EDITORS



the pre-prepared and accepted political narrative.

Now, rather than having the chance to pick over the Budget first hand and question Treasury officials ourselves on proposals that will directly affect young people, we will be forced to sit on the outside and rely on the coverage of others to tell this story.

Student publications have previously been accredited to attend the federal budget lock up (Woroni attended in 2016; *Honi Soit* in 2014, 2015, and 2016; *Farrago* in 2015 and 2016).

This year, *Honi Soit*, *Farrago* and *Woroni* applied for accreditation and received notice of their rejection on Monday, 1 May.

Is our rejection this year an issue of legitimacy? A concern that, all of a sudden in 2017, we are not capable of accurate, fair and high-calibre reporting?

Or could it be this is a concerted move to avoid scrutiny and criticism from some of the country's youngest journalists, who will continue to reject the accepted narrative and seek to uncover and explain how young people are being targeted by the federal government's higher education policies?

It is an unsettling coincidence that university publications are being excluded in precisely the year that controversial university funding reforms are being announced.

Following today's reports about proposed changes to higher education funding, Bernard Keane wrote for *Crikey*: "What is clear is that next week's budget looms as a continuation of this government's war on young people... This is an economic war on our youth, and one they should never forgive us for."

Given these circumstances, our collective rejection from the event is especially suspect.

This move smacks of a government unwilling to face the scrutiny of young people, a government which does not wish to engage with those who will be directly affected by their policies, and a government which believes it can avoid criticism simply by turning journalists away at the door.

We wholeheartedly condemn the collective rejection of student media organisations from the 2017 Budget Lock-up.

Signed by:

Editors of *Honi Soit*
Editors of *Farrago*
Editors of *Woroni*
Editors of *W'SUP*
Editors of *Opus*
Editors of *ANU Observer*
Editors of *Togatus*

Vice-Chancellor Spence grilled at Academic Board

SIOBHAN RYAN

Students questioned Vice Chancellor Michael Spence about how the University will respond to huge cuts to university funding in the 2017 Federal Budget at a meeting of the Academic Board on Tuesday, May 2.

The proposed changes will increase the cost of most degrees and force students to pay back their HECS debt earlier as the repayment threshold is lowered to \$42,000 annually.

The day before the meeting, Education Minister Simon Birmingham attacked the salaries of university vice chancellors, of which Spence's is the highest.

According to the Australian Financial Review, Spence receives \$1,385,000 per year, which is more than the salaries of the prime minister, most senior public servants, and the United Kingdom's best remunerated vice chancellor, Oxford University's Louise Richardson.

The main points Spence empha-

ty's Louise Richardson.

When *Honi* asked if the University would consider directing funds from salaries to mitigate the effects of the cuts on students, Spence said, "the University has a contractual obligation to its staff to pay them" what they have been promised, but that "certainly we will be looking at what we need to do to mitigate the effects on students".

He also said the story about his pay "was directly fed from the minister's office to the press" to create a "smokescreen" for Birmingham's cuts.

Of course, this was itself an attempt to throw the focus back onto Birmingham's cuts just as Birmingham had tried to deflect from them — the facts remain that Spence is paid a large salary and that Birmingham is proposing huge cuts to higher education.

The main points Spence empha-

sised throughout the meeting were the impact of cost of living on students and that "Anything that costs students more without benefitting universities is in principle [bad] policy".

Honi also asked if he thought lowering the HECS repayment threshold would worsen the hardships already faced by low-SES students as a result of the high cost of living in Sydney. He responded, "I think beginning to repay at \$42,000 is too soon".

He raised particular concerns for students he described as being in a "poverty trap ... where they don't qualify for financial assistance but for whom life is still really difficult".

Yet Spence did not specify what he believed would be a reasonable level of income for graduates to begin repaying their loans.

In much the same way, Universities Australia and the Group of Eight

have criticised funding cuts, while remaining largely silent on the repayment threshold, which will hurt students most.

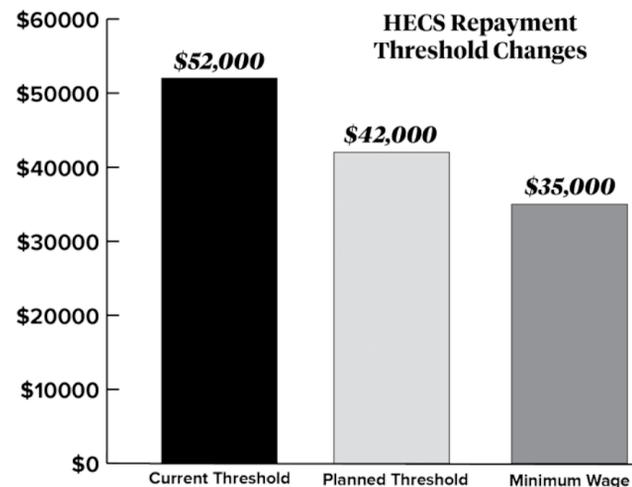
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences representative Georgia Mantle asked whether the University would look into increasing scholarships and bursaries for students to mitigate the increased financial burden, as it had said it would if fee deregulation was introduced.

In response, Spence said, "the University will be worse-off financially under this budget," unlike under fee deregulation.

He said earlier in the meeting, "Our more disadvantaged students would have been better off" under fee deregulation because it would have, in some dubious logic, have provided more money for scholarships.

Uni funding cut, fees to increase under new plan

NATASSIA CHRYSANTHOS



The government will reduce university funding by \$2.8 billion in the 2017 federal budget, with students picking up part of the financial burden.

Increased course fees and a lowering of the HELP (Higher Education Loan Program) repayment threshold form part of Education Minister Simon Birmingham's higher education reform package.

Universities will be subject to an efficiency dividend — which is an annual reduction in resources — of 2.5 per cent over 2018 and 2019.

The cost of the cuts will be partially paid for by students, with course fees set to increase and the HELP repayment threshold to be reduced from \$55,000 to \$42,000 as of July 2018.

While initial reports speculated that university fees would rise by 25 per cent, it is projected that by 2021 fees will have risen by 7.5 per cent. Next year, fees will increase by 1.8 per cent.

The news that students will bear an increased financial burden has been poorly received on university campuses.

University of Sydney Students' Representative Council (SRC) President Isabella Brook told *Honi* that the increase in fees and lowering of the HECS repayment threshold amounted to a "cruel attack" which would "have a profound impact on students, especially disadvantaged students."

"The proposed funding cuts to our university sector is a move towards an American style university system which is not something we should be aiming to mimic," Brook said. "The SRC will be taking action against the budget, joining students across the country in a National Day of Action on May 17 at UNSW."

"The Liberals have \$50 billion for corporate tax cuts, but nothing for education," said April Holcombe,

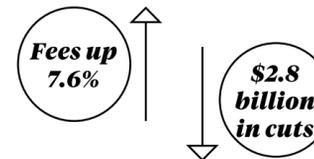
SRC co-Education Officer.

Several students expressed considerable frustration at the proposed changes.

"I'm already halfway through a five-year degree, there's no changing that now. If I'd known the exorbitant cost earlier I probably would have chosen a shorter degree and taken masters in a country where education is free, like Germany," said Anna Rushmer, a third year Journalism student at UTS.

According to Ava McConnell, a first year International Studies student at USyd, "the increases feel particularly unfair because they don't come with an increase in the value or the quality of our degree, so the fees just become more difficult for students to pay back".

"Even if you forget about the ethics of making it harder for poorer kids to get into Uni and look at it simply from an economic standpoint, someone with a Bachelor's degree is an enormous return on education investment," said Justin Shaw, a second year Bachelor of Science (Advanced) student at UNSW. "It makes no sense for a government that talks about 'jobs and growth' to do this, especially while essentially giving Adani \$1 billion for free."



The government will justify the fresh wave of cuts in light of a recent Deloitte Access Economics study, which it commissioned. Based on data from 17 Universities, the study found that existing funding for most university degrees sufficiently covers, if not exceeds, the degree's cost.

For example, the study found that

one year of government funding for an engineering degree totalled \$26,623, while the course's average delivery costs were \$22,514. Similarly, one year of education study receives \$16,793 in funding but costs \$13,845 to deliver on average.

The two notable exceptions were degrees in dentistry and veterinary science, which are particularly expensive to teach. *Fairfax Media* reported that the government intends to provide additional funding for these degrees to compensate for the discrepancy.

Currently, a year of veterinary studies is funded at \$32,912 per student, while it costs \$51,305 to deliver. One year of dentistry receives the same funding, but costs \$42,799.

According to the Deloitte report, universities' revenue increased by 15 per cent on average between 2010 and 2015, while the cost of course delivery increased by 9.5 per cent. On average, universities recorded a profit margin of 5.3 per cent in 2015. The University of Sydney listed a surplus of \$157 million in that year.

A statement from Universities Australia noted that the Deloitte report "only examines the costs of teaching — and does not take account of the costs on universities to meet their other legislative obligations to conduct research, maintain buildings and support their local communities."

According to USyd's annual report, the majority of its surplus amount is quarantined and cannot be spent. This is because it is attached to specific philanthropic, research or investment grants.

The University listed its 2015 operating surplus — money that can be spent on day-to-day operations — at \$6 million. In 2014, it recorded an operating deficit of \$6 million. The University's 2016 report is not yet available.

If passed, the government's changes will take effect from 2018.

In Good Faith

EDWARD FURST / How religion and practicing faith are brought to life on campus

Mounted on the top of each domed parapet of the Macleay Museum and glinting in the dull afternoon sun is a Christian cross, overlooking the stream of students on Science Road below and gradually forming a silhouette against the fading sky behind it. They seem out of place, rare symbols of religiosity in a deliberately secular institution. Nonetheless, religion has always been present on campus, and in modern times has become far more diverse and student-led. For many students, religion forms a large part of their university life and influences their study, friendships, and broader experiences.

Owen Robson, a fifth year science and arts student and President of the Evangelical Union, says his faith forms a part of everything he does, whether studying, working, hanging out, or even watching Netflix. In terms of forming friendships, he says “being a Christian doesn’t change who you’re friends with ... The big thing for me at least is letting people know I’m a Christian. It’s who I am, and so it’s important that people I meet and become friends with know that, though at times it can feel weird to share”. When it comes to study, Owen says being Christian gives him two things: assurance and perspective. “I know that whatever happens at uni, whether I ace an essay or flunk an exam, I have assurance that Jesus has died for me, and was risen back to life, and this has granted me an eternal relationship with God.”

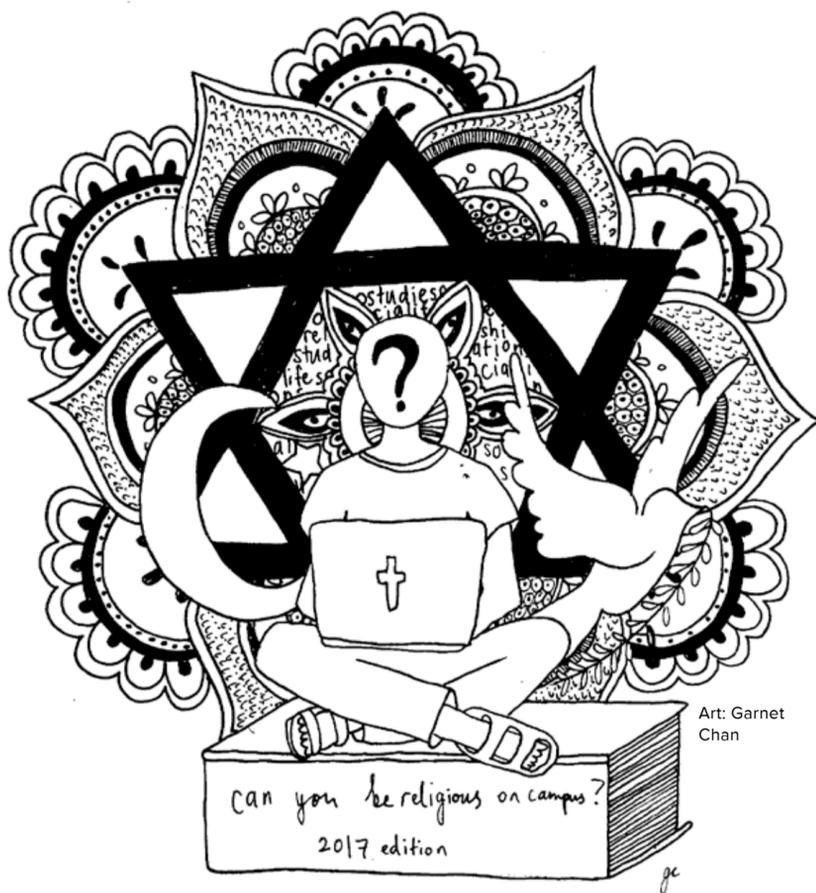
Second year commerce student Mariessa also points to the positive impact of religion in dealing with study-related stress. Mariessa is Vice Presi-

‘University study in subjects like physics has only confirmed my faith. As I look at the balance of the universe, how can I not say there’s a creator?’

dent of the University of Sydney Union’s (USU) Buddhist society Unibodhi, and says the weekly meditation classes and Dharma talks they run help tremendously. More generally, Buddhist principles make her more resilient and able to cope with life’s hardships, she believes. “I think meditating on a daily basis helps me to ease my mind and to understand that our study and exams are a process and not just a race or accolade collection of HDs.”

For second year International and Global Studies student and practising Muslim Aleena, her experience of religion at university has been complex. On the whole, her religion remains a fairly private issue that most people are respectful and tolerant towards. “I have never experienced open hostility myself or discrimination because of my religion, but at the same time I am aware that there are those who are hostile and are going to make their message heard.” Last year, the Islamic Prayer room in the Old Teacher’s College was vandalised and anti-Islamic flyers were left behind. But Aleena prefers to focus on the positives, which for her is the predominant acceptance of her religion on campus.

Owen agrees, saying university is generally a positive environment for someone of faith. He finds conversations with other students are usually helpful and encouraging despite Christians sometimes holding different views from others, though he acknowledges this is not always the case for other religions. “There’s been some anti-Semitic and anti-Islam behaviour on campus, as well as across the country, which is just so rubbish”, he says. “It’s places like universities, with their diverse range of social, religious, economic and ethnic



Art: Garnet Chan

backgrounds that are so great for good dialogue and discussion ... we pray that they too can experience the same kind of experience that I’ve had”.

Religion’s ambiguous role in the University’s early days resulted in a sense of distance between main religious bodies and the University itself, and this distance remains in the present. Chris Wilks, secretary of the Catholic Society, is aware that his opinions as a Catholic will often be counter to those of his peers and teachers. In tutorials, he believes, “debates can only be held within certain theoretical parameters and if you stray too far outside those boundaries, you will usually be collectively talked down. That is not to say every class is hostile but more, to adapt the Orwellian phrase, the attitude of ‘all ideas are equal, but some are more equal than others’ permeates most classes”.

Last year, the USU nearly deregistered the Evangelical Union because of requirements placed on executives to be practicing members of the Christian Church. Some, including Chris, saw this as a demonstration of the often antagonistic views held by student politicians towards religious societies, particularly Christian groups.

Isabella, a fourth year International and Global Studies student, and one of the Vice Presidents of the Evangelical Union, comments on a similar trend. “There’s this incredible shift that’s occurring towards more tolerance, ensuring minorities are not discriminated against, encouraging people to have their own opinions, and promoting diversity among students. I think this is a great thing, and there are some real changes happening on campus to help those who have historically felt marginalised ... But there’s also a strange sense that we haven’t quite worked out the place of religion in [our] current social environment.” Despite the University sup-

porting a drive towards greater tolerance and diversity, she says it can feel as though “Christianity and Christians haven’t been invited along for the ride ... Which isn’t to say that the university environment is hostile. More that it’s a challenging place to navigate as a religious person”.

On one point everyone is unanimous; “University

‘[In tutorials] debates can only be held within certain theoretical parameters... the attitude of ‘all ideas are equal, but some are more equal than others’ permeates most classes’

has certainly reinforced my faith,” Chris says, “particularly by being involved at Cathsoc. By being exposed to an environment where your beliefs are in the minority, it has led to me becoming more active in my faith life”. Isabella agrees, saying university has made a big impact on her faith. “It has strengthened my faith and helped me to fill in blanks and be more certain of what I believe in and why I believe it.” Owen, speaking about the view of some that logical thinking and faith are opposed, says, “University study in subjects like physics has only confirmed my faith. As I look at the balance of the universe, how can I not say there’s a creator?” Aleena summarises these positions, saying, “University can present a number of challenges when it comes to being religious, but at the end of the day my time here has been very positive and university has allowed my faith to grow and develop more than ever before in my life”. **HS**

The storyteller’s tale

CAMERON GOOLEY / *Honi* talks to journalist David Leser about fake news, the death of print, and the future of journalism

It’s Pauline Hanson, Xena the Warrior Princess, Alan Jones, Germaine Greer, and Tenzin Gyatso — the 14th Dalai Lama — make for a diverse list of personalities. If I hadn’t just spent hours researching this article, I would have no clue as to what they could all have in common. They certainly don’t share similar views in regards to politics; one member isn’t even a real person.

What connects these personalities to each other are not their stories, but who has told them. A storyteller who travelled to Greer’s quaint English cottage and had his gift of French jam sneered at. A storyteller who, in a bamboozling turn of events, dined at Hanson’s home with her family. A storyteller whose name probably still makes Alan Jones’ face turn plum.

This storyteller’s name is David Leser — one of Australia’s most famous profile journalists.

David Leser was born with big shoes to fill. His father, Bernard Leser, was the founder of Australian Vogue, former managing director of Conde Nast, and former President of Conde Nast International. He was a publishing juggernaut, so influential to the Australian media sector that Rupert Murdoch is perhaps the only equivalent in Bernard’s profession to surpass his renown.

It was, in fact, through these two juggernauts that Leser managed to snag his first job as a journalist. Upon graduating from Macquarie University he landed a cadetship at the Daily Telegraph, which occurred, in his words, “through shameless nepotism.” Murdoch owed his father a favour: his eldest daughter, Prudence, was given a job at British Vogue by Leser’s father.

“I had a lot to live up to, and a lot to live down because of how I got the job,” he tells me over the phone. He is speaking to me from Perth, where a three hour time difference and an all day workshop separate us.

He is modest about his achievements, and it’s hard to fault him for taking a helping hand in an industry built on connections. He has worked tirelessly to prove himself, and travelled half the world in search of moving stories to tell.

I ask him how many different publications he has worked at.

“The Daily Telegraph, The Time Picayun in New Orleans, The Springfield Daily News in Massachusetts, The South China Morning Post in Hong Kong, The Australian, HQ Magazine, The Bulletin, Good Weekend, Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, Australian Woman’s Weekly, News Week, European Vanity Fair ... I’ve never done this count before,” he laughs. “How many is that?”

As impressive as this list is, Leser has also served as a Jerusalem correspondent and a correspondent to Washington D.C, is a four times Walkley Award

finalist and one time winner for his 1998 profile of Alan Jones.

I’m particularly interested in this piece. It was famously savage. Jones had always been a very powerful and very private man. For a long time during the development of the story, he was also very uncooperative, refusing to be interviewed until he realised the piece would run to print regardless of his participation, or lack thereof. Leser describes his interview with Jones as a “bracing five hours”. Fair. I can’t imagine that a five hour interview, in which one had to ask Jones about public indecency in a men’s bathroom in London and his role in an international child abduction, would be particularly pleasant.

“But you know, I did get tea and scones so that was quite nice,” he adds.

...
‘I think stories will never die. The need for stories will never ever die’

Journalism has fundamentally shifted since Leser’s early years.

Although he cites the move of journalist resources from archives with librarians, and the impact of the 24 hour news cycle on the relevance of print newspapers as major changes, for Leser it is the intangible and ideological power of the Internet that has proved the most shocking.

“We were more or less all relating to the same conversation, and that’s completely gone now. There are millions of different conversations taking place, and that kind of refers to the whole fake news argument because we’ve entered this stage now where you can call, as the President of the United States does, august newspapers such as the Washington Post and the New York Times peddlers of fake news,” he says in disbelief. “I mean that is the most dramatic change that I have seen.”

With his background in US journalism, it’s easy to see how astounding this must be for Leser. He’s worked extensively in Louisiana and Massachusetts, as well as Washington, D.C.

“Of course papers have got it wrong in the past and were perhaps too arrogant, or missed stories. But this idea that they would deliberately go out and peddle fake news is just a preposterous idea, and it’s just something so new in the world of journalism that every journalist now has to grapple with,” says Leser.

“It’s this complete disbelief that kicks over into animosity and hatred, in the case of Trump’s base support, for the media.”

Much of the difficulty for journalists working in

today’s interactive media involves dealing with trolls and doxxing, which is becoming an increasingly serious threat to the physical and mental well being of writers. One only needs to skim the facebook profiles of Clementine Ford or Waleed Aly to see evidence of the abuse high profile journalists receive on a regular basis.

“To me, journalism was one of the last fun industries. At its best you got to meet extraordinary people, write about extraordinary things, go to extraordinary places. And ... this is becoming less possible, even if you have a job,” Leser tells me.

He’s right — I look at contemporary depictions of journalists in films such as Spotlight and I see a fantasy.

“What is the toughest challenge facing young journalists today?” I ask.

He replies almost instantly, as if the answer is pure instinct by this point.

“Getting a job. Getting paid.” Having been in that position myself, it’s reassuring to hear that acknowledgment. Prancing from unpaid internship to unpaid internship doesn’t pay rent, no matter how impressive the ABC, Vogue, or the Sydney Morning Herald may look on a CV. Experience doesn’t put food in your mouth and validation feels (literally) cheap without reimbursement.

The journalism industry is in dire need of change. The current cuts at Fairfax and resulting strike are part of a wake up call that is desperately needed.

“The collective memory of Fairfax is basically gone,” he says.

Leser feels pity even for young journalists who do find jobs.

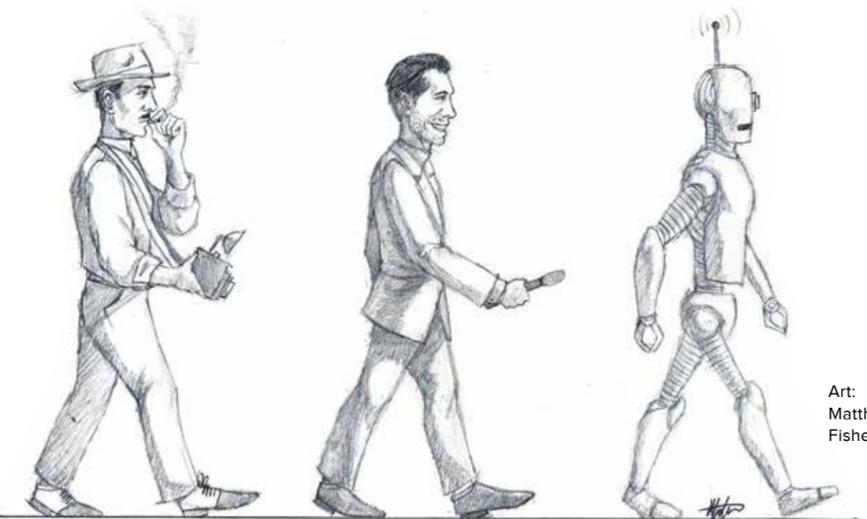
“When I was a young reporter ... we’d have to write three or four stories a day, and that was demanding enough writing to deadline. Now you’ve got to write the story, post on facebook, tweet, put a video up, upload an updated version later in the day ... you are never off! It’s this 24/7 hyperconnectivity. And all these cuts have made it exhausting for journalists to do their jobs.”

I have one final question: “Is print dead?” I ask.

He pauses briefly before replying. “In twenty years time there will be virtually no newspapers left in the world. There might be a couple, some lovely quaint heritage ones that some rich benefactor may decide to run at a loss.”

However, he isn’t as negative about journalism. “I think stories will never die. The need for stories will never ever die.”

And he’s right. Whether it’s in print, online, spoken through a podcast, or streamed via YouTube, there will always be stories to tell — and storytellers to tell them. **HS**



Art: Matthew Fisher

Sex, hugs, and baring soul

IVY GREENE / Men's health isn't just a magazine

Roughly one in six Australian men (15.6%) have sought out the services of a sex worker. Naturally, it means I see a lot of men in my day job. The majority of what I do is a mutually agreed upon exchange of money in return for a service — this is usually a sexual service of some kind, but clients are often seeking other things as well, like the feeling of intimacy, and conversation that makes them feel heard.

Almost every client I have is kind, considerate, and has an interesting story. Their reasons for seeking out my time are varied, but I am often struck by the thought that they might benefit from therapy. This has nothing to do with the fact that they seek out paid sex; in a perfect world, paid sexual

services would be available to anyone of any gender or ability, and without any shame or judgement. However, it has everything to do with the way my clients interact with other people, and how they've been socialised to show emotion. This is the consequence of toxic masculinity: men feel unable to express their sexual desires to their partner out of shame or embarrassment, and as a result, seek out sexual or emotional release in secret. The inability to communicate what they're feeling to the people in their lives takes a severe emotional toll, and some men develop an unhealthy habit of seeking out services to escape from the real world.

Women are much more likely than men to uti-

lise services for mental illness (41% and 28% respectively) because society treats women's emotions differently to men. Commonly, men feel that they will be judged as weak for seeking help with their mental health. Women are also more likely to seek social support, employ more effective coping strategies, and are less likely to engage in high risk practices than men. Men who feel like they have to hide away their emotions, on the other hand, often turn to high risk behaviours as a coping mechanism and an escape. In particular, men who have paid for sex are more likely than other men to smoke, to drink more alcohol and to engage in unsafe sexual practices, like not using protection, that have resulted in an STI. This is not a suggestion that sex work is similarly high risk, but rather an indication that all of these things are symptomatic of men who have been discouraged from dealing with their emotions in healthy or productive ways.

The problem is not that people are paying for sex; the problem is that my clients will happily pay \$600 an hour for me to listen to them cry about how their wife doesn't listen to them, but will balk at the cost of an hour in therapy working on proactive ways to deal with that issue. For comparatively much less, they could be working on self-development strategies that will likely lead to a better relationship with sex and better mental health in general.

It isn't hard to tell the difference between the clients who are healthily obtaining my services and the ones who are too ashamed or afraid to talk about their issues to anyone except a sex worker. The culture that has built up around shaming sex and emotional vulnerability has trapped men into feeling incapable of communicating their needs and desires to their partners or friends, or knowing where and when to seek professional help. While it might eat into my current clientele, reducing the stigma around mental health can only lead to an improvement in the health of men.



Art:
Maxim
Adams

Thinking outside the box

KATHERINE O'CHEE / How can we be original in academia?

It's Friday night, and I feel a little like Frankenstein assembling together human body parts as I sift through piles of journal articles in darkness, trying to patch together some kind of thesis that could be passed off as 'original thought'. After all, that's a necessary tick-in-the-box if what I'm hoping for is a HD for this English Literature essay.

Miles away from high school, which liked to spoon-feed us information, university treats us like adults who aren't ready to be adults yet. We're told that our perspectives matter — but only if we back it up with plenty of scholarly evidence.

Maintaining this equilibrium between originality and research — between saying something fresh and saying something persuasive — can be difficult. As Charlie Brookes, a second-year English and History student, observes, "I'm young and impressionable so if I like the way someone has approached a subject, I then find it hard to think outside that approach."

"When you're reading authoritative academic essays, it's easy to forget they aren't actually gospel," he says. "[So] it's about 'finding something you disagree with and asking yourself why.'"

Third-year Media and English student Alisha Brown agrees that it's often "difficult to be original in English because we study texts that have been stripped to the bone with analysis over the centuries." Her media courses, however, offer much more breathing space for original thought: every amendment, social media trend and event that saturates the news cycle gives students the opportunity to

build on academic works.

"Students surprise me all the time," says USyd Marketing lecturer Jeaney Yip. "Which, to me, is a good sign that they are engaging, thinking, reflecting and putting in their best to be original and critical at the same time."

Teachers play the dual role of equipping students with fundamentals as well as nurturing them to challenge the status quo, says Professor Yip.

Just as important, says Professor Alan Fekete of the Information Technologies faculty, is teaching students how to apply the fundamentals to different situations. The emphasis here is on practical originality, rather than academic originality. Third-year Computer Science students, for instance, must complete a project where they solve a real-life problem for a client. Because, like fingerprints, no two clients are the same, originality becomes not just necessary but inevitable.

"A big part of it is trying to get across very clearly the message that computing can't just be following a recipe," Professor Fekete says.

But second-year Computer Science student Dawei doesn't believe this message comes through effectively enough, saying that the only time lecturers bring up originality is in relation to plagiarism.

Dawei says that the "pressure to follow a guide" restricts his ability to be creative. With over 20 contact hours per week, computer science is one of the most time-consuming degrees at university and he has found self-learning and investing energy in side projects nearly impossible.

"I can attempt to be original but then I'll fail every course," he says. The result: "I just copy what the lecturer says."

To combat this culture of rote learning and prove that there's no such thing as the 'right answer', Professor Fekete constantly updates, reworks and modifies teaching content. For example, the faculty completely rethinks the whole curriculum every few years, changing alongside an industry that constantly demands new kinds of workers and skills.

Still, teaching demands innovative thought even on a smaller, more trivial scale. "You can't just use last year's lecture notes again," Professor Fekete says. "There are new technologies, the examples change a lot, computer costs and capacity are different every year."

Professor Fekete then laughs. "There are these old jokes: [The] professor comes into the room, brings out these yellow lecture notes, blows the dust off and reads them. They're the same notes that was taught when the professor was a student, probably going back to Aristotle... That's just not the way it is."

Although the essence of a subject remains the same, "that essence has to show up in new ways," he says. In originality, we look for 'ah-ha moments' that fundamentally change the way we think, that give us warrant to feel just a little hubristic, and that ultimately empower us to solve unique problems in the wider world.

Kiss my fat wog ass

BIANCA FARMAKIS / Wog politics are more than just Adidas and kebabs

On a recent episode of The Project, TV personality and self-appointed King of Mykonos, Nick Giannopoulos, shed a unique light on the interplay between comedic discourse and racial slurs, discussing the relevance of the term 'wog' in 2017.

Defined in Australia as an immigrant from Southern Europe, the word is bound by semiotic imagery of hotted up cars, Adidas tracksuits and clubbing with your cousins.

As Giannopoulos discussed the use of the phrase in contemporary Australia, Peter Hellier questioned, "What is the status of the word in 2017? Is it still offensive?"

In Australia, the term 'wog' originated as a racial slur, widely diffused following a surge in immigration from Europe post-WWII. Characterised by dark features, accents as thick as their hair and lunches with scents so pungent they permeated back across the Atlantic, 'wog' was the term used to identify and isolate Mediterranean migrants in a divided Australian society.

Since migrating in the 1940s, my Yia Yia and Papou reflect on the term as a phrase they only came to understand was riddled with racist undertones long after the first time they heard it. 'Wog' was just another one of the slew of words they were yet to

comprehend. My parents, however, cite the time 'wog' was used to target people as one of the few negative chapters in their Australian story.

The 1980s, however, marked a shift as 'wogs' became recognised as Caucasian Europeans and the phrase adopted a 'tongue in cheek' connotation in Australian colloquial discourse. That, or Australia found new races to vilify.

To answer Peter Hellier's question, the term 'wog', in contemporary Australia, has fetishised being of Mediterranean descent. But that doesn't make it less offensive or accessible.

The way it has materialised in entertainment has contributed significantly to the lax culture that surrounds the use of the phrase. In rap music, racial slurs targeted toward African cultures have been re-claimed and appropriately used solely by people of that race, but 'wog' didn't take this path. 'Wog' materialised as a punchline at the end of listless, ironic jokes, repeated by a cross-section of cultures. 'Wog boys' and 'Supervogs' alike united to amplify the prejudicial stereotype and reclaim it comedically. Question is: did the joke stop with wogs or not?

The phrase has been used both by me and towards me, mostly in an endearing light. As one of the only ethnic girls in my high school (#northshore-

life), it was almost a badge of honour that amplified my pseudo-exotic edge — the Messina salted caramel white chocolate in a vat of Connoisseur Vanilla. Frankly, the one time I was called a "greasy wog" did nothing but make me reconsider my skincare routine. I wondered though, in the few times friends have called me a wog as an endearing epithet, how well it would go down if I turned around and used 'nip' or 'kike' in the same "friendly" light.

People (mostly white) have rationalised the use of the term by citing the Caucasian race bracket that wogs fall under. It's a European slur that can be claimed by all European people. This fails to remember its racist origins for people who are specifically Mediterranean.

Using the term 'wog' falls in this blurred middle ground. It doesn't bear the same stigmatised use as slurs inclined towards African, Asian and Latino cultures, yet it doesn't hold the same endearing connotations as terms like "Yankee" or "Pommie". 'Wog' faces a complex duality, both as a pejorative in nature as a 'pet' name of sorts.

Either way, you're welcome to wear the track-suits, you're welcome to smash kebabs. But as far as the status of the word in 2017 is concerned, leave the phrase to us.

Emojis and the exploration of ego

ELIJAH FINK / What Kirkegaard can tell us about digital imagery and the self

I've been using Tinder quite a lot lately. I know, how relatable! Who among us has not used Tinder? It's quadruply ironic: first because dating apps are weird, second because we use it anyway because we want to have sex, third because we don't really want to have sex, fourth because it's boring to find this stuff ironic anymore. Well, boring to me, anyway, but I think the sentiment is shared; all of us are disgusted by the clutch of relatable topics that holds us together, that prevent our true feelings from rising to the surface and tearing us to shreds. The memes, the emojis, the stickers, and the GIFs. Who among us has not sent a GIF? But did you feel the whiplash? The sudden pang of emptiness, the subsequent guilt, the guilt of self-negation?

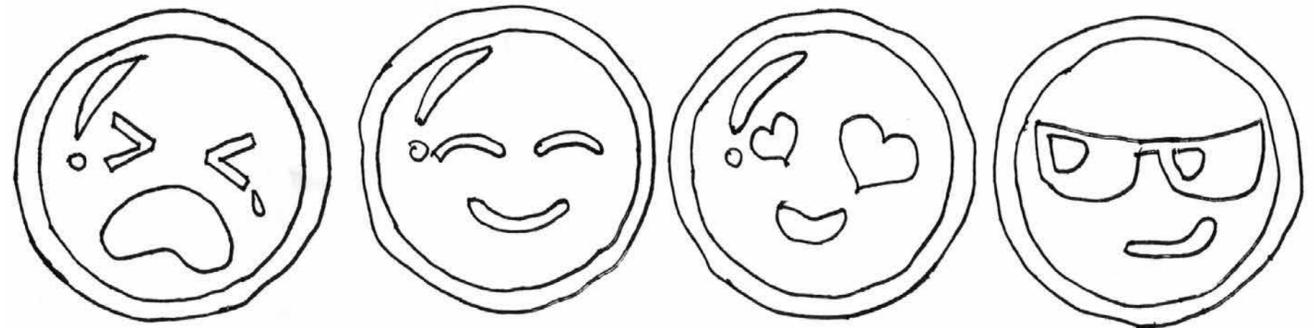
We are alienated from our GIFs, comrades, because they do not belong to us. And this is worrying. Whenever Facebook or Apple redesigns an emoji, there's a moment of panic: How could they get this so wrong? The eyes are too wobbly! You use emojis to express who you are; the fact that something you use for that purpose is entirely under someone else's control is unveiled, and the reality is unbearable. Where does it stop? How far

beyond social media does this go? But perhaps I am too zealous. I can understand the appeal of sending a GIF, drawn from pop culture and selected specifically for its efficacy. It's a sure bet. There's no way you can fuck up, socially speaking, by sending a GIF. Everyone will understand you! It was made by experts, for Christ's sake. There's only a teensy, tiny, price for you to pay: your soul.

See, for Kirkegaard, the self is made of three components. The finite, which means our specific locus in time, space, and possibility, and the infinite, which means everything we can imagine, think, and could possibly be, make up the first two components. At the impossible space between the two is the third: the spirit. The spirit is a synthesis, a becoming, and it can never be pinned down, not even in writing. But Kirkegaard correctly detects a frightening tendency, especially in our times: none of us want to be ourselves. We choose every day to be someone else: to notice almost only our thoughts and to forget our bodies, to think only of who we could be and forget who we really are and just be like everyone else. A GIF is a perfect example of this, one's own violence against the soul, against the true self. I do not exist, I am in fact

a mirage of forms that have united of their own will, my consciousness is an accessory to my existence with no potential and certainly no meaning.

There is a long history behind GIFs, if you think about it. Two twin traditions, Tumblr and the television industry in its reborn Golden Age, iterating and iterating on forms to arrive at increasingly perfect entertainment, simultaneously shaping the subjects they entertain. This is a history that has always been climaxing with its ability to cross bridges and unite people. GIFs bring us together; everyone can understand them. The roots of the jokes of modern TV are in the TV of our parents' generation. We have been trained for this moment. I understand you, I can say, when I receive a GIF. I know what this means. But if we don't do something about this, there's one question that will keep coming back, no matter where we turn or what we say. You'll find yourself in a room with someone, in a bed with someone, in a marriage with someone — with one, singular, annihilating question ringing through your head, as much directed at yourself as anyone else, a modern sun, illuminating omnidirectionally: who are you?



Art: definitely
not Michael Sun



A young journalist talks to other journalists to find out what the fuck is going on and why should we bother with a career in the media

ZOE STOJANOVIC-HILL / Words
JEMIMA WILSON / Art



Sian Powell's career advice is grounded in fact and straight to the point, typical of a journalist:

"Don't do it."
Sian is hard-headed by nature, and far too jaded to indulge in dream-big, feel-good bullshit.

"I know for a fact that there are no jobs for journalists, not the way there used to be," she says.

Sian is a veteran journalist in her 50s; she comes from the age of shorthand, cuttings files and weighty broadsheets coursing with the 'rivers of gold' of classified advertising. She has spent the last thirty years working for *The Sydney Morning Herald* (SMH), *The Australian*, and freelancing in various regions of Asia. Twenty of those years were spent "watching journalism in its death throes". She was not surprised when, in May 2016, she and 29 other Fairfax journalists were made redundant. Sian is a full-time freelancer once again and, needless to say, it's not by choice.

Sian describes the atmosphere in the SMH newsroom during her last stint between 2014 and 2016 as "resigned."

"It would not do to bank on having a job, say next year," she says. "And I didn't."

"Think of another sphere to be interested in," she suggests.

I nod and hope that Sian mistakes my grimace for a deep-in-thought face while I briefly try to act on this advice. I acknowledge that my backup career plans — becoming a playwright, a novelist or a soapbox poet — do not count as viable career options either. I wonder if I'll have a good relationship with the neighbours when my address is No. 1, The Least Prickly and Least Pooped-On Shrub in the Local Park.

Sian's advice makes me wince. It is demoralising to be told that you are hiking along a dead-end career path, but I, along with many journalism students, expect nothing less.

Today's budding journalists were born into a world in which journalism was, ostensibly, already dying. Optimists would argue that the appropriate term is changing. Pessimists would point out that this change is called death. Semantics aside, there is consensus that technological change drained print journalism of its lifeblood, dollar by dollar, by tampering with the newspaper industry's two main sources of revenue: sales and advertising.

The advent of the Internet and the personal computer allowed anyone with the gear and the know-how to dial up and command the attention of former newspaper audiences. Cue the rise of a new class of competitor: the nebulous 'content creator'. The pekiest creators were citizen journalists and news aggregators. In an attempt to reclaim readers stolen by amateur producers of knockoff news, many major newspapers set a dangerous precedent: they handed their core product over to the Internet, for free.

The web also replaced the newspaper as the intermediary between advertiser and audience. Consumers, lured by easy access to an abundance of free information produced by citizen journalists and naive newspapers, went online. Advertisers, lured by easy access to niche markets of consumers, followed. Newspapers are belatedly trying to chase runaway dollars but are finding that paywalls are only somewhat successful when consumers can easily find free news elsewhere.

In 2017 we stand on treacherous territory, according to recent data from PwC Australia. In 2011, Australian newspapers generated \$4.45 billion in revenue; that number dropped to \$3.70 billion by 2015 and is predicted to drop to \$3.06 billion by 2020. Newspapers currently make more money from advertising than from circulation, however advertising revenue is set to decline faster than cir-

ulation revenue from 2016 to 2020, at a rate of -5.0 per cent compared to -1.6 per cent. Digital advertising and circulation revenue is catching up to print, with digital circulation revenue moving faster than digital advertising revenue, mainly because newspapers have already lost a shitload of money in print.

According to an Australian Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA) spokesperson, over 2000 journalist jobs have been cut since 2011, which "represents about a quarter of the total journalism workforce". When the MEAA provided me with this estimate in April it was aware of Fairfax's plan to save \$30 million and New Corp's plan to save \$40 million, but stated, "it is not yet known how many editorial jobs will be lost as a result".

Less than a month later, we are privy to a bloody spectacle: last Wednesday, Fairfax revealed its plans to cut 125 editorial jobs — about one quarter of the newsroom of the SMH, *The Age* and the *Australian Financial Review* — and to pay contributors per article rather than per word. In response, Fairfax staff have initiated a week-long strike, intentionally interfering with the coverage of the federal budget, which is traditionally one of the biggest events in Australian journalism. The strike continues as this paper goes to print.

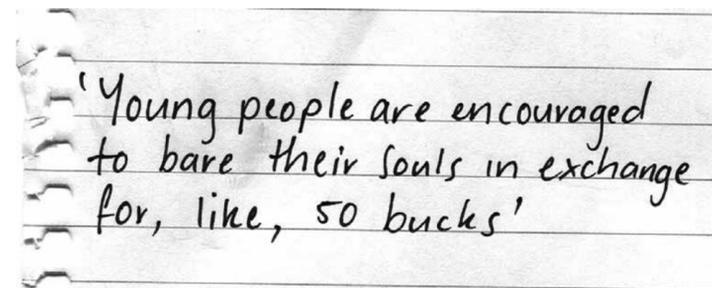
Technological change seems to have created a world in need of, and yet hostile to, journalists. We

does not automatically translate into emotionally intelligent, politically engaged citizens of varied social and cultural backgrounds having a cohesive conversation. Diversity does not enrich public debate when niches talk to niches and nodes talk to nodes. Newspaper readers, constrained by the strong borders of the physical form, would serendipitously stumble across topics and perspectives they may not have naturally gravitated toward. The boundlessness of the Internet, ironically, makes it all too easy for content consumers to build their own personal utopias.

To paraphrase Sian, you won't believe what happens next: "As a result of that you get Donald Trump, the buffoon, running the world's most powerful nation!"

Sian believes that in an ideal world consumers would stride out their comfort zones. But in the real world, few people are willing to brave the wilderness; we would rather stay cocooned in confirmation bias and clickbait.

As the News Desk Editor of the *Guardian Australia*, Mike Ticher is part of the team responsible for balancing what sells with what matters. Data analytics "does lead me into a temptation of running stories that only get a lot of attention," he admits. But, ethics aside, it doesn't



desperately need skilled communicators to hold the powerful accountable by interpreting the glut of information available online. For instance, by stopping the proliferation of disinformation before it is crystallised as 'fake news'. But by transforming journalism into an insecure and comparatively underpaid profession, digitalisation has eroded journalists' capacity to meet this demand.

Aside from unashamedly writing self-indulgent features as a form of therapy, how can young journalists make sense of this mess?

"It's more democratic, it's more egalitarian," Robert Brown*, a News Corp journalist of Sian's generation, dispassionately lists the benefits of the disintegration of newspaper monopolies. "Freedom of expression, that's one area where you can argue things are as good, if not better, now than before." This is how he talks about the democratisation of journalism: 'you can argue'. As if it is an argument he is familiar with but is not entirely convinced by.

Maddison Connaughton, an editor *VICE Australia* roughly 30 years Robert's junior, is more convinced. She argues that popular irritation with the deluge of opinion and analysis articles obscures an exciting aspect of the democratisation of journalism: diversity. "There is a lot of incredible opinion writing and memoir and analysis that is happening by women, by trans people, by women of colour," she says.

"It's opening up who is allowed to give their opinion in the media ... You don't just have to be a 65-year-old white dude with a column in a major newspaper."

However, as Sian observes, the fact of diversity

make sense for The Guardian to embrace 'sex sells' as its guiding principle.

"Our pitch to people is that we are a serious news organisation that is interested in difficult issues," Mike says. Maintaining a high degree of journalistic integrity is a key part of The Guardian's branding. "We've recently moved away from just only thinking about reach," he says. "We're looking for engagement that will make people become members and want to give us money in other ways."

Much like bigotry is the flip side of diversity, exploitation is the flip side of opportunity.

Sian bemoans the folly of the young people who wander into war zones because they are enrapt by "what they see as the glamour of journalism". However, she lays the blame on the media outlets that publish these sorts of stories for exploiting citizen journalists' desperation for recognition and proffering a negligible sum in return. "It doesn't matter if you risk your life ... It doesn't matter if somebody's pointed a gun at you and threatened you with death. It doesn't matter if you walk around giant piles of steaming corpses," Sian says. "You don't get paid any more."

Catherine Bouris is a 23-year-old postgraduate media student who manages a Facebook group in which young Australian writers collectively brainstorm how to not get fucked over by the system. Cathy founded the group in April last year and, at time of writing, the group has 1000 members. It is a grassroots effort to combat a problem associated with the rise of citizen journalism and declining cadetship opportunities.





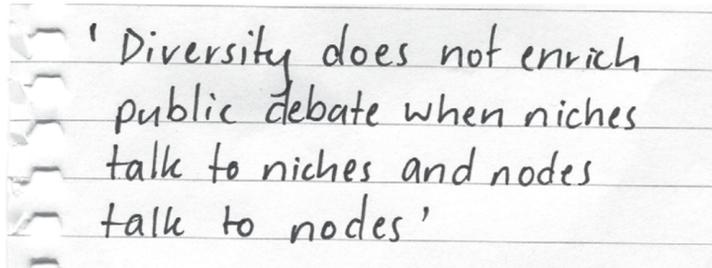
Journalists entering the field through the back door (or the skylight, or the dog flap, or the hidden trapdoor) may be beautiful storytellers; if they are ignorant of media law, their beautiful stories may earn them a criminal record.

Cathy is highly conscious of "knowing what your work is worth" because she snuck into the media industry through one of these side doors.

"When I first got published I didn't realise that bigger outlets can just take what you've written for a smaller one and repost it and you get nothing," she says, describing how News.com.au ripped off

ism is not an appropriate aesthetic for a resume, benefit from having an insulated space in which to vent.

Like spam that keeps knocking on your inbox even after you unsubscribed from the relationship, I am going to tell you what you already know: the very act of conceptualising a 'dream job' is contingent on cultural context and socioeconomic privilege.



her article.

"I only got paid 50 bucks and I was like, 'Can't I get some News Corp money here?' But you don't."

"Young people are encouraged to bare their souls in exchange for, like, 50 bucks," she says about the Internet's insatiable appetite for raw first-person essays.

Cathy finds that rejection stings more when your pitches are personal.

"I kind of wish people talked about their rejections more because then it makes you feel better about your own rejections," Cathy says.

Similarly, group members who have undertaken unpaid internships, upon realising that minimal-

Elly Bradfield, a 25-year-old reporter for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and the Walkley Foundation's Young Journalist of the Year for 2016, came into her current role as Lead Reporter for ABC News Southern Queensland through interning at the ABC — an internship opportunity coveted by many respondents of an Honi survey.

Despite desperately wanting to intern in the Brisbane newsroom, stiff competition prompted Elly to look for work in Toowoomba, a town roughly four hours west of her hometown.

Elly urges aspiring journalists to consider regional reporting. "There are so many opportunities

in regional and because they are so short-staffed you end up doing things that you could never imagine doing in a Brisbane or metro newsroom," she says.

She acknowledges, however, that while it makes sense for an established journalist to relocate for a paying job, it makes less sense for an inexperienced graduate to relocate for an unpaid internship that may or may not lead to a paying job.

"The more skills you have, the more employable you are," Elly advises. As a reporter, she writes, produces and presents her own stories, and works across radio, television, photography, online and social media.

Aspiring journalists can capitalise on elusive opportunities by supplementing a diverse technical skillset with a diverse education. Misha Ketchell, editor of The Conversation, puts it bluntly: "You've got to have a shtick. You've got to have an area of expertise. Start specialising."

By Sian's standards, this article embodies so much of what is wrong about modern journalism.

"New journalists don't know how to write hard news," she says. Sian's attitude to first-person narrative journalism is: "Rack off! You're the journalist, just tell the story and keep yourself out of it!"

For Sian, the story of journalism's 'demise' is a story about losing control. Technology has given us freedom, but Sian asks, at what cost? Freedom is clickbait, circular conversations that spiral into 'fake news,' and vulnerability to exploitation.

The only conclusion I can come to is a cop out. To quote Robert: "I can't think of any simple conclusions about this whole affair." HS

*NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED.



Choose your team: USU Board

The annual hack Christmas that is University of Sydney Union (USU) Board elections has once again descended.

Students have decorated our campus in hundreds of hideous shirts that no one is going to wear in two-weeks time (except ironically, or as pajamas), and are striking up side-walk conversations with strangers using sing-along slogans that make you cringe while they whinge about the state of Union affairs.

But before you declare every campaigner the anti-Christ and apply for a fortnight's worth of special consideration on the grounds of emotional turmoil, consider hearing some of the candidates out.

Whether or not you forked out \$75 for an ACCESS membership, the USU probably plays a part in your Uni experience: they run most of our food outlets, manage spaces like the Wom*n's Room and Queer Room, and put on all our festivals and revues. It has

fought Voluntary Student Unionism and has fought to make pides cheaper.

Honi likes holding people to account, and the candidates running to manage a 23 million dollar organisation should be no exception.

Each candidate this year completed a written quiz (try your luck on Page 24) and interview.

The quiz wasn't easy — the highest score was 73 per cent, a solid credit — but aimed to test the knowledge that a candidate ought to have of the Union they hope to run.

Perhaps the most concerning result was the fact that over half the candidates didn't know that they, as Board Directors, would be jointly and severally liable for the debts and liabilities of the USU as an unincorporated organisation. Not one of the candidates knew all of the retail outlets their Union was managing (and getting a majority of its revenue from) or could name any of the working parties that they could join once on board — not great, since being an active participant

on working parties will form a bulk of their work as a Director.

Voting will take place on May 16-17, with opportunities for pre-polling on May 15.

LOOK OUT FOR THE FULL CANDIDATE INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS ONLINE AT HONISOIT.COM

KEY

- ★ Independent
- Unity
- NLS
- Student Rights
- Drugs/Food/Sex
- SLS
- Switchroots
- ACCESS/Events
- 10/10 policy (y)

Adam Torres | Quiz: 73%

Despite heavy factional involvement, Adam Torres (NLS – Labor left) has led a Stupol career relatively free from controversy and his interview was no different.

If NLS (which binds members to its decisions) compelled Adam to act against his platform, he said he would leave the faction. We suspect there would be a particularly high threshold for unscrupulous behaviour before a student politician would throw away the support base they had built with years in coloured shirts but it's a nice thing to offer.

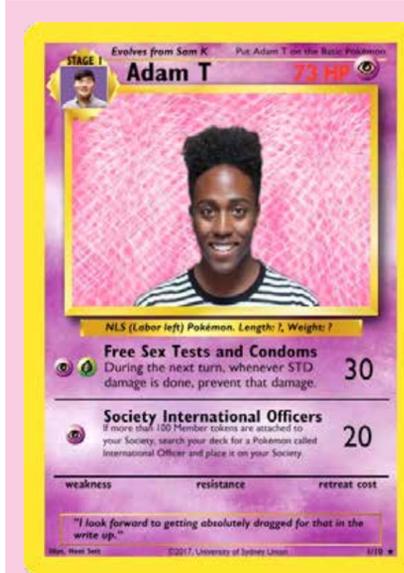
The streak of unsurprising but agreeable answers continued when Adam said that clubs and societies were the USU's most important programs and commended current directors Michael Rees and Shannen Potter.

Adam's inoffensive left-wing politics made it difficult for him to distinguish himself from other progressive candidates. He cited experience as one differentiating factor but this was somewhat questionable when other left-aligned candidates

(Liliana Tai and Catie McMenamini) have had similar USU and SRC involvement.

Adam also suggested his concept for an "accessible" and "relevant" USU was more "cohesive". While those words are synergistic and agile, they seem better suited to a presentation put together by a business consultant on a plane rather than a practical vision for the Union. On this shortcoming, Adam was self-aware: "I look forward to getting absolutely dragged for that in the write up". Never let it be said that Honi doesn't deliver what people want.

One differentiating factor for Adam ended up being his quiz score, which was higher than any other candidate. For those who think candidates should maybe know something about the multi-million dollar organisation they wish to direct, that is a noteworthy achievement.



Zhixian Wang | Quiz: 70%

First and foremost, Zhixian Wang wants to "advocate" for international students. When asked what sets her apart from the other international student candidates, Zhixian proposed that she was "more involved" in campus activities, citing her role as a Students' Representative Council (SRC) International Student officer as an example of this. Based on applications, this is not entirely true. Fellow international student Alex Shu, who she put first out of other candidates she would like to see elected, boasts a longer resume. She is, however, heavily involved in the USU, with experience at Unimates (an international students network) and the V Team.

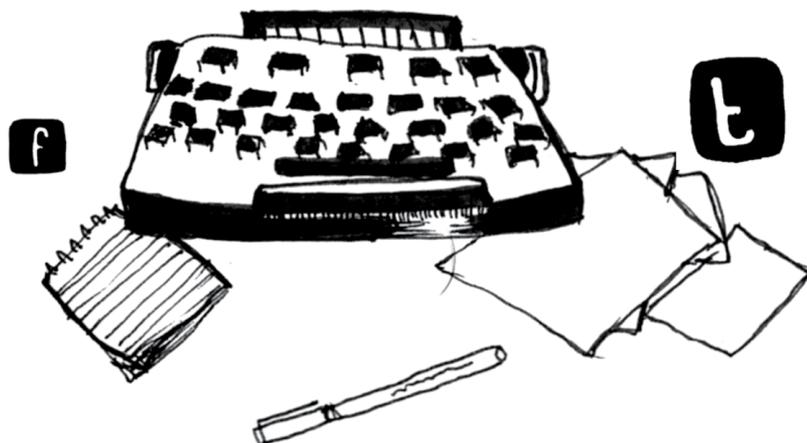
While not a strictly a single issue candidate like her mentor, current board director Yifan Kong, her three non-international student specific policies — cheaper access, \$5 meals and more study spaces — lack originality or viability.

Her policy to translate Honi and Pulp into different languages seemed sincere, but practically difficult, and she conceded that this would only

be possible to do online, aside from one international student special edition. Here it seemed that she was unable to clearly separate her role as an SRC Officer and board director. She speaks more confidently to her policy of introducing an International Students Revue, claiming that 10 international students have already shown interest in getting involved.

As an independent candidate, Zhixian struggles to identify her political position, before settling on "in the middle". Her answers, however, indicate a progressive left ideology; she supports the USU's decision to revoke support for The Red Pill screening, agrees with current affirmative action requirements and controversially, would want to see full transparency for the Board through removing in-camera mechanisms.

Zhixian performed well on the quiz, coming out with the second highest mark. This suggests that, at the very least, she cares enough to do her homework.



Claudia Gulbransen-Diaz | Quiz: 64%

STAGE 1 Evolves from Vanessa S Put Claudia G on the Basic Pokémon
Claudia G 64 HP

Unity (Labor Right) Pokémon. Length: 7, Weight: 7

Events Committee College Rep Search your deck for a Basic Pokémon called College Student and place it onto your USU Events Committee. (if that existed). 5

24h Outlets During Stuvac Select a food and coffee outlet. It cannot close during the Study Vacation phase of your turn. 24

weakness resistance retreat cost

"Well I guess what does differ me and my platform is that I am a college girl."

Claudia Gulbransen-Diaz admitted during her interview that "my biggest flaw here is inexperience", though she outperformed most other candidates on the quiz, coming in third. She seemed unfazed by most of our questions, and demonstrated an above-average understanding of the USU. This could, however, be cynically attributed to thorough campaign preparation from her faction, Student Unity (Labor right).

Her ability to reference USU decisions from well before her time at the University does inspire confidence when compared with some of the other candidates. On the other hand, her clubs and societies experience is mostly limited to membership. She said she would make up for this on board by liaising with club executives; "on a board of 11 people where the collective C&S experience is pretty expansive ... I don't think that my inexperience is going to bring the board down."

Most of Claudia's policies are generic and populist — she wants better parties and food, and an expansion of the USU's app and mental health

initiatives. One policy that stands out is her desire to have college representatives on the USU's events committee because college residents put on events that are marketed well and "attract a huge amount of non-college students as well". This is the main thing setting her apart from the multitude of past candidates who have campaigned on improving the USU's nightlife.

Her policy to improve mental health is also very 'broad appeal'. When asked about the effectiveness of therapy dogs, sleeping pods, ball pits and bubble soccer, she suggested they were important because "when I get stressed the first thing I do is withdraw from other people, so if we put on fun things like that, and can get people to come and be outside" but also conceded, "I would want to put the money somewhere with more substance".

Liliana Tai | Quiz: 58%

STAGE 2 Evolves from Grace F Put Liliana T on the Stage 1 card
Liliana T 58 HP

Debater Pokémon. Length: 7, Weight: 7

Rename Wentworth This attack does 20 damage plus 10 more damage for each Colonial card attached to Defending Pokémon. 20+

Book Cafe This attack does 10 damage times the number of books destroyed by Fisher Library. 10x

weakness resistance retreat cost

"I enjoy going to gigs, but I know a lot of my friends who are more introverted... feel like the broader picture of the USU lacks them out."

If one were to imagine a generic USU Board candidate, there's a good chance they would resemble Liliana Tai. She attended North Sydney Girls High School, which has produced several board directors in recent years, is widely liked in the big societies like debating that comprise her support base and placed fourth in our quiz.

Some of her policies land in that rare spot in the Venn diagram where impact and achievability overlap. A plan for the USU to raise awareness for the University's Study Abroad office makes sense, drawing on Liliana's experience as an adviser with the office and collaboration between the two organisations this year around International Day. Liliana came prepared for her interview, and her answers were thoughtful and considered.

Yet Liliana lacks a clear reason for running. She nominated "inclusivity" as a central value of her campaign, but was one of the only board candidates in recent years to go in to bat for debating — one of the most exclusive and overfunded programs run by the USU. Liliana's suggestion of

a new USU book café to cater to introverted students seems to offer little that a library does not. Despite the declining number of books in those libraries, the University still has a few. Liliana's formal experience on campus consists largely of two positions she held last year: social director of debating and councillor on the Students' Representative Council.

When the two clashed, Liliana prioritised her debating role, preventing her from making it to the end of all but two SRC meetings. She assured us that in a the "smaller... less factionalised" environment on Union board, her "commitment to the USU would be very different".

As the debaters' candidate, Liliana would vote for current board director Grace Franki for the presidency of the USU. For those outside the debaterati, Liliana's potential contribution to Board is less clear.

Jacob Masina | Quiz: 57%

STAGE 1 Evolves from Kerrod G Put Jacob M on the Basic Pokémon
Jacob M 57 HP

Liberator Pokémon. Length: 7, Weight: 7

Improved Welfare You may play a First Aid Trainer or Counselling Trainer for a reduced cost. 30

Board Accountability Union Board must reveal their entire hand unless they are holding Confidential Business Interests. 20

weakness resistance retreat cost

"I don't want to run because I'm a Liberal... I'm running for the student body."

For progressives, Jacob is the most threatening type of conservative candidate. He is approachable, invokes "common sense", and relies on "consultation" at every opportunity. Jacob has been involved in the NSW young Liberals, campaigned for Liberal politicians, and is secretary of USyd's Liberal Club (which is notably absent from his USU candidate CV). Despite this, he is running as an independent, a move he admits will improve his chances. He justified this by saying the USU was about fostering a healthy community and didn't "require political interests".

His desire to diminish factional politics is somewhat admirable. But the reality is that any organisation that prioritises some student interests over others is inherently political.

Jacob insisted he was not campaigning against affirmative action for women but said "it is something [he] would be open towards considering". He added the caveat that it was still important to look at "whether the barriers to entry are too high for women-identifying students".

Jacob criticised the USU's move to stifle a screening of *The Red Pill*, calling that decision "reactionary" and saying he would have opted for more consultation.

He was noncommittal on whether he would agitate against university fee increases, saying he would "consult the student body" after seeing the Budget.

Jacob's actual policies are hardly controversial; they focus on "empowering students" through clubs and societies. Initiatives include funding for on-campus room bookings and a system where points (gained for things like buying coffee or sitting on executives) could be exchanged for items. As an executive of four societies, Jacob would presumably be rolling in "I heart USU" hoodies.

Separating himself from his Liberal roots means Jacob's campaign is likely to be successful. Will the student body remember which government is increasing their fees and lowering their wages and look down on student politicians who associate themselves with that government? We'll see.

Basic Pokémon
Alexander S 53 HP

Loong Pokémon. Length: 7, Weight: 7

ACCESS Expansion This attack does 10 damage plus 10 more damage for each buzzword about how the ACCESS program will be improved. 10+

International Student AA If an international student is not elected to board, flip a coin. If it is heads, elect an international student. If it is tails, flip again until it is heads. 30

weakness resistance retreat cost

"Even though different people represent different parts, everyone's main goal is to improve student life."

Alex Shu, an international student running as an independent, bills himself as the most experienced candidate. Which depending on where you are looking, might be true. With intensive involvement in the University's performing arts scene, the business community and student politics, Alex has positioned himself as a candidate with a vision for the USU and enough experience to identify the key issues within the organisation.

Despite this, he struggled to identify a policy that sets him apart from his fellow candidates. After some prodding from the editors, he identified his policy for an affirmative action requirement which would ensure at least one successful candidate from each USU election to be an international student; to "lead people, promote new ideas".

Outside this, it is unclear how Alex will bring his vision of a more inclusive student body into fruition. In his interview, he failed to communicate how exactly his board aspirations would eventuate with clear, concrete policies. For example, when asked what programs he would cut in order

Alexander Shu | Quiz: 53%

to make room for his more expensive policies — more free access events and developing International Day into a week-long International Festival (which, already exists in Semester Two, by the way) — he blanked.

Despite this, Alex's breadth of USU performing arts experience means he is uniquely situated to reach out to voters involved in drama, revues, and musicals who often face difficulties booking campus spaces for rehearsals and events. To do this, Alex would have the USU utilise spaces like The Refectory, and reach out to University to "promote diverse student culture" by allowing clubs and societies to utilise rooms on campus for rehearsals.

Hengjie Sun | Quiz: 47%

Basic Pokémon
Hengjie S 47 HP

Sun Pokémon. Length: 7, Weight: 7

IS Alumni Networks Search your deck for a Stage 2 Pokémon called International Student Alumnus and put it in your hand. 20

Internship Infrastructure This attack does 10 damage plus 10 more damage for each Unemployed Student. 10+

weakness resistance retreat cost

"I want more local students to join international student clubs and societies to build bridges between two countries."

Hengjie Sun is a relative newcomer to student politics, becoming involved through the Panda ticket that ran unsuccessfully in the Sydney University Chinese Student Association elections last year. His policies focus, though not exclusively, on doing more to engage with international students.

Unlike other candidates whose policies revolve around the USU as a social organisation, Hengjie's plans are mostly for greater service provisions: a language exchange, international student alumni network, and internships are on the list. Hengjie argued that most of the students he had spoken to could not access the USU's current regime of parties and themed weeks, justifying an expansion of the institution's role.

Some of those policies are well thought out. Internships with USU sponsors and within the union's own IT and marketing teams seem feasible — though not particularly different from numerous student roles in the organisation currently. Similarly, encouraging international students to join the USU Alumni and Friends Association to "pro-

vide job consulting" for current students would represent a positive continuation of current President Michael Reese's outreach efforts.

Other policies reflected Hengjie's lack of inexperience. He suggested revitalising the "food quality" of restaurants in Wentworth, seemingly unaware of the potential demolition of that building. In response to a question about affirmative action, he concocted a plan to give international student candidates bonus votes at USU elections to redress "lower participation" among that community. Last year the only international student candidate for Board, Yifan Kong, got the most votes by a country mile. Hengjie placed 7th, scoring less than 50 per cent, on our quiz.

Overall, Hengjie seems well-intentioned but his challenge is to differentiate his candidacy from the international students running on similar platforms.

Caitlin McMenamin | Quiz: 41%

STAGE 1 Evolves from James G Put Caitie M on the Basic Pokémon
Caitie M 41 HP

SLS (Labor Left) Pokémon. Length: 7, Weight: 7

Free Pill-testing Flip a coin. If heads, your pill is tested. If tails, place two Sniffer Dogs at Redfish station. 30

Free Access for Low-SES Place one ACCESS card on every Pokémon called Low-SES Student. 40

weakness resistance retreat cost

"It's very important to have a strong left-wing voice on the board, somebody who is outspoken when it comes to welfare."

When asked why she wants to run, Caitlin didn't hesitate: "it's very important that students have a strong left-wing voice on the board, somebody who is outspoken when it comes to welfare."

Caitlin's tendency to use dichotomous terms like "left-wing" and "progressive" is not surprising given her stupor affiliations: she's a member of the Sydney Labor Students (SLS), one of two Labor-left factions on campus.

However Caitlin, was reasonably compromising when asked how her personal values and factional allegiances would influence her decision-making on board. She didn't hesitate to assure us she wouldn't use a Board Directorship to benefit SLS nor be coerced into voting according to factional opinion. She doesn't think it's the USU's job to pursue ideological goals, but wants to ensure that "progressivism is in the back of its mind" when it comes to decision-making and responding to issues. "It's important for me to recognise the difference between my personal views, what I would do, and then what I would do

as a board director", she explained.

Caitlin's weakness may be her ambitiousness: her extensive policy list ranges from free ACCESS for low-SES students to an open-tender program for all new USU outlets. Some of these border on the unachievable. Her plan to provide free pill-testing kits at Hermann's seems unlikely given that this is something major music festivals have struggled to achieve — she admitted she was "unaware" of any legal barriers that would have to be overcome.

Caitlin's candidacy represents the second straight year that SLS has run a second-year student for board. Caitlin's inexperience was reflected in a poor showing in the quiz: she placed 8th out of the ten candidates.

Nonetheless, Caitlin has a genuine passion for students and their well-being, emphasising the USU's role in ensuring everyone on campus feels comfortable and included in "whatever their thing is". Whether this passion will translate into tangible outcomes remains to be seen.

Erika Salmon | Quiz: 32%

A member of the Liberal Party, Erika Salmon is running as an independent since she received no official support from them. Despite sporting a 'Make USyd Great Again' hat in her campaign photo, and a wildly implausible list of policies, Erika assured us that she is not a 'joke candidate'.

Erika rebuffed suggestions that her association with the Trump brand might alienate students unsettled by the President's perceived racist, sexist rhetoric, telling *Honi* that "if you look at Trump's employment records, most of the time, he'll actually employ a woman."

She conceded that her proposed protest-free zone around Fisher Library was beyond the scope of the USU, although oddly didn't think it incongruous with her libertarian ideology. While she would genuinely like a Maccas on campus, she admits that it "was a bit of a last minute policy. I really just wanted to put 'corporatist capitalist' in my statement because it would enrage a few people."

Her policy of free helicopter rides for Socialist Alternative members is also a jocular allusion to

the murder of socialists in Pinochet's Chile, which Erika has no problem with because "yes these human rights abuses were awful, but the fact is that currently in our modern times [...] things are taken out in an ironic way." Also, she has a Chilean friend.

Her plan to extend campus bar opening hours is noble, but when informed of the \$3000 plus cost involved, Erika was shocked: "That's just ridiculous. That's just over-regulation." Erika's claim that she did research her policies "a little bit" is rather dubious, since this information took 15 seconds to find.

Nonetheless, Erika did use her time with us to brainstorm other ideas she might pursue. These included greater transparency about Union expenditure, and a language exchange program for international students.

Sally Yang | Quiz: 14%

Sally Yang told us that she has no political leanings (incredible for a Law student), and does not belong to a party or faction.

She says her position as a Chinese-born domestic student gives her a dual perspective on what it's like to be both an international and local student, giving her the advantage of understanding and representing both demographics.

That being said, four of her five policies pertain exclusively to international students. Additionally, many of her proposals appear to overlap with the duties of the SRC, particularly surrounding activism.

When this issue was raised, Sally acknowledged that "obviously like ... The USU is the USU and the SRC is the SRC", and that "the SRC is obviously the main source of the thing," but that the USU could perhaps better direct students to the SRC because their communication outreach sometimes fails. When asked if it would simply be better to improve those aspects of the SRC, Sally concurred.

Another one of Sally's key policies is to advocate for concession Opal cards for international

students. However, this is ultimately contingent on state government legislation. "Obviously it's not like we can make the government change anything," says Sally. "But maybe just more campaigning and raising more awareness." How would she go about this? Sally took a very, very long pause before answering this question. "Maybe just ... By doing petitions or something. I'm not sure."

Her one policy not specifically focused on international students is to have a greater variety of food outlets on campus, even though she named the food on campus as the USU's best program. Despite this, she could not name a single USU outlet on campus in the *Honi* quiz, in which she scored only 14 per cent. According to Sally, students like to binge on junk food, "but it's not actually good for the brain. So it would be good if there were more, like, smoothies provided or more options of smoothies provided."

faster, stronger". Her logo — a buff arm in a circle — is sleek, perhaps reflecting the muscles Unity's head kickers flex come RepsElect.

Liliana Tai is ticking all the campaign branding boxes: three separate fonts, a hand-drawn otter mascot, swirly tie-dye, a rhyming slogan, and even an acoustic 'LILI' poem. It's the campaign equivalent of Disney movie merchandise: cute shit designed to sell.

Jacob Masina's "Team Jacob" logo with its varsity-style font is noticeably off-centre — rather ironic for a supposedly centrist student politician. Could this be a reference to a secret split between Liberal heavyweights Jacob Masina and Ed McCann? If so, it should be noted that Team Edward ended up winning.

Alexander Shu has also looked to Clark Kent for design inspiration, with a Loong (a Chinese dragon-like creature) in the shape of an S serving as his "Shuper" man logo. Peculiarly, the Loong seems to have something like "Scharna" written along its belly but Shu claims any letter-like shapes are coincidental.

One look at Hengjie Sun's logo throws us off: "Sun Hengjie Done Get Things"? If Sun is already shaking things up with the ordering of words, perhaps he'll be the best candidate for students tired of the same old Union.

A last-minute pre-selection by SLS, Caitie McMennamin seems to have drawn significant inspiration

from hangover cure Hydralyte for her branding. Perhaps behavioural conditioning will cause often-hungover students to vote for McMennamin simply because of the positive association.

At the time of printing, Erika Salmon is the only candidate who hasn't released any promotional materials (if you exclude her 'Make USyd Great Again' hat). The suspense is palpable.

Sally Yang, the dark horse of the race, released a fittingly grainy photo of her "Select Sally" campaign t-shirt, adorned with bold, swirly writing. Like the rest of her campaign, there's not much else to be said about her design. **sc**



The Cloud is a hoarder's dream

ERIN JORDAN / Why cheap online storage has exacerbated a little-known disorder

At the end of Isabel's* first year of University, she noticed something had gone awry with her organising system.

"Everything just decided to crash one day before my assessment," says Isabel. "I went into a massive panic thinking 'how can I get it all back?'"

I can remember sitting next to my boyfriend, not able to properly explain why I was crying over having to delete a duplicate photo from 2010'

Isabel had accumulated 100,000 emails, word documents, drafts, an unedited iTunes library and PDFs — more than half of which could be easily classified as junk. But for Isabel, the prospect of deleting any of them gave her anxiety.

"I can remember sitting next to my boyfriend, not able to properly explain why I was crying over having to delete a duplicate photo from 2010. I needed the space but I just couldn't bring myself to do it — it's painful," she reflects.

Digital hoarding is a relatively recent phenomenon that involves the inability or lack of desire to delete electronic material due to an often irrational fear of losing important data. It is, according to Dutch psychiatrist Martine van Bennekom, a unique subtype of the hoarding disorder that is primarily aided by technology. Despite the overwhelming influence of technology on our daily lives, it is still largely misunderstood.

One of the problems of this condition is that it is almost invisible. The difference is evident in an episode of *Hoarders*. While angry neighbours fight over

quickly encroaching piles of junk, over-storing in the digital sphere doesn't provoke such hard-fought battles. There is almost infinite space available; the only clincher is you have to pay. Google Drive or iCloud membership starts around \$2 a month for between 50 and 100 gigabytes, while 500 gigabytes of external hard drive storage typically costs about \$80. Quibbling over a buck or two for storage doesn't seem that significant in the grand scheme of things, and many doctors currently suggest that hoarders limit the chaos in their house through storing it digitally.

"Once I discovered the iCloud, I was great! It's like finding a Narnia closet; it never fills up. It's a

hoarders dream," Isabel says.

But the limited effectiveness of this strategy is indicated by its inability to rid hoarders of their urges, and paying any amount of money for the maintenance of a disorder seems unreasonable.

Isabel currently has a Dropbox, Google Drive, a subscription to iCloud, two hard drives and a bunch of smaller USBs, and yet she is still searching for more and more space to fill.

"I am very aware that my laptop could shut down at any moment because it's so stuffed with stupid files. I have also considered buying another laptop just for storage which just isn't too economically viable for me as a student," she says.

In a world where a terabyte subscription to Google Drive is now the norm, it is easy for those who e-hoard to slip by unnoticed. Endlessly accruing data can be simply stored away in files and folders in some dark depth of the web, ultimately inconveniencing only the sufferer. If someone does happen upon your collection of hard drives and USBs, it could be easily mistaken for an average millennial's clutter. If you've grown up with computers and the Internet, you've undoubtedly been left with some digital clutter in the form of paint scribbles or duplicate selfies, but it's the hoarder's reluctance to let these files go that makes them different.

Many who suffer from digital hoarding are unable to seek customised treatment due to the invisibility of the condition to their peers and practitioners. Bennekom's clinical case study is a rare example of serious psychological examination. This lack of research is startling in our digital age where younger people, having been surrounded by digital influences their whole life, are more at risk.



* NAME HAS BEEN CHANGED.

Fake news ... what about fake memories?

ALISON XIAO / Maybe this is one article that you would be better off forgetting

Sometimes I think all the memories floating around in my head aren't real. I know rationally they must be based in some sort of reality, but I think that some of the ones from childhood have become so contaminated and distorted by time that they no longer resemble anything that actually happened. Even now, I can see the pattern continuing with my adult memories.

Three years ago, I attended my first day at the University of Sydney. I'd signed up for an orientation O Week mentoring group and remember arriving late, missing the icebreakers. I remember what the room looked like, and some of the advice we were given about diving into clubs and societies. I recall meeting my friend, Swetha, in that group.

But Swetha swears she doesn't remember me that day; for her, our fated first meeting never happened. On the one hand, I'm slightly miffed that she found me so forgettable, but on the other, I'm worried at the fallibility of my own recollection.

Helen Paterson, a Senior Lecturer in Forensic Psychology at the University of Sydney, says that people's memories are often modified by the brain's need to fill gaps, a tendency described by the 'vacant slot theory'. "Perhaps that detail's not there in your memory because you just didn't pay attention to it, and then you receive the information from someone else and you just slot in that vacant slot," says Paterson.

She tries to reassure me that my fear of forgetfulness is misplaced. "In our day to day lives, accuracy isn't really paramount. What's more important is that we've got a coherent sense of self in who we are and we feel good about ourselves," she says. "So it's okay if we forget about irrelevant details. Perhaps we want to forget about the times we did stupid

things, it's good for our wellbeing."

The truth is, every single one of us walks around with a head full of fake memories. None of us are reliable narrators of our own autobiographies. In his book *Idiot Brain*, which outlines the ways our brains fail us, neuroscientist Dean Burnett writes, "the most worrying thing is that you don't need to be suffering from psychological issues to have false memories created in your head. It can happen to virtually everyone."

False memories can come from anywhere. They could be fragments from a dream or a movie that we've transplanted into our own lives and stories. Perhaps through the act of reminiscing or retelling a story, it becomes unintentionally revised. As humans we manipulate our own memories all the time, some tampered by nostalgia or bias, and others just blatantly false. Just as fake news is pervasive, so too are the false memories that subconsciously adhere to what we'd like to believe.

Repressed memories of trauma and their accuracy in a court of law are a big point of contention among psychology scholars — a whole new can of worms. If recalled unwillingly, some difficult memories, like the passing of a loved one, can mean the brain develops a pseudo-memory to help cope.

Paterson told me about the 'lost in a mall' study where 25-30 per cent of people recalled childhood memories that never happened after reading fake letters from relatives that claimed the event had occurred.

When I was small, I got lost in a shopping mall. I was upset with my mum and running around trying to find my dad. That context is hazy, but I have a distinct memory of running up the escalators and hugging my dad's leg. It wasn't until I looked up that

FUN FACT

Anyone remember the 90s film *Shazaam* where Sinbad plays a genie? If you do, then I have some bad news for you. Sadly, no such movie exists except in the minds of hundreds of Redditors who swear they've seen the film. If you do remember this movie, then I'm sorry to inform you that you may be living in a 'social contagion of memory'.

I realised I'd hugged a random stranger. I honestly have no idea if this actually occurred.

If you're someone who has a plethora of childhood memories stored away in a mythical chest of treasures, I envy you. I asked Paterson whether there were any techniques to call up lost memories, or remember better. The only advice she gave me was to try to consolidate my memory as quickly as possible, by confirming with others.

The brain's instinct to alter memories may be a positive one, but the knowledge that it does so is disturbing. Perhaps that is one memory it would be better to forget.

BLAND DESIGNS USU Edition

In a crowded field of ten, this year's USU Board candidates need promotional material that will stand out from the rest. Some of this year's campaigns seem to be eye-catching for the wrong reasons.

NLS' Adam Torres has aimed for the supernatural this year with his logo centred on a Superman-like figure. Is Torres going to save the USU from evil? Will he be faster than a speeding 428, more powerful than Michael Spence, and leap over Eastern Avenue in a single bound? Time will tell.

The International Students' Collective wants voters to "SAY YAS" to Zhixian Wang this year (bonus points for having the only palindromic slogan). Interestingly, Wang seems to have two slightly different versions of the same logo. Perhaps this is classic A/B marketing and audience reactions will be used to choose the best?

Unity's Claudia Gulbransen-Diaz has co-opted Daft Punk's gym banger for her slogan: "Harder, better,

Sydney Uni Flames score exclusive Foxtel deal

LAMYA RAHMAN / Their season in the Women's Basketball League continues to be lit AF

A recent agreement between the Women's National Basketball League (WNBL) and Fox Sports Australia will see the Bryden Sydney Uni Flames, a WNBL team at the University of Sydney, return to national screens this year.

Part of the Basketball Australia program, the agreement was announced on April 25 and is yet to be finalised. It sets Fox Sports Australia as the Official Broadcast Partner of the WNBL for the next three years, promising coverage of at least one live WNBL game a week, as well as all finals throughout the 2017/18 season that tips off on October 6.

"This is the beginning of what promises to be an electrifying new era for Women's Basketball in Australia and everyone at the Flames are energised to embrace the future possibilities," said Karen Dalton, General Manager of the Flames in a press release from Sydney University Sport and Fitness.

"I can tell you our players and fans alike are still walking on air at being crowned 2016/17 Champions and this broadcast deal is the news everyone has been waiting for to take our magnificent sport to another level."

These sentiments were echoed by SUSF Executive Director Robert Smithies.

"I am unbelievably proud of what the Brydens Sydney Uni Flames have achieved," he said, noting the extended impact this partnership deal would have on younger fans of the sport.

"More than anything this deal will ignite junior participation and the Flames, as always, will help grow Women's Basketball in NSW through our many development camps and community connections."

The partnership with Fox Sports Australia no doubt comes as a welcome reprieve for the WNBL which had been struggling to find a new

broadcaster after the ABC slashed coverage in the 2013/14 season due to federal budget cuts. For the first time in thirty five years, the WNBL found itself stripped from national screens. Fans could only watch the 2016/17 season, in which the Flames came out as champions, online via Youtube or live-streamed through Periscope.

With the addition of WNBL, Fox Sports Australia will now have four women's sports leagues



Art: Momoko Metham

Review: Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love

HARRIET JANE / SUDS' latest production is slick and macabre

WHAT: SUDS' *Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love*
WHERE: The Cellar Theatre
WHEN: 3–6 May, 10–13 May

The exploration of love and sexuality will forever be a confusing and challenging time in one's life, particularly when a serial killer is thrown into the mix — as it is in Brad Fraser's *Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love*. Ben Sterlin's first directorial debut for SUDS is a bold choice in an explosive, uncomfortable, yet thoroughly enjoyable two and half hours, introducing many fresh faces and daring production choices to the SUDS scene.

Fraser's play focuses on seven central characters: David (Tim Doran), a gay man who no longer believes that love exists; Candy (India Urwin), David's roommate, and a heterosexual woman trying to meet her perfect man whilst simultaneously exploring queerness; Kane (James Mukheibir), a teenager who idolizes David and questions his sexuality; Bernie (JK Kazzi); David's troubled best friend; Jerri (Georgia Condon), a lesbian who falls in love with Candy; Robert (Nate Carlyle), a boring straight man who also falls in love with Candy; and Benita (Jasmine Cavanaugh), a sex worker with psychic abilities who oversees the evening. Characters are complex, and intertwine through love, sexuality, friendship and death, delicately balancing moments of platonic intimacy and humour with those of physical violence and intense sex.

Doran provides stunning depth to protagonist

David, offering both charisma and wit with perfect comedic timing in certain scenes, and intense emotion in others. His acting explores the character's many traits and possibilities, swinging between the two vastly different personalities of Kane and Bernie to underscore both the former's youthful innocence and the latter's bitter, nihilist angst. In their first ever SUDS production, James and JK's acting is outstanding, their performances delivered with such subtlety and richness that greatly juxtaposes their jumps into scenes of intense physicality and heightened emotion. The cast's acting is spectacular, and actors play off one another with remarkable chemistry — perhaps the only critique is that individual monologues need to be softened a touch.

Unfortunately, Benita's sex worker storyline is a particularly tired trope — coming from an abusive family and being a heroin user — and is just short of Richard Gere appearing in a tuxedo with a bunch of roses to save her from herself. This is, however, more of a criticism of Fraser than Cavanaugh as an actress, who provides much warmth, strength and relatability that is needed when portraying sex workers.

The design of the show is intricate and innovative (maybe more so than the play's conventional "figure-in-front-of-black-curtain" promo shots initially let on), and become very apparent within the complex, six-location setting the play takes place in. Much praise deserves to be rewarded for the sound and lighting team who are on-beat throughout the entire show, with queues practically every thirty seconds to complete the illusion of constant noise and

under its name. Currently the channel already has rights to W-League, Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) and Women's AFL. Whilst Australian anti-siphoning laws ensure free-to-air TV networks get first pick, the constant passing over of women's sports have unintentionally led to Murdoch-owned media, such as Fox Sports Australia, becoming leaders in sporting equality.

Review: Century Bar

JAMIE WEISS / Dive bar resurfaced?

February 27, 2016, was a sad day. The illustrious Bar Century poured its last beers, hosted its final night of debauchery, and let the concluding vodka cranberries mush into the floor. While researching this article, I ask several people how they would describe the best-loved dive bar of Sydney. Some common terms emerged: sticky, dodgy, desperate, and carpeted.

The carpet at Bar Century was truly foul too — slimy and glutinous from millions of spilled drinks, vomit and tears — your feet squelching as you walked around. The only thing stickier than the floor was the bar itself, which was perennially caked in a fine film of grime. The toilets at Bar Century were a gateway to hell, like something out of *Train-spotting*. Bar Century was decidedly disgusting, but

it was very cheap and very cheerful, and one of the busiest spots on George Street on any given night.

When it closed its doors last year, the youth of Sydney lost a dear friend. It's hard to say why it closed. Was it because of its ludicrously cheap prices? The terrible smell? Was it because it was a wretched hive of scum and villainy? Nobody really knows. All I know is that the loss of Bar Century hit Sydney hard. But fret not! Like a phoenix, Bar Century has arisen — reopened, with a fresh new name: Century Bar. I don't know what the point of swapping the two words around was — they're not fooling anyone.

But the subtle name change indicates the direction Bar Century 2.0 has moved in. It's a very dif-

ferent beast now. The old Bar Century felt like it was trapped in the 90s — the new Bar Century feels trapped in the 30s. It's got that sort of faux-retro feel — lots of moody lighting and polished brass. The bar itself is clean, cleaner than most bars in Sydney. They even do proper cocktails now! Yes, Century Bar is decidedly inoffensive. And I find that offensive.

The new Bar Century, while an objectively politer experience than the old Bar Century, lacks the rough charm and homeliness that made the original so popular. It now feels like just one of so many bars in the city. It's just like Star Bar now, and Star Bar was just a sad man's Bar Century. In any case, Bar Century has lost its soul. Sequels are always worse than the original, I'm afraid.

Girls as told by the seven deadly sins

BIANCA DAVINO / Look at us, scraping the barrel for an original *Girls* take

Lena Dunham's six-season brainchild *Girls* was the ultimate guide in what not to do as a millennial. Concluding at the end of April this year, each character's inability to assess the repercussions of their immaturities before acting upon them was an ongoing frustration. Underneath the overblown storylines, awkward moments and indulgent, dramatic scenes, the audience was forced to make peace with and reflect on their own flaws, confront their shortcomings, and revel in the uncertainties that come with growing up.

During its run, opinion pieces and blogs lambasted the naivety and self-obsessions of characters who found difficulty in dealing with the smallest of First World Problems. But that's where it was strangely therapeutic. *Girls* was self aware in projecting its own flaws onto the viewer in the most invasive way possible. If you cringed at any point while watching it, the show was doing its job.

It never had the New York rom-com, 'gives you stomach butterflies whilst a HAIM song plays in the background' moment, because it acknowledged that real life never happened like that. Instead, it had characters that, at age 28, blamed their joblessness on their parents and maintained friendships because of proximity over genuine connection.

Despite being distinctly modern and millennial, the storylines and actions depicted in *Girls* struck severe similarities with the archaic Seven Deadly Sins, the age old guide of what not to do ...

Pride:

"I think I'm the voice of my generation" Only ever say this in an ironic Instagram caption. Lena Dunham's character, Hannah Horvath, spent six seasons borderline humble-bragging about her abilities but doing little to showcase them. Instead, pride took precedence as she left a paid writing job at GQ to avoid selling out, almost sabotaged her friend's wedding out of selfishness, and channelled Basic Instinct during a meeting with a boss.

Envy:

Each character was so imbued in what others were doing they forgot to work on their own faults, with jealousy becoming a recurring theme of the show. Yes, it was heartbreaking to see Shoshana catch a glimpse of the life she could have had when running into successful old classmates, but blaming it on her friendship with the gang? That's the green-eyed monster talking.

Sloth:

The New York City sitcom trope of the underemployed yet affluent character has been played to death, however *Girls* took laziness to a new level. Epitomising the overqualified millennial stereotype, the mains spent more time prophesising about what they were going to do than actually doing it.

Wrath:

Bathroom fights and heated exits took priority over compromise and logical discussion, putting the squabbles of the *Real Housewives of Sydney* to shame. Leaving an apartment, party or club alone after an argument is the exact opposite of what you're taught during the 'Safe Behaviours' topic in Year 10 PDHPE.

Lust:

Jessa and Hannah were best friends. Adam broke Hannah's heart. Adam and Jessa got together. Never okay.

Gluttony:

Emotional gluttony is where the *Girls* crew shine. Marnie's constant need for approval saw her spend the night with an ex after a minor frustration with her husband, without noticing his affliction with heroin until the morning. Without offering assistance, she fled. If something didn't fit in with her personal journey, it was abandoned.

Greed:

The final episode was unsatisfyingly perfect. Hannah and Marnie find themselves supposedly 'grown up', but remain in the rut of selfishness first introduced in episode one. It showcased an endless cycle of miscommunication, confusion, and a desire to be their best selves whilst depending on the same behaviours. Growing up never seemed so stagnant.

non-stop change between scenes and characters. The set provides the appropriate staging for Sterlin's decision to have all actors present throughout the entirety of the show, an exhausting feat upon the cast's part that ultimately pays off due to the seamless incorporation of random dialogue and the quick tempo of the play.

The performance balances its fast pace with moments of eerie quietness as original tracks complete the macabre ambience beautifully. Still, there is

'Unidentified Human Remains is a feat of creativity, with its ability to both make one squirm and provide comfort in its relatable themes'

room for improvement, with the brief times where the serenity is shattered — the occasional piercing scream track in the first act, the creepy laugh track in the second — potentially cheapening rich moments to that of an amusement park Ghost Train.

Unidentified Human Remains is a feat of creativity, with its ability to both make one squirm and provide comfort in its relatable themes. Sterlin's staging and production choices are an excellent exploration of what's capable in SUDS, and I am eager to see the talented cast become familiar faces amongst the scene. If you haven't grabbed tickets already be sure to do so: this production is one you're unlikely to forget quickly.



Art: Justine Landis-Hanley

457 Visas to be repealed.

DHAVAL SANATH SHUKLA - International Officer - SUPRA

Federal Government compounds exploitation of workers with unjust treatment of international students by denying 457 employment route.

The Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA) is an independent student associate that represents 30,000 students. The postgraduate community is diverse. It includes over 40% international students. Its students come from over 100 countries all around the world. Collectively the community contributes substantially to Australia's growth of knowledge and skills, cultural and intellectual richness, and economic prosperity.

SUPRA condemns the Federal Government's axing of 457 work visas as the policy antithesis of the best values of our community. The problems start with the way it attacks workers. SUPRA's Co-President, Mr Ahmed Bin Suhaib, said "The 457 visa program, and temporary worker provisions for other visas were riddled with problems. But they were and are not the job-stealing problems attributed by some politicians. International students with student visa work provisions are often exploited with under pay, poor working conditions, and limited opportunity to make complaints for fear of losing jobs or deportation. The same applied to 457 visa holders. The Government already knows this because it came out during its own 2015 Federal Senate Inquiry. Yet instead of protecting workers and fixing the flaws in the system, they have implemented a short sighted and prejudiced attack, which strips a pathway to contribute to Australia, instead of rewarding talented and potential future workers."

SUPRA Co-Vice President, Ms Karen Cochrane, commented on the way the visa changes unfairly restrict access to working visas. She said "The 457 visa is to be replaced by two new visa categories. But these two new visas each have 216 occupations stripped out of the allowable list, greatly restricting the pool of talent that Australia will draw on. The effect could be to take from Australia's workforce, the high skilled, talented, culturally rich pool of people it currently accesses. These workers should

be protected and encouraged better, not maligned by the likes of Peter Dutton with comments clearly designed to denigrate, when he talked about this being a route to work in fast food chains. Rampant employer exploitation in Australia includes, at the extreme end, human trafficking and sexual exploitation offences. More commonly it includes silencing and suppression of fair and reasonable employment conditions, because workers, whether they be student visa holders or 457 visa persons, are too afraid to speak up. There should be more protections, not punishments. And there should be a decent pathway for students with the skills, the talent, and the will to become permanent residents and then citizens, and so contribute to Australia to the fullest, to do precisely that."

SUPRA International Student Officer, Mr Dhaval Sanath Shukla went on to comment "Part of this package of changes includes stricter English language requirements. It is one piece of an overall effort to address what is wrongly being described as 'out of control admissions'. The language and the prejudice recalls an ugly element in what we saw only a few years ago when Indian international students were being attacked, and Governments were slow to admit a problem and support those students. That incident damaged Australia's international reputation and its economy. It recalls language in other parts of the world where intolerance is on the rise. It has the same kind of flavour.

"Looking back further it recalls White Australia Policy dictation test profiling"

Unfortunately it is little wonder that Pauline Hanson has claimed credit for the Government's 457 policy. She indicates it is 'tough talk on immigration', and that 'we all know the truth' about One Nation having a hand in driving this policy agenda."

SUPRA President, Mr Suhaib, built on the commentary as follows. "The impression you get from the Government talk and the comments of Pauline Hanson and One Nation, is that 457 visa

holders have en mass taken jobs of Australian citizens, have been a drain on the country, and are responsible for closing off opportunities, particularly in technical areas and trades. You get the technical and trade jobs impression from the introduction of a training scheme announced with the cutting of the 457 visa. Yet all these things are part of some disturbing and misinformed myths. The reality is 457 visa numbers are responsive to employer demand and economic changes. Numbers of 457 visa holders fell by 11% in 2015 - 2016 as the economy has been sluggish. They have been creeping down for years responding to employer demand or lack thereof. Workers are often taking jobs Australians simply don't want, in professional areas as well as trades and elsewhere. In this context implying a link between 457 visa holders and broader unconnected employment issues, by offering training support that should have been provided long ago anyway, can clearly be seen as an attempt to masquerade economic failure elsewhere by blaming foreigners." Mr Suhaib wrapped up by noting further facts about the situation, to fight the prejudiced myths.

"Less than 1% of the Australian workforce is made up of 457 visa holders. Around 55.4% of such holders work in professional areas and only 23.1% in trades and technical. It debunks any myth of them stealing blue collar Australian jobs. Instead of punishing potential 457 visa holders, including international students, by stripping them of work and permanent resident opportunities because of non-existent problems, we call on the Australian Government to reinstate the 457 visa, fix the exploitation problems already identified, and encourage the talented, culturally rich, and hard working international student community to think about committing to Australia long term. This is the kind of thing a fair minded, progressive, plural, and open society does. It recognises that in the twenty first century it needs people and skills from all over the world, and it encourages them to be part of its community, if it is to thrive and be prosperous."

For questions or further comment please email president@supra.usyd.edu.au

Health Care Card for Students

What is a Health Care Card?

A Health Care Card entitles you to receive certain discounts and services. In NSW this includes:

- Reduced pharmaceuticals (about \$6)
- Free ambulance cover
- Access to free dental care (though the waiting times are very long)
- Free prescription lenses and frames (very limited choices)
- Discounts to most alternative medical practices



As a student you may also be eligible if you are a "low income earner". This means about \$537* per week over an 8 week period for a single person, or \$928* per week for a single person with a dependent child, or a couple. This figure increases by \$34* per week, for each additional dependent child.

The easiest way to apply is online at www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/forms/ss050.htm

*This figure is current until 30 June, 2017.

Who is eligible for a Health Care Card?

Anyone who is on Youth Allowance, Austudy, Newstart or a pension from Centrelink is eligible to get a Health Care Card.

Ask Abe

SRC caseworker HELP Q&A



The Ask Abe column allows you to ask whatever question you might have that affects you as a student, gaining the best advice that a very worldly mutt* can give.

Dear Abe,

I am receiving youth allowance and working part-time. I am trying to declare my income to Centrelink each fortnight, but the Centrelink working days used each fortnight don't match the fortnight I get paid. I don't know which days I should use.

Confused

Dear Confused,

If you are a student receiving a Centrelink payment and earning income, you must declare the amount you earn for all the days you worked in the last 14 days up to the Centrelink reporting date. Work out what your gross income (before tax) would

be for those 14 days. You can do this by keeping a record of the amount of hours you have worked during your Centrelink fortnight and multiply this by your hourly rate.

Do not interpret 'income' as when you actually received the money or the amount on your payslip. Even if you get paid on the same day that you have to report to Centrelink, the working days may be different. Use Centrelink working days even if you have not been paid yet. This means you might be out of pocket until the day you actually get paid by your employer. It is important to report your income correctly so you do not end up with an overpayment or underpayment.

Abe

Need Help? See an SRC Caseworker

- FREE support & advocacy
- Academic appeals & issues
 - Centrelink advice • Tenancy
 - Discrimination
 - International student rights



(02) 9660 5222 | www.srcusyd.net.au



"MASS" is a nomadic gallery started by three students from Sydney College of the Arts in response to the need for inexpensive, ongoing gallery space. With current costs of real estate, a permanent gallery was not an option. So the idea was to find a variety of spaces that might be temporarily available because they were, for example, on the market, or in between tenants, or looking for a pop-up exhibition. Suzy Faiz, Kate Scholes and Eila Vinwynn came up with the idea in 2015 after exhibiting together in three group shows at various venues from Stephen Mori's now closed space in Day Street to Alpha House Gallery in Marrickville and Chrissy Cotter Gallery in Chippendale. They recognised the need to be proactive in generating spaces themselves and which could also be shared with fellow students and

emerging artists. In 2015 Suzy successfully applied for the 'Bright Ideas' grant through the university of Sydney Union. They also formed a 'Cultural Partnership' with the Uni. This ensures ongoing exhibition space on campus with a small amount of funding going towards off-campus exhibitions. In the current climate of a diminishing Arts sector and with Masters of Research closed to last year's SCA Honours students (who would have loved to complete their studies at Kirkbride), MASS is an accessible platform for SCA students. MASS has hosted four exhibitions since its inception with a hiatus in 2016 resulting from the threats to the SCA campus, which drew the directors into the battle to save the art school. An upcoming exhibition is scheduled for early June at Al Taglio in Chippendale

DID YOU KNOW?

If you earn less than \$537 per week you may be eligible for a low income Health Care Card

- Reduced price pharmaceuticals (approx \$6)
- FREE emergency ambulance
- FREE glasses (lenses & frames)
- FREE hearing aids
- Discounts at other health care providers

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

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We have a solicitor who speaks Cantonese, Mandarin & Japanese

This service is provided to you by the Students Representative Council, University of Sydney

The Camperdown Public Chatterbox

SWEET MEMES ARE MADE OF THIS

I Heart Uni (IHU), an inter-university social organisation, has allegedly threatened to sue a Facebook meme page. According to a post on Sydney Asian Memes for Selective School Teens, a representative from IHU sent them a message claiming that by using the IHU logo in one of their memes, the page had engaged in misleading and deceptive conduct under sections 52 and 53 of the Trade Practices Act. The message concluded with a somewhat unprofessional threat: "We aren't bluffing mate ... you're fucked".

The administrators of the meme page were unsure about the legitimacy of the threats, telling Honi, "this whole thing has been so goddamn surreal". It's unclear whether this is simply a case of first-year law students grandstanding, or an elaborate hoax. However, since the Trade Practices Act has not existed since 2011, IHU may want to reconsider their legal advice before proceeding further.

Honi contacted IHU for comment. We are still awaiting their reply.

SYDNEY UNI RE-WHO?

The Sydney Uni Revue stage may look a bit bare this year, with the comedy show featuring a smaller cast of only 11 actors and nine dancers.

This is a sizeable drop from last year's Sydney Uni Revue, which boasted a combined cast of 29 — plus, rumour has it that everyone who auditioned this year was cast. Awkward.

The Sydney Uni Revue is an annual showcase of the University's twelve faculty and identity revues from the previous year, meaning its auditions are open to hundreds of seasoned revue cast members.

Director Gabi Kelland admits, "audition numbers were lower than we would have liked", but blames this on the "clash with Identity Revue season, which is something that we're hoping will be addressed going forward."

According to members of the USyd comedy community though, poor audition turnout for this year's show can be put down to a lack of advertising and the USU's choice of director.

Apparently, USyd Revue was created by the

Union as a way for young comedy hopefuls to foster industry connections and improve their comedy knowledge, which explains why the directors are paid by the USU, unlike the directors of any other revue.

Neither Kelland nor producer Josh Pearse are immediate past director or producer respectively of a campus revue, nor are they in the industry.

While we're sure Kelland is both knowledgeable and well-connected, she hasn't drawn the same crowd as last year's directors, Kate Coates and Jack Ballhausen.

YOU CAN'T QUIT, I'M FIRING YOU!

If you're a dedicated reader, you may remember that about four weeks ago, Honi reported on a Queer Action Collective (QuAC) meeting where a vote of no confidence in then-Queer Officer (QO) Andrea Zephyr passed with 28 votes and one abstention.

If you're an extra dedicated reader, you may remember that the vote of no confidence was not synonymous with the removal of Zephyr from her role; for that to happen, a vote would have to occur at a meeting of the Students' Representative Council (SRC).

That very thing happened at last Wednesday's SRC meeting, but not in the way we expected.

Zephyr had submitted a resignation from her role as QO; usually, resignations are accepted without much fanfare from the council, just as ex-councillor Samuel Chu's was in the same meeting.

Zephyr's, however, was rejected (a fact which took many of the poor souls following the #usydsrc hashtag on Twitter by surprise), only for a motion for her dismissal to crop up a little later. After a few impassioned speeches, the motion passed, accompanied by a smattering of applause.

Word on the street is that a number of councillors agreed in advance to reject the resignation so that they could vote her off themselves. Oh my, we never thought student politics could get so nasty!

GOOD RIDDANCE (TIME OF YOUR LIFE)

Like an angsty emo teenager in the year 1997, the NUS National Banter Action Group on Facebook has thrown multiple tantrums and self-destructed with spectacle this week.

Beginning with long-time stupol enthusiast Cam-

eron Caccamo's ascension to admin status of the group, it underwent a number of personality changes, first to "Cameron Caccamo's Local Government Campaign Committee", and then to "Ketamine is for Horses".

Trawling through the debris of the group reveals a dramatic banning and un-banning of Ed McCann, more ketamine jokes than there are ketamine dealers in the local vicinity, and a number of experimental posts leaning towards absurdism.

The National Banter Action group has now been archived. Vale — may you rest in the hearts of stupol hacks new and old forever.

ALL ABOARD

Online campaigning for the University of Sydney Union (USU) elections is underway, and though we have a full analysis of all the candidates' policies, experience and design on pages 13–16, we somehow still have shit to talk about here.

With Facebook pages up, Jacob Masina (running on Team Jacob) is winning the like count (as at Sunday midday) — we suspect he may have shared the page in a now-mostly-defunct Twilight fan group to bump the numbers. On the other end of the scale, notably absent from this reporter's list of invitations to like pages was Erika Salmon or Sally Yang ... as their pages seem not to exist.

Preference deal chats are also underway, though no candidates have confirmed anything yet. We asked candidates who their favourite fellow candidates were, but of course few were ready to commit to preferencing them before making sure they'll be getting a preference back.

In case you were wondering about the rest of the Facebook pages (because of course you were), the like counts as at 12:10pm on Sunday, 7 May are:

- Liliana: 311
- Jacob: 465
- Caitlin: 162
- Alex: 247
- Adam: 242
- Claudia: 271
- Zhixian: 119
- Hengjie: 59

BLAND DESIGNS



Ah, Snapchat. From dog filters to coffee cup spam, we hate to love you. But the only thing worse than the hollow red outline of 'opened 1h ago' is your fucking stupid logo.

Apart from the fact that it looks like a botched Rorschach test (I see Mr Burns and am therefore subconsciously suffering from early 2000s nostalgia), it is literally irrelevant to the company's branding. What are you trying to say? Expect to be ghosted? You're really white today? Those unsolicited dick pics will haunt you forever?

According to Wikipedia, the ghost has a name: 'Ghostface Chillah'. This is a pun on Ghostface Killah, a member of hip-hop group Wu-Tang Clan, because the original ghost wore 'chill' black sunglasses. Wot.

Sure, a ghost is kind of fun if you forget that it's the bodily incarnation of a dead thing, but there would have been so many better logo options.

A crocodile, perhaps, for a zoomorphic pun on 'snap'. A speech bubble carefully crafted to avoid plagiarising Facebook Messenger. A camera flash. A rock. A blank box. Literally anything.

Not only is the idea of a ghost really dumb, but the design is hideous.

Those knobly little arms and grossly symmetrical appendages make me uncomfortable. How am I supposed to maintain my snap streaks when this mutant spectre rears its perfectly rounded head without warning in the corner of my screen? Leave me be, you creepy poltergeist!

Its only mild success is the colour scheme. Yellow is severely underrated, like the 2000 Coldplay hit of the same name. Shit, I miss those days ... **AB**



Honi Doctor

I've been relying on the morning after pill to prevent pregnancy. Is it true that I'll become infertile if I use it more than three times?

Being one of the only forms of contraception that doesn't require a prescription, the morning after pill can be seen as a convenient solution. But it's shrouded in mythology that see things go from clear-cut to concerning faster than you can say 'babymama'.

I spoke to Joel Hillman RPh who is not a doctor (yet), but is a medicines expert, licensed pharmacist, and registered to give RU-486 (abortion drug) to bust the myths surrounding the morning after pill*.

Myth: You can only take the morning after pill a maximum of three times.

False. "It is safe to use as many times as you need throughout your life, it's just not cost effective, won't protect you from STIs, and has more side effects than other regular forms of contraception," says Hillman. So, you needn't fear infertility, as all hormonal contraceptives are reversible, but you might suffer unnecessary side effects (like irregular bleeding, for instance).

Myth: Taking the morning after pill is the same as having an abortion.

False, says Hillman; "It can prevent conception, but won't affect one that has already happened."

Myth: The morning after pill is only used for one-night stands.

False. As Hillman points out, "it's also for use if you think there might be something wrong with your regular pill, like missed doses." Ask your pharmacist for advice if you're unsure. **CT & JH**

*Your own pharmacist and GP are best to give you personalised advice.

P.S. Send your sex queries to honisdoctor@gmail.com
P.P.S. Honi Doctor is a newspaper column, not a real doctor

And you thought we were done with election stuff ...

Wondering where that percentage on each board candidate's summary came from? Well, here's the quiz! Try it out yourselves and see how you shaped up in comparison. Published with thanks to USU President Michael Rees and former USU Board Director Liv Ronan.

1. Who is jointly and severally liable for the debts and liabilities of the USU as an unincorporated organisation? (1)
 - a. Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence
 - b. The President and Treasurer of the USU
 - c. Each member of the Board of Directors
 - d. All of the above
 2. What was the USU's revenue in the 2015/2016 financial year? (1)
 - a. \$24,576,774
 - b. \$25,668,665
 - c. \$26,422,822
 - d. \$27,101,329
 3. Did the USU make a deficit or an operating contribution in the 2015/2016 financial year? (1)
 - a. Deficit
 - b. Operating contribution
- BONUS POINT:** What was the figure of money to the nearest \$100,000? (1)

4. How much money did the USU receive in the 2016 SSAFE negotiations? (1)
 - a. \$2,800,000
 - b. \$3,100,000
 - c. \$3,600,000
 - d. \$4,300,000
5. Name as many locations which the USU's Welcome to Sydney Tours attended this year as you can (3)
6. Name as many USU-owned outlets on campus as you can (10)
7. Name all the major sources of USU funding (8)
8. As a not-for-profit organisation, what happens when the USU's annual revenue exceeds its costs and liabilities?*
9. What are the different USU Portfolios that Board Directors are eligible to nominate themselves to be the 'Portfolio Holder' of at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the USU? (5)

10. What other elected positions can USU Board Directors nominate for at the USU AGM? (7)
11. List the four USU Committees (4)
12. List the four USU Working Parties (if you don't know the official name, describe what that working party does) (4)
13. Name the themed weeks or festivals that the USU ran in 2016? One point for each correct event named (9).
14. Name the 7 Departments of the USU and their Head of Department (7).
15. How much does ACCESS cost
 - a. For a first time purchase (1)
 - b. To renew an existing membership (1)
 - c. To purchase a three-year membership (1)
 - d. To purchase a five-year membership (1)

*This question was not included in the final tallying of quiz scores as no candidate was able to give a correct answer.

Crossword: American Quick

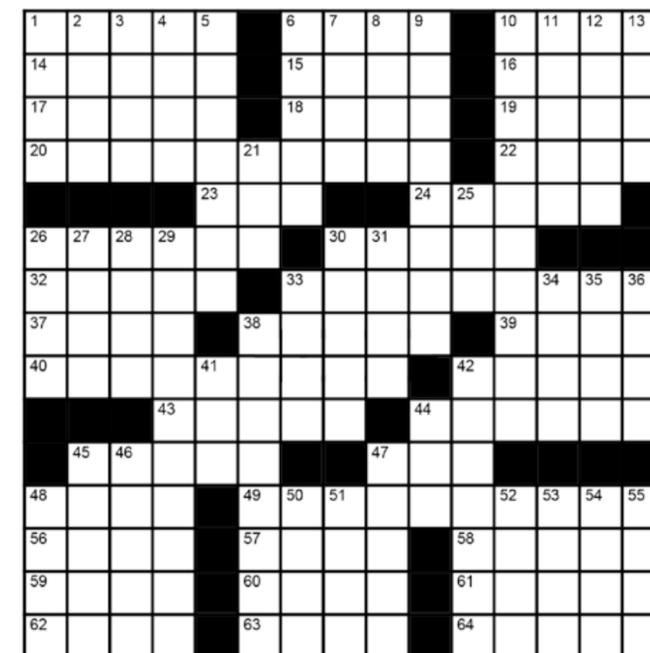
Across

1. Ice hockey equipment
6. 30 year old ABC program
10. People you might harbour feelings for?
14. Almost sacrificed
15. Noted English college
16. ___ Fisher, Australian actress
17. Sydney's new train network
18. Shakespearean traitor
19. Eastern European capital
20. In every geometry kit
22. Extremity
23. Robbed of winning hit TV show Masterchef Australia 2009
24. A pirate's friend
26. Inactivity
30. Scrub
32. Jack Black's underrated film, ___ Libre
33. City in the Judaeen Mountains
37. Region
38. Meteorological equipment
39. Relinquish
40. Slug, for one
42. Alisa Camplin did this in 2002
43. Roof worker
44. American bottled water
45. Did some cleaning
47. Nasty virus
48. Big ball of gas
49. Unconventional verse
56. Thor's rival
57. Northeastern Thai region
58. City in Upstate New York
59. Used for heating

60. PayPass technology
61. Johnny, rugby league Immortal
62. Titanic's enemy
63. Arm lengths
64. Cool guitar technique

Down

1. West Coast Customs do this
2. Manipulator
3. Famous elder
4. Mario drives this
5. November star sign
6. German regime
7. Poorly designed imperial war machine
8. Jesse Tobin's iconic TV show, "___ Stop"
9. Really quite big
10. Paths for cyclists
11. 18 Across might give one of these
12. Catullus wrote this
13. Rescue
21. HSC English module
25. Popular models of the Ford Falcon
26. Sausage
27. Girls school in Parramatta
28. Masters
29. Breaking into pieces
30. Spanish gentleman
31. Respect
33. Practical joke
34. A member of the Imperial Senate on a diplomatic mission to Alderaan
35. Adam's former home
36. European sea
38. Enlightened French writer
41. Tear



42. Tastes fully
44. Swim
45. Hot stuff
46. One who stirs?
47. Female deer
48. Lazy person
50. Deeply disturbing material
51. Hindmost appendage
52. And others
53. Conical living space
54. Cooled
55. Worry

Physicists observe slowing of time

Unclear whether this is due to relativity or simply because Michelle is here **P9»**



Royal Prince retires from public duties, cost saving ensues

Prince Philip no longer fulfilling 'work for the dole' requirements, welfare benefits to be cut **P4»**



Court drops copyright case after defendant writes 'I DO NOT OWN THIS VIDEO' in YouTube video description

Aidan Molins
Crime Journalist

The District Court of New South Wales has dropped a series of copyright infringement charges against a local man accused of violating the copyright of a number of songs owned by the Universal Music Group (UMG). Kevin Harris, known only as XXX-CRYSTAL FiSHxXX in the Youtube metal community, was able to make UMG drop all charges when he swiftly wrote in each video's description section "I DO NOT OWN THIS VIDEO. ALL CONTENT BELONGS TO THE COPYRIGHT OWNERS".

"It's a cunning move on his part," commented Morris Blackman, a partner at Schwartz & Blackman, a copyright law firm that regularly deals with similar cases.

"By invoking the rarely used but highly effective 'I DON'T OWN THIS' defense, he's effectively made himself immune to any kind of prosecution."

Blackman revealed that at the heart of Harris' legal defense lies a simple legal truth: if one commits a crime but acknowl-

edges their guilt in the act of doing it, that crime becomes legally void.

"It's the same reason why a crime like shoplifting, for example, is almost always illegal, however" in the case where the individual committing the act yells "THIS MERCHANDISE IS NOT MINE. IT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE OWNERS OF THE MERCHANDISE" a court can not actually charge them with any wrongdoing," Blackman explains.

According to Blackman, this explains why in police brutality cases, police are often acquitted or not charged in the first place; by softly acknowledging their crimes in a muttered tone under their breath they can often escape legal action.

This also explains how few bankers were ever charged of any crimes in the wake of the 2007 financial crisis. Regulatory inspectors from the FBI looking for evidence of fraud found pages of notes repeating the words "WE ACKNOWLEDGE WE ARE GUILTY OF FRAUD" which were allegedly typed up by the bankers while they committed their otherwise illegal acts which catalyzed the crisis.



Kevin Harris (left) writing his defense in the YouTube video description before he leaves for court

Paul Ryan seen blasting Drowning Pool's "Bodies" on Republican party bus after House passes AHCA

Sarah Niu
US Correspondent



After passing the controversial American Health Care Act, Republicans were then seen passing the aux cord to House Speaker Paul Ryan on a party bus on the way to President Donald Trump's press conference.

Ryan, a self-proclaimed radio-rock aficionado, who enjoys archery, fitness, making bratwurst, and lying about his marathon times, took only minutes (although Ryan might claim it was seconds) before he had Spotify playing Drowning Pool's 2001 hit at maximum volume.

The male representatives accompanying Ryan unanimously enjoyed the track despite its abrasiveness. Having previously claimed his music taste "starts with AC/DC and ends with Zeppelin," Ryan is no stranger to appealing to the interests of other white men and performances of masculinity.

The party bus passengers shared champagne and danced half-heartedly, although not as half-heartedly as patients who will no longer be able to afford their heart medication. The infectious chorus was followed by the line "this is the end" and over the backing vocals, a representative shouted, "Of Obamacare!"

Ryan expressed his contentedness with his signature tight-lipped smirk.

When informed that original Drowning Pool vocalist Dave Williams had died of undiagnosed cardiomyopathy — one of the conditions that may not be covered under the AHCA — Ryan declined to comment.

This video of ten sausage dogs brings me more joy than my relationship

Opinion
P11»



"Beauty is pain", says plastic surgeon who refuses to anaesthetise patients

Ann Ding
Senior Editor

Philippa Goossens, a plastic surgeon based in Vaucluse, has come under fire for refusing to administer anaesthetic to her clients, citing the oft-repeated adage that "beauty is pain" as her reasoning.

When approached for comment, Goossens told The Garter she was "committed to the purest form of beautification", which in her view was "a wholehearted understanding of the fact that beauty really is all about pain."

"It's been true for millennia, and the way I see it, it'll continue to be true. Not only that, but in my view, those who can't deal with the pain don't deserve to be beautiful." Goossens was quoted as saying in last month's Plastic Surgery Monthly.

Since implementing her no-anaesthetic policy, Goossens has had two patients die of shock on the operating table; however, this has done little to soften her stance.

"There's literally no way to attain real beauty without subjecting oneself to various types of torture," Goossens said.

The controversial practices Goossens employs have shocked the medical community, who says she should be stripped of her license and banned from ever working as a medical professional again.

However, others, like long-time client Miranda McHale, have expressed support for Goossens' unconventional philosophy on cosmetic surgery.

McHale, who has had 13 procedures performed on her right nipple alone, found the approach to her procedures refreshingly honest.

"I don't get anaesthetic when I'm having my brows done, or my vajeen waxed, or when my little toes are being squished to a pulp inside my stilettos, so why should I get it for a routine bit of lipo or the removal of a few ribs to reshape my waist?" McHale told The Garter.

Another returning customer, Angela Moretti, is ambivalent about Goossens' ideas, but is nevertheless loyal to the Eastern Suburbs clinic for its high-quality results.

"Last thing I had done was pretty painful, sure. I almost swore off surgery entirely afterwards. But it's always worth it," Moretti said.

"Yesterday I passed out from using a waist trainer and while I was out cold on the footpath for 20 minutes, three hotties left me their phone numbers on slips of paper. And just today, I found a picture that someone had snapped of me while unconscious on one of those 'Sydney's Finest' Facebook pages."

Statistical miracle: all of Mosman dad's political beliefs personally benefit him

Jayce Carrano
Finance Editor

A long term scientific investigation into the politics of Greg Harvey, a business consultant with KPMG, has revealed that every single one of his 129 favoured policies would make him wealthier.

"It's incredible," said head researcher, Miles Acker. "We looked at the economy, the environment, education, and everything in between and without fail his positions aligned with those that benefited him most. The chance of that happening when there is such a wide range of possible stances on every strand of policy is astronomically small."

The Garter was able to contact Harvey to confirm his statistically astounding views.

"The idea of restricting negative gearing or raising interest rates to prevent a housing bubble is abhorrent," Harvey said. "It would be financially devastating for families like ours who would be looking down the barrel of higher repayments on half a dozen of our properties."

Harvey was also opposed to significant climate change action. Despite wanting Australia to stay beautiful for his kids, Harvey said the government "can't go and throw

away the economy." He used the same justification when commending Turnbull's proposed \$50 Billion corporate tax cut.

Incredibly, The Garter later discovered Harvey has nearly \$100,000 worth of shares in fossil fuel companies such as Exxonmobil and that his employer, KPMG, would benefit enormously from reduced company taxes.

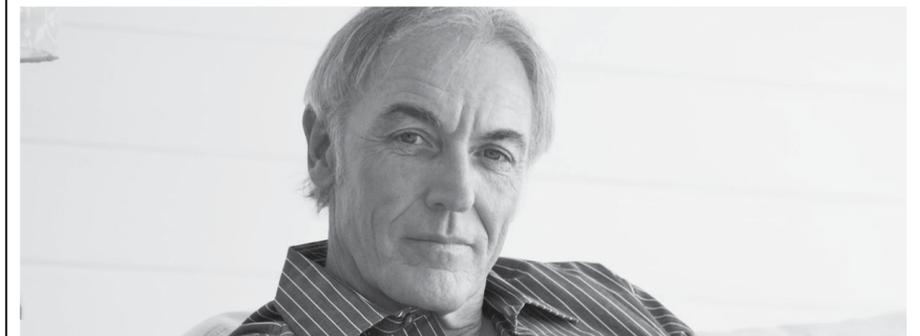
Harvey is also supportive of reducing weekend rates for casual workers.

"The weekend is the only time I get off," he said. "It shouldn't cost me an arm and a leg just to go out for dinner on a Sunday night with Nicole and the kids."

Harvey's son, Bentley, is in year 12 at St Ignatius' College Riverview, so Acker and the other researchers were certain he would be opposed to uni fee increases. Their hypothesis turned out to be incorrect.

When it was suggested that his views could potentially be a carefully put together worldview constructed in order to benefit people in his position and protect their wealth, Harvey responded with stark denial.

"What? Really? No way. My opinions are the result of decades of intelligent thought. The idea you think I just feel this way because I'm rich ... it disgusts me."



It just so happens that all of Greg Harvey's views perfectly correspond with policies that help him

Feminist on the fence lands on shaving only one leg

Jadzea Allen
Lifestyle Editor

Erika Underteat, a self-proclaimed feminist, opened up to The Garter last Sunday about her struggle within relation to the question of hair removal. In a recent statement to the press, Underteat admitted that after much consideration, she finally decided to shave one leg and leave the other hairy, as mark of her compromise between warring ideological factions.

Underteat reveals she came to the decision to avoid the biweekly toss up — between the "boredom of spending forty minutes in the shower, time that could have been put towards literally any other productive task, or the pain of copping side-eye from co-workers and senior citizens on the bus."

Trying to rationalise between these two powerful influences, for Erika, shaving one leg, one underarm, and waxing half of her upper lip was clearly the optimal choice.

"Removing half my snail trail actually took more time and precision than shaving the whole thing would have, but hey, it was

worth it for the principle of the thing," she explained.

This isn't the first time Underteat has let feminism inform the way she conducts her life and beauty regimen. "The other day I sat down with all my razors, scissors and makeup brushes around me and read the them the full text of Simone de Beauvoir's The Second Sex. Then while they were asleep I wrapped them in bandanas with the word "wom*n" written on them. Now I feel a lot better about the whole situation."

"It hasn't had too much of a negative impact on my relationships. When it comes to my normie boyfriend, we just hang out entirely on my left side! He just holds my left hand, kisses my left cheek and gives me erotic massages, but I insist — on the left side only — I insist.. It's not been an issue at all! When I hang out with my more socially aware boyfriend, Leaf, he actually prefers to hang out on my right side.

"It's wild; I used to struggle about whether I wanted to have fun or be socially conscious, but now I understand — the answer is just to be both. I don't know why I didn't think of this before."

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