



# 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

I'm tired. There's no limit to the number of tasks I think I can handle and stack on my plate. "Classic Capricorn", my friends say. The more I add to my plate, the more frantic and stretched-thin I get. Every passion project is now an onerous box to be ticked before I get onto the next one. Everything is done just in time. Just in time. I'm tired.

You're almost there: it's the penultimate week of semester. It's the penultimate week of the year. Crowning on the horizon, you can see the summer holidays. You can feel the temperature (and the humidity) rising. All the childhood memories of lazy, barmy afternoons, imagining an adult life where this time of day, this time of year, is it.

Is this pre-nostalgia? Liam Donohoe writes a piece about this feeling, and you can read it on page 10. It's a funny feeling though—similar to how it feels to be at a massive institution like this, and feel like you've just missed the heyday. Old *Honi* editions look like much more fun, as do old photos of campus. Alison Xiao looks at this in our feature this week: about the recent downturn of our colleagues in collegiate media. You can find that on page 12. Was it the chicken or the egg? Was campus culture dwindling already? Or was it other factors that drove eager students away from print media.

I feel like campus life is a lot like Sydney in general at the moment. The sentiment is that "it was better before." Why? Everyone seems to be having fun, campus life is definitely bigger than when I started here in [REDACTED]. Are we just all massive hipsters, buying into this image of Sydney as this placed that birthed us but we're now too cool for?

I'm tired. I'll think about that when I wake up.  
AR

## MAILBOX

### People moving into glass subterranean offices shouldn't throw stones

Dear Editors,

I have thus far refrained from writing to your paper all year despite the numerous occasions on which my normally robust patience has been tested. Yet I feel that, given the magnitude of your recent editorial hubris, my unwavering respect for authority and rabid centrism behoove me to give voice to my concerns.

I am referring of course to your flagrantly irresponsible decision to publish "The State of Non-Compliance" in the Week 10 edition of your paper, an incident to which my attention was drawn by the righteous condemnation of our city's most reputable news gazette, *The Daily Telegraph*. After recovering from the state of utter shock that this inflammatory drivel instilled in me, I found myself angrily pondering a number of concerns.

Whomst, might I ask, is this "Thorne" — a character apparently so prodigious amongst the fare evading community, that he thinks it appropriate to adopt a mononym in the by line? I suppose such arrogance is typical from a class of person who considers himself so entitled to public services.

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### Do we feel good? Potentially.

What gauche and unsophisticated people Liams Donohoe and Thorne must be if they think it's okay to steal. Fare evasion is no better than shoplifting or knocking off cash from your Mum's purse. It's tacky and unethical.

The taxpayers who are subsidising your shiny ass education, and probably your concession passes and Centrelink benefits, are the people you are stealing from. Does that make you proud? Does it make you feel good?

Anyway, you'd think a couple of boys who are privileged enough to attend Sydney Uni could afford a train ticket. Are you tight asses as well as thieves?

Yours Sincerely  
**Andrew Curran**  
(\*This is Definitely Not How to Fare Evade' Semester 2: Week 10)

Had gripes with us during the year?  
Want to send a letter of rage?  
Too late, you missed your chance,  
sorry. You had enough opportunities.  
How's it feel? Couldn't be me.

# Turnout for what: Does USyd need compulsory voting?

Alison Xiao wants you to get your SSAFs worth.

The next 600 words are a waste of breath. The SRC and the USU are unlikely to ever introduce compulsory voting.

It's hard to imagine how this would be feasible. Perhaps rather than having in-person polling, the SRC and the Union could replicate the model for USyd Senate elections, which have been conducted online for the past few years, with the University emailing a unique voter link to all students. The University would face difficulty enforcing mandatory voting requirements. It could try punitive strategies, like withholding students' final marks or applying financial penalties. Sure, measures like this would probably be unfair and elicit prohibitive backlash. But I'm not here to argue the ins and outs of practicality.

I'm curious—what would campus politics look like if 34,000 undergraduates voted for SRC representatives, and 59,000 students cast their ballot for Union board directors?

### What would campus politics look like if 34,000 undergraduates voted for SRC representatives?

The large majority of students view campus politics as an insular bubble—a haven for arts kids with 12 contact hours, CVs to pad, and political dreams to chase. This year, 6 per cent of eligible students voted in the USU elections, while 13 per cent voted in the SRC elections. The results of these elections do not necessarily reflect the student body—only those tapped in enough to care, and those unlucky enough to be hassled on Eastern Avenue.

Could compulsory voting cure the woes of student disenfranchisement?

Fourth-year student and Board Director Jacob Masina, a moderate Liberal, believes compulsory voting could go a long way towards lowering voter apathy. Under this new system, he would like to see mirror representation based on faculty, where each faculty would elect a number of representatives proportionate to its size.

It would be a "guaranteed intersection of the student community engaged in the election," he said.

But it is unclear if compulsory voting would result in genuine political engagement or just more donkey votes. In this year's SRC elections, informal ballots

accounted for 6 per cent of total votes. In federal elections, there is evidence that compulsory voting does increase political awareness and engagement. After studying 133 elections from 47 countries, a 2015 study from ANU found that compulsory voting boosted civic engagement.

Since 2016, international student voters have increased their engagement with campus politics, which has historically ignored the matters they care about. Candidates backed by international student groups have enjoyed a meteoric rise, with engineering student Jacky He winning the SRC presidency this year.

He believes that it is more democratic to give students the choice to vote "rather than forcing them into voting". The president-elect said it would be "inappropriate" for voting to be compulsory for students who didn't necessarily care about student politics.

In an arena where only 22 per cent of the student body are international students, compulsory voting could, in fact, curb international students' electoral success.

It is also possible that campus elections would mimic Australia's political norm—a swinging pendulum between Labor and Liberal candidates, locking out far-left campus groups like Grassroots, which has consistently polled successfully at USU elections and has held the SRC presidency for two of the past four years.

Board Director and Unity (Labor Right) campaign manager, Connor Wherrett, believes compulsory voting would help the Unity brand and the Labor Party at large. "Our values are mainstream, pragmatic progressive values that would resonate with most of the mainstream population."

But that would only be the case if compulsory voting didn't push more "popular" independent candidates into the race. The number of Young Liberal and Young Labor students could remain flat, while compulsory voting could encourage the student body to seek other options—a protest vote, if you will, against the two parties that dominate national politics. Then again, if that proved to be the case, ambitious, politically-affiliated candidates could just run on apolitical branding. This model is already a favourite with the campus Moderate Liberals, who often run as independents—or "Libdependents" if you will.

Research hasn't shown that compulsory voting favours the right or the left, but in a compulsory

election, it doesn't work to your benefit to energise your base to the exclusion of other voters. Instead, swing voters are much more valuable, pushing the results to the centre.

"In recent years, those further left have done well out of catering to a passionate minority," Wherrett said, suggesting that the far-left would struggle under a compulsory system.

Masina also believes more moderate candidates would stand to benefit, rather than those with "radical ideological" beliefs. "If students are told they have to vote, they'd vote pragmatically, looking at the core functions of the SRC which is to advocate for students," he said.

### It is unclear if compulsory voting would result in genuine political engagement or just more donkey votes

He said that the SRC's activism around the Israel/Palestine conflict, for example, doesn't cater to the direct and relevant interests of students. "[Students] would vote on more moderate lines to serve the direct best interests of the community, rather than abstract debates that operate outside the sphere of the University."

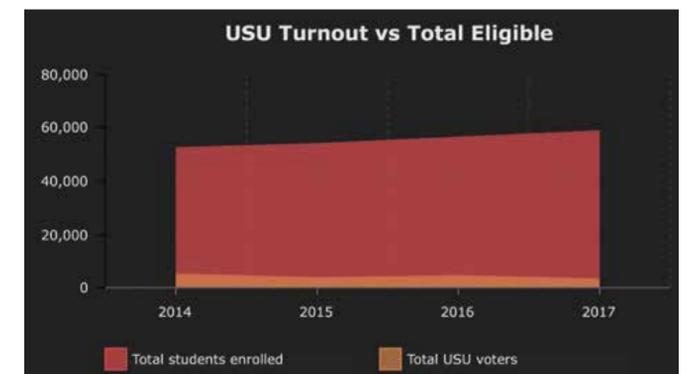
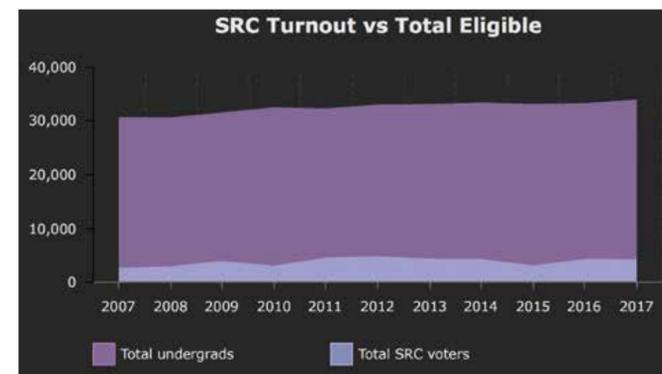
Lara Sonnenschein, the Grassroots candidate for SRC president this year, is also in favour of compulsory voting.

"[It] would create a different political culture on campus where ... candidates can be held to account or public scrutiny on a broader level," she said. "I think it'd also increase the awareness of student organisations ... which would be a positive thing in and of itself regardless of who was elected."

Unlike Masina, she thinks that compulsory voting would strengthen the left on campus. "I would imagine ... conservative influence would decrease by some degree."

It seems like establishment student politicians from all sides—everyone except He's faction—are pro-compulsory voting. But it's unlikely that they've cultivated enough goodwill with the wider student population to convince them that the inconvenience of exercising their democratic right is worth it.

## TURNOUT IN STUDENT BODY ELECTIONS VS STUDENT NUMBERS



# Is Sydney Law School too harsh on its students?

Lamya Rahman crunched the numbers to find out which universities' law faculties overload their students.

The first things I learnt about being a student at Sydney Law School were (a) 'you're going to cry' (b) closed book exams (c) 'Taste is horrible but we all pretend we like it' and (d) 'did you know we have more closed book exams than any other law school?'

While it didn't take long for (a) to happen and (c) to become a self-fulfilling prophecy, (b) and its reiteration in (d) always intrigued me.

We all know the stereotypes. If law schools in Sydney were characters in *Matilda*, USyd would be Miss Trunchbull and UTS would be Miss Honey. Sydney Law School, particularly its assessment practice, is often seen as harsh, unforgiving, and stuck in the past, especially when compared to the newer, seemingly friendlier and innovative models offered at UTS and UNSW, or even Macquarie.

But are these stereotypes necessarily true? Is USyd law school as daunting as it sounds, or does our law school just have the most whiny students? *Honi* carried out an investigation.

## Methodology

We collected information on the type of assessments and their weighting across all the core units comprising a Bachelor of Law at five Sydney-based law schools: the University of Sydney, University of New South Wales, University of Technology, Western Sydney University, and Macquarie University. Information about assessment policies came from publicly available sources, mainly course descriptors and unit outlines from 2017-2018.

We then divided assessments into six categories:

1. Assignment: any written assignment, excluding research essays and in-class assessments.
2. Open or closed exam: formal, sit-down examination taking place during the mid-semester break or delegated exam period.
3. Quiz: timed online quiz or test.
4. Research essay: any written assessment described as an essay.
5. Participation: tutorial attendance and engagement.
6. In-class assessments: task to be completed during class, including essays and tests.

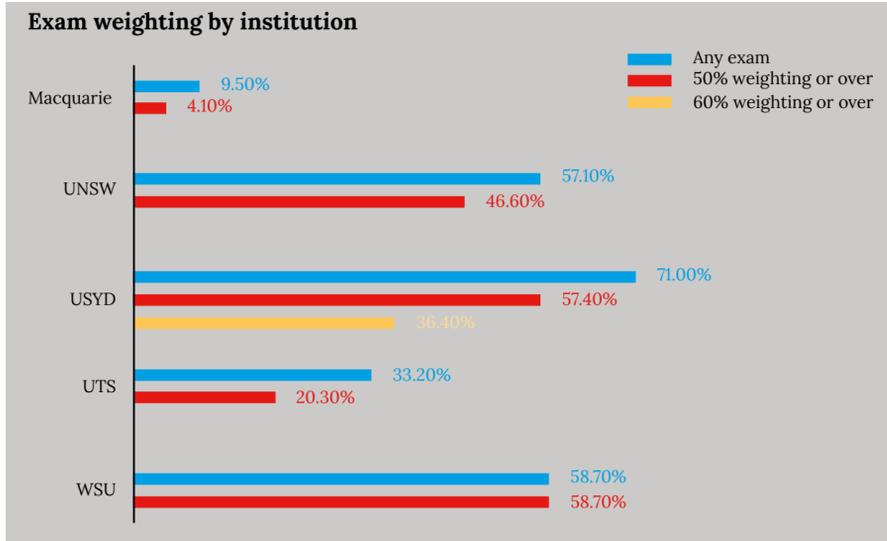
We first calculated the total available marks across all core units of a law degree at each university. We then calculated how many marks are awarded for each type of assessment, to assess the relative importance of each assessment format. At Sydney Law School, for example, 2.5 per cent of all available marks over your degree are awarded for research essays, signalling that research essays are valued less than other assessment formats. We have also considered how much specific tasks are weighted in a given unit of study—for example, Criminal Law at USyd allocates 40 per cent to a research essay.

## The results

### USyd is the worst when it comes to exams

Exams are a common component of the assessment practices of three law schools—USyd, WSU, and UNSW. But only at Sydney Law School do exams with a weighting of more than 70 per cent comprise 36.4 per cent of available marks. This data includes two opt-in assessments, both from the Equity and Evidence units of study. If a student chooses not to undertake those assessments, then almost 40 per cent of their marks would come from exams weighted 70 per cent or over.

Further, highly weighted exams are not common among other law schools in Sydney. Besides USyd, the only university to have exams worth 50 per cent or



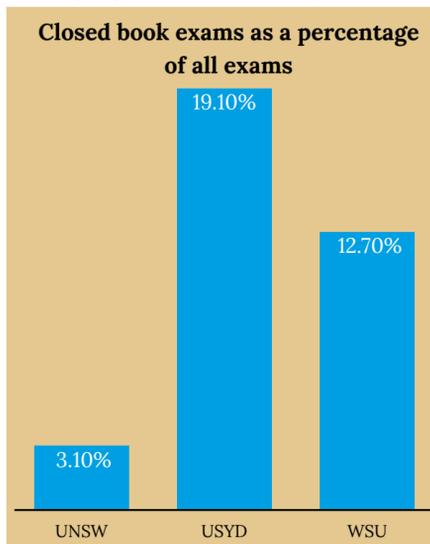
above is WSU, where these constitute 58.7 per cent of all the available marks. In comparison, the figures are 22.1 per cent for UNSW, 3.1 per cent for UTS and 8.1 per cent for Macquarie.

Highly weighted exams have been criticised for encouraging cramming, as the absence of regular, spaced assessments means students often leave all their work till the end. This was an issue brought up at Academic Board. Student Support Services told the Assessment Working Group of Academic Board earlier this year of the existence of an assessment logjam in Week 7, 11 and 13, one which places unprecedented demand on CAPS and Disability Services.

But students at USyd, perhaps growing used to our assessment model, do not necessarily take issue with the highly weighted exams—that is, if they are open book.

A Sydney University Law Society (SULS) survey circulated in Semester 1 this year asked students about their experience at law school in 2017. Current SULS Vice-President (Education) Eric Gonzales said, "Many students explained that closed book examinations are more stressful than other assessment formats and are different from legal practice."

Of all marks available in a USyd law degree, 19.1 per cent come from closed book examinations. To put this into perspective, closed book examinations only make up 3.1 per cent of the available marks in a degree at UNSW, Sydney Law School's main competitor.



Over the years, Sydney Law School has justified its preference for closed book exams on two grounds, both formally in press releases and informally in the opinions of particular staff members.

Firstly, closed book examinations allegedly reduce the likelihood of cheating, a concern plaguing law schools after a 2016 Fairfax investigation unearthed widespread academic misconduct in the sector.

Secondly, closed examinations allegedly produce better law students and future lawyers. Barring access to material in exam conditions should, theoretically, rigorously test a student's understanding of the law. But this does not reflect practice, where reference materials are always on hand—and it does not necessarily have the desired effect.

In the 2019 QS Law School rankings, USyd ranked 14th and UNSW 16th. Only 2.2 points separated the two when it came to Employer Reputation. This metric is based on responses to the QA Employer Survey, which asks employers to identify institutions they believe produce the most competent, effective graduates. USyd scored 95.9, UNSW closely behind with 93.7.

It seems that whether or not a law school has closed book exams makes little difference for a student's employability. The biggest issue facing law graduates is the oversupply of lawyers and record high levels of unemployment. So if closed book exams do not make a difference to our graduate outcomes, why have them at all, especially when it creates extra stress for students?

### WSU is the new USyd?

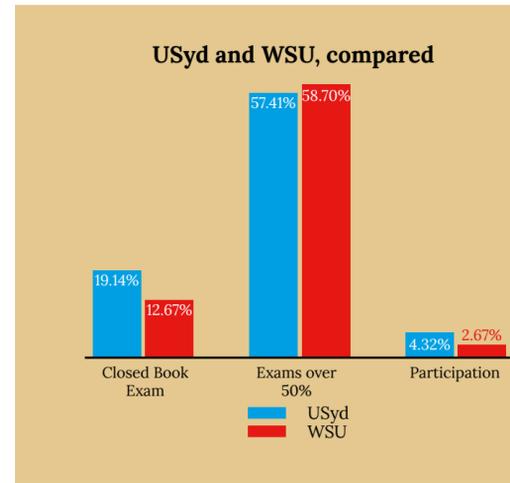
It's perhaps fair to say WSU is the underdog of law schools in Sydney. New to the game, WSU School of Law has faced criticism for having coursework that is perceived as less intellectually demanding.

So it's surprising given this stereotype that WSU is the second harshest law school in Sydney, according to the data.

A skeptic would say WSU's closeness to the USyd model is like a start-up trying to be the new Apple.

But a closer look reveals some innovation in WSU's teaching and curriculum. WSU was the only university to include mootings—something many lawyers actually do in practice—as a formal assessment. The university also included viva voces, oral exams where examiners ask students questions, to test the oral skills of future lawyers.

These are practical skills many argue USyd does not assess or teach. Except that USyd does, in a way. Our well-funded law society and our focus on extra-curricular activities encourages students to participate



in activities like mootings, negotiations and public speaking competitions, which prepares them for the workforce.

But not all students can be involved, and when the onus is on students to seek out these opportunities, many graduate without ever developing or being tested on skills essential to modern legal practice.

### The light after exams

Exams aren't the only assessments at law school, as ubiquitous as they may seem. UTS and Macquarie, so far largely absent from this data analysis, use a mix of exams and other assessment formats.

At UTS, the law department primarily prefers a combination of assignments (36.4 per cent) and exams (33.24 per cent), followed by class participation (18.65 per cent). Only at UTS do we find units of study where participation marks have a weighting 30 per cent or over (with the exception of the Contracts and

Torts unit of study at UNSW). These units include Australian Constitutional Law, Civil Practice, Equity, Administrative Law, Legal and Professional Skills, and Ethics Law and Justice.

The SULS survey revealed that USyd law students prefer class participation to all other assessment formats. Out of 119 respondents, 81 students found structured class participation most conducive to learning.

Assessable participation certainly has its benefits. The assessment format usually requires each student to be 'on call' for one or two tutorials of the semester; in those weeks, students have to be familiar with the readings and lead discussion. This system, at a minimum, ensures students will do the requisite study for their on call weeks, meaning not everything is left until the very end.

But the on call system also has the opposite effect, where students only do work for their allocated week. At UTS, though, where subjects give a huge weighting to participation, assessments often consist of more than the standard one or two on call tutorials to avoid the build-up of work for one or two weeks.

For example, in UTS Australian Constitutional Law, participation is weighed at 40 per cent. Of those marks, 10 per cent come from regular seminar participation. Another 10 per cent from a reading log, where students must display evidence of critical engagement with course readings. The last 20 per cent come from "role play", which is likely a less structured version of a moot. In Administrative Law, providing feedback on fellow students' assessments online and in-person comprises 20 per cent of the 40 per cent participation mark.

The focus on participation at UTS is in stark contrast to USyd, where participation marks only account for 2.8 per cent of available marks in the law degree. If UTS is the kind-hearted friend who's always there to listen when you need them, then USyd is the cold hearted colleague who only cares about business.

Most law students are known 'Type As'—ambitious,

competitive and impatient people, more susceptible to stress and heart disease than their laidback 'Type B' companions.

Sydney Law School's harsh assessment regime, with its focus on the frequency and weighting of examinations, only exacerbates the pressure law students place on themselves. But it would be incorrect to suggest that overhauling the assessment regime would fix the problem. If an average law student at USyd is neurotic and enterprising, then their stress levels won't necessarily fare better if an 80 per cent closed exam is converted to two 40 per cent written assignments.

But allocating more marks to other assessment formats, like assignments or participation, at least ensures that no single skill is prioritised, and that students with skill sets beyond the traditional exam focus can thrive. And including tests of oral ability, like at WSU, would at least be more reflective of modern law practice. Other law schools are making these changes, so why not USyd?

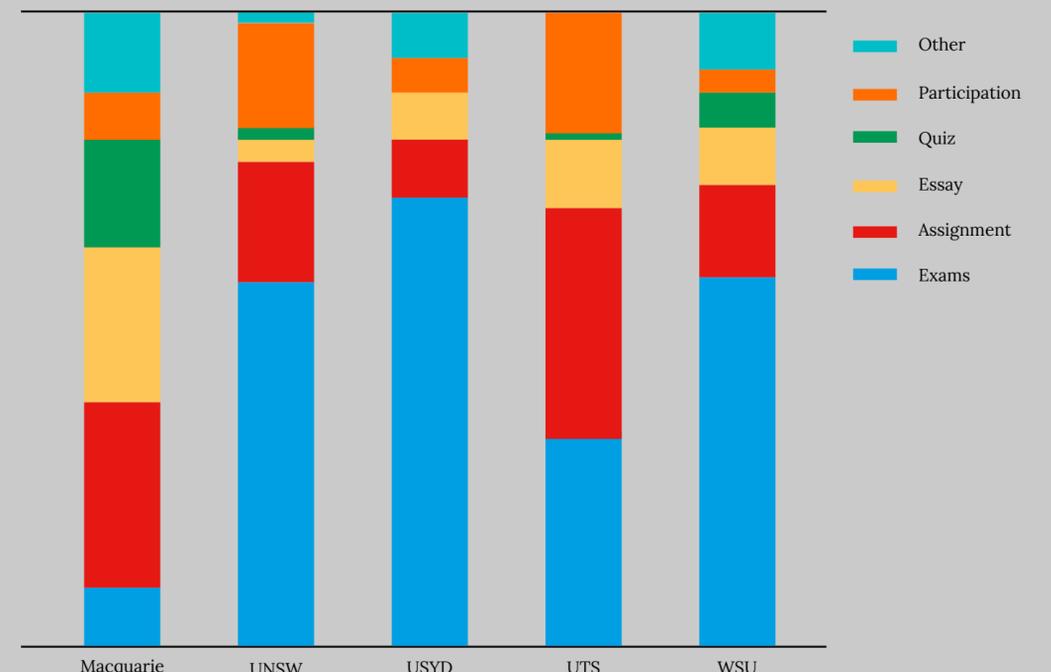
In November, Sydney Law School's Teaching and Curriculum Committee (T&CC) will discuss the results of the SULS survey, after which they have the choice to adapt or adjust the curriculum based on students' responses.

"SULS hopes T&CC will respond to the results to ensure that students feel they are being heard and that the Law School's vision for 2019 is geared towards improving their academic experience," Gonzales said.

The bottom line in all of this is that law school is hard. And Sydney Law School, an institution steeped in tradition, from the portraits of judges in the Law Foyer to the ancient hard copy law reports hoarded by our library, should evaluate whether current assessment formats really make the best modern lawyers.

Full data available at [honisoit.com](http://honisoit.com)

## Assessments, by type and by institution



# What do you get if you cross a lecture and a tute?

Vaidehi Mahapatra investigates lectorials, the new learning format taking USyd by storm.

Lectorials are the latest craze taking USyd by storm. Referred to as the 'flipped classroom' approach to teaching, this lecture-tutorial hybrid method seeks to build higher levels of student participation, interest and, ultimately, achievement, by subverting the traditional classroom model.

Lectorials were first used by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in 2010 to improve student outcomes in STEM subjects. A typical lectorial would begin with a lecturer providing an introduction to new concepts, before students are directed to break off into groups and apply this knowledge in problem solving activities.

The RMIT website touts that by combining the content delivery mode of a lecture with the collaborative group-work of a tutorial, lectorials "improve opportunities for student engagement in large classes", offering "the best of both worlds!" But when this model is exported to other disciplines such as arts and social sciences, where learning is perhaps more oriented towards research and critical discussion, its ability to provide effective outcomes is thrown into question.

Dirk Moses, professor of modern history at USyd, conducted an experiment on this very question in 2017. He took international studies unit INGS1002 and delivered a two hour-long lectorial to 274 students in ABS Lecture Theatre 1110. Predictably, he immediately encountered challenges regarding space and scale; namely, how to emulate the intimacy and structure of a tutorial in a lecture theatre designed to house entire cohorts.

Student feedback acknowledged the rationale

behind lectorials but highlighted several flaws in their implementation. Recurring issues in the feedback were the tendency for discussion pods to deteriorate into unproductive social conversations in the absence of explicit academic direction; discussions in lectures were often reduced to recycled insights and mere opinion-spruiking, and the potential to deter participation by introverted students or those experiencing language difficulties.

**Student feedback reveals that much of the success of this teaching format relies on students taking the initiative to come to class**

Despite these criticisms, in an end-of-semester survey designed by Moses, a slim majority of 55 per cent of students strongly agreed or agreed that they preferred lectorials to traditional lectures, compared to 31 per cent who disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Moses remains positive about the role of lectorials in FASS, and continued refining the format through semester 1 and 2 of this year in INGS1003 and INGS1004. In light of last year's feedback, improvements were made to the program: smaller teaching spaces were used to isolate breakout groups, additional teaching staff were on hand to provide support to these pods, and the number of students in any one lectorial was reduced to 147.

## How scientists speak

Statistics can sound sexy, according to **Lena Wang**.

The homepage of the Australian Vaccination-risks Network is bright and colourful. The header is a stock photo of a smiling heterosexual couple with their baby. But a few clicks away, the website loudly proclaims:

"Anyone who thinks that the vaccine-autism link began and ended ... needs to do more research."

The anti-vaxxer movement is founded on ableist pseudoscience, and there is a lot of scientific research disproving it. But there is resistance to this proof, a symptom of the same pro-individualist, reactionary politics as climate denialism. The AVN is right to call for doing your research, but there are three significant barriers to understanding refutations of anti-vaxxers' claims.

The first is that this type of research is not always accessible: misinformation is rife. The second is false equivalence. The fact that there are equal amounts of discussion on either side falls into the same trap as centrist discourse—it suggests that the two sides deserve equal consideration.

But a carefully set-up and peer-reviewed experiment is not on par with fevered new age ranting. The third problem is one of human instinct—we're emotional creatures.

The safety of vaccines, backed up by technically complex statistics on the bioavailability of aluminium salts, doesn't conjure up the same visceral, primal response as 'our children are in danger because of the government!'

Skepticism is important; it helps us hold government to account. But in a context where skepticism is uninformed and unfounded, science must work to communicate the facts to us. That's where science writing comes in.

Jane McCredie is the CEO of Writing NSW and has been directing its science writing event, Quantum

Words, for the last two years. "I think in times when evidence and expertise are often under attack in the public sphere, it's really important that we have quality writing about science and evidence to help inform public discussion and debate," she tells me.

To serve this function, science writing needs to be accessible. A prank that resurfaces every few years warns the public about the "dihydrogen monoxide" in our drinks, only to reveal that this scary-sounding chemical compound is actually water. But this punishes people's lack of literacy, failing to empathise with people who have been fucked over by a shitty educational curriculum.

Scientific writing, then, does need to concede to populist rhetoric. McCredie agrees that it can't all be cold, hard statistics.

"I think it's very important that quality information and evidence is being put in front of people. But we also know that ... we're the kind of animal that responds very well to story," she says. "I think there are ways to tell human stories while still being committed to fact."

Perhaps more than any other type of writing, science writing is characterised by the tension between fact and fiction: between abstractions on the one hand, designed to take science away from political realities and into the romantic; and real-world grounding on the other, where science is located in the grit of current goings on.

As McCredie says, "You've got to keep very clear in your mind what the difference is between stories and evidence."

Carl Sagan's introduction to his book *Pale Blue Dot* made me cry the first time I read it.

"Look again at that dot ... The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines ... every 'superstar',

"Scale matters," says Moses, who recognises that the main hurdle he encountered was the struggle to "break [large cohort-wide lectures] down into smaller face-to-face communities". He stresses the need for the diversity to provide adequate teaching spaces and resources to support a turn towards interactive learning.

Student feedback reveals that much of the success of this teaching format relies on students taking the initiative to come to class, having done their readings, prepared to share, defend and develop their insights. Not doing so results in a "bland discussion" that does little to give students their money's worth. Lectorials may be better suited to senior units where students possess the motivation and critical capacity to sustain primarily peer-led discussion. But even there, success hinges largely on classes where students feel comfortable sharing personal views and criticisms.

If lectorials are ever to become a feasible universal model, decisions must be made about how to tailor them to each faculty. Direct exportation of the lectorial teaching model, without incorporating necessary changes, has been met with strong dissatisfaction from a large number of students who don't feel as though their academic needs are being met. For all the "Unlearn: classroom" posters plastered across Eastern Avenue, the University needs to support pedagogical shifts like lectorials through genuine action.

As one student survey response put it, "collaborative learning en masse can quickly turn into a muddle of mixed opinions". So the question remains—can we ever wade through this muddle, towards true educational reform?

every 'supreme leader', every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there—on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam," he writes.

But Sagan's call for human unity and kindness reads a little naive when, for instance, the Australian government is knowingly torturing refugees in offshore detention centres. Like all writing, science pieces must be read in context. Writing on climate change or data security may necessarily be less poetic than Sagan's introduction.

Science writing is often accused of being dry—overly data-driven and statistical. However, statistics don't necessarily spoil the romance of good communication. Stats are involved in any analysis article, and don't necessarily tie that article to dryness. "There is no such thing as a boring topic. There are boring writers," McCredie says.

And science writing is only a small piece of the puzzle. Education is critical to fostering the scientific literacy the government champions, but so rarely acts upon (stop using coal you fuckers).

A curriculum that "makes a narrative of science" could encourage students to engage with the emotive aspect of science from an earlier age. This could boost interest in the technical facets of science later on. As McCredie notes, "It's not just about getting people into STEM pipeline, it's also about having a population that is more generally engaged with science."

"If people even have a basic understanding of the scientific method they're not going to fall for the anti-vaccine stuff."

*Quantum Words* is taking place on Saturday November 3, 2018 at Callan Park.



# Just in time

ART / JULIETTE AMIES

# All genders lose out under Parental Leave Scheme

Australia's paternity leave policies discriminate against men, writes **Emelie Watkins**, and there are consequences for everyone.

Australia has one of the least generous Paid Parental Leave systems in the world. In heterosexual relationships, only 2 per cent of Australian men take parental leave, as social expectations confine women to unpaid labour in the home, and hypermasculine tropes see men as secondary carers. Most new fathers decide to take only two weeks off. And women who try to juggle caring for children with a career risk being fired.

Research consistently shows enormous benefits of paternity leave and men wanting to take it up. Brain undoubtedly hopes for "close bonding with his son in the critical early years". Research by the Human Rights Commission (2014) showed three in four fathers would have liked to take additional leave, but either couldn't afford it, didn't know it was possible, had no access to annual leave entitlements, or thought it wouldn't be granted.

## All Swedish parents receive 480 days of paid leave per child, to be shared between parents

The Aussie Dads exhibition showcased fathers crafting strong emotional relationships with their children, and as research proves, fathers who are involved in caring for a child in the early years are highly likely to continue that engagement throughout a child's lifetime.

Reflecting on the benefits, Walsh says Australian companies need to ask, "How easy do we make it for fathers to get involved?"

Taking USyd's parental leave policies as an example, the mechanisms that push men to take on child-rearing roles are often absent. USyd offers 'Paid Short Partner Leave', at five paid days, while Paid Maternity Leave is offered either on a pro-rata basis, or offers 14 weeks paid leave. This system is typical for Australian businesses.

But it's also our spaces and lives entrench the expectations that women should care for children. In the Jane Foss Russell Building for example, only the female bathrooms double as baby change rooms.

"By having Dad and Partner Pay, and making it 2 weeks, it suggests that dads should just take 2 weeks off. I know that wasn't the intention, but it's an unintended consequence of what was intended to be a good policy", says Walsh.

Policy can be amended overnight, but it can take years for culture and norms to see significant change. Walsh's advice is for employers to get into the habit of asking fathers not "if" but "when are you taking parental leave". This creates the expectation that the father will take leave, and the expectation that their company will support them. "It's subtle, but very meaningful. It's things like that that will help to normalise father's caring role in society," urges Walsh.

To achieve gender equality, it is urgent for USyd, and Australia, to rethink its approach toward Paid Parental Leave. When you look at the effects in the home and the workplace, it becomes clear that it's time to stop overlooking men in the realm of parenting, and time for women's careers to stop being penalised.



Image Credit: Aussie Dads Exhibition

# Final countdown: The race to submit your essay

Laura de Feyter and Sasha McCarthy said it would never happen again.

It's 11:57 pm, and here you are again. Beads of sweat drip from your forehead, breathing shallow and frantic, fingers shaking as you add more crap to your latest word vomit. Your conscience is yelling at you, making you question every drunken night out and lazy Netflix arvo that led to this moment. 11:58 pm. You open Canvas and think up a fluffy, pretentious title for your essay. You can see the seconds ticking away, every pixel flicker inching closer to that dreaded number... 11:59 pm. It's in. We've all been there—misread due dates, technical failures or, honestly, questionable life choices. Every USyd student has a crazy last minute submission story. Here are some award-winning accounts.

### No time like the present : Em

Em is no stranger to assessment submission drama. In her first semester of university, she boldly asked her unit coordinator for a simple extension on her Media and Communications essay, a mere hour before the deadline. Unsurprisingly, her request was rejected. Since then her tactics have become much more sophisticated. One afternoon, she was unassumingly sitting in an English tutorial when her tutor hit her with, "Em, are you ready to present now?" It had completely slipped her mind. Instead of admitting defeat, she proudly announced; "No, you must have it wrong, I'm definitely presenting next week..." Well played, Em.

### Divorce drama: Lana

The midnight deadline was fast approaching, when Lana faced the reality that she "physically couldn't" get her assignment in on time. Her immediate reflex was to fire off some frantic emails to her coordinator, explaining that she was experiencing some "technical difficulties". But in case her coordinator didn't buy that story, she added a part 2... "[I] went so far as to make up that my parents were divorced and at 12:45am I was venturing to my 'Dad's house' to 'try using his computer'". The mission was a success, and Lana submitted her assignment later that evening.

### Sodden situations: Sarah

Sarah was merrily finishing off an engineering assignment in Fisher Library, which she had to submit as a hard copy to the Civil Engineering Building by 5pm. As she was adding some final touches, she checked the time... "4:50pm???" She bolted immediately skidded out of the library to embark on what should be at least a 15 minute journey. To add to the drama, the heavens had opened, and it started pissing down on Sarah and her assignment—pathetic fallacy at its finest (yes, I did Year 10 English). By some miracle, she made it just in time, flinging a sopping wet report at her concerned-looking tutor.

### Diligently delaying deadlines: Suzi

Suzi made a tried and true error. You see your assignment is not due for x amount of time, laugh to yourself as the tutor reminds you to get started ASAP because "it's your thesis" or something, then find yourself seated in exactly the same position with no words on the page right before it is due. Suzi explains that she was "rewriting it the night before, to the point that I did not sleep that entire night". When it finally came to printing and binding her thesis, Officeworks was closed and she was forced to find another option. "We found one and it legit ripped us off but we printed so that's ok." Suzi and her family then raced to USyd to submit the thesis, a whole 12 minutes before the 4pm deadline, while her Dad was posting live Facebook updates of the saga.



### Suspicious slide selections: Laura de Feyter

Laura discovered what a meme the Sociology department is while carefully constructing a powerpoint to present that same day. She gave herself just enough time, completing all 10 shoddy slides on the train to class. Arriving there, the last remnants of her confidence began to seep away: "I stared at the class, and realised I had absolutely no idea what I was talking about." "But you know what? Those slides saved the day." The slide show included artistic coups de grace like an Old Spice commercial, intended to demonstrate the power of capitalism. But Laura's teacher was enthralled by her "interesting" selection of images and spent the next 30 minutes trying to interpret their deep significance. Unfortunately, Laura "couldn't tell him it was because they were the first hits for 'ad' on Google images."

### Simple slip-ups: Liana

Liana did what many of us have done before. She knew there was no way she would be submitting her take-home exam on time, and went straight to our favourite lifeline—the simple extension. This take-home had two components, a quiz and an essay. But when Liana sat down to smash out the timed quiz, it was "no longer available". Panic engulfed her, as she frantically refreshed the page and emailed her unit coordinator. A while later, the coordinator emailed back with some tragic news... "Liana, the simple extension only applied to the essay component of the take home exam." It was then that Liana realised she had made a huge mistake.

### Elegantly exporting: Wendy

A classic mistake for media students is underestimating the time it will take to export a project. Wendy says she started exporting a documentary due at 4pm at 3:50pm, only to see it stop loading at 4:05pm. But it is the events that followed which are truly heartbreaking. She proceeded to "carefully eject [the USB] then rip it out of the computer," she explains. "We run down six flights of stairs to the basement, burst into the classroom, me screaming as I take a knee and offer our USB open-palmed in the middle of the seminar room." To Wendy's relief, or perhaps chagrin, she was appalled to hear the tutor's response. "No I'll collect at 4:20."

### Smuggle street: Alison

Alison, a MECO/law student, was in the middle of a Euro trip, when a pesky assignment reared its head. The deadline, long ignored, was that very afternoon. Trouble was, Alison had a full day of sightseeing planned, and was catching a flight back to London that evening. "I wrote my essay from the top bunk of a Copenhagen hostel room." After doing the timezone calculations, Alison figured she had time to go sightseeing, and would finish her bibliography at the airport. That's where things started to go sour. Her bag had barely cleared through the x-ray machine, when an airport official stopped her. "The security guard who insisted I had something in my bag, when I was sure there was nothing and this was a waste of my valuable time." With the clock ticking down, Alison started arguing with the guard. But then she realised: "I'd forgotten to take my toothpaste out." She gave up on personal hygiene, binned her toothpaste, and ran to the boarding gate—where she managed to submit on time.

# I miss this moment already

Liam Donohoe deconstructs premature nostalgia.

Looking back on the year so far, I can't help but feel I've been buoying through one long week. Though the days brought with them new moments to call the 'present', each one of these 'presents' seemed to pass by unnoticed, without significant indulgence. But despite lacking any clear demarcation along the timeline, this week-like year has nonetheless yielded moments I will expect to look back on with deep nostalgia. I recently realised this is no coincidence.

I know I am not the only one who feels this way. Many relate to feeling as if their attention sits outside 'the present', especially among those experiencing the now all-too-cliche quarter-life crisis. But one specific form of the malaise these existentialists might have a more personal acquaintance with is what I'd like to dub 'pre-nostalgia'.

It is natural to look to the future with a sense of anticipation. We would be far less human if we didn't get excited every once and a while. But there's a regrettable point where our constant thinking about the future comes at the expense of what makes the present valuable.

Pre-nostalgia is distinct from general anxiety, though. It involves imagining a future iteration of ourselves looking back on the moment we are currently experiencing and deriving value from that imagined recollection. We appreciate the present moment not because of the value it offers as we experience it, but because of the value it'll offer that future iteration when they recall it. We perceive that the moment is significant enough to be something we're likely to recall fondly, and so appreciate that we're gifting a future version of ourselves a story or experience they'll yearningly replay. In short, we are struck by early onset nostalgia, experiencing the present on behalf of

a future self.

But pre-nostalgia doesn't just involve experiencing the present as a contour without detail. It is also a state where instead of experiencing our best days we instead believe that we are experiencing our best days. As the moments pass by, blunted, we can come to feel powerless, not only because the present evades notice, but also because we experience the present from the third-person, as a detached biographer outside our timeline, imposing backwards-facing satisfaction.

## We look to the past in order to excuse us from authenticity

The happiness we experience here is a sort of meta-happiness, where we are pleased to have acted out a scene worthy of nostalgia, rather than experiencing happiness because of the act alone.

In an institution designed to lay down the tracks that locomote us to the future, rushing to the terminal threatens to blur the views we get as we bump over the sleepers on the way.

In a capitalist society constantly stressing the importance of jobs and stable fortunes, youth are bound to worry about the future often enough to have a clouded experience of the present. But what makes pre-nostalgia so pernicious is that it leaks into the experiences we find most valuable. Where we should be experiencing something sublime or euphoric, we find that in place of being relieved from our self, we are instead further imprisoned by a distant perversion of it.

Experiencing the world in this alien way makes us feel like passive bystanders pining to become a

superior future version of ourselves. Paradoxically, this brings those future versions closer—time that goes unnoticed is time that seems to move faster. But beyond a mere passive ennui, we start to worry that we're not experiencing the moment correctly. Perhaps in some cases we inflate the experience so it reaches the importance it was pre-assigned. Perhaps in others we worry that good moments are being inflated in that very way. Whatever the case, pre-nostalgia can't help but shake the cage of our existential insecurity, bringing the end closer to view by making us overly concerned with the amorphous future it belongs to.

But if pre-nostalgia can reveal a hyper awareness of the future, it can also reflect an obsession with the past. We all unconsciously inherit then conform to patterns embedded by our history, realising eventually that our actions are but tiles in a great mosaic of predictability. Too concerned with this past to process the present as valuable in itself, and too insecure to admit we're letting the moment slip, we look to the past in order to excuse us from authenticity. We feel our life as it's nostalgia, before we are temporally entitled to do so.

Pre-nostalgia is by no means the only phenomenon of its kind. In fact, just as a guitar rig runs through an effects pedal, so too does our experience of moments run through a filter of self-awareness and desire. Trapped within this feedback loop, we then fail to have the very experiences worthy of nostalgic preservation.

Despite all this, I still find myself experiencing things in my life vicariously, on behalf of a future, more perfect iteration of myself I know I will never grow into. Perhaps I will never be able to look back on my life with any sense of admiration. Perhaps I will never be able to enjoy unmediated experiences. Whatever the case, I long to be rid of longing.

# I'd rather be late than just in time

Alan Zheng will be there in ten.

Like countless others, I'm a serial latecomer. Unlike many however, I'm proud of it. On Wednesday mornings, I stride into my 9AM lecture, late, equipped with whatever caffeinated beverage made me late; spurred on by the lecturer's disapproving gaze. This routine is like clockwork, but underneath the repeated flustered entries is my subtle rebellion against modern society's almost ritualistic fixation on time. Amongst friends, I'm consistently and predictably the last to arrive to any gathering. Lateness carries with it a heap of disparaging baggage. Dilatory folk are denigrated, diagnosed with tardiness and the sin of sloth.

Like Lewis Carroll's famous White Rabbit, latecomers are seen as fidgety and panicked, paradigms of self-centred thinking. Punctuality, on the other hand, is consistently framed in terms ranging from the heroism of last-minute rescues in movies to the revered timeliness of the Tokyo Metro. Although punctuality in our public institutions is definitely laudable, beneath this dichotomy is a narrative which clothes late individuals with irrationality, negligence and selfishness. But this narrativisation is hardly consistent with the day-to-day reality of young people and students faced with inflexible deadlines and stubborn commitments, which leave no freedom to privilege the things that matter to us.

In TS Eliot's 1910 poem 'Preludes', he sketches a morose picture of a society dictated by time, portraying "short square fingers stuffing pipes" at "four and five and six o'clock." It's difficult to not see the connection to student lives, centred around timetables and pulled in multiple directions by the conflicting desires of sleep,

social lives and success. Being late is an act of individual protest, a deliberate and radical commitment to self-care when it is needed most. Last year, after taking a break from social media, I found myself arriving late to many events. The constant demands of our 24/7 social media lifestyle actually make being timely harder to achieve. As a practical work-life balance becomes increasingly elusive, tolerating lateness is merely another means of affording flexibility.

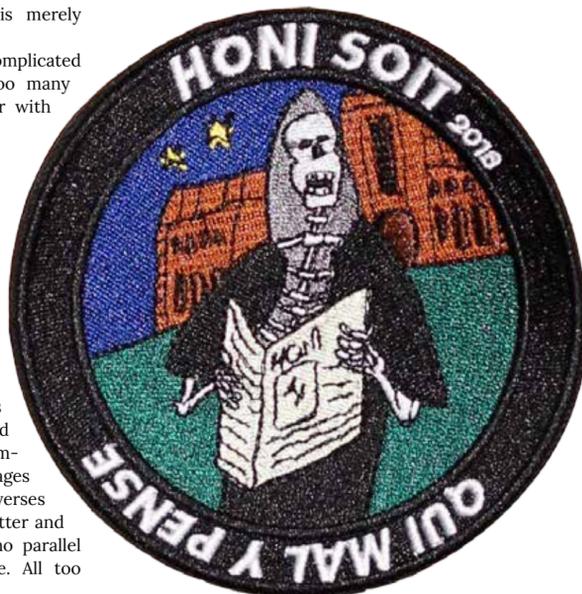
Lateness is also a symptom of our complicated lives, the consequence of one snooze too many on early mornings or a chance encounter with

## I'm a serial latecomer

an old friend turning into an impromptu detailed catch-up. In modern supply chain management, 'Just-In-Time' or JIT is a principle which seeks to cut costs and wastage by promoting the production or delivery of finished goods 'just in time' to be sold. Lean production reigns supreme in the commercial world.

But a rigid and blind adherence to JIT has clearly transcended the commercial world into the social, constructing a business-cum-society where individuals are habitual packages on a mechanised supply chain which traverses work, uni and home. But unlike JIT, the clutter and wastage in a business supply chain has no parallel with relationships, passions and self-care. All too

often, a faultless adherence to punctuality discards more diverse, flexible and proactive uses of our time. Perhaps we ought to recall that although Peter Parker was consistently late in the Spiderman universe, it was ultimately because he was juggling all of his obligations. Like the masked menace, it's okay if we're late too.



# The University is still killing our planet

LAMYA RAHMAN & ANDREW RICKERT

The world is in a climate crisis, the scope of which still escapes the majority of the population. This includes our decision-makers, who continue to invest in fossil fuels and high-emission companies, searching for profit rather than a future for our planet. It may seem like hyperbole, but it's also startling: USyd's emissions, per student, are comparable on a national scale.

## 1. USYD PRODUCES MORE CO2 EQUIVALENT EMISSIONS PER CAPITY PER YEAR THAN NATION STATES



## 2. USYD INVESTS IN

3 OF AUSTRALIA'S TOP TEN POLLUTERS IN 2016-2017, PLUS 3 OF THE WORLD'S TOP 100 POLLUTERS OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS.

AGL, ORIGIN, WOODSIDE, BHP, RIO TINTO, CNOOC

## IN TOTAL, USYD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR

# 423,868

TONNES OF CO2-EQUIVALENT EMISSIONS PER YEAR, OR 7.17 TONNES PER STUDENT PER YEAR

THE SAME AMOUNT OF EMISSIONS IN A YEAR AS

USyd has to report its emissions data each year. This includes 'scope 1' emissions, which is anything directly released into the environment by USyd, as well as 'scope 2', which accounts for the emissions involved in USyd's energy use.

We have also included USyd's stakeholdings in the three of Australia's top ten polluters that they invest and three from the world's top 100. Own the company, own the emissions, we figure.



CARS DRIVEN

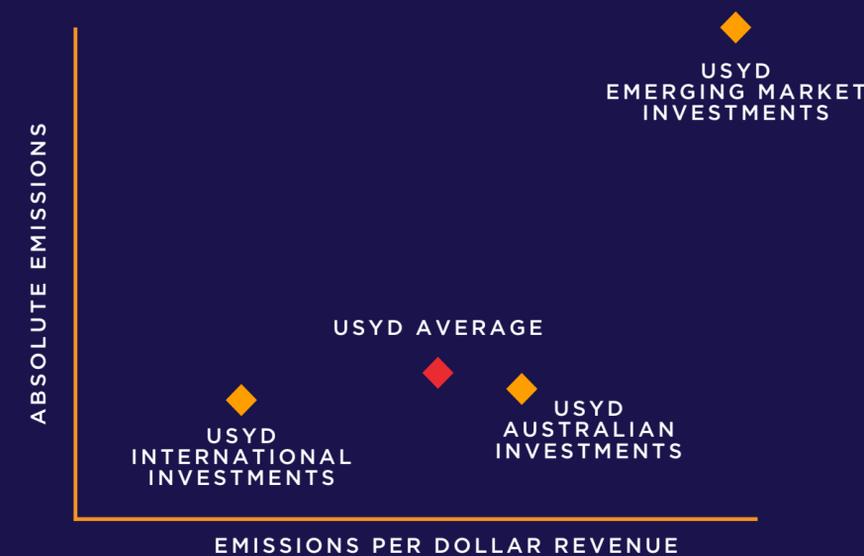
# 90,763



HOMES POWERED

# 45,769

## 3. USYD TRADES PROFITABLE INVESTMENTS FOR HIGH EMISSIONS



USyd's investment portfolio is massive, and so their equivalent emissions are far higher than what we can confirm numerically.

USyd mandates that their portfolio's emissions must be kept low for environmental reasons: 20 per cent below a composite benchmark of all the markets they invest in. Not surprisingly, they achieve their own metric, just scraping under the 20 per cent benchmark.

In fact, as their 2017 data shows, they are far below the benchmarks in both Australian and International markets. However, it appears that the University uses these low emissions locally to balance out their investment in high-polluting emerging markets, and their total responsibility is likely far higher.

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# BRING BACK BULL

WORDS / ALISON XIAO

ART / AVIVA GREEN

In 2014, I was as keen a first year as they come. At the end of semester 1, after settling into campus life, I wrote a list of goals for my time at Sydney Uni—an array of activities I thought would enhance my experience, help me make friends, and mitigate the inevitable regret I'd feel after a six year degree.

One of these goals was to become an editor of *BULL* magazine. It's a goal I'll never achieve.

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USyd's campus media is nowhere near dead. *Honi* is still kicking, strong as ever. *SURF* has seen a resurgence of popularity in the past few years. *PULP*, though still in its infancy, has run investigations that have won nationwide attention. *Hermes*, the University of Sydney Union's literary magazine, is the oldest journal in Australia. It competes with *Arna*, an annual literary journal published by the Arts Society. Before ceasing print publication in late 2015, *Mon Droit* also gave a voice to conservative writers, who felt alienated by mainstream campus outlets.

Many other universities have seen their student media outlets shrink since the introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism in 2006. Some have detected a theme here: as with the mainstream media, it's print publications that have suffered the most. Flinders University's *Empire Times* closed in 2006, only to be replaced by newcomer *Libertine* in 2008, which itself died in 2011. In 2013, *Empire Times* made a comeback and remains on stands. At the beginning of the year, UNSW's print magazine, *Blitz*, quietly announced that it would be ending print publication.

It's been three years since *BULL* was shut down by its publisher, the USU. Students who began university after 2015 have probably never heard of the magazine, let alone picked up a copy. So what was all the fuss about?

*BULL* was a creative monthly magazine, launched in 2006 in its modern form. It was printed eight times a year, with six student editors and a USU design team, and was best known for photojournalism and longform features, which suited its long production cycle. There was full page photography and artwork, printed in colour, first on glossy paper and then, from 2015 onwards, on matte paper. The magazine featured regular sections, from "The Time I Tried," to "Shutter Up," to "Udder Bullshit".

"It was always focused on feature articles and evergreen stuff," says Mary Ward, who edited *BULL* in 2015, its final year.

"It was print campus media for people who didn't care about campus politics."

For that reason, *BULL* was often seen as the more accessible version of its SRC counterpart, *Honi Soit*—now USyd's only regular, student-run print publication—a publication described by a former *BULL* editor in *Hijacked* as "beholden to egos, cliques, politics and editorial snobbery".

Ward, who is now a lifestyle reporter at the *Sydney Morning Herald*, remembers visiting the *BULL* stall at her first OWeek in 2012. The magazine was her first foray into student media, and she says that, at the time, it was "definitely better promoted [than *Honi*]".

It certainly makes sense—the USU has more funding than the SRC and operates more as a business than a union. So it had the tools and the incentives to market *BULL* aggressively.

But this commercial mindset also means the USU thinks in terms of profit and loss. And *BULL* fell on the expenses side of the ledger: according to the USU's Director of Marketing and Infrastructure, Alistair Cowie, it cost over \$10,000 to produce annually.

And yet *BULL*'s circulation was dwindling. Eventually, the USU

decided they couldn't justify the outlay. *BULL*'s print cycle was slow; it had no immediacy, and struggled to keep up with the fast pace of culture in the internet age.

So, just like that, without student consultation, *BULL* was put out to pasture. The USU Board voted in camera—that is, in a secret session—to end publication.

Soon after, the USU gave up the licence to *BULL*'s domain name, meaning most of the magazine's online content is now inaccessible. Some issues have been published on the print hosting website Issuu, but only editions from 2011 to 2015 have been uploaded. The library carries issues from 2009, but four years of *BULL*'s history have been lost.

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In 1978, Alistair Cowie was a first year at the University of Sydney. He had three print publications to choose from. Cowie says he read them all.

The *Union Recorder* was Sydney University's first news publication edited by students. Dating back to 1921, the publication preceded *Honi Soit*, which first hit the stands in 1929. *The Recorder* chronicled decades of student life, and was put together by three student editors. It fluctuated between weekly and fortnightly print cycles.

There was also *The Daily Bull*, short for the daily bulletin, an A4 newsletter advertising the events and services provided by the USU. "It showed you what was happening today, listed what was on special in the bistro, what happened at Manning at lunchtime, what club and society meetings were scheduled," he says. "And it always had a joke of day."

And of course, Cowie would devotedly pick up a copy of yours truly.

Later, in 1987, the Union would introduce its bi-weekly *Union Eyes* publication, which only lasted for two years. In this era, colleges were putting out publications, literary journals flourished and individual clubs had their own print newsletters.

Then, in 2006, came VSU. The SRC, the USU, and its clubs and societies lost millions of dollars of funding. *The Union Recorder* was remade as a short-lived annual, and the USU's sole and flagship publication became a monthly magazine: *The Bull*. With fewer pages and lower quality paper stock, it was a less expensive publication than *The Union Recorder*.

"Then it grew again and became the *BULL* we knew until a few years ago," Cowie says.

It's easy to wax nostalgic about the days before VSU and the personal computer. The truth is, much of the content that was once in print still exists: it has simply migrated online, where the kind of daily updates published by the *The Daily Bull* now find a home on Facebook pages or USU press releases.

Though Cowie says he loved *BULL*, he is positive about evolution and change. "It's important to not keep something just because it's been there for a long time. If it's not working, look for some other way."

In 2018, *Honi Soit* is the sole independent student-edited news publication on campus.

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The USU signed *BULL*'s death warrant, making the decision to, in Cowie's words, "go where people are, which is mainly online". Enter *PULP*, an exclusively digital platform, notorious for its gif-laden, *Buzzfeed*-style listicles.

In its first two years, *PULP* was edited by two students in salaried positions. This year, three editors were hired and managed a group of 87 contributors.

The 2019 editors will each be paid \$12,333 (\$43,334 per annum, pro rata, on the basis of 14-hour weeks during semester), compared to the \$3,000 honorarium *BULL* paid to each of its six editors. Next year will also see the USU set out formal KPIs for its editors, instead of the traditional "expectations".

This year, *PULP* scored its very own website; previously, it was just a tab on the USU's homepage. But a glance at the traction of its Facebook page shows engagement is still low, with articles rarely breaking more than ten likes. There are some big exceptions, though: the article announcing the 2019 *PULP* editors received almost 100. This points to *PULP*'s status as the darling of the MeCo and stupol social scene—and little else.

This insularity is understandable: rather than walking around campus and picking up a copy from stands, the new outlet requires people to seek out the Facebook page, or be friends with enough people who engage with *PULP*'s content. As Ward puts it: "[*BULL*] was inherently less cliquy because it was print media."

One of *BULL*'s greatest strengths was the voice it gave to writers who had no interest in the stupol world of *Honi*. *PULP* has stuck with this mission for accessibility: it has introduced weekly face-to-face pitch meetings, where reporters bounce ideas off one another and flesh them out with the editors.

Similarly, *PULP* has been able to attract new contributors with cold hard cash. As Cowie explains, "We pay contributors a small sum to thank them for their work." Writers receive \$10 for a regular article and around \$20 for breaking news.

Content wise, it's clear the USU hopes *PULP* can cover much the same ground as its predecessor. USU President Liliana Tai says she hopes the publication "is able to provide students with information about student and USU activity on campus, provide political news as well as pop culture analysis, and publish opinions from a diverse range of student experiences."

But it would be wrong to presume that *PULP* is simply *BULL* transplanted onto a website. When the medium changed, so did the range of possibilities for content and packaging. There's no clearer example than *PULP*'s focus on video content. Tai has championed the move to multimedia programming, and in 2019, one of the three editors will be dedicated solely to video production.

In general, *PULP* hopes its contributors will receive a taste of the work demanded by the modern media landscape. Current *PULP* editor Noah Vaz says that the skills learnt from managing an online publication have been invaluable—from CMS management, to creating a website, to doing regular reporting on readership statistics.

If *PULP* can sustain a commitment to multimedia, it will be a first for USyd, where digital content makers have consistently struggled. That's not for want of demand: *USyd Update*, the University's first student video organisation, initially flourished, publishing 80 videos at its peak, in 2016. It was the fastest growing student media outlet in the country, but once its original leaders moved on, the organisation collapsed.

Similarly, this year's *Honi* editorial team promised it would "stoke the fire of student media with weekly videos [and] captivating podcasting stories". As it stands, *Heat for Honi* has published eight non-election videos this year and zero podcasts.

*PULP* hasn't done much better. According to Cowie, *PULP*'s 2018 editors agreed that one video a week was a realistic target. The reality was one video a month, ten over the year so far.

And where *PULP* has added different styles and formats to the *BULL* model, it has also taken away. Much of *BULL* was centred around illustrations, 2015 *BULL* editor, Tom Joyner, told me. "We had softer content around campus culture, a lot more photography and illustrations ... more of a visual component." Take, for example, Joyner's photo essays on identical twins and student housing, to name a few. *PULP*, in contrast, last published student photography in 2016, with a piece by Karen Lin on how to curate the perfect Instagram feed. The 33 photographers and artists who worked for *BULL* in 2015 have had scant role to play.

"*PULP* doesn't have the same unique identity that has grown out of [a decade]," Vaz says. "One of the goals and challenges of both the USU and the *PULP* editorial team will be actually finding out what that identity is—what is going to make it distinct from other media."

He says that identity doesn't necessarily need to be editorial content, but also could be visual style or the way the publication markets itself and creates a brand.

"[For] other solely online news outlets such as *Buzzfeed* or *Junkee*, in their first years, crafting an identity was a priority beyond just publishing content."

Cowie says the outlet is still a "young beast" that still has the chance to reinvent itself from year to year, unlike its more established peers. "*Honi* changes culture every year too," he explains, "but there's a long history there."

"The [*Honi*] ship has sailed in the same direction but has veered side to side," he says, while *PULP* is still setting its course.

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As much as *PULP* is defined by its predecessor, *BULL* also shaped its competitor: *Honi*.

The two publications played vastly different roles, each more or less sticking to its lane—*BULL* with its considered, slow journalism, *Honi* with its fast, weekly print cycle. Where *BULL* was pop-culture oriented (my first print article was a *BULL* piece about television bloodbaths), *Honi* held University institutions to account and had its finger on the pulse of student politics.

But the dichotomy wasn't always this clear. Former USU Vice President Rhys Pogonoski, who began uni in 2008 and spent eight years at the University of Sydney, still calls the magazine "*The Bull*", although the name was shortened during his time on USU Board in the early 10s. He says *The Bull* attempted to embrace the news cycle in its early days, challenging *Honi* at its own game.

In those days, before *The Bull* became "irrelevant", *Honi* would "slag on *The Bull* a lot". He says the USU's publication worried *Honi*, which cared enough about *The Bull* to make fun of them from time to time.

But the overall effect was positive. Pogonoski thinks *Honi* had more to be accountable to when *The Bull* was around. "If *Honi* had fallen off the rails ... I think *The Bull* would've picked up the slack and challenged it as a publication to be valued on campus."

*BULL* also gave *Honi* an incentive to be different—something to react against. Pogonoski says he saw *Honi* take on more of an activist role over his time on campus, pushing an agenda and promoting "political viewpoints in the interest of [the editors]". It's possible this radicalisation began as something to mark *Honi* out from its less political competitor.

As *The Bull* grew into *BULL*, abandoning news reporting for pop culture, *Honi*'s niche changed. It doubled down on news. During the years where *BULL* and *Honi* co-existed, the latter paper regularly had two or three or sometimes

even four news pages.

"*Honi* was more responsive to what was going on," Pogonoski says, citing '09 to '11 as his favourite years of the paper. "[In those years] it was biting and it was edgy and it was not answerable to anybody."

But, once *BULL* was dead, the pressure was off: and in the last three years, *Honi* has taken over some of the acreage once grazed by *BULL*. Photo essays, prose and poetry, for example, have found a place in *Honi*. This year, *Honi* did not have a regular news section, instead choosing to break news online. The paper was also printed in full colour for the first time, and emphasised creative design elements in what was once a sparse, monochrome layout.

With no print competitor, *Honi* has the freedom to straddle both worlds—newspaper and magazine at once.

But for some, there are parts of *BULL* that *Honi* will never revive. Ward, who also edited *Honi* in 2016, points to culture articles that *Honi*'s heavier tone would just not accommodate. "We had a great group of women who would contribute really good fashion commentary each month," she remembers.

And for Joyner, *Honi* will always present higher barriers to entry. Though there are sections of *Honi* that anyone can read and enjoy, much of the news, analysis and even features, require an understanding of campus life. "You have to be a bit more engaged in student affairs and that's certainly not everyone on campus," he says.

Having two print publications on the stands fostered a better campus culture, and also reflected and promoted higher student engagement. "The more vibrance and diversity in student voices on campus, the better," as Joyner put it. As a microcosm of the community at large, university is the perfect place for print media to thrive, and it's a shame that even a pop-culture magazine that offered tailored content to a small, specific audience couldn't survive.

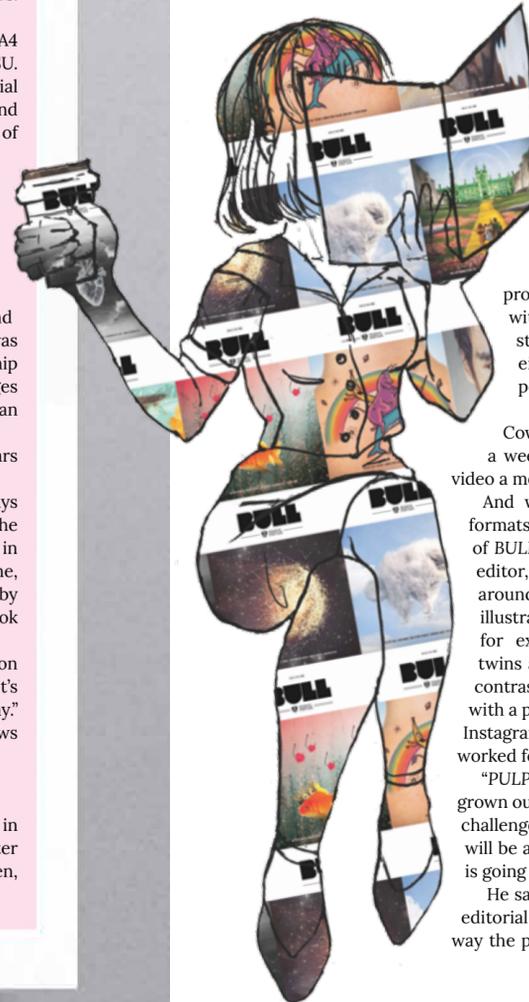
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It's a fact of life that things change. USyd is different now; more and more students are spending less and less time on campus thanks to a whole bunch of factors, including a competitive, insecure job market and unaffordable rental prices in the Inner West.

Unless free food is involved, those who are on campus often don't have incentive to participate in campus life. Manning Bar sits empty. Women's Collective meetings, which used to attract 60 odd people, can now barely crack a dozen. And there are lower pick-up rates for student newspapers.

It's a fact of life that things change, and it's sad. A lot of students will never know what it's like for more than one student publication to sit on the stands.

But my hope is that the USyd community changes to not only support this old rag but also a more diverse range of student media. There is still room for new outlets, whether you want to restart *USyd Update*, kickstart a crime podcast, or create a Mandarin news site. If it could happen anywhere, it's here.



# Fake news at Fisher Library

Millie Roberts digs deep into allegations of pages missing from the Honi archives.

Librarians: ordinary citizens turned hero, there to help borrowers in times of need, finding items and answering questions. But at USyd's very own Fisher Library, something fishy is going down.

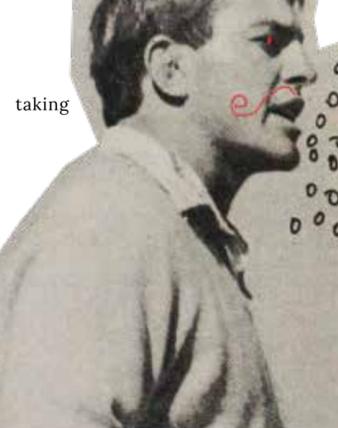
On July 27 last year, an undergraduate arts class was whisked along on an excursion to the mysterious Rare Books & Special Collections. The research and preservation department, the Library's den of excitement, is located on Level 1 of Fisher, storing antique, unusual or highly significant texts. It boasts a collection of over 170,000 materials.

This particular presentation, which began at 10:00am in the Rare Book seminar room, was conducted by one of the archival librarians before a captivated audience of around 10-15 people. It was an overview the same as any other: how to use requested materials, the purpose and history of Rare Books and some trivia about certain items they hold—precious versions of the Quran and Isaac Newton's earlier works are sealed in a vault.

But our story concerns a publication closer to campus. Rare Books houses the Library's archival copies of this student rag, *Honi* Soit.

During the open question time, one student asked about the ethical issues encountered during the job. In response, they were told something very curious. In the past, people had requested editions, specifically those that mentioned or unfavourably commented on now-prominent Liberal politicians. Using tools they had secretly snuck in, the nefarious culprits cut out whole articles, and graffitied over names to redact them. No mention was made of when this happened or who by, on the day, nor did anyone probe for more detail.

Even when told in passing, an anecdote like this is hard to forget. Rare Books is basically a monastery for antique texts. All material requests are viewed in a special reading space. Desks are spaced out to prevent interaction between borrowers, and strict rules are enforced: hands must be clean, book rests used and only pencils allowed for note-



on separate paper. Rare Books says they also have a "need for [their] staff to supervise the use of these materials." Students or staff would have had to pull off daring actions, bypassing the glass panes separating the reading room from the front desk, in order to execute their revisionism of history.

## Without details of the alleged vandalism, the culprits' motives remain unclear

Yet, if true, it is a grave injustice—that damning stupol articles might have been removed from the historical record. Without the archives, we'd never know that Turnbull smoked a joint after a Debating meeting, Abbott punched a hole in the wall in the SRC or former Treasurer, Joe Hockey, was called "Judas Hockey"—all during their time as USyd undergraduates.

More concerning is the hefty punishments these unidentified fiends would have escaped. According to the bible of librarial law and order, the University of Sydney (Library) Rule 2011, a user must not "misuse, damage or destroy any library resource or library property". The repercussion would be heavy: death. Just kidding. The realistic outcome would be a fine, determinable by the librarians, against the mutilating borrower.

Honi's archives have been preserved in various ways: digitally since 2016, via microfilm (collection numbers 079.9441 5 - 1929-1994) and in physical form (collection number 378.944S R 21) stored at Rare Books. But, without details of the alleged vandalism, the culprits' motives and the editions targeted, remain unclear. When asked for a fact-check, a representative from Fisher Library said that no one was available to talk.

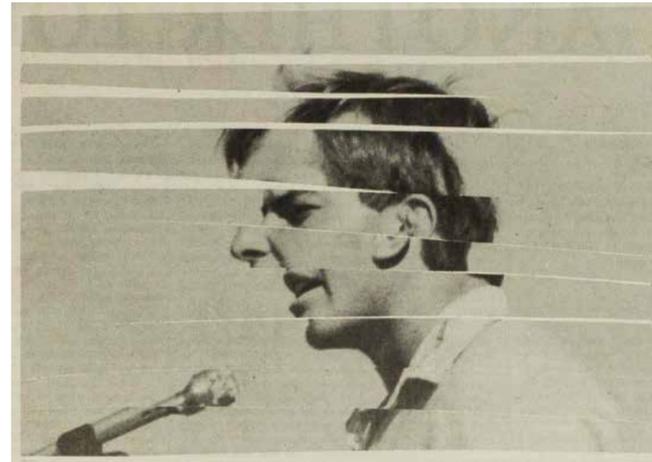
Later, they told *Honi* the librarian who presented the Rare Books seminar had no memory of mentioning any mutilations, and that the Library has "no evidence of the removal of particular issues and/or images from *Honi*". They did not accommodate Honi's request to chat in person.

But myths, especially those shared between custodians of knowledge, do not spring out from thin air. With the Library denying the claims, *Honi* conducted an investigation of our own. Using the digital archive on the Library's site, we rummaged through over 100 *Honi* editions from the 60s to late 80s, to cover the time of Howard to Hockey. But the digital archive returned nothing more than smudged ink, sticky taped folds and meticulously written accession numbers, in an undeniably aged,

but otherwise pristine, collection.

Yet hard copies of the originals are still stored in boxes, hidden from public view. If some of these physical copies were ruined by the folly of man, perhaps only the pristine versions were selected for the public, digitalised record, and the real evidence suppressed forever in cardboard.

The SRC's own leather bound annuals were also consulted, with further examples of tampering and incision. However, when cross-referenced online, only ads for an optometrist in the 80s who worked at Manning House were cut out—like three times. Were the Liberal stupol articles, like the advertisements for Chris McMahon the eye guy, really removed for permanent disposal? Or did the culprits cut them out for their own, personal, sick needs?



## Notice of Council Meeting

90th Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney

**DATE:** Wed November 7th  
**TIME:** 6–8pm  
**LOCATION:** New Law Annex, Seminar Room 340



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ART / JESS ZLOTNICK



# Farewell to Time

## ONE TWO THREE

He was asleep in the morning.  
He had been asleep for a day.  
As I climbed the stairs I knew by the way that my stomach seemed to not sit down  
he would soon pack his world into one last breath  
and, inhaling deeply, let it go.  
I had come and gone,  
thinking I might meet him on his way out.  
That he might touch my shoulder as I entered.  
He had his mouth open.  
I met his hollow yellow cheek and left.

Mother guided him from the room.  
I crossed his lips, his heart,  
and let his soul out the door.

Stranger says he has fallen asleep.  
They burn their incense.  
He has long slept; I cannot kiss an empty man.

He sat with the sun behind him  
and I let it hurt my eyes.  
I couldn't see him.  
Memories of his face are more vague than the silhouette burnt into my retina.

The last time I saw Richard was Detroit in '68.  
I told my stories.  
I had forgotten he could listen.  
That his voice was sharper than I had remember.  
At the station I hurried a 'goodbye' and spun on my heel.  
Something tore when realised I had forgotten to look back.

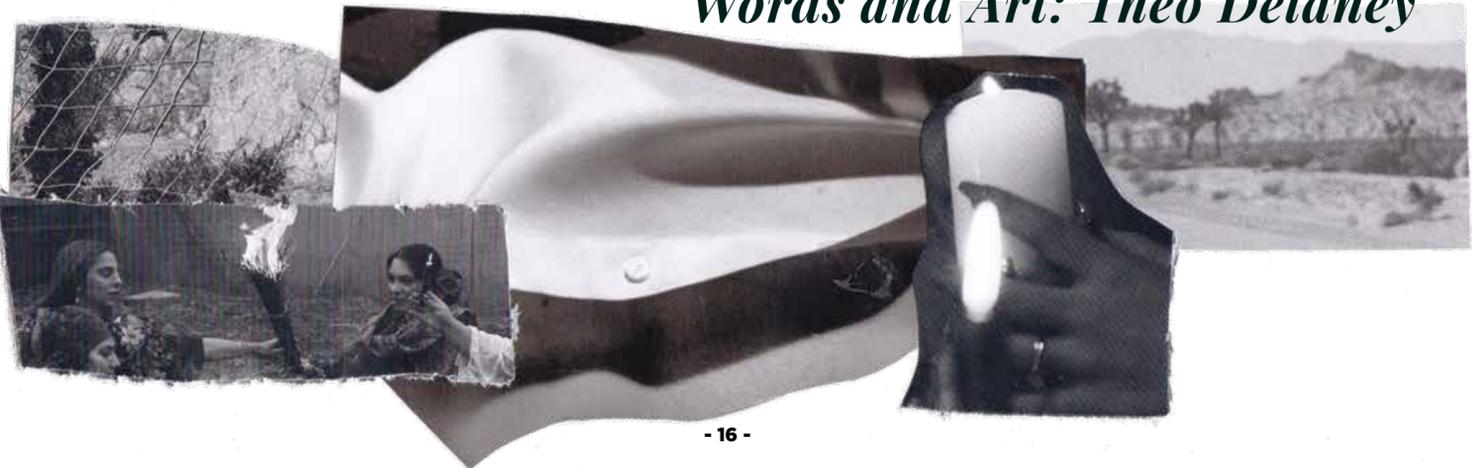
And she said drink up now it's gettin' on time to close.

They tell me stories of the woman that no one can remember.  
The farm boy would make fun of her blue eyes.  
Her voice is in their ears.  
Που είναι τα παιδιά;

They have the same hands as me.  
A curved crease starting between the index and middle fingers to the edge of the palm.  
A line beginning between the thumb and the index that splits in two diverging into the cosmos.  
Aphrodite read the stars to them.  
Across the waters they swore they would walk to each other if they could.

I am the first time they have seen her.

### Words and Art: Theo Delaney



# intimacy

Words: Alisha Brown

everyone was drunk & she was not. a disco ball dangled from the roof like a hanged man, cast kaleidoscopes of freckled light upon the floor. there were streamers. & bodies. confetti & bodies & a floppy disc? (a floppy disc).

a 2000s computer monitor /flashed/  
WELCOME TO THE MILLENNIUM.  
the screen was very bright but the room was dark & people were swaying & and grabbing & gyrating & she decided to pretend to use the bathroom.

the door was locked, so she pretended to wait in line & moved out of the way for its previous occupants (hand in hand, giggling) & simulated the release her bursting bladder. she flushed the toilet (for real).

it was quieter now. there was a toothbrush holder on the sink without a toothbrush & a sorry towel whose high thread count threads had been mauled by sweaty hands. she flushed the toilet a second time; nodded to the queue on her way out.

the last girl stopped her. grabbed her elbow (softly). quiet in there, right? She laughed. moved Her fingers down her forearm. felt her skin, the skipping electrons, the veinwires. she remembered to breathe. it felt familiar.

wish i was a prophet, want god to come inside me  
wouldn't even make him use a condom i'm that freaky

would lie in bed fingering my own stigmatas like  
"is this masturbation?" "do you believe in immaculate  
contraception?" "is god cut or uncut?"

would lie in bed texting boys "ur my funeral pyre  
i set alight when i climb on top of you" praying at 2am  
like "u up?" tell jesus what i'm wearing

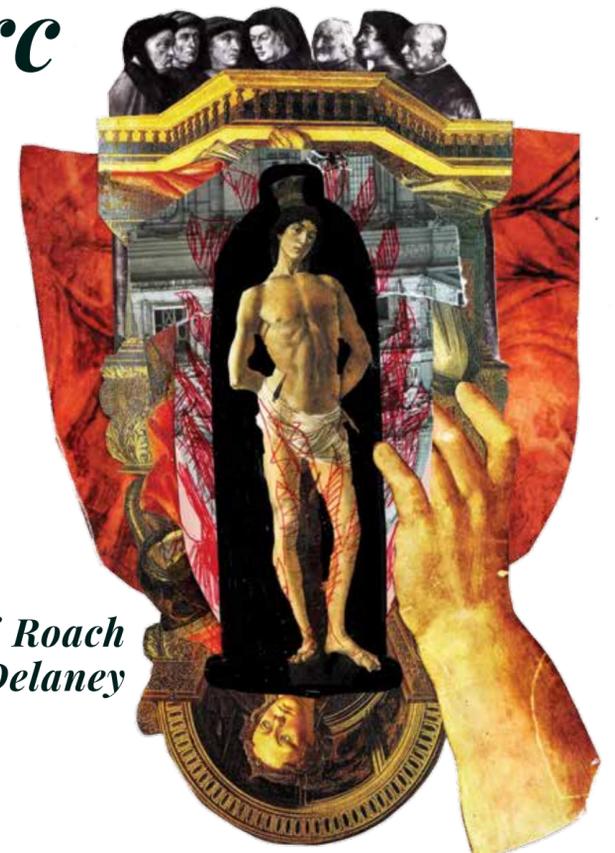
would demand head on a silver charger, like  
"oh tetrarch," like "has anyone ever  
told u that u look like john the baptist?"

wish i was a virgin, want them to imagine lifting up  
my skin like a bridal veil and breathing in

want the kind of righteous judgement where ur hands  
are all over me, like oh baby

your fingers feel so good shoved up inside my arteries

# this halloween i'm going as sexy joan of arc



Words: Perri Roach  
Art: Theo Delaney

## BNOC:

A Big Name On Campus. To say that someone is a BNOC is to say that their clout level exceeds a given threshold. The greatest BNOCs command clout in more than one arena.

## Clout:

A unit used to quantify and rank BNOCs. While one might possess solitary units of clout, the term is generally used to denote the possession of a clout cluster, leading some Swedish psycholinguists to propose the abandonment of the singular form altogether. To wield clout is to have a relation where the 'clout-holder' receives clout from the 'clout-conferer'.

## Clout-mining:

The process of maximising clout within one or more arenas. Each arena has its own routes to clout-deposits.

## Headline and underlying clout

Some clout-relations confer more power on the clout-holder, and are therefore a more desirous clout-relation to wield. We can analyse clout desirability in two ways, 'headline' and 'underlying' clout. Note that both intensities of clout can instantiate within each clout-kind.

**Headline** clout refers to the type of clout it appears someone has. Perhaps they rake in the likes on their DP, or constantly find themselves stopped along Eastern Avenue for a "we should definitely catch up for coffee soon" style-yarn.

**Underlying** clout refers to the type of clout someone really has. It reflects the extent to which the clout-holder is able to use their clout, and the energy of their clout-conferers, to get what they want. Formally, this means something like: "Clout-holder A is the beneficiary of a clout-relation with clout-conferer B if and only if B is willing to direct their energy towards getting A what A desires."

For now, all that matters is that one sees that there is a distinction in kind and that people can be subject to **clout-inflation**. This is where the putative BNOC's headline clout does not align with their underlying clout. Again, this does not necessarily mean that person is not a BNOC, but it does mean that they don't wield the power they might think they do.

# CHOOSE YOUR ARENA

Arenas are of the nine main campus or campus-adjacent social clusters. Best thought of as networks, there are without doubt common nodes that ensure overlap between separate arenas. Though some arenas concentrate entirely around particular academic or co-curricular institutions, others are expressed more diffusely, and can therefore be harder to taxonomise. Note that the following list only considers primary arenas of power.

Secondary arenas, including debating and revues/drama/comedy could not be fitted in.



## THE CHRISTIANS

Little is known to this reporter about the internal dynamics of USyd's Christian groups. With some of the largest memberships of any club on campus, there is no doubt that their BNOCs wield an unparalleled amount of underlying clout when they choose to mobilise. Notoriety-clout is rare in this arena, as members are inherently committed to virtuous conduct, free from the vices that befall the heathen alternatives.

Established routes to the clout-deposit: successful proselytising, a strong, confident Bible reading voice, or pressuring ignorant students into voting for Francis Tamer.

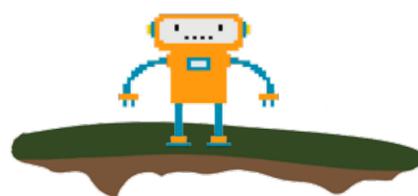


## THE SCIENTISTS

The scientists are an ambitious, intelligent bunch. Its BNOCs field heavy stats in the respect clout subtree, as fellow science students covet their dedication to the heavy contact hours and course load. Clout revolves almost entirely around university subjects.

Notably, these contact hours leave science students very little time to mingle with other BNOCs on campus. Clout is therefore almost entirely centralised, with some transfer through to engineering students.

Established routes to the clout deposit: publishing a scientific paper, sharing practice paper sample answers with other mortals in the same unit.



## THE ENGINEERS

Ah, the engineers. How far they've come from the goon soaked revelries of first year, how far into insular debauchery they have sunk. Some of the brightest grace the arena of the engineers, as do some of the wildest. Respect-clout and notoriety-clout reign supreme here, sometimes converging on one renaissance man (and they are so often men). The respected members wield underlying clout, mobilising their peers for group assignments and house parties alike.

Established routes to the clout-deposit: trolling other cliques, leading group assignments, getting a Google internship.



## THE CORPORATES

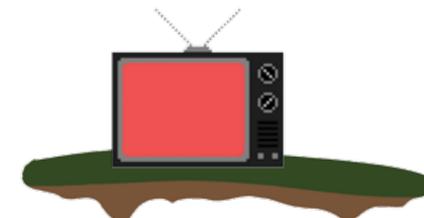
One of the most obnoxious social clusters is the one roughly delineated by the intersection of commerce students, SUBS-members, FMAA-disciples, and Business One-cronies. Perhaps best understood in terms of their common end-game, corporates value networking, monetary success, and often have superficial relationships of mutual reciprocity.

The corporate arena is characterised by inflated headline like-clout. This has to do with both the common ambitions of participants and the fact there's often a common academic interest. Though it offers a bounty of Facebook reacts, and perhaps the odd job opportunity, it requires the projection of a carefully curated, non-offensive image, sycophantic deference, and the avoidance of explicitly acknowledged conflict (though the psychoanalytics of the arena's passive aggression are worth mention).

There can also be respect-clout in the corporate sphere, but given the inherently careerist nature of the arena people tend to want to hang with the people who are most successful anyway. On the flip side though, people can rapidly lose respect if they contribute poorly to one of the frequent group assignments business students suffer through.

Established routes to the clout-deposit: internships at top-tier firms, diligent commitment to career-oriented societies, and succeeding in case-competitions.

## THE FOURTHESTATE



Media and Communications is an arena that attracts creative and ambitious people, who are often as savvy as they are cunning. The intimate cohort ensures that most classmates are at least known, and that the most charismatic figures have a clear demographic to which they can pitch their antics.

MeCo tends to encourage the cultivation of unique images, with many figures who are often larger-than-life. As a result, MeCo can often confer a strange blur of like- and respect-clout. Respect is accumulated through success, especially off-campus. Given the way respect-clout is mined, it is not surprising that those who are respected are also socially desirable, explaining the like-respect vagaries.

MeCo is subject to intense headline clout inflation. Participants in the arena tend to be especially competent with social media, and also sufficiently aware and tolerant of the hierarchy that they sometimes build each other up. That said, MeCo also produces a reasonable amount of notoriety-clout, with many from outside their ranks intolerant of what is perceived to be attention-seeking extravagance and a liberal, self-referential usage of the term 'BNOC'.

Established routes to the clout-deposit: doing an internship at the ABC, being a social media influencer, or winning Courtyard pizza perks.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



It is quite inaccurate to homogenise the international student social scene in a single sweeping move. As international students make up about 30 per cent of the USyd student body and often live close to campus, they tend to be responsible for a lot of on-campus activity, and no doubt have a diversity of social groups and sub-arenas as a result of that. Though I am ill-equipped to provide a detailed breakdown of these and the specific character of their clout-relations, recent stupol elections reveal that the clout such sub-arenas give rise to allow some to wield the most effective form of underlying clout perhaps ever seen at USyd.

Established routes to the clout-deposit: participating in international revue, charming people at Fisher library, or campaigning vigorously on the hustings.

# TO BE OR NOT TO BNOC

## Liam Donohoe unearths the social map of USyd.

Law is a lot like the business world, except the participants have higher ATARs and hate their degree much more. As law is done in large cohorts, it can be especially incesutous, finding origin and expression in the law society and classroom interactions.

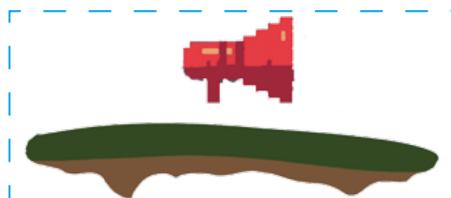
Strangely enough, despite the tax bracket law students are likely to find themselves in, a narrative of tertiary-aged progressivism is indulged by many-a corporate law virtue-signaller.

Like business, law has a lot of inflated headline like-clout, but personalities tend to be more heterogeneous and conflict in a more explicit way as students don't necessarily need as many people outside to do well. Respect-clout can be especially rampant in law circles, with the best and brightest spoken about in hushed tones.

Established routes to the clout-deposit: doing well in negotiations or mooting, doing well in subjects, looking good in a scarf while having coffee at Taste.



## THE LAW



## POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Political activities, particularly student politics, offers participants a complex array of clout combinations.

In this arena one's like-clout is limited to the size of one's faction. This is because stupol is ideological, partisan, and inherently competitive: members of other factions are loathe to like their opponents.

Respect-clout in student politics, though rare, is not unheard of. Some figures do enough work, especially in activist or administrative roles, to earn the respect of their competitors.

Stupol tends to generate the most notoriety-clout. New events quickly join the canon, and the names of future NOCs are noted early into their trajectory. As such, stupol is a magnet for drama, creating scenarios where people are known but not well-liked.

Despite this infamy, or perhaps because of it, these names and figures often wield the greatest underlying clout. As an arena explicitly designed to reward that clout-relation it is not surprising that it is cultivated to a larger degree, and the accumulation of it is often made easier by involvement in a faction. That said, stupol is rampant with inflationary clout.

Established routes to the clout-deposit: successfully stacking out a club or society with factional allies to prove yourself to the higher ups, getting elected to the SRC, or doing important activist work.

## THE 1 PER CENT



The 1 per cent are a sprawling entity, and it is perhaps inaccurate to treat them as a lone entity. It is diverse enough to include many of our best student athletes while at the same time admitting to its ontology private school students totally indifferent to the university experience.

What is true of all of their participants is that they are reticent to engage in other arenas or on-campus activities. This is because they often perceive these arenas or activities to be beneath them. Some, for instance, are so popular in their private school networks that they simply have no need for the university.

The 1 per cent are rich by definition, and almost always white Liberal voters-in-waiting. There is often a larger degree of toxic masculinity than normal.

There is often less career pressure on these types, meaning they don't need to spend their time on sycophantic networking. They are also rarely bound to mainstream moral conventions, facilitating abrasive personality types which would be condemned in other arenas. The 1 per cent are rarely bogged down by notoriety.

While a lot of the 1 per cent's clout is inflated, that clout can be effectively converted into underlying clout with enough coercion and a clear enough enemy.

Established routes to the clout-deposit: being good at sport, being popular in high school, being attractive.

# Somewhere only we know: Zambia

Millie Roberts tries to find home in her mother's land.

I've only been to Zambia once. It's one of the lesser known countries in Africa, landlocked between Zimbabwe, Congo and Mozambique. It's also where my mum grew up, until she moved to the UK as a working student, met my dad, and got married decades later.

When I was seven my parents decided to take us, their three pale-skinned daughters with British accents to the place where half our hearts were meant to be. But to us, Zambia was a completely foreign world.

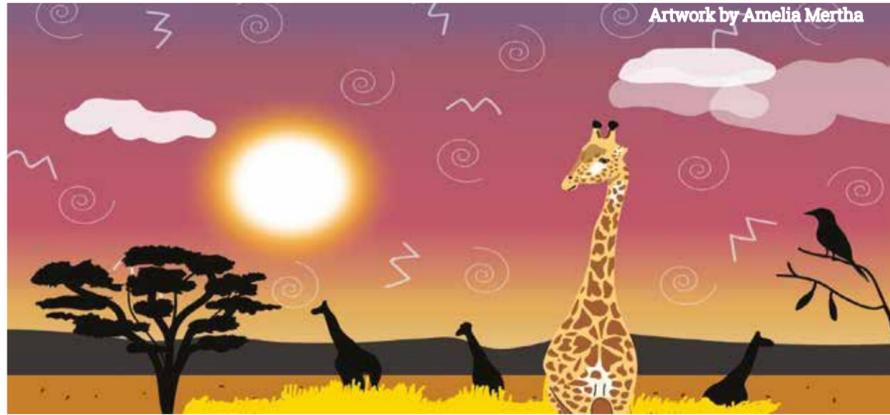
The country is half desert, half oasis. In some areas, you see young elephants dive in waterholes to tackle the humid, 30-degree heat. The next day, the soles of your shoes crunch against the straw-coloured grass that peeks from the dehydrated soil beneath. Sprawling communities stifle these natural landscapes, but sometimes, the latter peeks through. Zebras chew at the vegetation between parking spots, while dust, kicked up from the road, stains bricks a permanent shade of red.

**By international standards, Zambia is third world. But like all countries, some people are far better off than others**

Zambia is perhaps best known for Victoria Falls in Livingstone, which borders the Zambezi river. It is the largest waterfall on Earth, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, and according to my puerile logic, named after Posh Spice. We went during dry season—a disappointment because the water levels were down, but on the flipside, the risk of being blown off the viewing bridge by skyward splashes was reduced.

By international standards, Zambia is third world. But like all countries, some people are far better off than others. Early in the trip, before the fancy hotels and safari tours for Western tourists, we were taken to do the 'relative rounds'. Aunty Nelly lived in a shanty town, where vines and palms creep through gaps in the rusted, corrugated iron walls.

She greeted us at the driveway, dressed head-to-toe in chitenge print, and introduced us to a cousin I'd never heard of before. I can't remember her name but



I know we were around the same age. Her t-shirt was torn and muddied, and her hair had been chemically straightened but stuck up vertically. My parents stopped me from drinking the glass of water Aunty Nelly offered me, in case we contracted cholera or gastro.

My first solid meal as a baby was *nshima*. The maize dish, with a polenta-like consistency, is served with tomato drumsticks, okra, wilted spinach and creamy beans, to be eaten with your hands. In London, *nshima* was a treat. Here, it was eaten every day. At lunch, some member of my extended family slapped my wrist as I reached for a plate. "Iwe, wali tumpa sana!", or crudely put, "You are very stupid!" In Zambia, your hands had to be dipped and cleaned in a communal bowl before going for food. Before we went there, mum would tell us bits and pieces about her childhood. A large avocado tree grew in her uncle's backyard. She'd sit on the steps with a spoon in hand, scooping every morsel of the ripe flesh from the pods that fell to the ground.

Back in the Copperbelt, the regional mining town where she lived, she'd once found a snake in her unmade bed. And at home in the UK she reminded us daily of this story, to scare us into making our own each morning. When we were travelling, before going to sleep, I'd shake the mosquito nets and cautiously pull the sheets back, in case any reptilian guests had

wriggled in.

My memories of Zambia aren't as vivid as I'd like, and key moments are stored only as isolated vignettes: eating fresh mango (with salt), crying about not being allowed to swim in the pool (my hair had just been braided), the "free" jewellery thrown around my neck by a street hawker (who demanded cash as I was walking away), my youngest sister scooping baboon shit into her mouth (she was a toddler, and my dad stopped her) or sipping Fanta in the heat while condensation dripped off my fingers (it somehow tastes better and sweeter than the Western recipe).

But Zambia has changed now. Foreign investment, leadership shifts and new money has produced high-value real estate and climbing GDP per capita, as well as an emerging middle class. My relatives drive expensive cars to 'colony of wealth' themed horse races, and while the wealth still doesn't lie with the majority of the population, Zambia's people have been dealt a larger slice than ever before.

Neither its newfound opulence or deep-rooted struggle define Zambia's identity or place in the world. I've changed and grown and so has the country. Now that we're older, mum wants us to go back. To once again get us to try and understand, appreciate and expose ourselves to her culture, her land and her history—and I know it's time.

# Legends or lemons? 'Classic cars' need more 'class'

Jamie Weiss is running in the 90s.

Some of my earliest memories are of cars. More specifically, the car my family had when I was a toddler. I couldn't tell you what the inside of my childhood home looked like, but I have an almost encyclopaedic knowledge of the interior of a 1997 Holden Commodore. When I see one on the road, those quintessential round '90s edges and smiling grilles remind me of trips to the zoo, storing my Tazos in the rear passenger ash-tray compartments and wearing out Wiggles cassettes. So it's weird to think that '90s cars like my old Commodore—cars that we'd easily call shitboxes today—are now defined as classics.

**'Classic' doesn't denote aesthetic or historical value, just its ability to survive**

Any car over 25–30 years old is technically 'classic'—even if they're unremarkable. You'd think 'vintage' would be a better moniker, but automotive enthusiasts save that label for cars built before World War II. 'Classic'

doesn't denote aesthetic or historical value, just its ability to survive—and it's not always survival of the fittest. For every rusting Ferrari and wheezing BMW, there's an impeccably serviced Ford Falcon panel van or a mint-condition Corolla.

Despite the auto industry's insistence, I find it hard to consider the cars of my youth worthy of being considered classic. But maybe this cognitive dissonance comes down to nothing more than legislative quirks. You don't see many cars from the '70s or early '80s cruising down Australian roads today due to emissions controls and design rules. Outside of car shows or your uncle's garage, you don't see cars of that vintage that often, therefore calling them 'classic' makes sense—but '90s cars? They're everywhere!

That might not mean they're less worthy though. Mustangs and Corvettes are churned out in their thousands every year, yet people still pay attention when you say you've got one.

Exclusivity does not a classic car make. And survival is in and of itself valuable. Rubber degrades, metal rusts and leather wrinkles: cars need to be cared for, and maybe that act of care is what really separates a

shitbox from a classic.

Australian society and culture in the last century has been unequivocally shaped by the automobile. Cars are not only vehicles: they, like any other text, are reflections of the aspirations and ideals of their era.

Regular Car Reviews—an automotive journalist and satirist whose bread-and-butter is making long-winded pistake reviews of the shitty '90s cars that saturate our roads—makes this point: cars are as close as we can get to practical time machines. They represent a confluence of unique aesthetics and semiotics, from a certain point in time, flash-frozen into something you can ride in.

Cars are unique among forms of transport in that they routinely have a special emotional significance to their owners.

The memories we create, the personalities we assign them, make them more like a family pet than just a vehicle. Whether or not a governing body identifies them as a classic is nothing more than an acknowledgement of its age. In the end, it seems like nostalgia is just as important a factor—and in that case, the '97 Commodore is as classic as they come.

# Where's the pride in sport?

Wilson Huang wants Sydney University Sport and Fitness to get a little bit gayer.

A 2015 study found that 80 per cent of Australians had faced or seen homophobia while participating in sport. Yet we often ignore the question of LGBTI inclusion in sport. It's an important issue—even here, at a University that trades on its progressivism. So it's time we took the conversation onto the field.

That same 2015 study, called Out on the Fields (ONTF), also found that the majority of Australian LGB respondents played sport. But when it came to gay men, 22 per cent did not play youth league team sport, citing bad experiences in their school PE class (43 per cent) and fear of rejection because of their sexuality (36 per cent). And tellingly, 75 per cent of Australians thought an openly LGB person would not be very safe watching a sporting event. When it comes to USyd, most sports programs fall under the Sydney Uni Sport and Fitness (SUSF), an umbrella body that provides funding and facilities for university students. SUSF binds its athletes to its Sporting Code of Conduct (SCOC), a document which sets out expected behaviour standards.

The SCOC prohibits harassment and discrimination especially on the grounds of gender, ethnic origin, religion, cultural background and ability. In general, it commits SUSF to "the highest standards" of conduct in athletic, personal and professional life.

But the SCOC does not explicitly address LGBTI inclusion. There are no mentions of sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.

This is not to say that sports groups at USyd have done nothing on LGBTI inclusion. The SUSF 2017 annual report describes a charity league run by the Growthbuilt Sydney University Australian National Football Club (SUANFC).

The competition, called Pride Round, raised \$4000 for Beyond Blue. SUANFC held Pride Round again this year, raising funds for Headspace Camperdown. President of the Sydney University Women's AFL Club, Olivia Warren, who supported Pride Round, said that the competition "is an important celebration of the diversity of not only our club, but also our community".

However, apart from this, SUSF and its associated clubs seem to have done little else to promote LGBTI inclusion. A national inclusion programme, Pride in Sport Australia, invites sports leagues to participate in its initiatives and membership program. Pride in Sport's main project is the Pride in Sport Index, which seeks to measure LGBTI inclusion in different sports. But so far, Melbourne University Sport is the only university sports member. SUSF has not yet signed up. Clearly, there is a lot our University's main sports programme could be doing that it is not.

In 2014, The Anti-Homophobia & Inclusion Framework For Australian Sports was published, a joint project between various human rights and sporting organisations including the Australian Sports Commission, Cricket Australia, the Australian Rugby

League, the AFL, FFA and the NRL. The framework consists of six pillars, including a focus on club training, a sanctions policy, and community group partnerships.

There is strong support for a national framework, according to ONTF, the authors of the 2015 study. Their report recommended that "national sporting organisations need to adopt and promote clear anti-homophobia and LGB inclusion policies for professional and amateur players."

SUSF members have diverse views on whether SUSF needs to do more to promote inclusion. Hannah Meier who is a member of the USyd Cheerleading team said: "I believe SUSF would make accommodations for any individual who asked, but outside of that exception, I don't think it should be any more relevant to sport than eye colour is." But on the other hand, Alex Buist, who does circus aerials classes at the Ledge, was less positive: when asked whether SUSF needed to do more to promote inclusion, the answer was frank: "Yes, they should." So what could SUSF do to improve? A start would be to update their SCOC to include specific protections based on sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status and they could participate in the Pride in Sport Index. Sport is for everyone, and the 'don't ask, don't tell' attitude which has plagued professional sports needs to stop. SUSF has ample opportunity to combat this attitude and to be a leader in promoting inclusion

# The absolute best places to smoke weed on campus

Poseidon Scaramouche canvasses the best places to get high in and around the main campus.

Alright dude, we get it—you smoke weed. Basically everyone does round these here parts, even the fucking Redfern cat. In fact, it's so ubiquitous that students have spots on campus especially reserved for the public signalling of cannabis consumption. Some of these places were picked for their beauty, others for their sneakiness. It is lost to

the records whether such rationales were realised via organic convergence or dictated by some karmic confluence of doped up premeditation. Now I know what you're thinking dear reader; well shit, where are these locales Mr Journalist man? Where are these places that add just a dash of that

most desired delusion—spatial significance—to the high? Well, Poseidon qua stoner has always been one to serve the student corpus in the highest possible way, so I went out and got high at every conceivable intersection of longitude, latitude, and altitude that falls within the main campus' boundaries. The fruits of these efforts are below.

St. Paul's College Oval



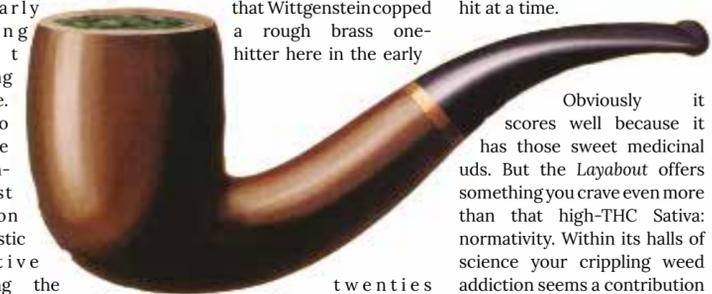
The Roof of the John Wooley Building

Ahh yes, who hasn't smoked weed in the Wooley Weed World. For those stoners intrepid enough to know the route, their tough trekking is rewarded with a stunning view over the campus.

Legend has it that back in the 70s Vice-Chancellor Sir Bruce Rodda Williams KBE made a session in the 'World' compulsory for all incoming USyd students.

Your PHIL1011 tutorial

You'd think such a brazen display of weed consumption would be frowned upon. But do not wither in the face of their incredulous stare; punch that cone. Weed famously boosts cognition, and it's rumoured that Wittgenstein copped a rough brass one-hitter here in the early



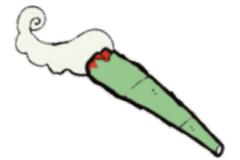
twenties after a guest lecture. You get an extra high from the thrill of evading enraged Pauline!

Why won't they help you?

The Lambert Institute

Located in Camperdown's Brain and Mind Centre, the Lambert Institute is the only off campus locale to make this definitive list. And that's for good reason: the good folks in the Lambert Layabout are researching medicinal cannabis one bong hit at a time.

Obviously it scores well because it has those sweet medicinal uds. But the Layabout offers something you crave even more than that high-THC Sativa: normativity. Within its halls of science your crippling weed addiction seems a contribution to medical progress rather than a debilitating condition you pass off as a bit of escapist fun.



Hermann's Benches

Perhaps one of the safest places to smoke on campus, Hermann's offers hacks, activists, and alcoholics alike a relatively unsupervised, somewhat decent garden proximate to food and the SRC. Good for joints, pipes, or even bongs, Hermann's is an appropriate setting for eshes of all varieties.

The Tsingtao branding has been known to cause adverse highs, however.

*Ceci n'est pas une weed*

# Deep Tea Diving



## Stupol goes FEDERAL

In news that will shock the nation, friend-of-Grassroots and international student Board director Decheng Sun has joined the ALP. At Saturday's Wentworth by-election, Sun proudly wore Labor red in support of candidate Tim Murray. He was joined by a horde of Labor diehards: Tom Manousaridis (who is tipped to be Unity's Board candidate for next year), Jack Whitney (former Board director), Chloe Anderson-Smith (former SRC president), Bella Pytka (former almost-SRC president), Alisha Aitken-Radburn (former USU president and Bachelor contestant), Hannah Smith (former almost-SRC president and NUS education officer)—and the

list goes on.

Self-proclaimed leader of the Libdependent movement and Board director Jacob Masina battled hard for Dave Sharma in Clovelly, but alas it wasn't enough.

Former USU Vice President Grace Frankie, who ran as an indie, wore purple in support of Kerryn Phelps.

## It's on in Bart-on

But stupol's clutches stretch far beyond Sydney's well-heeled East. Cue scene change to the south-western Sydney electorate of Barton, where preselections are ongoing for next year's federal race. The Greens, it

turns out, are nominating Grassroots-aligned Connor Parissis, who was SRC Queer Officer in 2017. Parissis made national headlines during the same-sex marriage plebiscite for leading a counter protest against prominent 'No' campaigner Francis Tamer, who emerged from the encounter with a faceful of hummus. Tamer has now been elected undergraduate Senate representative.

In a Facebook post announcing their candidacy, Parissis concedes their attempt on Barton is a "losing battle". The seat is safe Labor territory, held by high profile MP Linda Burney. Parissis also isn't above biting the Green hand that feeds them, saying they "remain extremely critical of the growing right-wing cognitive dissonance within the party."

## Repelect

All parties are keeping their lips sealed ahead of next week's Repelect. That said, a few rumours have reached this little mermaid's ears: Panda is said to be gunning for both general secretary roles, and for one of the two education officer positions. These

are two of the most powerful roles in the organisation, coming with generous stipends and well-resourced departments.

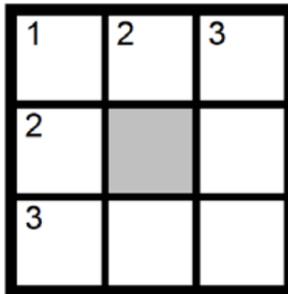
Panda's Yuxuan Yang, who was this year's gen sec alongside Groots' Nina Dillon Britton, is allegedly eyeing off a second year in the position. This year, Yang spent three months of his term in China, where he was unreachable. Yang's stipend, as one of two gen secs, was \$12,000.

There have also been developments in the fight for Wom\*n's Officer. We reported last week that Panda's Crystal Xu was bent on the role, despite not being a member of the Wom\*n's Collective. Panda looked ready to violate collective autonomy, to elect a candidate against WoCo's wishes. But word is Xu has backed off, and may not contest the position after all.

This little mermaid has also spotted public Facebook posts suggesting the WoCo preselection has been finalised, and Layla Mkhayber and Groots member Jazz Breen are the collective's nominees. If council respects WoCo's wishes and votes for this pair, they will be the SRC's two Wom\*n's Officers for 2019.

# T(UwU)arget

This is a special blend of a Target and a This Way And That (Twat). First, answer the Twat clues as usual. Then, with the grid completed, you have a regular target to enjoy!

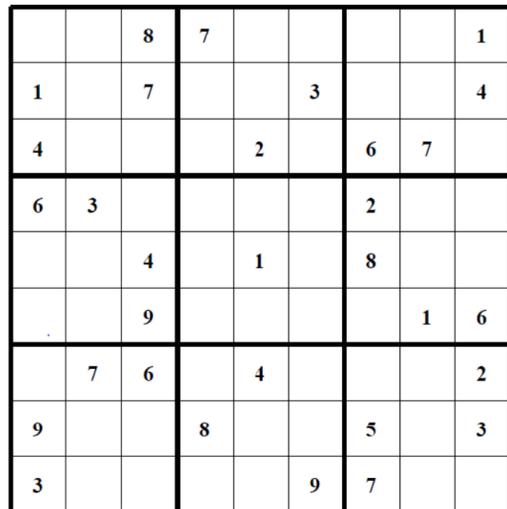


Answers across and down are the same

- 1 Before (3)
- 2 This acronym might be written on an undeliverable letter (3)
- 3 This abbreviation might be written on a plaque (3)

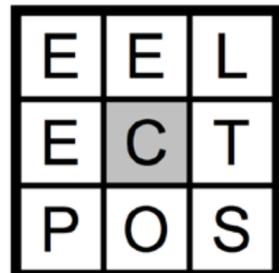
Target Rules: Minimum 4 letters per word. 10 words: pedestrian, 15 words: run-of-the-mill, 20 words: ground-breaking, 30 words: revolutionary

# Surprise Sudoku



# Target

Target Rules: Minimum 4 letters per word. 10 words: Amazing, 15 words: Spectacular, 20 words: Sensational, 30 words: Ultimate



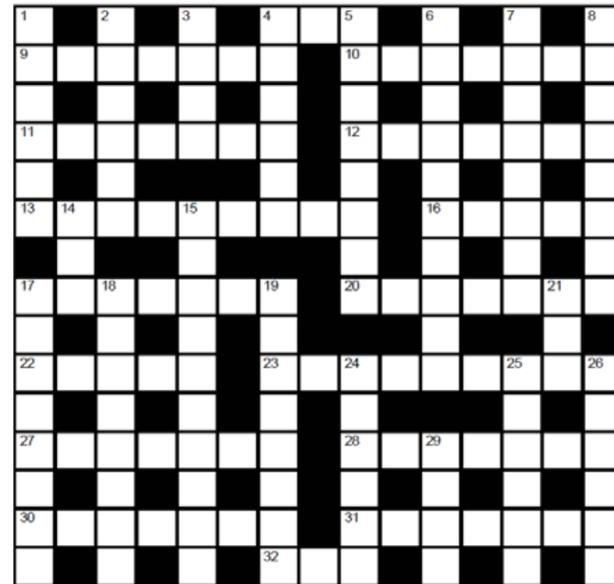
# Quiz

- Which sacred river flows through the countries of India and Bangladesh?
- The chemical symbol for the element Osmium is?
- This song by hip-hop moguls Kanye West and Jay Z from their 2011 collaboration *Watch the Throne* samples a 1966 soul song?
- Name all stations on the Sydney Trains network beginning with D?
- Who won the men's final at Wimbledon in 1985 at age 17?
- Japanese city south of Tokyo whose name means 'beach horizon'?
- Which ancient Greek author wrote the play *Bacchae*?
- In *Naruto Shippuden* what is the name of the evil organisation who are the primary antagonists of the series?
- Which *Glee* star was popularly theorised by the internet not to be able to read?
- South-West Sydney suburb that shares its name with a successful football team in North-West England?

1. Ganges River 2. OS 3. Otis 4. 5 (Boonside, Dutch Hill, Domestic Airport, Dundas, Dentons) 5. Boris Becker 6. Yokohama 7. Euripides 8. Akatsuki 9. Lea Michele 10. Liverpool

# Cryptic

Sudoku, Bonus Sudoku, Target and Twarget by CloudRunner. Quick and Cryptic by Some Hack. Surprise Sudoku by Tournesol.



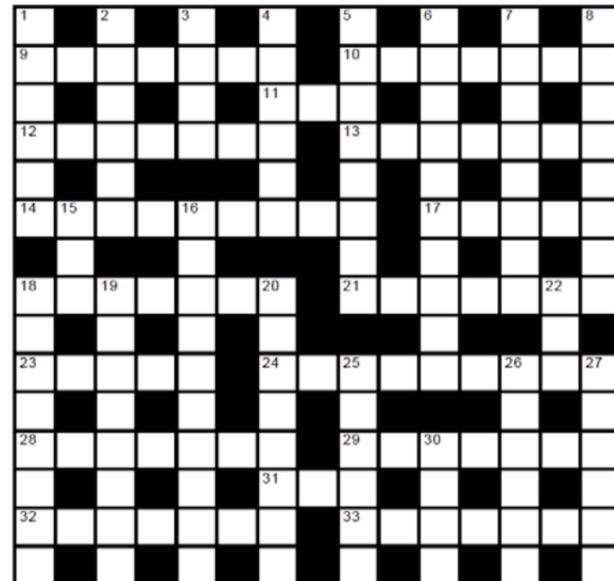
Across

- 4 Oh! First rugby goal accepted (3)
- 9 Proud to represent a school leaver (7)
- 10 Finger a learner like clockwork (7)
- 11 Oddly, I AM Oprah, sister! Checkmate! (7)
- 12 Lambie, topless, goes to Alice's area of the immediate environment (7)
- 13 'Make haste,' citizen says in the wind (9)
- 16 Even banded together with the French to spoil eggs (5)
- 17 Bail, if Francesco hides the reeve (7)
- 20 Thus, show your Reverend! (7)
- 22 Bus or train? (5)
- 23 Cause the capital's key to become dodgy (9)
- 27 Quieten and croak 'feathers' (3,4)
- 28 Longshanks designs weird ad (6,1)
- 30 Oranges: badass (7)
- 31 You bashed Luke with the Italian guitar! (7)
- 32 Shock a regressive Englishman (3)

Down

- 11 quietly follow around big boobs. It's a bit strange. (6)
- 2 Metal detector (6)
- 3 Deer performs (4)
- 4 Then, between two mountains, appeared the goddess (6)
- 5 Next to the notice Mr -Z submitted, apparently (8)
- 6 Ask diners for Spooner's Whisks (10)
- 7 At ten, depththroating reveals he who comes (8)
- 8 Legit try to become glamorous (8)
- 14 We got a country! (3)
- 15 Miners who I abused include Sinead, Saoirse, and Siobhan (10)
- 17 Roll around Cork drunkenly with diamonds in the setting (8)
- 18 DIY arse a mishap, probably (1,4,3)
- 19 What a woman needs lies in safe mini smacks (8)
- 21 Bactrian camel with very strong mate (3)
- 24 'Maintain pace' apparently on an important seal (4,2)
- 25 Jacob is real mad (6)
- 26 Bathroom for rent with me inside (6)
- 29 Starts waxing hugely upbeat (4)

# Quick



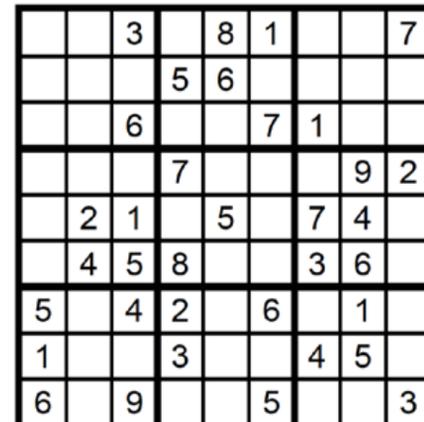
Across

- 9 Frozen scene of actors (7)
- 10 Cherubim, cacti, sheep for cherub, cactus, sheep (7)
- 11 Yale alumnus (3)
- 12 Made of clay (7)
- 13 Salivate (7)
- 14 Clean, whitewashed (9)
- 17 See 4 Down
- 18 The Garden City in the East (Asia) (7)
- 21 The Windy City (N Am.) (7)
- 23 The City of Light (Eur.) (5)
- 24 1 Down of the North (Eur.) (9)
- 28 The Bride of the Mediterranean (Af.) (7)
- 29 First name of Miranda Sing's actor; Jack's mother in 30 Rock (7)
- 31 Former name of Tokyo (3)
- 32 Genre of True Grit and The Magnificent Seven (7)
- 33 Birthplace of Rock n Roll (N Am.) (7)

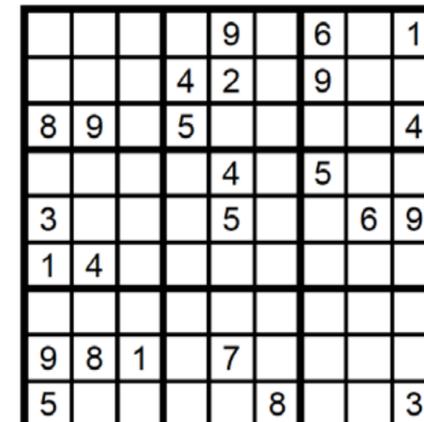
Down

- 1 The City of the Violet Crown (Eur.) (6)
- 2 King of the fairies (6)
- 3 Walter White makes this (4)
- 4/17 23 Across of the South (S Am.) (6,5)
- 5 Released in a series of instalments (8)
- 6 In a risky position (3, 2, 1, 4)
- 7 The Bush Capital (Oc.) (8)
- 8 Short black (8)
- 15 Fuss (3)
- 16 Grave markers (10)
- 18 The Mother City (Af.) (4,4)
- 19 Containing the most fat (8)
- 20 Subservient (8)
- 22 Magog's Satanloving mate in Revelations; Jez's kebabloving mate in Peep Show (3)
- 25 Wages (6)
- 26 Says again again (6)
- 27 Truthful (6)
- 30 The City of Kings (S Am.) (4)

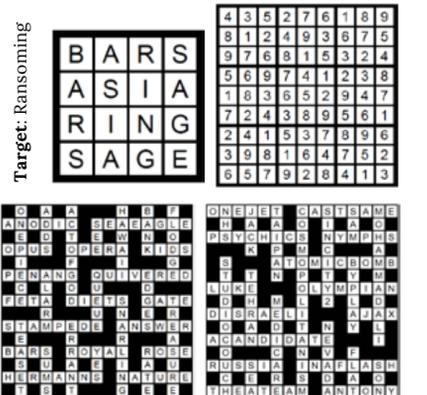
# Sudoku



# Bonus Sudoku



# Solutions



# President

Imogen Grant

As my term comes to a close, I am deeply indebted to the people who ensure the SRC is the remarkable, fighting institution it is today. To Nina - the exceptional General Secretary and the best right-hand woman a President could've ever hoped for. To Lara and Lily who have led the fight against militarism and the Ramsay Centre. To Maddy and Jess who have ensured that the USyd Women's Collective remains the militant hub of women's rights activism - both on campus and nationally. And, finally, to all the SRC staff who are on the frontline advocating for students every day.

Next year will be a defining year for the University of Sydney. It is very likely that the degree proposed Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation will begin its approval process through the University committees. The Australian Human Rights Commission survey into sexual assault and harassment will be re-done in 2019. I urge everyone to get involved with the SRC's collectives and participate in urgent, concrete action for student rights. The possibilities for students to impact the political climate

are far from dead. Now more than ever we need to draw on the radical history of student organisations, which can only be strengthened by the participation of students - like yourselves - who recognise their potential and fight to revive it.

Unfortunately there remains uncertainty as to whether the SRC will continue to 'fight the good fight'. There is the real possibility that over the next year the union will become detached from activists on the ground who have the real capacity to reshape education and society. I hope this report can serve as a reminder that students don't live undisturbed by the oppression and exploitation around the world. Yet too often student politicians behave like they do. We constantly hear the rhetoric of the 'average student' concerned only with the costs of printing and nights out, as if campuses aren't implicated in the injustices which define our society.

Let me be clear: When the University of Sydney invests in fossil fuels, climate justice is an issue for our student unions. When institutions act as border guards, monitoring the

attendance of international students and facilitating deportations, borders are an issue for our student unions. We have a duty to recognise how our institutions perpetuate global systems of exploitation and force them to enact change.

I hope that during my term I helped facilitate a student activism that transforms society, not just our campuses. At this moment many asylum seekers who have attempted self-harm or have critical health issues now have no access to medical care and, therefore, it is vital that the SRC shows real and practical solidarity to the movement to shut down all detention centres.

Moreover, we need to fight against the implementation of further restrictions on immigration at every turn. Borders necessitate violence: the violence of being denied free healthcare, the violence of an immigration raid, the violence of deportation. Immigration controls have transformed everywhere from hospitals to homeless charities into functioning as border guards, leaving many migrants with nowhere to turn. Our fellow students have been

harmed by these measures.

It's also time to be serious about climatejusticeactivism. We are fortunate that Fossil Free has reemerged strong at the University of Sydney because students have the power to make all universities divest, if we organise. When we must globally cut coal-powered electricity to almost nothing by 2050 to avoid further environmental disaster, we can't afford to sit back and ignore the issue. Our goal to win a free, accessible and liberated education system for all can't be separated from a world in which everyone can live, no matter where they are. There is no issue of justice that is not a student issue. This principle must be embedded into everything we do in the SRC.

I will still be in the office for the next 6 weeks. Feel free to email me at [president@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:president@src.usyd.edu.au) if you have any concerns or wish to get involved with the SRC. If you are experiencing any academic, personal or legal issues and wish to seek the advice of an SRC caseworker or solicitor, contact us at 9660 5222 or [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au).

# Disabilities & Carer's Officers

Ren Rennie, Robin Eames and Mollie Galvin

Over 45% of Sydney's train network is inaccessible to disabled people. Federal legislation requires the entirety of Australia's train network to be accessible by 2022, but the government is not making any meaningful progress towards this goal. Along with Queensland, NSW shares the worst rate of public transport inaccessibility in the entire country.

40% of students at the University of Sydney travel to uni via Redfern station, which at present has twelve platforms

and only one lift. Redfern station sees at least 50,000 commuters every day, a figure that is expected to rise to 60,000 by 2020. There are at present no immediate plans to install more lifts.

Join the University of Sydney Disabilities Collective at Redfern station on Friday the 26th of October, 2pm, to protest public transport inaccessibility and demand meaningful action towards access for everyone. The speakers will be Auslan interpreted, and we will be organising transport from the

University of Sydney; please email [disabilities.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:disabilities.officers@src.usyd.edu.au) if getting to Redfern station is likely to be difficult for you. We welcome support from abled allies.

In other news, last week was National Carers Week. There are 2.7 million unpaid carers in Australia, many of whom are young people who are not well supported themselves. The responsibility of supporting disabled people should fall on the community, never on individuals. And yet many

family members and friends of disabled people are forced into the position of having to provide forms of support that the system should be providing, because the system is capitalism, and it is exploitative by design.

As always, if you would like to join the closed Facebook groups for either the Disabilities Collective or the Caregivers Network, please chuck us an email and we will send through an invitation.

# Education Officers

The Education Officers did not submit a report.

# Global Solidarity Officers

The Global Solidarity Officers did not submit a report.

# Indigenous Officers

The Indigenous Officers did not submit a report.

# Environment Officers

The Environment Officers did not submit a report.

# WORK: Protect Your Rights!



If you are employed now, or will be working this summer, understand that you have some set minimum working rights (like the correct hourly rate of pay) and conditions your boss must follow by law. You should also be protected from discrimination or harassment.

Sometimes - often in certain fields of work - they won't do the right thing following the law, but there are things you can do and people you can get help from so that you are treated fairly.

You might be concerned about keeping your job and so don't want to confront your boss about something like your pay. One legal condition for employment is them giving you a payslip when you get paid, or soon after. You might try starting with a

request for that and keeping copies of them for possible use later.

The 'Fairwork Ombudsman' can give you information about your entitlements and the correct rate of pay for your industry and type of employment. You can then, or any time later, report a boss if you think they are not following the law.

Seek advice and join a Union to advocate for you. For example you could join the 'Retail and Fast Food Workers Union' in the retail industry, or 'United Voice' in the hospitality industry.

The SRC also funds the SRC Legal Service who can make a financial claim for you. Call 9660 5222 for an appointment.

**Do you have a legal problem?  
We can help you for FREE!\***

**Police, Courts  
Car Accidents  
Consumer Disputes  
Visa Issues  
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**...and more**

**SRC Legal Service**

Level 1, Wentworth Bldg, University of Sydney  
02 9660 5222 | [src.usyd.edu.au](http://src.usyd.edu.au)  
solicitor @ src.usyd.edu.au  
ACN 146 653 143 | MARN 1276171

\*This service is provided by the Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney and is available to USYD undergraduate students.

**法律諮詢  
法律アドバイス**

We have a solicitor who speaks  
Cantonese, Mandarin & Japanese



# Procrastination: Will you ever get around to it?

Procrastination is when you deliberately delay completing (or perhaps even starting) a task, despite the negative consequences that might come of it. It is a normal part of life and can happen to all of us at different times.

It might mean that you never get around to finishing your readings before class, submitting assignments on time, or studying for exams. The obvious outcomes are that you might lose marks or fail the subject, but perhaps that it might place stress on other aspects of your life as well? When you miss deadlines, or recognize that your work is not as good as it can be, this can lead to feelings of anxiety and low mood, which can then have a direct impact on feelings of self-worth. These feelings can then disrupt your studies and your life.

Procrastination works in a cycle like this: we approach a task and have negative feelings about it (ie. 'writing essays is boring', or 'I'll never get this done'), so we try to avoid this discomfort by 'escaping' and doing something else!

This might initially feel rewarding but it will actually increase the likelihood of procrastinating again next time. We need to find a way to break this pattern.

**Solutions**  
First, identify what you want to achieve, then put in place some strategies to

get the task done. For example, write a to-do list, break the task down into smaller more manageable parts, be realistic about how long each task will take, and make a weekly schedule of the tasks that you have been putting into the too hard basket!

You can either begin with the worst task first to get it over with, or start by doing something that feels more manageable, and gradually build up to the trickier ones. It can help to set a time limit for yourself to do as much as possible, ie. set a timer for 20 minutes, and then take a break and reset the timer again.

Work out when is your best time of day, ie. when your brain works best, and use that time for the tasks that need the most concentration. Find the best location for yourself to get tasks done, remove any distractions like your phone or social media (there are apps which can block devices or websites), visualize the task being completed, and plan rewards for yourself when you actually do complete something!

There are workshops and online resources on procrastination provided by Counselling and Psychological Service (CAPS) at the University, or feel free to contact one of the SRC Caseworkers via [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au) or on 9660 5222 for further assistance.



# Ask Abe

SRC caseworker HELP Q&A

**FINANCES: Unpaid Bills**

Dear Abe,

I have lots of expenses piling up. I am unable to see how I'm going to pay them all when they are due, and I've heard that I can get a loan really easily online. They're not a bank, so they don't have the same rules, but I wanted to check that this is safe. What do you think?

Bill

Dear Bill,

The company you might be referring to is a "payday lender". These companies focus on people with no prospect of lending from a legitimate financial institution, and charge outrageous amounts of fees or interest (up to 48% a year). They are attractive because they will loan money to virtually anyone, regardless of their credit history, and

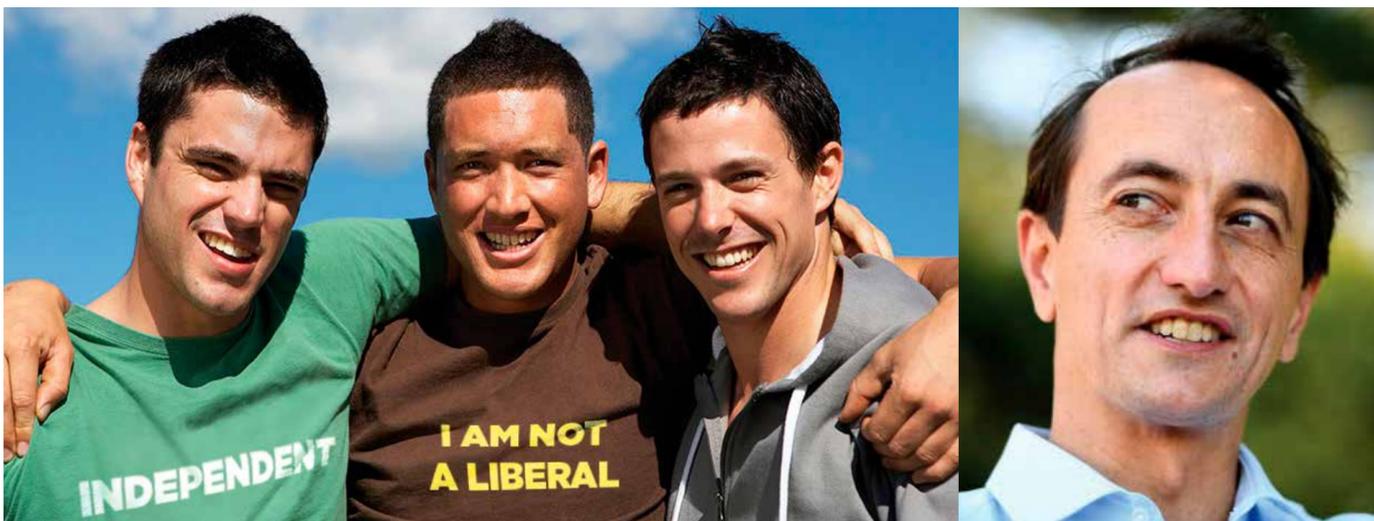
they take around an hour to give you the money. Using a payday lender is a terrible idea. Terrible. Please do not do this.

The University's Financial Assistance Service can give interest free loans of up to \$1500 with monthly repayments over a year. They can also advise if you are able to apply for a bursary (a loan you don't have to pay back) or scholarship. SRC solicitors can help you negotiate extended deadlines and payment plans for bills (e.g., phone, and credit cards). SRC Caseworkers can help you get coupons for discounts on electricity, government loans to catch up with rent, and give you contacts for free or cheap food. All SRC services are available to undergraduate students free of charge. Postgraduate students should contact SUPRA.

Abe

## “Dave Sharma Should Have Just Run As An Independent, Like We Do,” Say USyd Young Libs

Nick Harriott Big-L liberal



Frustrated by the result of this weekend's Wentworth by-election, many Young Liberals have been left to wonder why parliamentary-hopeful Dave Sharma didn't simply claim he was an Independent as a smokescreen for his patently Liberal agenda—just like they do every SRC and USU election.

“It was just plain annoying,” said USU Board Director Bob-Lynne Binch, “I could've given Sharma all my tips if he had just returned my calls.”

When it comes to deceiving the great unwashed, Binch knows every trick in the book.

“During the USU Presidential

debate, any time I spoke about being an Independent I would shoot a wink to the group of Libs in the crowd. All of us would giggle because we knew what was happening but everyone else was none-the-wiser!”

Francois Tamier, an outspoken campus conservative known for speaking freely about his lack of free speech, wouldn't necessarily vote for Sharma but did have some handy advice concerning clinching those final votes, regardless of your political affiliation.

“Sometimes you just have to make your constituents log into the

University intranet and force them to vote for you as you look over their shoulder.”

When asked how that would apply to Wentworth specifically, Tamier grew agitated, accused *hunny* of mounting a violent protest and jumped behind the counter of a nearby LifeChoices tent—the threshold of which he knew, like a church, we could not cross for fear of spontaneous combustion.

While Sharma may have blown his chances at Wentworth, campus Libs are more confident about the upcoming federal election.

“We've got lots of tips that we're happy to pass on to any Liberals in marginal seats, and even candidates in our more secure blue-ribbon electorates.”

Their chances may be slimmer than in previous years, but they believe this is a storm that they can weather. “Look, in the end voters are savvy. You can't convince them you're not a heterosexual cis white male—trust me I've tried. But with a cunning strategy and a little luck, you can convince them you're not a Liberal, and sometimes that's close enough.”



**hunny Editor Goes Entire Year Without Spelling Mitsake**

>> pg. 9

**“Must Have at Least 6 Feet”**

**Says Picky Spider on Tinder**

>> pg. 13



### ANDY & DOON'S FINAL BOX

THAT'S A WRAP

Well, it's been a wild year here at *The 'Box*.

Born at the beginning of this semester, the mere four months we have spent on this Earth has amounted to more than our sister publication *Honi Soit* has achieved in its entire eighty-nine years.

When we first opened *The 'Box* we swore that we could be honest, accountable and adhere to only the highest of editorial standards. We can confidently say that we have stayed the course and accomplished all of those goals, never once compromising our integrity.

Any accusations of impropriety, bias or conflicts of interest pertaining to *Box* are nothing more than gossip propagated by the fourth-column emotions:

Now, we find ourselves at the proverbial roads diverged in a yellow wood. Faced with an uncertain future in either direction, we will choose the road less traveled. Its final destination is unknown to us, but we can guarantee to you, our loyal readers, that wherever we go we will live by the same code of honour that has bound our reporting to date.

Our respect for you is unparalleled and, as such, we promise our next project will be one becoming of your intellect, preferences and proclivities.

We will not sell-out to the first corporation that offers us a lucrative sponsorship deal, nor will we get into bed with the first corporation to flit

through our pages. We will be nothing more than your loyal readers, and we will be nothing more than your loyal readers.



### ANDY & DOON'S Zinger BOX

SPICE UP!

At last, you can enjoy your hot gossip over a spicy KFC Zinger burger, famous for its eleven secret herbs and spices. Alas, there will be no *'Box* for your Zinger next year. In fact, there will be no *Boxes* at all. The new editors will be packing up comedy and spreading it thick and fast throughout the

main pages of *Honi Soit*. Let's see how far that gets them. Not as far as ten dollars at your local KFC will get you. Buns, lettuce, mayo—a succulent Steggle or Ingham breast, subject to availability—all lovingly deep fried by the KFC family at participating outlets. Yeehaw!

\*Prices may vary. Check in-store for details.



### NICK'S SUBWAY FEEDBACK BOX

THIS TIME IT'S PERSONAL

At this point I think it falls to me to apologise to you, the public. No-one should have to be subjected to three blistering Subway hit-pieces—and yet, it is my solemn duty as a reporter, nay, as a defender of truth and justice, to take you down this road once more.

We have to boycott Subway.

Last week, even though they had burnt me twice before, I went back for more. I know, I should have called it quits by now, but I really thought I could make it work this time.

(An important note is that, once again, I went to Subway with a modified order. For years, my foot-long ham cheddar tomato cucumber and lettuce never led me astray [except when there was no bread] but at this point in time I have been experimenting with pescatarianism and, as such, could not rely on my regular porcine delight.)

I asked for a footlong tuna sub on white. The sandwich artist paused—would you like it on panini? She held up a small tough loaf of bread. Intrigued, I said yes. It's a dollar fifty, she said. Fine, I agreed.

Little did I know, I had taken my first step on a long path to disappointment. It seemed that I had not so much chosen a bread base as I had a style of sandwich. When I got to the cheese section I requested no cheese. She seemed perplexed. She asked me if I wanted it toasted. I said no. She said I must. Strange, I thought, why ask then?

Strangely, despite her insistence, I was quickly moved along to the salad bar without my panini being toasted. Good, I thought, problem solved—before the next sandwich artist

telling me which vegetables I

was going to have. Capsicum, olive and onions, he said. I became still. I had never been in this situation before. Without even acknowledging his demand I started slowly listing my vegetable choices. He, equally hesitantly, complied. Thinking I had endured the worst of it, I slid further to the right and aligned myself with the cash register.

So imagine my surprise when my sandwich artist didn't follow me but rather doubled-back down the production line, added some mozzarella to my panini and threw it into the toaster. I was dumbfounded. I wanted to yell out but I was paralysed by confusion.

It took less than ten seconds but it felt like an eternity. The toaster ding, he took my panini out and began walking it back to me.

Finally, I thought, I can just cut my losses and get out of here. But no, it wasn't over. He stopped short of the cash register and put the panini into a sandwich press for another go! It was at this point that my confusion turned to a lightly simmering rage; a rage as hot as the sweaty tuna that was now being handed to me.

Now, despite all my rage, I am still just a regular person so I didn't say anything. I took my weird hot tuna panini and I left. I understood now why toasting was a panini prerequisite. I also understood why there was a set salad mix for the panini. But that didn't change the fact that when I was upsold to a different bread, they neglected to inform me I was also agreeing to certain terms and conditions; ones which I didn't fully understand, ones which left me with hot cheesy fish and a warm limp salad, all on an (admittedly) crisp panini.

Never again, Subway. Never again.

