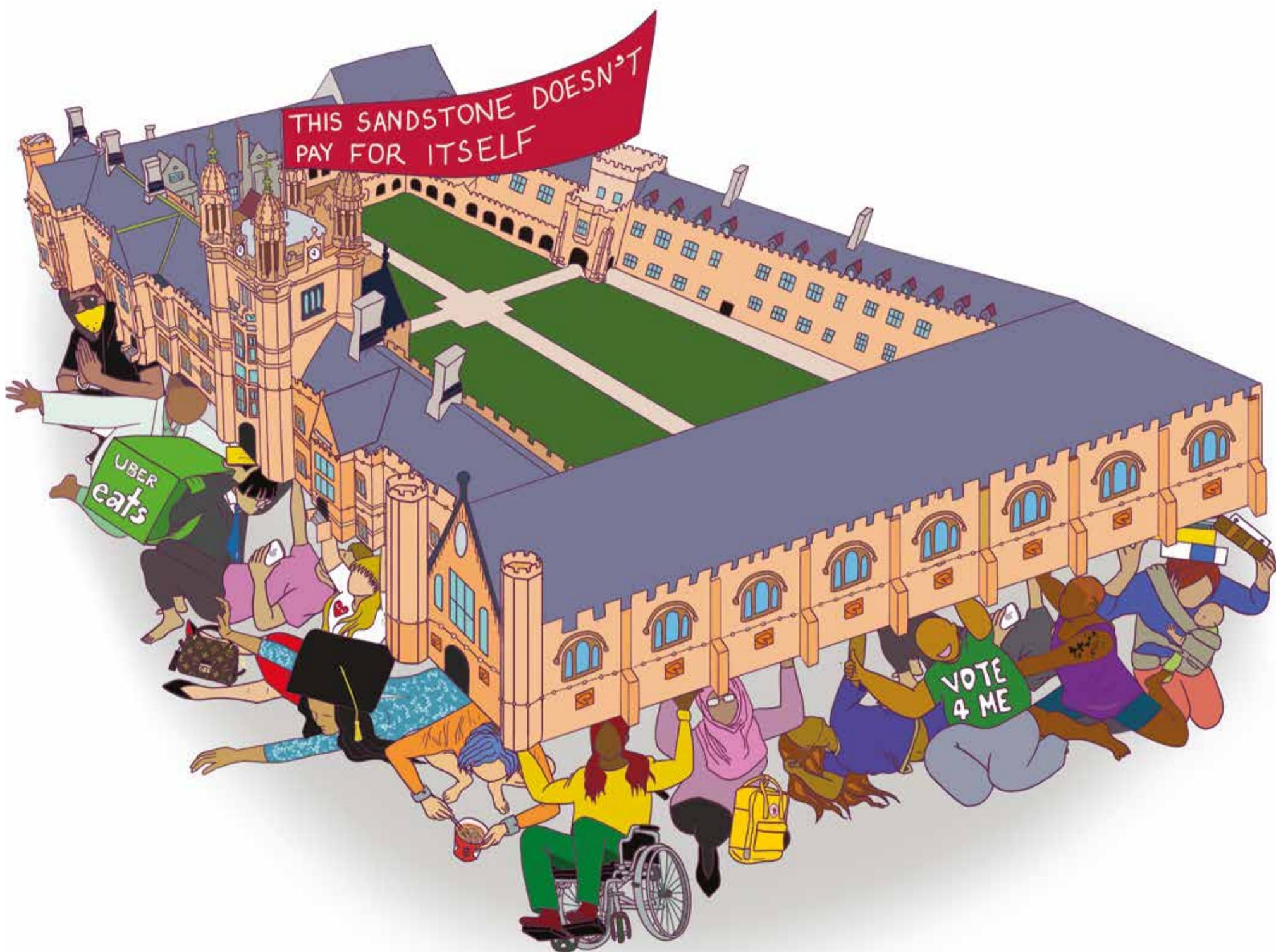


# Honi Soit

FIRST PRINTED 1929

WELCOME WEEK, SEM. 1, 2019



4-5: NEWS

## USyd Young Liberals involved in Tinder controversy

A number of Young Liberals have been implicated in a controversy involving derogatory comments made in a group chat towards a woman on Tinder, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported earlier this week. Four of the individuals involved were suspended from the Liberal Party for a period of six months, and two were fired from their state government jobs.

*Honi* can reveal the identity of several of the individuals, two of whom are students of the University of Sydney.

[Read more on page 4 >>](#)

8-9: ANALYSIS

## Eyewitness to an uprising: On the streets with the Yellow Vests

As we wait for our fries, dozens of people start to run past the window, chased by clouds of rolling, rising tear gas. I stand by the window, filming until someone pulls me away – the police just smashed the glass door, it's better to stand back. I wonder where Marine and her partner are, where the American academic got to, or any of the smiling faces we met.

The McDonald's begins to fill with gas. Children are crying, holding their faces up to their mothers, who wipe their eyes and noses and mouths with water and ice. Outside, the riot police move in lines, head to toe in black armour and matching masks, as if to imply their prey are the real threat.

[Read more on page 8 >>](#)

# Acknowledgement of Country



*Honi Soit* is written and distributed on the land of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation. Without a treaty, this land remains stolen land. Sovereignty was never ceded, and an illegitimate occupation has been inflicting violence on First Nations people from 1788 to this day. Despite priding ourselves on being a paper that empowers voices lost in mainstream media, we recognise that such a platform has not been adequately extended to First Nations people, and that there have been serious shortcomings in our engagement and solidarity with First Nations people. The editors of this paper occupy the lands of the Wallumedegal, Gadigal, Bidjigal, Dharug and Tharawal peoples of the Eora Nation. More than half of us are people of colour, and we remain acutely aware that we benefit as much as white people from the specific form of racism faced by First Nations people. As we are all complicit in a settler-colonial regime, we commit to focusing on the daily injustices directed at First Nations people from the government, media and legal system, alongside the white supremacist superstructure within which these institutions operate.

As we start the year, we make a firm commitment to producing a paper that works to assist the ongoing process of decolonisation around us, and seek to use the platform we have to this end. We will prioritise First Nations voices, doing everything in our power to support the ongoing resistance in colonial Australia.

## Contents

- 4 NEWS
- 6 ANALYSIS
- 9 OPINION
- 12 FEATURE
- 14 MULTILINGUAL
- 16 CREATIVE
- 17 PERSPECTIVE
- 18 PUZZLES
- 20 SRC REPORTS
- 22 CULTURE
- 23 COMEDY

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### Conflict of Interest Declaration

Current faction members: Liam Thorne (Grassroots), Nell O'Grady (Labor right/Unity)  
Former faction members: Jessica Syed (Grassroots), Pranay Jha (Grassroots), Alan Zheng (Labor right/Unity)

## Editorial

In 2019, this student rag is turning 90. Though the world has evolved in a myriad of ways ever since, it ultimately remains hostile to progressive views.

With a federal election looming, alongside a state election in NSW, the year ahead will be one of elevated political contestation between the left and right. Rather than sitting on the fence, *Honi* will provide a much needed counterculture in what is often a stale Australian media landscape.

We are cognisant and immensely respectful of the profound impact that this unique institution has had over the years. From its fearless reporting of the Freedom Rides and the Vietnam War in the 60s and 70s, to its sporadic encouragement of shoplifting in the 90s and fare evasion more recently, we are humbled to be editing a paper capable of causing such a stir. We can only aspire to continue such a legacy.

It won't always be easy reading. As one of few publications not beholden to corporate interests, we are not afraid to take editorial positions on issues that matter to

students. No doubt that there are at least a few parallels between the problems facing the student body of 1929, and those that plague students today.

In light of this, we reject the notion of complete objectivity in student journalism as a farce. We do not wish to act as if we are a subsidiary of Fairfax Media. We endeavour to give a voice to those silenced by the mainstream, and engage a diverse group of writers in order to do so.

*Honi* is an enduring bastion of campus culture. Our art is proudly student-produced. The words which cover these pages are the product of a labour of love for writing and student journalism.

If you would like to contribute to *Honi Soit* in 2019, kindly send a message to our Facebook page. Alternatively, email us at [editors@honisoit.com](mailto:editors@honisoit.com).

We'll be seeking pitches all year, and hope to hear ideas from you.

Welcome to Australia's oldest weekly student newspaper.

*Honi soit qui mal y pense.*

Shame upon they who think evil of it.

# LETTERS

## You don't make one friend

Dearest Mr and Mrs Soit

It's been a long time since you've written to me. Why have you not written? Last I heard, you commissioned an article which supported Kim Jong Un and his dastardly North Korean regime — that upset me greatly. My dearest friend Andrew recently told me that you've been evading fares on your train trips — how utterly despicable! Your degeneration into juvenile delinquency has caught the attention of many.

To think! I once considered us friends! In recent years, it's become apparent that you have already crossed into the shadow realm and I'm afraid I cannot join you there.

This will be my last letter. I cannot say I will miss you. #DefundHoni.

Do not expect to find me in the basement again.

kindest,  
Keith W  
Bachelor of Western  
Civilisation IV

## The stars have forsaken us

Dear editors

You ought to be ashamed of your decision to discontinue *Honi's* tradition of

high-quality horoscopes. Your collective failure to uphold this feature of *Honi's* legacy compromises any last shreds of respect proffered by the student body.

Concerns about your recent health and self-destructive tendencies are sure to follow as Aquarius enters Uranus for a short while. Stay grounded and realistic. Rather than completing endless work for limited pay in your basement, get out into nature, pet a cat or sing a song. If you don't, the overall atmosphere of 2019 bodes poorly for you all.

May the stars watch over you in this hour of need,

Sincerely  
Geranium Witherfeather III

## Without Prejudice

Dear colleagues

We write on behalf of a number of our clients, including the Young Liberals of Australia, Jordan Peterson and senior management within the Faculty of Medicine and Health.

We have sought an urgent injunction over the publication of your 'newspaper's' Welcome Week edition which contains more defamatory content than a print run of the Daily Telegraph.

Non-compliance with the injunction will be faced with stiff consequences, including liquidation of *Honi's* assets -- 4 working chairs and an

expired Microsoft Office 97 suite.

Yours in litigation,  
Spence, Garton and  
Associates

## Shockingly, an actual letter

Business students claiming mastery of data analysis need to get their heads straight. BUSS1020 might vindicate your love of spreadsheets, but it hardly constitutes a proper education. Please, lower your voices when waltzing into second year statistics and remember that the census date arrives promptly.

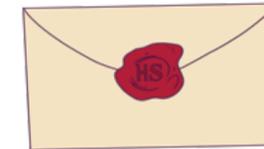
Ampel Mann  
Science II

## Write to us

Dear *Honi*

I've written you 365 fucking letters. I wrote you everyday for a year. It's over now.

Goodbye.  
Noah  
Don't be like Noah. Send us letters at [editors@honisoit.com](mailto:editors@honisoit.com).



# NEWSFLASH

## SRC office bearers finally appointed with collective autonomy breached

Wednesday night's meeting bookended the long-running RepsElect saga with all positions filled.

### In pictures: Invasion Day 2019

Chants of "always was, always will be, Aboriginal land" resounded through Gadigal land as tens of thousands attended 2019's Invasion Day rally in Sydney.

### 悉尼大学学生会(USU)在2019年取消了会员费用制度

但学生仍需支付俱乐部和社团的注册费用45澳元，从而在ACCESS折扣计划中受益。

### USU membership fee scrapped from 2019

Students will still have to pay club and society sign-up costs and \$45 to benefit from the ACCESS discount program.

### "We love you, Danny": Hundreds gather to protest Danny Lim's violent arrest

Approximately 300 people protested outside the Sydney City Police Station this afternoon

### St John's College withholds review into claims of hazing and sexual assault from public

The College also appears to have altered its story regarding its prior knowledge of hazing incidents

To see more of *Honi's* digital content as it breaks live:

Facebook: [Honi Soit](https://www.facebook.com/Honi_Soit)  
Twitter: [Honi\\_Soit](https://twitter.com/Honi_Soit)  
Website: [Honisoit.com](http://Honisoit.com)

## The Goings-On

### Young Labor v Young Liberal debate

Why bother taking a three-hour bus to Canberra to survey the shitshow that is federal politics when you can examine the same terrarium of disorder on campus? Future senior ALP and LNP party hacks battle it out in their annual debate on 'The Issues That Matter To The Australian People.'

20 Feb / 1pm / Main Stage, Front Lawns.

### AUSLAN Music Performance

The Disabilities & Carer Collective, the Sign Language Society (SignSoc) and the Mental Awareness and Health Society (MAHSoc) are at the forefront of disability rights awareness and activism on campus. Come together

with them in their inclusive musical performance.

22 Feb / 1:30pm / Main Stage, Front Lawns.

### KCAS K-Pop Dance Showcase

Weebs of USyd, fear not. The iconic Korean Cultural Appreciation Society are doing covers of infamous K-Pop tracks for your viewing and listening pleasure.

20 Feb / 2pm / Main Stage, Front Lawns.

### Courtyard Cinema: The Breakfast Club

You'd be lying if you haven't fantasised about having a John Hughes romance at least once in your life. Perhaps

university is your chance to fulfil that prophecy... or at least to watch one of Hughes' seminal teen dream films on the big screen (projector). For all you no-sugar fiends, *Honi* has heard on the grapevine that there'll be free kombucha.

22 Feb / 6pm / Courtyard.

### WoCo Feminist Lunch

USyd Wom\*n's Collective have been at the apex of feminist organising in Sydney for over two decades, instigating change as large as an Australian Human Rights Commission report into sexual assault on campus. If you identify as a wom\*n or non-binary student, head along to their

20-22 Feb / 2pm-5pm; 6pm-9pm / Elliot Miller Studio, Science Road.

welcome lunch for spoken word poetry, speeches, and, well, free food and drink.

22 Feb / 11am / Courtyard.

### Bright Ideas: Neon Dream

Despite the University completely disparaging the integrity of the Sydney College of the Arts, arts and culture has managed to find another way in the era of University corporatisation. Have a gander of USyd student Antony Youssef's installation, 'Neon Dream' which interrogates the links between the physical and digital.

20-22 Feb / 2pm-5pm; 6pm-9pm / Elliot Miller Studio, Science Road.



### Imagine having no life

*Honi* has been doing some top-notch SNOOPING around the soul-sucking cesspool that is student politics, and has found some students keen to fight for control of aforementioned cesspool in this year's USU elections! Lmao imagine unironically doing that. In any case, the individuals are Tom Manousaridis (Unity), Nick

Fitbit (NLS), Georgie Brown (Lib) and Ellie Stephenson (Groots). Good luck, losers!

### He did! Or did he?

Our very own SRC President Jacky He, who was recently described as God-King in the Counter Course handbook (a publication he oversees), has apparently been engaging in a bit of old-fashioned taking-credit-for-other-people's-work! Lobbying from the SRC has caused the University to release course materials for first year subjects a week earlier than usual this year. In a Facebook post, Jacky claims this success for himself, writing that a fateful meeting with USyd Staff Communication Specialist Judy Douglas is what brought about the

change. However, *Honi* has heard that the push for an early release date was passed in 2018, BEFORE Jacky came into power, and was the result of a collective effort from the past SRC, SUPRA and staff. So, it's like, the changes came into place during his reign, but they had like absolutely nothing to do with him! Come to think of it, isn't the phrase God-King from somewhere else as well? Hmm, but then again, so is Burn Book...

### Not all that glitters is gold

Arising out of the controversy from who will be the Wom\*n's Officers this year, the elected Wom\*n's Officers Crystal Xu and Gabi Stricker-Phelps have made their own women focused publication, creatively

called USYD Women, distinct from WoCo's traditional publication Growing Strong.

Built on the holy trinity of "empowerment, sisterhood and ambition", USYD Women features, among other things, an article (or advertisement — we're really not sure) about student councillor Xiaoyu (Kimmy) Jin's own brand of jewellery, called Olyeu — an interesting variation on "only you". We at Burn Book are always looking for ways to spice up our wardrobe, so we decided to give Olyeu a further look. One quick look at the website reveals a wide range of attractively priced jewellery for sale. It even features a touching artist's statement from the designer! What does it say you ask? Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet... (No seriously, it actually

does). We wish Xiaoyu all the best.

### \$12,000 for what!?!?!

God-King Jacky and his entourage of B-List campus personalities have become awfully shy recently. Jacky and other OBs are required to provide written reports to yours truly. However, if you flick to page 20, you'll see that no reports have been submitted this week. What's worse, the Gen-Secs are yet to create a schedule for OBs to submit their reports. Maybe it has something to do with Yuxuan Yang's absence over the summer, completing an internship in China despite being paid an annual stipend of a whopping 12k (for the second year in a row).

# NTEU lodges dispute as backlash grows against Anderson Stuart evictions

Alan Zheng

The Faculty of Medicine and Health's (FMH) plan to evict researchers and academics from the wet laboratories in the Anderson Stuart Building by mid-2019 without a firm relocation plan continues to spark backlash after the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) lodged a formal notification of industrial dispute, and 185 staff and students signed a motion of no confidence in FMH management.

The University's 2018-2021 Enterprise Bargaining Agreement requires formal consultation when a decision

is made that is likely to have a "significant effect on staff." To date, the faculty's consultation efforts have only extended to meetings between individual research leaders and senior faculty and human resources staff. *Honi* understands a meeting between the University and NTEU representatives took place last week but failed to reach an agreement.

"I left the meeting feeling bullied, distressed about my future and anxious about what this means for my career, my research students and the undergraduate students that I teach," one research leader told

*Honi*.

"I was supposed to start my honours this year...but my supervisor is so worried about the future of this lab that they don't feel confident with me completing a year of work here anymore...So I have to find somewhere else last minute," reads one post on Facebook page Humans of Anderson Stuart which increased from less than 100 likes in January to more than 1000 at the start of Welcome Week.

*Honi* reported in January 2019 that the evictions were being justified on the basis of tenuous Work, Health and

Safety (WHS) reports which reportedly identify critical safety risks in the Anderson Stuart Building. Despite numerous staff requests for the reports, they have not been provided by the faculty in a possible breach of University WHS procedures which require relevant WHS information to be shared with workers during consultation. The continued concealment of the reports leaves lingering concerns for unspecified safety risks as 2019's academic year welcomes students back to campus.

The motion of no confidence signed by 185 staff and students,

including academic staff, group leaders, postdocs and higher degree research students, was delivered to faculty management last week.

"It is our concern that the capacity to maintain [the schools] record of teaching excellence will be compromised by the proposed relocation and dispersal of colleagues," the motion reads.

The motion comes ahead of a turbulent year for the FMH with the impending launch of the new Susan Wakil Health Precinct.



# USyd Young Liberals involved in Tinder controversy

Honi Soit

A number of Young Liberals have been implicated in a controversy involving derogatory comments made in a group chat towards a woman on Tinder, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported earlier this week. Four of the individuals involved were suspended from the Liberal Party for a period of six months, and two were fired from their state government jobs.

*Honi* can reveal the identity of several of the individuals, two of whom are students of the University of Sydney. Alex Doherty, Treasurer of the USyd Politics Society in 2018, shared a screenshot of a text exchange with woman from Tinder to a group chat conceived for the purpose of election campaigning. Kerrod Gream, former USU board candidate, commented on the appearance of the woman whose photo had been shared, suggesting that Doherty would not want to "bang a potato".

Jacob Sich, President of the Wollongong Young Liberals,

also contributed to the exchange of messages. Sich was the first to compare the woman to a potato, going on to add "root and boot her and leave her some HTVs [how to votes]."

Two women in the group chat confronted Gream and Sich during the course of the conversation.

"Have some manners boys... that's fowl," one said.

"People wonder why women don't want to join the Liberal party," another added. "Ju st look at this chat."

The group chat contained seventeen members, including Young Liberals President Harry Stutchbury. *Honi* contacted Stutchbury, Gream and Doherty for comment. Neither Gream nor Stutchbury responded. Doherty responded via a lawyer, stating that he did not make further comment in the chat and was "disgusted". Further screenshots obtained by *Honi* show Doherty saying "Well i [sic] think she's gonna vote liberal - you're welcome",

going on to say "sorry to have started it".

Both Gream and Doherty have had notable political careers both in and out of USyd. Gream is known to have been a staffer for Adam Marshall, the Minister for Tourism and Major Events in the NSW Liberal Government. Doherty is known to have been a staffer for Felicity Wilson, a NSW Liberal MP. Sich is known as a staffer for NSW MP Gareth Ward.



# NUS protest Jordan Peterson

Baopu He

Protesters gathered in front of the Sydney Opera House on Saturday to rally against controversial Canadian psychology professor Jordan Peterson in response to the Sydney leg of his 12 Rules for Life speaking tour.

Previously little known outside academia, Peterson has attracted notoriety in recent years due to his attacks on political correctness and identity politics, amassing huge support bases on online platforms such as Quora and Youtube.

Hersha Kadkol, the Ethnocultural Officer of the National Union of Students (NUS), gave a speech before the crowd. "We cannot afford to ignore Jordan Peterson," she said. "[Peterson has become] a key ideologue for radicalising people to the right. [His rhetoric] is waged against the gains hard-won by women, ethnic minorities, LGBTI communities and their supporters."

Whilst the Facebook event page was targeted by online trolls coming out in support of

Peterson, the actual protest was only met with a small number of individual hecklers. A moderate police presence also accompanied the protest but remained largely unintrusive, allegedly only intervening when a speaker used a profanity during their speech.

After the speeches at the Opera House were finished, the protestors marched down Circular Quay, chanting, "Racist, sexist, anti-queer, Peterson's not welcome here" holding banners with slogans such as "Stand with Muslims against racism".

In a media release, Kadkol stated that the protesters are not seeking to have Peterson's speech cancelled, but rather, to voice their opposition to the normalisation of bigotry which Peterson represents. Amongst Peterson's controversial views is that white privilege does not exist, and that 'enforced monogamy' is an antidote to male frustration.

"It's not just about his ideas, it's about where they fit in in this wider shift to the right we're seeing globally," Kadkol told *Honi*.

# Dr Tim Anderson sacked for swastika lecture material

Jessica Syed and Joe Verity

Controversial academic Tim Anderson has been sacked by the University of Sydney following the suspension of his employment in December 2018. The decision was made last Friday by a 2-1 majority through an employment review panel.

Anderson was suspended in late 2018 for circulating lecture materials which, according to a letter from the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Stephen Garton, contained an "altered image of the Israeli flag" featuring a "cropped swastika." The materials were allegedly used in 'Human Rights and Development' (ECOP3017).

The panel that handed down Anderson's termination of employment included Janice McLeay, a dispute management specialist and former Industrial Relations Commissioner, Professor Philippa Pattison, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Education at USyd, and Dr Neil Maclean, a senior lecturer in anthropology. Maclean was the only member of the panel to vote against terminating

Anderson's employment.

The panel's majority determined that Anderson's conduct amounted to "serious misconduct" under the University's enterprise agreement, and added with reference to the altered Israeli flag that it would be "reasonable to find the image offensive."

Maclean argued against the panel's decision, opting instead to defend Anderson's conduct on the grounds of academic freedom. He asserted that it was "consistent with the requirements of professional judgement that staff formulate their own concrete criteria for the exercise of academic freedom."

A University spokesperson relayed to *Honi* that the University would maintain its position that "Dr Anderson's continued publication of the material on social media and in lecture slides for students was disrespectful and offensive," emphasising that "staff must also meet their obligation to engage in debate in a civil manner, and in accordance with our policies and codes of conduct."

In a public statement,

Anderson warned that the University's "censorial abuse" would send a "cold chill" through the University, and accused Garton of "reactionary politics dressed up as ethics." In an email exchange with Garton prior to his suspension in October, Anderson accused the Provost of "clumsy, unprincipled attempts to act as political censor."

Friday's ruling crystallises the University's various investigations into Anderson's conduct, ending his twenty year tenure, which in recent years has been marred by controversies largely relating to his political stances. Anderson has repeatedly expressed public support for the Assad regime in Syria, meeting with Bashar al-Assad in 2013.

In his public statement, Anderson noted that he is in consultation with the National Tertiary Education Union with respect to a legal appeal of the University Review Committee's decision.

An online petition to reinstate Anderson has already begun to circulate.

# 'Security risks': ICAC hears allegations

Alan Zheng

An Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) inquiry has heard allegations that the private contractor responsible for campus security, Sydney Night Patrol and Inquiry (SNP Security), falsified up to \$121,239 in timesheets over the last decade under a contract with the University valued at \$30 million across its life.

The NSW anti-corruption body is examining allegations of bribery, fraud and "payroll ghosting" — a process involving an employee claiming hours they have otherwise not performed, typically with payroll creating fake employee profiles, or using the details of existing employees on leave.

Photographs and correspondence tabled at ICAC reveal guards sleeping in vehicles and classrooms during shifts, complicating services coordinated by Campus Security, including the shuttle bus service operating between Fisher Library and Redfern Station. The service has garnered a notoriously unreliable reputation, with hour-long delays forming the

subject of complaints lodged with the Student Affairs Unit in 2017, according to exhibits before the inquiry.

On multiple occasions, guards arrived late or wholly failed to attend rostered shifts at Sydney University Village and the Law Library. Guards also worked an excessive amount of consecutive hours, in breach of SNP's own workplace fatigue policies.

The University typically advertises emergency services and campus security as contacts for students in distress.

Campus security are conferred power, trust and responsibility under the 2009 Campus Access Rule which empowers guards to remove unlawful entrants on campus and apprehend anyone suspected of an offence.

The inquiry is expected to continue for another three weeks and conclude with possible recommendations for further action by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and improvements to the University's contract oversight management processes.

# Activists rally against murder of TJ Hickey

Himath Siriniwasa

15 years after the tragic murder of Kamilaroi 17-year-old TJ Hickey, activists rallied against the state-sanctioned violence that resulted in his death.

On 14 January 2004, after being arbitrarily pursued by a police vehicle, TJ was rammed by the vehicle onto a spiked fence. He passed away the following day at the Royal Randwick Children's Hospital.

Approximately 70 activists and community members began the march in TJ Hickey Park in the heart of Waterloo, before continuing through Redfern police station.

Protesters demanded a parliamentary inquiry into the "gross miscarriage of justice," and a remedy to the oppressive social systems that continue to perpetuate mental health crises amongst First Nations communities. Greens MPs David Shoebridge and Jenny Leong promised to bring about a concrete inquiry into Hickey's murder post-election.

The brutality of his death was underscored by accusations

of corruption within the police. The Hickey family claim that a police rescue vehicle was sent away, and that the arrival of the ambulance was intentionally delayed. Constable Hollingsworth, the officer at the scene, also refused to give evidence at an initial inquiry on the grounds that he would be incriminated.

15 years on, calls to hold police accountable continue to unite the community, with passionate chants of "they say accident we say murder" and "too many coppers, not enough justice."

Multiple minutes of silence were held: at the memorial in TJ Hickey Park, in front of Redfern police station and outside Parliament House.

"We're not going anywhere until there is justice for TJ and all other victims of state-sanctioned violence," rally leaders said. Many in the community fear that for young indigenous people to be held in custody is effectively a "death sentence." This sentiment was

echoed by Greens MP for Newtown, Jenny Leong. "We need to stop cops investigating cops," she said.

407 Indigenous deaths in custody have occurred since the previous Royal Commission in 1991. Activists claim that police investigations and prosecutions into such deaths have not occurred.

The rally had a heavy police presence, with police matching at least half the amount of protesters at any given time. A senior FIRE (Fighting In Resistance Equally) activist said that this was a regular occurrence at Indigenous rallies, especially given the calls for justice against police violence.

"Our people carry more trauma than anyone else in this continent," said community activist Raymond 'Bubbly' Weatherall.

A petition to reopen an inquiry into Hickey's murder with 12,000 signatures was handed to Shoebridge and Leong at Parliament House.

# Hundreds protest child removals

Nell O'Grady and Annie Zhang

400 people met in Hyde Park to attend the Grandmothers Against Removals (GMAR) rally on the 11th anniversary of Rudd's apology to the Stolen Generations.

The rally focussed on forced adoption laws passed in the NSW Parliament by the Berejiklian Government in November 2018 which allow children to be removed from their families.

Almost 40% of children in out-of-home care are Indigenous. The laws prevent children from being returned to their families after only two years in care.

"[We stand] not too far from the supposed corridors of power that have made a decision that will continue to endanger our children," said Anne Walden, a Wiradjuri elder and NSW board member of the local Aboriginal Council.

Greens MP David Shoebridge spoke against the policy "[this policy is] ignorant of history, ignorant of what the meaning of sorry is."

Hazel Collins, one of the founders of GMAR, also spoke. "Our children are our future.

One day we will be the ancestral footprint and one thing that our children need to know is that we fought to bring them home," she said.

The government currently spends \$1.2 billion operating out-of-home care services for Australian children. One sixth is spent on support networks to strengthen communities.

"Parliament House forced the adoption bill, shamelessly rushed it through and became law. We're demanding that these laws be repealed," Wright said.

Speaker Tanya Mihalik Shadow Family and Community Services Minister noted "a letter to the Parliament signed by over 80 organisations were ignored by Premier Berejiklian. If elected we will repeal this legislation within 100 days."

The speakers led a march towards NSW Parliament down Macquarie Street. Hazel Collins gave another rousing speech. "Till the day I die, till the last baby is brought home, I'll be out here and I'll be holding the government accountable."

# What's in a name?: O-Week becomes Welcome Week

Jessica Syed and Liam Thorne wonder if O-Week, by any other name, is equally sour.

This year, both the University of Sydney (USyd) and the University of Sydney Union (USU) have changed the name of Orientation Week (O-Week) to 'Welcome Week', reasoning that the term 'O-Week' has become too deeply associated with instances of sexual assault.

Ever since these decisions of the University and USU became public knowledge, debate as to the efficacy of such a change was sparked on the most prestigious of forums, *USyd Rants*. Online opponents of the change have broadly stated that changing the name of orientation week will do little to stop sexual assault on campus.

Less publicised is the fact that the idea for changing the name was recommended in the now infamous Broderick Review into residential college culture. This recommendation was not aimed at the University of Sydney or USU, though both institutions have latched onto it. The question remains as to whether the target demographic of the Review's recommendation, USyd's residential colleges, have followed suit.

In a 53 page action plan released on its website, St Paul's College outlined how it would implement each of the recommendations of the Review. One action point involves changing the name of O-Week to Welcome Week.

Bizarrely, another action point centres around having "one or more alcohol free days in the orientation programme." Beyond the fact that intoxication can't excuse sexual misconduct, the notion of limiting consumption in a model that resembles a concentrated form of 1920s U.S. style prohibition is unlikely to bode well, as 18 year olds tend to get their hands on alcohol even under the most trying circumstances.

Apart from this strange prescription, and despite the name change, most of the changes in St Paul's orientation week practices appear vague.

The action plan notes that students will be "educated about hazing", but does not specify by whom or in what capacity, with little to no consultation with feminist groups on campus as to the most effective programs available.

It's prudent to question how

effective any such education on hazing would be, when student hierarchies are maintained through a concentration of power in "student orientation leaders", who will oversee orientation activities.

Most problematically, it is ambiguously described that "investigations will continue to be conducted by the Sub-Warden," meaning investigations into hazing and sexual assault will transpire internally.

The fact that the majority of decision making happens behind closed doors is the very thing that has invoked significant criticism of college culture. Processes of accountability remain covert and hidden from the public eye, leading many to believe that perpetrators of sexual assault are "let off" to maintain the reputation of their particular college. It's apparent that any sentiment of change is undermined by the fact that the Colleges—as a separate entity to the University—lack sufficient oversight, despite efforts by the Broderick Review to encourage increased cooperation between the two institutions.

Not that this secrecy is particular to

St Paul's. Other colleges at USyd have not publicly released any action plan to implement the recommendations of the Broderick Review. *Honi* reported in December 2018 that St John's College went so far as to withhold its internal review into allegations of sexual assault made in the 'Red Zone Report', which was released by advocacy group End Rape On Campus during orientation week last year and outlined 40 years of hazing and sexual assault in Australian residential colleges.

Walkley award winning journalist and author of the 'Red Zone Report', Nina Funnell told *Honi* that "a mere name change is a superficial 'fix' to a deeply ingrained structural problem. One in eight sexual assaults which happen this year will likely happen this week."

When some behaviour is so entrenched in specific institutions, to the extent that it is hailed as tradition, it's unlikely that any name change will reduce sexual violence at USyd this week—at least so long as residential college procedures and accountability mechanisms remain clandestine.

# Cash Cows and Raised Fees

Tiffany Vaughan interrogates the reason behind increased tuition fees for international students.

Since 2017, Australian universities have raised tuition fees, particularly for international students, in efforts to contend with the Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS), whose pool of funds is sinking.

Changes made to the CGS in 2017 were predicted to save the federal government \$2.8 billion in funding over the next four years. As a result, funding provision was made contingent on particular universities' student admissions and levels of financial transparency. In 2019, more thresholds have been added, such as the individual

success rates of each eligible student.

This would explain the 54% increase of international student enrolments over the past five years.

According to the NSW Audit Office 2017 annual report, universities have dealt with decreased funding provision by substituting in overseas students' tuition fees. These fees have increased by 23% across NSW, resulting in \$2.8 billion for its universities. Overseas student tuition payments contributed \$6 billion to federal university revenue.

Imaginably, international students are bearing the brunt of increased

tuition fees which appear to serve universities' financial interests over their own.

Amanda Suslo, a USyd Medical Science student, told *Honi* that "the cost of each unit goes up by not hundreds, but thousands of dollars." She explained that an international student studying mechanical engineering at USyd commented that the need for extra money to be put aside for course fees has caused daily spending restrictions for their family. RMIT University academic Jenny Weight has argued that limited access to the GGS necessitates universities viewing international students as "huge 'cash cows' in a cash poor sector—they're almost desperately dependent on international student income."

Beyond financial difficulties, international students face additional hurdles. It is often put forward that overseas students speaking English as a second language are expected to "sink or swim" when keeping up with tertiary level material. The ABC noted in 2018 that English language standards are "often too low, or can be sidestepped via loopholes."

Indeed, almost 25% of international students in Australia can now enrol in university courses through the English Language Intensive course for Overseas Students (ELICOS). ELICOS involves 10 to 20 weeks of intensive English lessons and

assessments, allowing direct entry without needing to take more prevailing exams such as IELTS.

The lowering of English language standards is no doubt linked to universities' need for international student tuition fee revenue, despite the fact that language barriers would inevitably cause international students to become disadvantaged in tertiary studies.

The combination of increased tuition fees alongside lowered language standards has some international students' ability to engage in campus life. Amaris Jiang, an international student studying Education at the USyd, commented that she was "overloaded with additional self-taught English courses" during her first semester whilst completing other units of study. In addition, she became increasingly stressed about the idea of failing a unit, "considering the substantial cost of tuition fees for each subject." The unfortunate outcome was her decreased involvement in university life in efforts to distribute time for studying.

Universities' hoarding of 'cash cows' has allowed them to increase their funding at the expense of international student wellbeing. As alternative avenues of university funding beyond the CSG appear hazy, maybe a more practical immediate option is the introduction of ad-hoc English speaking programs on campuses.

# How relevant are USU student services without student activism?

Ellie Stephenson understands we can't have one without the other.

The University of Sydney Union's (USU) recent decision to offer free ACCESS membership is calculated to improve student experience—a priority also shared by University administration in light of poor results in national student experience rankings. The USU, helped by a million-dollar deal with the University, will make Clubs and Societies membership at the start of 2019, with an optional paid membership for students wanting to receive discounts at campus food outlets. Making ACCESS free is a major step in improving the accessibility of student unionism at the University, and has removed a significant financial barrier to participating in USU activities and initiatives.

Although free ACCESS membership goes some way to making the USU more inclusive, the organisation could do far more to engage with and deliver action for students. There are many issues students face, which can never be resolved by simply letting students join societies for free.

Since the introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) in 2006, student unionism has been on a steady and seemingly irreversible decline. This decline is a problem because student unions, apart from providing valuable services to their members, have historically been major contributors to student activist movements around Australia. Student unionism has been instrumental in affecting major social progress, often leading protest movements and facilitating radical activism.

## "VSU makes it dangerous for student unions to be actively political."

VSU makes it dangerous for student unions to be actively political. When dependent on student services and amenities fees allocated by universities, and in the USU's case, their own corporate activities, it can be tempting for student unions to depoliticise and appease those with financial power to avoid controversy. For example, in 2013 the USU Board opposed a number of measures to support staff strikes, concerned that the strikes might affect commercial operations and their bottom line. That happened again in 2017, when the USU refused to shut down its commercial operations alongside further staff strikes. Last year, the USU took no stance on the proposed Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation because multiple Board Directors claimed not to have educated themselves on the issue, despite concerns that it constitutes a colonialist, partisan threat to academic independence on campus. With examples like this in mind, it's clear that VSU doesn't just make student unions smaller—it weakens them and

undermines their history of activism.

Some people might claim that weakening activism at university is no bad thing. Right-wing candidates in student elections have insisted that activism is futile, unwanted by students, and a distraction from providing tangible services. A common refrain of the campus right, looking to posture as sensible, apolitical, and student-focused, is that they will prioritise services for students over activism. During last year's Students' Representative Council (SRC) election, centre-right group Shake Up regularly claimed to want to start spending student money on students, saying they would prioritise student services. Liberal Board Director Jacob Masina explained to *Honi* last year that he didn't believe the Ramsay Centre was relevant to the USU's work, suggesting the Union ought to focus solely on student experience. Board Director Lachlan Finch, who ran as an Independent but is affiliated with the Liberals, was quoted in his candidate *Honi* interview as tepidly saying, "I don't think politics has a place in making the best decisions for the Board."

The framing of student services as in competition with political activism is deeply bizarre. It might be easy to proclaim that activism is a less effective use of resources than fun runs, textbook subsidies, faster WiFi and a "#MeToo movement at USYD" (whatever that means), but doing so necessarily fails to understand the ways in which injustices in our society affect students' ability to access services.

Discrimination, abuse, systemic marginalisation, and disadvantage all create barriers to accessing services and are magnified when student unions like the SRC and especially the USU fail to take strong stances on the challenges facing marginalised students.

Someone who is being underpaid at work certainly benefits from caseworkers, but fighting for stronger unions, better pay, and more accountability for bosses helps to stop them being underpaid in the first place. Someone who faces discrimination based on their identity or ability may appreciate the SRC Legal Service, but additionally would benefit from activism fighting stigma and bigotry. USU Clubs and Societies are a great way to get involved in university, but without demanding better housing affordability and ensuring tertiary education is affordable, regional and low-SES students have a difficult time ever accessing them. Therapy dogs are pretty cute, but it's hard to see how they could have a tangible benefit on students' mental health

DISCLAIMER: AUTHOR IS A MEMBER OF SYDNEY GRASSROOTS

when we're faced with material assaults on our welfare and living standards. Constantly facing issues like discrimination and exploitation at work, systemic racist violence, sexual harassment and abuse, vicious anti-LGBT+ sentiment, ableism, and the looming threat of climate disaster has a tendency to make you miserable. Student services can mitigate these issues to some extent, but to truly address them in meaningful ways, we need activism.

Student activism isn't futile. Looking at the University of Sydney Wom\*ns Collective, we can observe how dedicated and radical activism against sexual assault at university led to the productive Red Zone report and the End Rape on Campus movement. The Collective's work created tangible benefits and change for women on campus, which no amount of palatable corporate apologetics could have created. In 2014 students organised en masse against the fee deregulation proposed in the federal budget, sending a powerful message to the government about the need for

access to tertiary education. The USyd Disabilities Collective and Caregivers Network protested last year against the inaccessibility of public transport, something which directly affects the ability of students with disabilities to access a university education. These achievements illustrate the potential for activism to focus effectively on student wellbeing, provide a voice for marginalised students, and remove barriers to accessing tertiary education.

It is vital for student unions to take on activism to change the oppressive systems which materially harm students. Their role as providers of student services is enriched—not diminished—by improving student wellbeing on a systemic scale. Challenging political oppression, unjust discrimination, and exclusion will always be valuable uses of union resources. In real terms, despite positive progress by the USU towards better access to its services, a neoliberal and apolitical union operating in the shadow of VSU will never be truly impactful in improving the lives of all students.



## When does your student visa run out?

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

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

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

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

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



# Pompous Politicians, Illiberal Illegality

James Monaro examines the hypocrisy of the liberal state.

The effects of an ecstasy pill materialise anywhere from 30 to 90 minutes after consumption. Most will begin to sense a euphoria, a reduction in inhibitions and appetite, and feelings of closeness, love and empathy. In societies which criminalise this experience, another likely side effect is contempt for the law. This contempt is driven by the unsolicited and unaccountable attempts by police to control not only people's diets but even civil liberties as basic as public congregation.

Public debate around drug policy, especially amid festival cancellations, including Mountain Sounds and Psyfarim this month, consistently fails to question whether lawmakers have the right—let alone the aptitude—to legislate a Puritan ethic for the entire population.

Respectable discourse has focused on health and “pragmatic” concerns: those amenable to state compulsion, interspersed with expedient concoctions of drug “epidemics” plaguing poor and minority communities. Lessons from previous prohibition experiments are forgotten, and cycles of public fear and outrage predictably continue.

The Berejiklian government's

bugbears are not unprecedented. For the 20th century Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau, alcoholism was not one of France's three grands fléaux but actually “the whole social problem.” Clemenceau oversaw record-breaking increases in arrests for public drunkenness during periods of working-class agitation. For decades prior, French doctors were cataloguing the effects of alcoholism with growing alarm — a gateway to inevitable violence, criminality, and death or institutionalisation. In the 1930s the American Bureau of Narcotics circulated a pamphlet describing “Marihuana” as a “killer drug.”

Even if one generously waives all past abuse of state power, citizens still possess no right to proscribe hobbies that cause no injury to others. As the patron saint of classical liberalism, John Stuart Mill, wrote in *On Liberty*: “the only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilized community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others. His own good, either physical or moral, is not a sufficient warrant.” Of all the political organisations one might expect to defend drug use on these grounds, especially given their constitutional ratification of the “freedom of citizens

to choose their own way of living and of life, subject to the rights of others”, the Liberal Party is easily the most tragic case.

This charge of hypocrisy usually inspires two deflections — a resort to technical definitions and a taxpayer argument, both recycled in a recent op-ed in *Quadrant* by Peter O'Brien. O'Brien's core argument is premised on a selective quotation of the Oxford English Dictionary definition of “condone”, the insight being that pill testing “condones” risky or offensive behaviour. One might similarly argue that by mandating the testing of reserve parachutes, governments “champion” jumping from planes.

O'Brien also employs another reactionary banality—the “helpless taxpayer plea” — by refusing to consider subsidising ecstasy-induced hospitalizations, even though “evidence from all over the world indicates that significant numbers of people maintain controlled patterns of drug use over long periods... while upholding the obligations of ‘normal’ life,” according to Dr Cameron Duff at Curtin University's National Drug Research Institute. “Youthful” ecstasy users are peculiarly burdensome,

suggests O'Brien, compared to long-term smokers, who “by virtue of the punitive excise on [their] favoured vice,” have already paid society for the services they may eventually withdraw. Yet O'Brien makes no comparable case for abolishing sport, which injured one in 17 Australians and cost the country \$1.5 billion in 2003, according to a Medibank report with sportspersons between the ages 15 to 29 twice as likely to contribute to the burden laid upon the taxpayer.

Once these extremely basic incongruencies in Australian drug law are admitted, one is inevitably led to the conclusion that the Berejiklian government is desperately trying to rationalize an illiberal and ultimately petty tyranny.



Art by Ludmilla Nunell

# Behind Schedule: Sydney Metro is no saviour

Nicole Baxter questions the Berejiklian government's crown jewel.

Sydney's train system is failing. Frequent delays are felt across the network due to systemic issues including inadequate backup power generators, shortened crew handover times, slow issue response and an inflexible new timetable.

In June 2015, the NSW Government announced plans for a revolutionary driverless rail network — the Sydney Metro. The project is now underway, and the announced routes in Sydney's northwest, CBD, west and southwest are scheduled to be completed by 2030. There are 33 confirmed stations to be created or converted to the Metro system, spanning over 66 kilometres. The first stage of the project, the northwest line through Chatswood, is scheduled to be operational by later this year. We are being promised peak hour services every 4 minutes, and platform screen doors to improve safety and decrease incident-related delays.

There are still many hurdles to clear before these benefits may be enjoyed. For many years to come, expanding construction will bludgeon day-to-day operations, putting the Sydney Trains network under immense pressure. This will in turn increase demand for alternative public transport services — buses, ferries and the light rail. Unreliable public transport will prompt many to drive to school or work,

congesting our already busy roads and making the bus an even worse solution for those with no access to a car.

Major delays within Sydney's public transport system are not hypothetical. On January 9, 2019, the city experienced some of the worst delays in decades, with only a quarter of the scheduled afternoon train services arriving on time.

Given the centrality of public transport in most people's lives, the Metro network has become a highly political issue that voters are increasingly willing to prioritise. Voters are clearly exasperated with the current system, especially compared to more efficient systems in cities like Melbourne and Brisbane, which outrank Sydney in almost every aspect of public transport infrastructure. The Light Rail construction has seen both major parties blame the other for delayed project timelines and mismanaged funding allocation. Labor recently pledged \$8 billion to ‘fast-track’ the project. An already optimistic timeline raises questions as to how they will be successful should they

win the next State election in March.

Beyond infuriating construction-delays, the Metro Rail project itself has fundamental flaws. Original plans were rushed through Parliament, hastily adjusted by politicians with very little knowledge of transport engineering. The system's heavily expedited plans give us little hope for the saving grace we were promised.

For one, the Metro was initially designed for high capacity, short distance transport (such as around the CBD). Carriages on longer lines, like the northwest, will likely fill up at the first few stations. The potential for congestion-induced delays skipped stations is high, leaving us once again with an inadequate transport system.



While Sydney's Metro falls to political whims, students are left wanting. Students typically have very little disposable income and tend to be time-poor. For those financially privileged who own a car in order to transit to class and work, loan and petrol payments further strain weekly budgets. Unreliable public transport inevitably means students have less available hours in the day for study or idle time, only degrading their social wellbeing and mental health.

Wasting away on train platforms and standing on packed trains are barely soul-nourishing experiences. These woes are compounded for international students — expected to manage unreliable transit whilst paying exorbitant tuition fees and barred from concession Opal cards — only further straining their work-life balance.

It's clear that politicians like Premier Gladys Berejiklian and NSW Labor Leader Michael Daley have prioritised a short-term solution that ensures votes, rather than investing in long-term infrastructure improvements. If future policies continue to take this approach, Sydney's public transport will always be behind schedule, a never-ending loop of problems and quick fixes.

Art by Shrawani Bhattarai

# Eyewitness to an uprising

Lily Campbell is on the streets with France's Yellow Vests movement.

THIS IS AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF AN ARTICLE APPEARING ONLINE

Shit, they've closed Bercy. I stumble off onto an unknown metro station in the cold, bleak Parisian morning. No map, no wifi, but I swear to god, the French authorities will not stop me getting to this protest. Not for the first time this week, I silently thank my former self for taking high school French seriously. “Just down the street. 600 metres. Have fun and be safe yes?” The stationmaster offers me directions with a warm grin.

One, two, six... a dozen police vans filled with armoured thugs lines the pavement. Ahead, a roadblock. Not the easy stroll I had hoped for. Ten riot police hold the fort, they seem overded for 8am on a Saturday. A few fellow pedestrians ask for directions, they receive stern grunts in response.

Thirty minutes later, I find the *gilets jaunes*. Hundreds of them, milling around in the square, smoking cigarettes, drinking coffee, chatting to one another. It's a lovely sight — people gathering in the quintessentially French tradition of protest and political expression. Almost all the protestors have inscribed their vests with unique verses of resistance. Some carry Roman numerals to mark their loyal weekly participation in the uprising, while others call for Macron's resignation, a rise in the minimum wage and an end to corporate tax evasion amongst other demands. Many abhor the violence of the police and their leader, Christophe Castaner, the interior minister.

The people carry slogans rejecting the propaganda that slanders their movement — “*fières et deters, femmes précaires, femmes en guerre*,” — fierce and determined, precarious women, women at war. I don't often take the mainstream press too seriously, but perhaps subconsciously I had absorbed the idea that the protesters were dangerous, that they were sexists, even covert supporters of Marine Le Pen. As I peer on my tiptoes looking for my friend, I catch myself somewhat surprised at the kettle of yellow bubbling before me and make a mental note to ignore the opinions of *Le Monde* journalists in future.

Emmanuel Macron is clearly *le plat du jour* here. The detested French president, whose popular approval has sunk to record lows, just diagnosed the problem in France as too many

people who don't know the meaning of hard work. And have they tried eating cake? Despite appearing to making concessions in December, Macron's overwhelming response to the Yellow Vests movement has been intense police violence. It's been somewhat effective, many are afraid to come to the protests for fear of violence and the media can continue to paint the participants as villains. However, the brutality has also fed the anger of the revolt. Last week, a video of a former professional boxer beating back an armed officer with just his fists went viral after he and his family were



Art by Baopu He

teargassed. Today, many carry his name, “*Liberez Christophe!*”. Everyone wishes they could knock 'em down like Christophe.

The people here want change, but they call it by different names. Some carry anti-EU flags, in protest of its neoliberal, anti-democratic nature. Many others call for the RIC, a new form of democratic process, which they believe will allow them to take back the power through better-informed structures. Most overwhelmingly, the *gilets jaunes* call for the end of the rule of the rich, and more for the French lower classes. They demand corporations pay their taxes, a substantial rise in the minimum wage, no taxes on low-income earners and, most importantly, down with Macron — the ruler for the rich and powerful.

After milling around for what feels like too long, the people begin to move. Nobody knows where we're going or when to start, or

even someone who might. We turn into a tunnel and fill it quickly in our thousands. In the tunnel, together, our voices join and strengthen. We all sing — old men, young women, black, white and brown. The most popular chant, and the easiest for me — “*tous ensemble, tous ensemble eh eh!*” — *all together!* The NPA crowd adjust it slightly — “*tous ensemble tous ensemble, grève générale!*” — general strike! Emerging from the tunnel I hear a trumpet start. A brass band have come along and are playing a classic anti-fascist song — *Bella Ciao*. People dance, clap and sing along, our breath floating like clouds in a sea of yellow.

march, Oscar and I choose to dip into a McDonald's, hoping to catch up with our new friends later.

As we wait for our fries, dozens of people start to run past the window, chased by clouds of rolling, rising tear gas. I stand by the window, filming until someone pulls me away — the police just smashed the glass door. It's better to stand back. I wonder where Marine and her partner are, where the American academic got to, or any of the smiling faces we met. The McDonald's begins to fill with gas. Children are crying, holding their faces up to their mothers, who wipe their eyes and noses and mouths with water and ice. Outside,

the riot police move in lines, head to toe in black armour and matching masks, as if to imply their prey are the real threat. They begin to move past the window in formation, through the gas clouds, to the Arc. Behind them, a water cannon pulls up. We watch from the top floor window and for hours the two sides battle. At times it seems the yellow are pushing back, armed with nothing but fists and fireworks. I feel like I'm watching an invasion from on high, cheering the supposed barbarians. We stand in the road to watch for a while, until our eyes are too stung and necks too sore from trying to catch a glimpse.

Chatting between bites of baguette and chants, my friend Oscar and I try to decipher the different symbols and insignias as we march; a flag of Brittany, various French manifestos (handwritten on cardboard), vests, flags, and numbers, 77, 89, on vests (perhaps far-right codes?). Innumerable tricolour flags wave in the breeze. It seems many *gilets jaunes* believe they stand in the supposedly true French tradition, of revolution and liberty. I can't help but wince at the nationalism, but it's far from the far right presence I was expecting.

The lack of involvement of political forces that have capacity beyond spontaneity is clear to all. No more so than at the end of the march, where we find ourselves 5 hours later, at the famous Arc du Triomphe, an enormous traffic interchange and the site the yellow vests have fought to reach week after week. So what happens now? We wait for a sign, as numbers slowly dwindle. After such a long

Back to the metro, where five stations are now closed and hushed voices talk hurriedly of yellow disturbances. Across the world, the parties of the establishment are failing to provide an alternative to a system in crisis. Our illusions in them can't wear much thinner. Even in Australia, sheltered from the economic crisis that has wreaked havoc elsewhere, Labor and Liberal chase each other to be the better friends of big business and worst enemies of refugees and the climate. The failures and sell outs of social democracy have meant this anger has lingered and grown cancerous in places, fuelling a catastrophic reemergence of the far right. But in Paris, I saw how crisis breeds resistance and an alternative. The Yellow Vests movement is an outpouring of this energy; unbound by institutions, but unsure of direction, and uneasy about politics. Those who seek to change the world should welcome the uprising with open arms and take notes from its defiance and success.

# Free the (Female-Presenting) Nipple

Sasha Veber tracks Tumblr's descent into the binary.

Late last year, Tumblr announced that it would be banning all posts it deemed to contain "adult content." In the original post circulated by Tumblr staff, "female-presenting nipples" fell into this category. Both the ban and the gendered language received swift backlash from users and non-users alike.

The sexualisation of female breasts and nipples is not a new phenomenon. Tumblr is following in the footsteps of other social media giants like Twitter and Facebook in its ban, though the wording of the sites' respective terms of service differs. Tumblr's ban taps into issues of oversexualising the female body and raises issues about the nature of the body more generally.

One concern raised over the ban was its consequences for queer content. Tumblr, for all its many flaws, has provided a home for content made by queer people, who have been able to self-affirm their identities by connecting with other queer people and by posting about their experiences. Singling out "female-presenting nipples" threatens the sense of safety many people might feel the website offers, because the statement assumes a certain version of femaleness.

But what makes a body female? According to academic Thomas Laqueur, there was a strand of ancient Greek

thought that stated there was only one body. This body was said to be female if it was "cold" and "weak," but male if it was "hot" and "strong."

Since the ancient Greeks, our knowledge of the body has become more nuanced. Ideas of biological determinism suggesting men and women were just like that bowed to the idea that gendered behaviour was learned. In the 1950s, a group of academics at John Hopkins University were among the first to state that biological sex didn't decide "gender role and orientation." In 1962, psychoanalyst Robert Stoller published a book that described gender as "psychological" rather than "biological." Unfortunately, Stoller's work was focused on trying to "fix" those who deviated from the gender binary and from traditional gender roles.

While the Robert Stollers of the world still exist, our knowledge (and acceptance) of diverse experiences of gender is infinitely more developed. With the internet and social media, transgender, non-binary, and intersex individuals are able to make themselves better known and heard. Discussions about what makes a body one thing or another have become more complex.

Transgender YouTuber Natalie Wynn, for example, often discusses what she terms "girl dick" or "the feminine

penis." On the flipside of this, there is the idea of "the masculine clitoris." At their core, terms like this are ways to point out that even if someone's identity fits into the male-female binary, the way they physically present—both to the world and in more intimate settings—won't necessarily conform to normative ideas of what visually makes someone a man or woman. For many non-binary people whose identity falls outside the gender binary, their gender is almost guaranteed to conflict with their physical presentation.

Freckle, a genderfluid character from the comedy web-series *The Gay and Wondrous Life of Caleb Gallo*, is a good example of this. In one scene, Freckle slips a dress strap off their shoulder to reveal a nipple. "Nip slip," they say. "Is it?" asks their friend. "I don't know," Freckle says, "is it?"

In a Tumblr post circulated by user 'obovoid', which notes that a screenshot of the scene has been flagged by the site's new system, it is. And this is a problem. By banning "female-presenting nipples", Tumblr is not only singling out a certain kind of inadvertent presentation as wrong, it's making itself judge and jury over who or what fits

the criteria of 'female-presenting'. The policy is a reassertion of a particular kind of binary that a lot of the website's users are trying to escape.

It might be time for me and my queer, "female-presenting nipples" to go elsewhere.



Art by Ranuka Tandan

# Should we avoid campus loneliness?

Pei Wen Tan and Vivienne Davies argue the good and bad of student isolation.



A glimpse at stock photographs in University of Sydney marketing spotlights the relentless branding of universities as optimal places to make lifelong friendships. Amid a whirlwind of expected parties and pub crawls, less emphasis is placed on experiences of student isolation — a feeling which many students, adjusted to recent social 'highs' from post-HSC holidays and high school networks, have likely not felt for several years.

## Against isolation (Pei Wen Tan)

Loneliness sucks. A 2015 *VicHealth* survey found one in eight young people experience a high intensity of loneliness — an emotional response to social needs which are not met — with correlated impacts on mental and physical wellbeing.

The stories behind these statistics aren't hard to find. Clique-y societies littered with so-called BNOCs ("big names on campus"), and pre-formed social circles dating back to high school can be polarising for those outside of established private and selective school

groups. A limited culture of making new friends runs through USyd's tutorials where making acquaintances is the norm but true friendships remain hard to find. The combination of commute times and new working pressures blend into a potent cocktail which primes students for social burnout and disillusionment after the initial weeks of semester.

*"There's so much pressure to not seem like a loner that most friendships you form feel superficial"*

According to a 2017 study, students believed peers were more socially connected, leading to a lowered sense of well-being and belonging, and difficulties recognising others were in similar isolated positions. "No one wants to seem desperate for friends," says third year Commerce student May\*, "You have to be vulnerable to put yourself out there."

Even when students attempt to join social circles, the university's fast-paced teaching schedule complicates the formation of meaningful, long-lasting connections. Even after making acquaintances, it's possible to feel isolated.

seem like a loner that most friendships you form feel superficial," May\* tells me.

When expectations of an easy social transition into university clash with an unfamiliar and isolating reality at such a critical juncture of life, it is inevitable that consequences ranging from an increased likelihood of depression to social anxiety follow.

## For isolation (Vivienne Davies)

Solitude — the comfortable, self-satisfied state of appreciating the merits of alone time — is frequently stigmatised as shameful or unsettling, but experiencing isolation can actually benefit personal growth.

The struggle to forge meaningful connections at university can be an instructive ethos, capable of breeding both contentment in pre-existing relationships, and understanding of qualities valued in friendships. "I'm more content by and with myself," Liang\* says. "I'm more appreciative of what [friendships] I had versus what I wanted."

Reflecting on social solitude, students found it engendered deeper self-growth. "It helps you mature," Liang\* told me, admitting, "I don't think I've felt lonely beyond what is normally

part of life."

Accepting solitude at university is crucial preparation for later life, where it becomes inevitable. Solitude forces you to confront the most important relationship in life—that with oneself.

A sociological study conducted by the California State Polytechnic University showed that individuals who removed themselves from their social context were better equipped to reflect on the impact of that context. This allowed students to recognise why they were feeling lonely—whether due to expectations of prolific socialization at university, or because one is used to a stable network—and adjust accordingly.

If university is a microcosm for society at large, solitude teaches us to stumble through bouts of isolation in order to mature. Disappointing social experiences are a fact of life. That's not to say we should give up meaningful connections altogether, or dismiss prolonged or depressive bouts of loneliness. Rather, we should understand that contentment comes with being alone and being realistic with social expectations are the first steps away from loneliness and towards embracing solitude. You are not alone in feeling lonely - but finding company in yourself might be the best remedy yet.

\*Names have been changed



**Did you go to an Educational Access Scheme (EAS) high school?  
Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?  
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# The Beautiful and the Brand

Karishma Luthria explores the judgements, acceptance and divisions of fashion on campus, with additional reporting by Nell O'Grady and Carrie Wen.

It's the beginning of summer and I'm handing out flyers on Eastern Avenue on campus to convince everyone (including ourselves) that we love student politics. I've been standing near Honi Soit's stall for the past two hours and countless feet have passed me, trudging to their next class. One thing simultaneously sets each student apart and connects them all together — their choice of clothing. Every few minutes, a pair of Gucci sneakers, a Louis Vuitton bag, an ACNE t-shirt or pair of Golden Goose sneakers pass me by, draped not only over international students but an increasing amount of domestic students as well.

A few hours later, I'm crossing City Road, only to find a group of men branded with their own distinctive style. One is dressed in a long trench coat, and surprisingly, a class ring on their fourth finger. They're carrying the newest collection of an Off-White tote by Virgil Abloh. Later, as I cross through the Business School, I see multiple students with variations of accessories, mainly Gucci's Marmont—widely known as the 'double GG' vintage motif.

Every day I see brands on people in real life and reinforced by Instagram influencers. Hints of luxury abound, to the extent that I feel oddly insecure and materialistic. All I wear are worn out mom jeans—the 21st century's code for high waisted comfortable jeans—along with a loose t-shirt, worn out Adidas Stan Smiths, and a raggedy faux leather tote.

Little did I know, this trend has emerged from a massive marketing push to capture the young, aspirational luxury consumer. All I seemed to notice was high fashion lurking all around our campus, on the disciples of the gig economy, and on those who frequent Sydney's elite nooks and crannies.

## The 'Rich' Collective

Hailing from different parts of the world, the University of Sydney (USyd) hosts over 60,000 students, and each person brings a unique narrative to life on campus. The lived experience of being on campus strings these differences together, ranging from belonging to a club or a subculture subtly formed by the way people carry themselves as USyd students.

While individuality makes us all unique, the increasing influx of international students on our campus, and their associated wealth, brings with it a fair bit of baggage. Expensive, branded baggage, which is packed with anxiety for students on campus about the increasingly luxurious lifestyles and outfits that surround them.

Thanks to social media and pop culture, visual connections between unique personalities and equally unique presentation styles

are more striking than what they were before. As a result, the campus has transformed into a showroom for aesthetic identity, often corresponding with typefied degrees, classes and student backgrounds.

To further explore perceptions of on-campus luxury consumption, Honi conducted a survey of 111 students, finding that 80 per cent of students associated luxury clothing on campus with international students.

Dr. Jolynna Sinanan, a research fellow in Digital Media and Ethnography at the University of Sydney

**"It is a fact that seeing so much fashionable clothing does increase the pressure of a need to look good."**

told Honi "If one is an international student or a migrant and attending an institution with the prestige of The University of Sydney, you wouldn't want to be looking shabby. You're paying for the cultural capital and the prestige of the University of Sydney, so you want to look like you belong there."

Dr. Sinanan's view seems to support the wide-ranging perception that international students, like those from China, have expensive tastes. But such economic typification can often leave international students extremely conscious of the impact their fashion choices have on students across campus.

Lin\*, an international student from China, worries that by wearing high-end clothing she will be judged by domestic students. "I do feel ashamed when local friends ask me about what brands I wear, because those brands are quite expensive".

Perhaps, then, the anxiety stems from local students questioning where their international counterparts get the funds to buy luxury clothing brands. Without any dialogue between the two groups, the perception that rich international students make the campus their runway continues to dwell in the minds of local students.

The South China Daily reported that, according to industry insiders, Chinese shoppers, ranging from tourists to Australian born and based contribute towards two-thirds of luxury sales in Australia. This could potentially be linked to the of elite fashion adorned by international students on similarly 'elite' campuses like USyd.

Some respondents from the survey told Honi that they have tried to hide branded logos so that people would not hold negative impressions of them, further proving that the judgement arising from wearing luxury fashion influences students across campus. In fact, 72% of respondents told Honi that they perceived an increase in certain elite brand representation on campus in the past year, such as Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Chanel,

Balenciaga, Coach and Versace. But at the same time, the blurred line where distaste turns into aspiration for domestic students can be increasingly seen.

One respondent said, "There have been times



Artwork by Joe Verity

when I have been ashamed of my external appearance not matching beauty standards but this wasn't entirely due to clothing. But seeing so much fashionable clothing does increase the pressure of to look good."

## Luxury Alienation

The widespread perception that international students are constantly clad in luxury brands is, however, masking an important trend in the Australian luxury industry. A recent report has revealed that domestic households are increasingly willing to pay premiums for luxury, branded products due to their perceived superior quality. Their potential for resale, particularly with the rise of luxury e-retailers that are increasing price transparency for the younger consumer, is also causing a boom in the luxury industry.

But how deeply this trend reflects demographics on our campus is limited in nature. Domestic students often feel strongly about those who wear expensive

**"Magazines used to be the go-to for inspiration... now you send a couple of thousand dollars to an influencer and it's instant sell for those companies."**

products, judging them as a result of the feeling of alienation which arises when seeing others wearing luxury brands.

Respondents who shun the luxury fashion world told Honi that they "find it really difficult to relate to people with high fashion and lux streetwear clothing as it's not something [they] could ever afford."

Another student stated that they "sometimes feel out of place when people around [them] wear branded clothing. At other times it reminds [them] of the overwhelming materialistic culture society has."

The presence of luxury clothing in learning environments can often be toxic in the reactions students mete out to fellow students, as the highly visual campus environment often accentuates economic differences between students.

One respondent stated, "One time I was basically in pajamas and the girl next to me in the lecture theatre was in head to toe Gucci... that felt kind of shitty, purely because I wanted to have clothes like that" This can be a particularly difficult social environment to navigate, especially for first years.

## The Easily Influenced

The on-campus intimidation that luxury products facilitate are in no way simply related to just the exponential rise of international students on campus. Thanks to the pervasiveness of social media in our lives we have become sponges for information, branding and advertising.

In an attempt to capture young customers, luxury brands are employing Instagram influencers to subliminally market luxurious products, from lucrative invites to exclusive launch parties to posing with their products as simple accessories or outrightly tagging branded products — we are constantly targeted on social media. Such direct targeting, while meant to show an individualistic take on fashion, can result in extremely repetitive fashion choices where everyone who is inspired by the brand aspires to own it.

A 2019 luxury industry report by IBIS stated that, over the next five years, brands will be targeting young and cash-rich Australian consumers. In essence, brands are attempting to target a wider range of students, regardless of whether they are domestic or international students. This is seen in not only through the increasing use of social media influencers to market the same products, but also in the products themselves, which are comparatively cheaper and more accessible than before — an example being Gucci's post-2017 line of releases. Often, it can even be seen that people

spend a significant amount of their income in order to respond to the growing pressures of style on campus.

"As much as there is a relationship between increased brand-ness, increased presence of luxury items and increased visibility of consumer lifestyle orientations, there are also many micro-cultures and countercultures within student groups to counter what seems like normal pressures to have consumer lifestyle orientation," Dr Sinanan said.

But, the emotional and sociocultural impacts of clothing and accessory choices on the young and easily-influenced can be especially prominent in an insular campus environment. Systems of critique have also emerged on campus as well in the form of Facebook pages—the satirically sartorial 'USyd Fashion Police' being a prime example of how campus fashion can illicit mockery on social media platforms.



Social capita—the currency of social media seen in likes, reactions and comments—begins online. Social media platforms like Instagram now reign supreme as the global fashion catalogue. Their design malleability, the immeasurable number of hourly observers they attract, and the widespread connections they propagate make them the perfect incubator for the dissemination of high fashion. The presentation of luxury items on Instagram—visually rugged and everyday—suggests an authentic link between individual style and social identity, which is often a useful facade for the money-making brands.

"Magazines used to be the go-to for inspiration and brands paid thousands of dollars for spaces of advertising," argues emerging stylist Isabella Mamas "Now you send a couple of thousand dollars to an influencer and it's instant sell for those companies."

Direct influencer marketing to online youth subcultures allow brands to depict a personal narrative for the consumer, particularly among young people. It is as if they are saying, *this piece was designed specifically for you*, even though each piece is mass produced. These kinds of interactive and personalised engagements through social media fashion groupings allow clothing choices to also represent a sense of belonging.

"I don't think they (high-end brands) sell it for the individual. They sell it for the masses. At the end of the day, brands will say they represent individual identity but their main goal is to sell as many pieces as possible," Mamas stated.

**"Anxiety stems from local students questioning where their international counterparts get the funds to buy luxury clothing brands."**

The ironic mass production of "unique", handmade designer items, also sees individuals pulling away from recognisable branding and moving towards a less public, more disguised version of high end fashion. These trends are visible amongst domestic students of arketng or Media and Communications, or even within elite clubs on campus, rather than engineering or other faculties. What Dr. Sinanan says stands true for certain domestic students: "for disciplines like marketing and commerce, getting social visibility correct through consumption, branding and dress has always been important."

The phenomena of influencer trend setting, and the perceived sense of belonging by following such influencers has made online shopping an extremely lucrative medium for brands. Research shows that by 2025, online platforms and luxury shopping will claim 25 per cent of total sales globally, marking a significant positive growth area for the Australian market. So, if social media platforms are the 21st century's catalyst for fashion trend setting, then campus—where we all are constantly swiping through social media—is its thriving hub.

\*Some names have been anonymised.

There are thousands of languages in the world, and every country and region has their own language. We at Honi love languages and the culture they represent, and we are looking forward to see language diversity in our newspaper. That is why we have this most exciting section in 2019 — Multilingual! You can read articles in all sorts of languages here, including Mandarin, French, Hindi, Japanese and more! We hope to create a campus where students from all backgrounds have an outlet to have their voice heard, regardless of their native language. We will try to have all multilingual articles posted in both the original language and in English, so all students can enjoy the joys of reading stories and perspectives that they previously would not have been able to access. By doing so, we want to slowly but surely break down the barriers that have separated many of us for so long. Clichéd as it is, speak to someone in a language they understand and you speak to their heart, but speak to them in their language and you speak to their heart.

# 新生帮助指南

Carrie Wen / Wanshan Han

温滢滢 / 韩宛珊

悉尼大学是一个有着来自130多个国家和60,000学生组成的多元化大学。悉尼大学有着全面的学生服务系统，其中包括学生中心、心理咨询服务、学生代表议会，合作的留学生医保等等。此文章为留学生提供学生服务更全面的信息和指南，介绍这些服务的同时也让大家全面了解服务的不足。

CAPS (Counselling and mental health support)

CAPS 是悉尼大学提供的免费心理健康咨询服务。通过预约咨询而得到个人、学术、社交、学习、心理问题等方面的专家意见和治疗。所有的心理辅导员均为临床心理学专家并且所有的对话均为机密。

如果学生需要任何心理健康问题咨询，需要做的第一步便是通过邮件或者电话进行预约（详细资料在悉尼大学官网上搜索CAPS）。在第一次会谈之前，学生将被要求填写一份保密评估表，为临床心理学家提供一个起点。在第一次会谈时，心理学家将会评估学生的心理健康问题，并提出建议，制定以后的治疗计划和预定更多的会议。目前CAPS的心理咨询服务包括个人咨询、遭遇性骚扰专家咨询服务，精神科预约等等。除此之外，CAPS还提供不定时的教育研讨会和自助资源。

然而CAPS还是遭受了很多质疑和批判。在2018年Honi的文章里，记者Georgia Tan 分析了2014年学生福利报告（USyd's Student Wellbeing Report 2014）的调查结果，并且指出悉尼大学学生心理健康需求并没有得到充分满足。该报告的结论是，悉尼大学目前未能在提供学生支持服务方面达到国际标准。根据教学学生体验调查质量指标，悉尼大学在Go8大学中排到最低位置为58.7%，远低于72%的全国平均水平。此外，报告发现，前线工作人员缺乏培训和支持，没办法最好地支持学生的心理健康需求和福祉。通过CAPS，学生只有六个课程的资格，辅导员仍然无法为学生们的长期潜在心理健康问题提供支持。

除此之外，在2017年6月的女性和非二元性别的报告中，CAPS被指控为“没有能力处理性侵犯心理创伤”Women's Officer表明她们收到了许多关于案件处理不当的投诉，并指出不会将性侵幸存者转介到CAPS服务中。CAPS也有等待时间，仅适用于当前注册的学生，因此，幸存者往往无法及时获得预约，而且在性侵犯后辍学的幸存者无法获得支持。根据学校福利审查和性侵受害者的质疑和指控，是否CAPS会采取下一步措施对工作人员

进行更专业的培训，并改进系统的不足，仍然是个需要关注的问题。

International House (国际住宿)

International House (国际住宿) 是由悉尼大学拥有并经营的住宿学院。此住所是来自200多个来自40多个国家的学生的家园。住所提供食物和免费Wi-Fi，除此之外还有丰富的课后娱乐生活。International House位于悉尼大学主校区。优越便捷的地理位置，不同文化的交流碰撞和丰富多彩的校园生活使得International House变成了一个国际生们心里的居住首选。

除了国际住宿，悉尼大学还有主校区还有8个住宿学院 (Colleges) 和三个学生宿舍 (Student-Residences)，可供将近2000名学生使用。然而悉尼大学是一所拥有60,000学生的大学，仅仅2000个宿舍位置也意味着校区住宿学院的住房可供严重不足。这也使申请学校住房变成一大难题。同时，住宿大学的价格不菲，每周的成本从397澳元到687澳元不等。由于这些费用，许多学生仍然选择住在自己家里，并宁愿每天长途通勤。

更有传闻International House传闻会在2019年末被拆除。在之前的Honi文章中作者Janek Drevikovsky提到悉尼大学计划耗资25亿澳元进行2014-2020校园改善计划拆除International House。根据大学发言人的说法，“独立和内部评估得出的结论是，国际大厦已接近其寿命终结。”

SRC(学生代表议会)

SRC的全称是The Students' Representative Council，其中文全称是学生代表议会，是一个以服务学生为本的非营利性组织，也是代表着超过35000名悉尼大学本科生利益的官方组织。从1929年开始就由悉尼大学本科生领导，宗旨则是为学生服务，保护学生利益。SRC的主要服务可分为两个方面：Caseworker Help和Legal Service。

SRC Caseworker Help—为悉尼大学本科生提供服务包括学术、住宿、社会福利联络，留学生权益等问题的免费咨询及服务。例如：小到借计算器字典，大到成绩申诉，期末挂科复议，权益侵害等问题，都可以联系SRC的Caseworker寻求帮助。

SRC Legal Service—SRC法律援助平台帮助留学生解决因不懂法，法律意识淡薄和缺乏正确沟通等被罚款甚至遣返等问题。为悉尼大学在读本科生提供免费的法律援助服务。其法律援助团队由

多名专业律师和注册移民代理组成，在确保团队专业性的同时，也提供无障碍的法律服务，并且其中多名团队成员精通普通话，粤语等其他小语种，如果你遇到了法律层面上亦或者签证，工作上等棘手问题，可直接联系SRC法律援助团队进行预约及咨询。可免费协助你处理各种澳洲法律问题。

OSHC(海外学生医疗保险)

OSHC是澳大利亚海外学生医疗保险 (Overseas Student Health Cover)，是为澳洲留学生设立的保险，其目的是为了帮助澳洲留学生缓解在澳洲看病所需要支付的高昂费用。OSHC是强制性购买的保险，买完保险才可申请签证。这个保险会覆盖从全部签证有效期，根据不同公司政策对学生看病就医的医疗费用可以进行不同程度的报销。一般情况下的OSHC涵盖的内容可以选择让医院出具医疗证明，一张写明就诊内容的Invoice，并自行付清就诊费，之后上网或到门市店提交Claim表格，经保险公司批准之后，报销部分的费用会根据你选择的方式退还给你。

虽然每个保险公司都声称有很多合作的医院，但其实一般都是一些小医院，或是距离较远的医院，这使得claim流程冗长且复杂并且等待退款时间偏长。OSHC医疗保险只会涵盖挂号费用，拿药、化验等费用是不包含的。例如比较热门的HPV疫苗和看牙费用就是全部不涵盖在内的。这意味着每年交的医疗保险除了挂号其他基本都cover不了，所以是否澳洲政府强制的OSHC是划算的并对国际生有益的是一个值得思考的问题。

Student centre (学生中心)

学生中心位于Jane Foss Russell Building的三楼。学生中心可以提供有关学生在大学期间遇到的几乎所有广泛问题，并给出相应的信息和建议。这包括课程选择，入学，学生证，费用，报名，时间表，考试，特殊考虑，出国留学和交换，以及毕业等等。学生中心职员会提供一对一，面对面的服务，你的疑问将会在这里得到回答。

学生中心的效率众所周知非常慢，虽然悉尼大学是一个来自130多个国家和60,000名学生组成的大学，但是只有8个办公桌和少量的工作人员，使得学生咨询变成一件很难的事情。甚至在开学的前两周，学生等待时间超过2小时。所有如果学生有任何紧急的换改课的问题，建议是直接向 coordinator发邮件询问，而不要把希望全部寄托

# La vie universitaire en France

Marina Liu se penche sur son échange.

Quand je me réveille, il fait noir. Il y a du verglas à cause de la neige d'hier soir et il est 6h30 du matin. Je suis à Paris en hiver.

J'arrive à la fac après une heure et demie, où il y a une petite foule et l'odeur distinct des cigarettes à l'entrée. Quelque chose de distinct est aussi les agents de sécurité, qui demande de voir nos cartes d'identité et nos sacs. Je savais qu'il faut être ponctuel, parce que deux retards ici sont l'équivalent d'une absente. Et après deux absentes, c'est l'échouement.

Heureusement, le prof n'est pas encore arrivé quand j'arrive. Il entre 40 minutes après le début désigné de la leçon.

Nous sommes tous agacés. Nous avons perdu beaucoup de temps en lui attendant, quand nous aurions pu rester au lit pendant plus de temps. Et c'était la première leçon de cette matière.

Le prof, il commence par présenter ses excuses, comme on avait attendu. Et puis, il nous dit, « Je n'habite pas à Paris, j'habite un peu loin d'ici, et je voulais prendre le train à 6h30, mais un arbre s'est tombé sur la voie ferrée ».

Je me sens un peu compatissante. À Sydney, je prends le train tous les jours, et les retards à cause du temps ne sont pas rares.

Le prof continue avec son histoire, « Et donc, j'ai fait du stop à Versailles mais quand j'y suis arrivé, les trains étaient en retard ».

Nous lui pardonnons immédiatement. Il a fait du stop ? Je ne connais personne qui l'a jamais fait.

Le prof a envie de rattraper le temps perdu, et se présente avant de nous demander de nous présenter nous-même, d'où nous venons, et tout ça.

Et c'est comme ça que ma deuxième journée à Sciences Po commence.

Avant la rentrée, j'avais une image d'une universitaire stricte et élitiste. « Sciences Po, c'est une université prestigieuse », disent les autres étudiants d'échange et même quelques profs. J'ai même vu cette idée dans les yeux du douanier au premier moment que je suis arrivée en France. Il voulait savoir l'université que

j'avais choisie.

Sept sur huit des anciens présidents français faisaient leurs études à Sciences Po. C'est évident dans le fait qu'ici, il est gratuit d'imprimer 600 feuilles en noir et blanc à la bibliothèque depuis mon ordinateur personnel chaque année. Mais à part de ça, je dirais que cet élitisme n'existe que dans l'esprit de tout le monde.

**En fin de compte, quand je me suis habituée à ces changements, j'étais contente du fait que la ville lumière m'attendait, avec tout sa chance.**

Tous les cours ont une durée de deux heures, et la plupart de temps, il n'y a pas de pause même de dix minutes après une heure. C'est normal de commencer à 8h00, et même de finir à 21h15.

Je suis 5 cours ici, mais les heures hebdomadaires sont presque les mêmes qu'à Sydney.

Il y a des différences entre les évaluations de chaque matière par rapport à Sydney. D'abord, les présentations orales. Les présentations peuvent être jusqu'à 30 minutes dans un groupe, avec un partenaire ou individuellement. Normalement, pour chaque matière avec une présentation, il y en a une chaque semaine. Pour moi, c'est trois sur cinq, mais ce n'est pas étrange d'avoir besoin de faire un exposé pour chaque matière.

À part de ça, il y a également de dissertations à rendre, et comme un prof a dit, « Il n'y a pas d'équivalent d'une dissertation en anglais. La dissertation, c'est français, et nous en sommes fiers, c'est comme du fromage ». La dissertation, c'est un peu comme un « essay » en Australie, mais, aussi, pas comme ça du tout. Il faut être tout à fait neutre, et on ne doit que présenter

des faits.

Pour conclure le semestre, il y a des examens pendant la dernière semaine, et un peu plus rarement, il y a des examens finaux. J'en avais un.

La valeur des évaluations est aussi différente. J'ai une amie qui est comme moi, étudiante d'échange, qui suivait une matière avec une valeur de participation de 50% De plus, c'est normale de ne pas avoir que r trois évaluations pour une seule matière.

Je n'ai pas autant de lectures ici, par rapport à Sydney. Je n'ai qu'une matière pour laquelle je dois faire des lectures obligatoires, et elles sont toutes environ 20 pages. Mais cela dit, j'avais de la chance. Je connais quelqu'un qui a besoin de lire environ 200 pages chaque semaine pour une matière !

En fin de compte, quand je me suis habituée à ces changements, j'étais contente du fait que la ville lumière m'attendait, avec tout sa chance.



Art by Mei Zheng

# Studying in the City of Lights

Marina Liu reports from la République.

Wanting to make up for lost time, he introduces himself before asking us to do the same, and we each tell the class where we're from, and so on.

And that's how my second day at Sciences Po starts.

Before classes began, I had envisioned a strict and elitist university. I'd heard from other exchange students and from a few teachers here that Sciences Po was "a prestigious place." When I landed in France, even the customs officer was impressed by the institution I'd be studying at.

Seven of the past eight French presidents studied at Sciences Po. The privilege is obvious in the fact that I can print 600 pieces of paper at the library for free. Apart from this privilege, I'd say that perceptions of Sciences Po as an elite institution are unfounded.

All of my classes go for two hours. Most of the time, there's no break—not even a ten minute pause between the two hours. It's pretty normal to start class at 8am, and finish at 9:15pm.

I'm taking five classes here, but the total weekly hours are ultimately around the same as Sydney.

Compared to Sydney, there are differences in the way subjects are marked. Take oral presentations, for example.

Whether in a group, with a partner, or alone, they can be up to 30 minutes long. There's a class presenta-

tion every week for each subject with an oral presentation. For the five subjects I'm doing, I have to do three presentations—but it's not uncommon to have to do one per subject.

But much like Sydney, I've got essays due. Or dissertations, rather. A teacher here once said that there's no equivalent of a dissertation in English. "Dissertations are a distinctly French thing, and we're proud of it. It's like cheese." A dissertation is kind of like an essay in English, but also, not like that at all. You've got to be totally neutral in your argument, and only present facts. At the end of the semester, there are exams during the last week. More rarely, there are official "final exams." I have one of these.

The weighting of marks is also quite different. I have a friend, also an exchange student, taking a class which has a 50% participation mark. It's common to have three separate assessments for only a single subject.

I have less readings to do than in Sydney. Only one unit has compulsory readings, and they're only 20 pages all up. I was one of the lucky ones though – a friend has around 200 pages of readings a week for one of their subjects.

When it comes down to it, after I get used to all the changes, it will be comforting to know that the City of Light is waiting for me with open arms.

## WHY HUMPTY JUMPED

Iced Mocha

Humpty D and a wall met on a hill  
There was James, the Wall, a baby called Jack  
Behind the wall, a girl prepared to kill  
A farmer's daughter bloodied and hacked

The mayor arrived and gleaned the scene  
"It was Humpty's fault—the fucking egg thing!"  
"O be nice," said James, "he's a human being"  
"Hello all," spoke the wall, "Jack took a swing"

"Goo goo ga ga," said Jack, "twas Humpty D"  
Everyone turned and Humpty was silent  
"Defend yourself, a reasonable degree?"  
Humpty became scared, his thoughts turned violent

O the time had come for Humpty to leave  
He jumped off the wall and the rest bereaved

A NEW  
BEGINNING

Mariessa Lai

Art by Annie Zhang

Intense nervousness overshadow you,  
Followed by a sigh of relief,  
As the UAC App releases your offer.  
This marks the start of a new beginning.

From school adolescent  
Morphing into adulthood  
Jumping into excitement:  
Into the sandstone and beyond.

From the quiet suburban school grounds,  
Into the hustling and bustling King Street.  
From the old and rundown brick walls of public  
education,  
To the sandstone buildings holding a century of  
prestige.

Let your courage and hope kindle  
And fear and doubt dwindle  
As a destination of three to four years lies ahead for  
you to tackle

Awaken your spirit to embrace this new academic  
adventure  
Hold nothing back  
Learn and embrace new challenges ahead  
Embrace ambiguity and problem solving  
Unlearn orthodox thinking and challenge  
assumptions  
Discover wisdom amongst the stacks of books  
accumulating dust in Fisher Library  
Ignite your curiosity to explore the impossible  
Live, learn, laugh  
Treat yourself with a sip of chai latte and soy  
As you hang around Manning enjoying new  
friendship and companionship

Soon you will be in a home  
Soon you will find your rhythm on campus  
As you look forward to the start of new beginnings  
Along the glistening steps lighting up the pavement  
in the century-old Quad  
Enlightening your path ahead

A NEW  
WORLD

Johnson Ly

a leap

embraced by

strain and pain.

insanity from anxiety,

thrown into the unknown.

incessant doubt shrouds

the mind. a maze of

cataclysmic beauty.

a haunting blessing.

a step

charged with

the light and fight

of a fiery mind.

dance through a constellation

of scintillating souls.

an opportunity to converge

at a blissful brilliance.

a family gathering.

|jly|

## On being visibly Muslim at USyd

Layla Mkh discusses the pressure white progressives place on her.

To begin with, I in no way believe I have to justify myself and what I believe to anyone. But I will say that I've given it much thought lately.

On my first day at the University of Sydney I was called oppressed and a terrorist by a young white woman at Victoria Park. I was minding my own business and walking to my first class of the year - a philosophy lecture - from which I remember the first question asked was "Does God exist?". Although I don't recall a time where being Muslim was not political, having grown up in Bankstown, I was always surrounded by a strong and vibrant Muslim community. Perhaps I didn't realise it at the time, but my first day at USyd marked the beginning of a confronting process, through which I became more conscious of who I am. Suddenly, it seemed to matter a lot more that I wore a Hijab, didn't drink or do drugs, that I was visibly Muslim.

In my first year, I did not make any friends at university. Along with being anxious about people's preconceived ideas surrounding Islam and refugees, I was also somewhat insecure about who I was. I am naturally an anxious person but some sheltered part of me didn't realise the actual disdain

many people felt towards migrants, Muslims and Western Sydney. I distinctly remember one of my first year Geopolitics classes where the discussions on asylum seekers actually made me really upset because I was one of two people who outwardly spoke against the cruel and inhumane ways of offshore detention. It was only after a year of growth, being upset and several arguments in my government and IR classes, that I decided to join in on some student political movements.

*"I can't help but wonder why I (one of the only visibly Muslim people involved in activism on campus) feel like I have to prove myself worthy of being in organising spaces when no one else has to."*

My first impression of the political spaces at USyd was pretty much the same as many people. During Orientation-Week I was pressed by some members of the Socialist Alternative who began their conversation by asking "What do you think of the Muslim ban?". I must admit I was a little shocked that they would even ask me that considering the fact that I was visibly

Muslim. However, as I spent more time in political spaces on campus, unfortunately, such questions started to become more familiar.

I've actually been asked questions on everything from "Do you hate Jews?" to "What are your thoughts on abortion?" and quite frankly I'm over it. They've happened both slyly and overtly and it's sad because I've literally never heard anyone relate to this. I don't like politics. But having an identity that is inherently political, whilst studying a degree in politics puts me in a position

where I have no choice but to speak out.

Towards the end of my first year of university, I joined the Wom\*n's Collective who were perceptive to my hesitance regarding student politics, specifically with how white it is. I quickly found that USyd WoCo was extremely proactive in organising activism surrounding women on campus, prompting me to become a

more active member in my second year. USYD WoCo is probably the most active collective and organising body within the SRC and they focus a lot on activism surrounding women on campus. However, despite their important work, I noticed that being in those activist spaces did not necessarily alleviate the anxieties and pressures I felt because of being Muslim. In fact, at some points being in those mostly white, left-wing spaces made me feel further pressured and anxious.

This pressure came in a different form though. It became such that I wasn't just self-conscious and hyperaware of my identity but that I also needed to perform to a certain standard of progressiveness. It became such that I would do things to prove to white left wing people that I wasn't conservative just because I was Muslim.

I'm not conservative at all. And I've never felt the need to ever say that out loud or justify myself. But now that I am fully immersed in those spaces I can't help but wonder why I (one of the only visibly Muslim people involved in activism on campus) feel like I have to prove myself worthy of being in organising spaces when no one else has to.

## A raven and a bench: Anderson Stuart's legacy of research

Samuel Garrett reflects on collegiality in Sydney Medical School

A stone bench sits on the walkway above the inner courtyard of the neo-gothic Anderson Stuart Building, home of Anatomy and Physiology. A small plaque on the benchtop commemorates the 43 years of service of Anatomy Technician Barry Lockett. It's a beautiful vantage to enjoy the late-afternoon sun, overlooking the central courtyard's palm trees. Anatomy staff fondly remember Lockett's regular smoke breaks there, "perhaps too many," says one with a grin and smile. After all,

the bench is an unassuming place, and in its quiet locale, is easily overlooked as a place for reflection. As University management now takes steps to evict researchers from wet labs in the building, the same peaceful courtyard has only recently transformed into a place of action. Posters with the words "Hands off Anderson Stuart!" cover nearby windows.

Small vignettes of simple stories, not grand narratives, colour the importance of the building for those affected by the University's ongoing relocation plans. The bench and its plaque are emblematic of the heritage listed building and its namesake in the University's founding Dean of the Medical School. A scratch beneath the surface of the building's grand façade, stained glass windows and sculpted sandstone or a moment taken to cast an observant eye over its physical features, reveals a wealth of humble secrets.

A stone raven has kept watch over Eastern Avenue from high above

the eastern entrance for 130 years, a testament to Anderson Stuart's own humour and a jesting nod to his nickname amongst students, 'coracoid' (from the Greek for raven), a zoomorphic reference to Stuart's prodigious nose. A second, modern, raven roosts on the tranquil Body Donor Memorial Fountain within the inner courtyard. Ghosts of the past inhabit every corridor of the building, gazing down from portraits of prominent academics and staff, including the formidable Mrs Ann Macintosh who shaped the Discipline of Anatomy for over 50 years with her generous bequests funding the refurbishments to the building's JT Wilson and JL Shellshear Museums. For her tireless commitments to preserving the school's history and reputation, her desk still continues to sit in the Shellshear Museum.

The unavoidable immediacy of the building's history entrenches tangible links to the past that cannot simply be ignored. These links are a reminder that staff and students do not work and study in isolation but contribute to an ongoing history in which each individual plays a part, however small. Growing corporatisation of universities risks sacrificing these links in the name of efficiency, without regard for the importance of the past to influencing the future of our university and creating a sense of place.

Cutting up the dead is a sensitive

business. The Anderson Stuart Building makes clear that there has been an ongoing and long-term commitment on behalf of Anatomy and Physiology leadership to create and maintain a culture of respect in research and teaching. When students walk past a memorial fountain dedicated to those who have offered their bodies to science on their way to dissections, it gives pause and room for reflection on the historical and personal context which they work within.

The affection for the building felt by those who conduct their research within, Anderson Stuart therefore comes as no surprise. It is impossible to feel disconnected from a sense of place and community in a workplace surrounded by personal reminders of those who have come before. While perhaps each individual story fails to cross into thresholds of grandiosity, collectively they forge a richer and more insightful portrait of the past and better reflect how most students contribute to the ongoing history of the university in the small stories that make up our own lives.

We would do well to reflect on and remember the role that physical reminders of our history play in maintaining an academic community. To ignore this would be to forget what gives buildings such as Anderson Stuart their value — their status as places of teaching and learning at a human scale.



Art by Shrawani Battharai



# President

Jacky He

Welcome everyone to a fresh new start to the first semester of 2019! To students who are new to the University of Sydney, this will be a new chapter to your life. To students who have been living and breathing the air of the University of Sydney for the past few years, welcome back and it is great to see you again.

This year in preparation for Orientation Week, the SRC

had devoted an enormous amount of effort into ordering merchandise, organising activities, welcome sessions and parties for the students upcoming arriving at / returning to the University. During the upcoming Welcome Festival, we would have 2,000 gift bags, several thousand discount vouchers, wall planners, and a slushie machine to wash off all the

heat.

On top of that the SRC will also be hosting an undergraduate arts student welcome session with the Sydney Arts Students Society, and an undergraduate law student welcome session with the Sydney University Law Society. There will be critical information on how to study for exams, how to get involved, and experiences and tips from

third or fourth year students. We encourage all first year arts and law undergraduate students to come along and join us at our welcome sessions.

During the week after Welcome Week, we are also likely to host a welcome party for undergraduate students, revolving around fried chicken and beer. Definitely check out the event when the notice comes around! It would be a



# Welcome to Uni

It doesn't matter how big your school was, it was not as big as this place. Even the satellite campuses are many times bigger than most high schools. So whilst adjusting to this change can be exciting and challenging, it can also be down right horrifying.

It is your responsibility to know how to negotiate the administrative side of your degree. You must check your uni email at least once a week, even during non-semester time. You can have it redirected to your personal email account if you prefer. Get to know how to apply for special consideration (sickness or misadventure), just in case you need it in the future.

The workload here is significantly higher than for most high schools. There is less individual direction and larger class sizes. The onus is on you to stay focused, complete all of the compulsory and non-compulsory work, and ask for help when you need it. You are the only person responsible for your success or failure. Get to know the resources available through the uni (e.g., Learning Centre), and through your faculty.

Studies have shown that if you don't make some sort of attachment to the uni by about week six you'll find it very

difficult to be successful in your degree. Your attachment may be that you've met some people with similar interests, or your interest in the subject material. Either way, it is important to balance each of these aspects in your life. The Learning Centre and the Counselling and Psychology Service (CAPS) have information on time management, while the SRC has a wall planner that will help you to get organised. Do it now before you get overwhelmed with the workload.

Remember that most people feel just as nervous and out of place as you do – even the students that have come here with their high school friends. The best thing that you can do is to be yourself, be open to meeting new people and having new experiences, and know that if you ever need to talk to someone, the SRC can refer you to a free counsellor.

You are free to make your own decisions about alcohol and other drugs, and sexual activity. SRC caseworkers can refer you to information that is accurate, up-to-date, and non-judgmental. Email help@src.usyd.edu.au with your specific question.

Living in Sydney is increasingly difficult for anyone on a limited budget.



Where you live needs to be affordable, stable, and safe. Talk to us about any housing or accommodation problems. We might be able to help you.

Always remember that you are not alone here. There are lots of people willing to help you settle in. The trick is to ask.

# Ask Abe



SRC caseworker help Q&A

The Ask Abe column runs in every edition of Honi Soit. It allows you to ask whatever question you might have that affects you as a student, gaining the best advice that a very worldly mutt can give.

Abe has been a columnist for Honi Soit since 2000, and the best piece of advice he can give you is this: Whatever your problem is, whatever your question, ask as soon as you can. It is much more likely that we can help you, if you give yourself enough time to process the solutions. As just as we'd like it, things don't just go away if you ignore them.

\*Abe is an undefined breed of terrier. He moved in with his forever family at the age of three after spending many cold nights living on the streets. Since then he has been a truck driver, retail assistant, barrister, and social worker. All of his life experiences allow him to give you excellent advice on a broad range of issues. To ask him your question email help@src.usyd.edu.au.

# Vice President

Dane Luo and Wanlin Chu

Hello and welcome to USyd! We're your Vice Presidents for this year. We just celebrated the Lunar New Year of the Pig. And we will be running exciting events throughout the year, starting with the SRC's Welcome Week stall (please come say hi!).

The SRC is here to help YOU! Our CASEWORKERS are professional and experienced staff who can assist you with academic issues, Centrelink, tenancy, show cause and tax help. Our LEGAL SERVICE has dedicated solicitors that can help with court appearances, fines, consumer

rights, employment law, witnessing documents, visa related and migration matters. These services are FREE, independent and confidential.

We know that going to University doesn't come cheap! The Government funds a proportion of course fees for all domestic undergraduate and some domestic postgraduate students. But students are still expected to pay a fee. You can either pay it upfront or (like most students) defer payment through HECS-HELP. HECS-HELP is an interest-free loan scheme where you don't need to pay until your income

exceeds a threshold that is adjusted to inflation.

To apply for HECS-HELP, you need to apply before the 'census date' (Sunday 31 March 2019 for semester 1):

FIRST, check your eligibility. HECS is available to all students with a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP). All domestic undergraduate students are eligible for a CSP, and if you're unsure that you meet these requirements, you can check your eligibility at <http://bit.ly/2DiMCUC>.

SECOND, apply for a Tax File Number (TFN) at <https://bit.ly/1VtRCj> if you

don't already have one - your enrolment will be invalid without it and your application for HECS will ask for it.

THIRD, log on to Sydney Student then go to My Finance > Your Finances > Government forms and fill out a Request for Commonwealth support and HECS-HELP form.

In addition to course fees, there is the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) – a portion of which goes to the SRC. The SA-HELP program allows you to defer this amount just like the HECS-HELP program. To do this, follow the same steps and fill

out a Request for SA-HELP assistance form on the same page in Sydney Student.

If you need any help with any of these payments you can email help@src.usyd.edu.au and a caseworker will be happy to give you advice. Or if you would like get involved in SRC events or campaigns, feel free to email us at vice.president@src.usyd.edu.au.

Good luck for the year ahead!

Dane and Caitlyn

**Note:** These pages belong to the Office Bearers of the SRC. They are not altered, edited or changed in any way by the editors of Honi Soit

The General Secretaries, Niamh Callinan and Yuxuan Yang, did not submit a report in time for publication.

# Your Council at work

## ELECTIONS

For the 91st Council of the Students' Representative Council (1 December 2018 to 30 November 2019), the following people have been elected.

PRESIDENT – Jacky He

VICE-PRESIDENT – Wanlin (Caitlyn) Chu, Dane Luo

GENERAL SECRETARY – Niamh Callinan, Yuxuan Yang

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS – Josie Jakovac, Xiaoyu Jin, Juming (Vonnice) Li, Prudence Wilkins-Wheat, Chia-Shuo (Alexander) Yang

REPRESENTATIVES – James Ardouin, JP (John-Paul) Baladi, Lily Campbell, Wanlin (Caitlyn) Chu, Hartley Dhyon, Yiting Feng, Ella Finlay, Nicholas Forbutt, Xiaoxi (Shirley) Hou, Daniel Hu, Josie Jakovac, Guipeng Jiao, Xiaoyu Jin, Jayesh Joshi, Yihe (Victor) Li, Juming (Vonnice) Li, Dane Luo, Layla Mkhayber, Shangyue (Brian) Mu, Amy Newland, Zac O'Farrell, Shaan Patel, Swapnik Sanagavarapu, Jiaqi (Abbey) Shi, Himath Siriniwasa, Ellie Stephenson, Gabi Stricker-Phelps, Manchen Wen, Prudence Wilkins-Wheat, Jingxian (Lois) Wu, Zifan (Crystal) Xu, Chia-shuo (Alexander) Yang, Kelli Zhao

## OFFICE BEARERS

Education Officer: James Newbold, Yiting (Eva) Feng

Women's Officer: Gabrielle Stricker-Phelps, Zifan (Crystal) Xu

Welfare Officer: Madeleine Powell, Ellie Stephenson, Liam Thomas & Mingxiao Tu

Ethno Cultural Officer: Zheng Dingsong, Junjie Shen, Mahek Rawal, Ellie Wilson

Indigenous Students' Officer: Thomas Harrington, Akala Newman

International Students' Officer: Jahanzaib Lashary, Yilan Wu, Ken Leung, Janet Lin

Environment Officer: Alev Saracoglu, Alex Vaughan, Georgia de Mestre, Jayesh Joshi

Global Solidarity Officer: Lingxi Li, Jiale Wang, Ella Finlay, Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Intercampus Officer: Manchen Wen, Paul Touma, Shuhan Zhang

Sexual Harrasment Officer: Hang Gao, Charlotte Plashik, Jazzlyn Breen, Layla Mkhayber

Disabilities Officer: Wilson Huang, Hayden Moon

Queer Officer: Peter Burell-Sander, Steff Leinasars

Mature Age Students Officer: Vinil Kumar

Interfaith Officer: Julia Kokic, Keegan Mason, Hongli Wang, Angela Zhang

Social Justice Officer: Joshua Noble, Shikki Wang, Siying He, Olivia-James McKeown

Refugee Rights Officer: Lili Schapiro, Yihe (Victor) Li, Sulainsan Malik

Residential College Officer: Hayley (Luoyu) Zhang, Flora Zhao, James Ardouin, Annabel de Mestre

Student Housing Officer: Irene Ma, Yinfeng Shen, Seamus Kirk, Ziwei Lin

Chair, Standing Legal Committee: Xiaoman Zhu

## MEETINGS

The first Ordinary Meeting of Council was held on Wednesday 6 February 2019. The following substantive motions were considered and carried:

### R2. Censure Motion

The SRC censures and strongly condemns Zac O'Farrell who attempted to blackmail the organization by preventing the organisation's democratic process and hypocritically acting against the best interests of the students he claims to represent. Moved: James Ardouin Seconded: Chanum Torres Co-sponsors: Josie Jakovac

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will take place on Wednesday 6 March 2019 at 6:00pm at New Law 026.



We HELP Sydney University undergraduate students with a range of issues. Our services include:

## SRC CASEWORKERS

Providing FREE, independent and confidential advice & support on a range of issues faced by students including: academic rights and appeals, show cause, exclusion, misconduct /dishonesty allegations, special consideration, tenancy, Centrelink, financial issues, Tax Help (Semeter 2) and more.



## EQUIPMENT & LOANS

We offer Emergency Loans of \$50 and lend out university approved calculators, lab coats and other science equipment.



## SRC LEGAL SERVICE

Solicitors and a registered migration agent provide FREE legal advice, representation in court where relevant, and a referral service. Including: Police & court matters, traffic offences, immigration law, consumer rights, employment law, personal / domestic violence, witness / certify documents, insurance law, visa related matters and more.



Find the SRC: Enter from City Rd, down the stairs, near footbridge. Level 1, Wentworth Building

p: 9660 5222 e: help@src.usyd.edu.au w: srcusyd.net.au

Drop-in sessions: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1–3pm  
Appointments: Please call to make a booking

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm



facebook.com/SrcHelp/



facebook.com/usydsrc/

# Review: The Humble Meme Merchant: The Adventures of Clive Palmer

Reagan Scott Ward

"Look upon Clive Palmer's Works, ye Mighty, and despair."

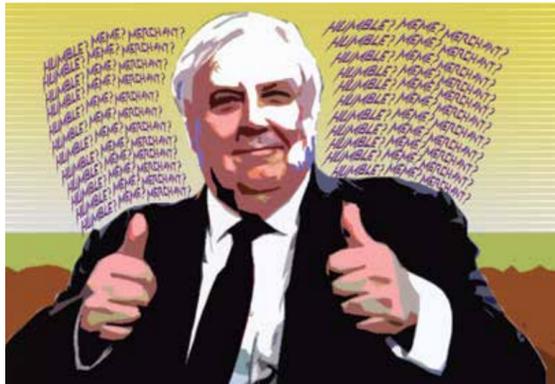
This is the message that could easily replace the opening authorisation notice of *The Humble Meme Merchant: The Adventure of Clive Palmer*. For Palmer himself, it would surely be a welcome change. Until the release of *The Humble Meme Merchant*, an abysmal side-scroller with 4.1 stars on the App Store, his most notable achievement was a crumbling Queensland Nickel refinery in Townsville. Or perhaps the remnants of Jacqui Lambie's political career.

From the outset, the game's intentions are somewhat ironic. Its players, who control Palmer as he bounds across major Australian cities, could not possibly believe its title. What humility could there be in a man whose self-absorbed billboard slogans have all the detail and nuance of Maoist propaganda playing cards? And believe me—your journey to Canberra will familiarise you with a great number of these party lines: "Demand lower power prices for all Australians", "Aussies aren't going to cop it anymore", and the novel "Make Australia Great / Put Australia First" double-header. Across the levels, a plane flies overhead carrying a banner which reads "Fake News Corp."

All these unoriginal faux-pas might possibly be bearable, were it not for the excruciatingly repetitive soundtrack

that rings in the players' ears along their journey.

Two parodies comprise the extent of the game's score. Targeted at a generation raised on two-and-a-half-hour musical odysseys (most likely courtesy of Pokémon developers), this



Art by Tanvi Patel

cannot possibly hope to satisfy.

The first parody is a play on Labor's 1972 "It's Time" campaign number, a song which predates his target demographic by decades. The second is a legally dubious reworking of Culture Club's "Karma Chameleon", coming from the fluorescent depths of the early 1980s. All of this presents a rather deflating image of a man whose best years featured the Bee Gees and Joh

Bjelke-Petersen. The lyrics speak for themselves: "Clive for Canberra / Clive for history / For going back in time / Yes, it's Clive!"

There is no great shame in Palmer wanting to return to the days of double-dentism and spandex. He's even created

United Australia Party (UAP) contest all seats in both Houses, with Palmer likely aiming for a spot in the Senate. Palmer has developed an internet meme community over recent years through bizarre Facebook statuses and videos, and likewise branded himself as the eponymous "humble meme merchant." Now, we are witnessing a peculiar evolution in billionaire populism.

Ross Perot never had an app. Donald Trump, his inheritor, had Twitter. Are gaming apps the next logical step?

If *The Adventures of Clive Palmer* is anything to go by, then no.

Should Palmer be elected to Parliament later this year, it won't be because of this pixelated push for the disaffected youth. It will be because many people find solace in Palmer's place on the *Forbes* Rich List and their shared disdain for 'establishment' types.

The phenomenon was best summarised by Christopher Hitchens in a 1992 article in *The Nation*, referring to contemporary Perot supporters: "I have found that despite their many charms and courtesies, they want a revolution that is painless to them. They have the self-pity of the self-satisfied."

But, as apt as this is, it will likely be an older quote that best encapsulates the Palmer legacy, game and all: "Nothing beside remains. Round the decay of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare, the lone an level sands stretch far away."

a game that harks back to Super Mario Bros and Donkey Kong. But if he wants to bring us with him, he'll have to offer something more substantial than a billionaire chasing Tim Tams and lyrics so egotistical they would make Noel Gallagher blush.

It is easy to mock the efforts of Palmer's development team, but the game has both a target and a message. The 2019 federal election will see the

## In Defense of the Mighty Ibis: Actual Campus Mascot at USyd

Crystal Yi Xu introduces the campus bin chicken.

Okay first-years, I know you've all seen that fucking white bird on campus. They are quite inescapable, aren't they?

As a university student, you've probably met them when getting closer to their bins, or simply lying on the Eastern Avenue lawns. Say you've just walked out of the New Law building with a baguette in hand, and pass the Taste bins. If you look approachable and they feel brave, they will come and stare into your soul, as if they're planning to steal whatever you're having in the very next second.

The Australian white ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*), also known as "the disgrace of the bird family", "tip turkey" and "the bin chicken", is overwhelmingly hated by the majority of students, who are yet to grasp what they mean to the campus environment.

"Ibis birds scare me," a student says. "It's only because they seem like they are trying to steal my lunch and will be vicious should I not comply."

Admittedly, their face looks like a taper that connects with the extremely long and bendy beaks that are often

hidden in dirty bins. What's weirder, their white feathers contrast with a tail that's as black as the head and neck, whilst the undersides of their wings have rosy pink streaks only visible in flight—a truly odd kaleidoscope.

Believe it or not, the ibis is native to this land and their congregation in the city indicates that humans have conquered their traditional habitats. And yet, in admiring this majestic flock of birds through the window when they fly as a group and make a long V shape in the sky, it is clear that urban ibises have adapted well, just as many first years will also learn to adapt to campus life. Perhaps it is something in our bins or the bin juice...

Despite occasionally overhearing students claiming to "like" ibises, my interpretation of their use of the word "like" is that they enjoy their infamy as walking memes on campus, and their role as the butt of many, many jokes. If you are one of the 4000 followers of the 'Sydney University Ibis Watch' Facebook page, then congratulations! Your impassioned reactions have enabled

you to stand out amongst the legions of other indifferent students. If not, I encourage you to check the page out.

Student William Edwards was an ignorant first year from the Arts faculty in 2014, when he confessed to a nascent personal and emotional connection with the Australian white ibis on campus.

"We students and academics are not content with what appears on the surface, but instead, we probe deeper, like ibises, for nourishing scientific truths, philosophical explanations, sociological solutions, and so forth."

Surprisingly, the seed Edwards planted as an ibis lover has now grown into a sapling. More and more students on campus now love to hang out alongside this curious creature, and regard the bird as a campus mascot. There is much to be gleaned from their charming personality, commitment to



Art by Amelia Mertha

protecting the environment by eating our leftovers, and no-fucks-given attitude.

Whilst there are some who choose to meet in anger on 'Glare at an Ibis Day', there are also those among us who want to fight back. The Ibis is now part of USyd culture and identity, even if they do continue to occasionally wreak havoc by sneaking food and chasing after baguette-wielding students.

# THE INDEPENDENT



THE DEPENDENT BRINGS YOU NEWS EACH WEEK COURTESY OF OUR SPONSORS. THIS WEEK, THEY ARE:

THE CLINTON FOUNDATION & UBER

**GEOPOLITICS:** Saudi missile accidentally misses school and hits actual rebel base. >>P12

**BREAKING:** Student accidentally calls it O-Week, literally nothing happens. >>P16

## Young Lib women embroiled in WHS debacle after breaking glass ceiling

Jessi Bishop reports on the real-life dangers of gender parity.

Two women staffers in Gladys Berejiklian's office are facing threats of legal action from male co-workers for having breached WHS regulations.

In the very same moment the women were promoted to more senior positions, the glass ceilings, glass walls, and glass floors of the conference room began initially to snap, then broke entirely, causing shards of glass upon the scores of male staffers on the floor below.

Some male employees wishing to claim compensation from the alleged have breach have noted that their important policy work was irrevocably interrupted by the incident. Staffer Ed George Lachlan was particularly aggrieved. "I was writing all this shit about how bad pingas are, or something, for work, and these bits of glass just fucking went into my eye and smashed into my computer screen."

Stephen Michael-Aaron, another

male staffer, disagreed entirely with the promotion of the women. "I don't think there should be women in the Libs, to be honest, cos like, I don't know, like why but yeah basically hahaha."

Michael-Aaron appeared surprised when the *Dependent* informed him that his employer, the leader of the Liberal party in NSW, Gladys Berejiklian, was a woman. "What the fuck haha. Since when. I thought it was ScoMo."

At this point in time, the women's

employment contracts remain unaffected by the alleged WHS breach, as investigations continue. Ruby Kelp, who has been promoted to the position of Senior Sniffer Dog Advisor, told the *Dependent* that she would be saving her extra earnings from the role in order to finance a consultancy start-up. "I'm really interested in renting out apartments in Barangaroo."

## Why I love working at Uber

There are only silver linings and no clouds for Uber driver Edward Said.

I'm driving on the M2 at 4 am, the fresh breeze caressing my face, as a white teenager vomits out the window in the passenger's seat. We've had an invigorating conversation: he's asked me about where I come from and how busy my night has been. He's also taken the extra effort to speak slowly so that I can understand his complex English, and he delights in my cultural heritage. Boy, do you meet some interesting people in this job!

Of course, the benefits of working for Uber aren't just limited to the colourful characters you get to meet. I've also learnt the critical skills of financial planning, with the company providing free lessons on how to effectively spend the \$15 I make per hour. Yesterday I was even able to eat two entire meals—who knew you could get such a maximum out of minimum wage.

Many of my friends complain about overbearing bosses who simply won't leave them alone. Luckily for me, Uber Support can take up to four weeks to respond to worker enquiries. Talk about a hands-off approach to management.

Additionally, I remain unburdened by commitments like attending union

meetings or reading through a long and tedious list of worker rights. I've even taken time out to learn some self-defence after being racially assaulted three times. At Uber you learn life skills and have fun at the same time!

Uber also gave me the opportunity to upgrade my car with a fresh coat of paint, after I hit my bumper driving fatigued. And to match my new car, I also got a new set of English skills through classes given to me at an affordable price of \$300. I can now finally avoid those damning 2-star ratings from white people who find it too difficult to understand me.

Work/life balance is critical for me, and with Uber I have flexible working hours from 12-6am. Being out on those empty roads at odd hours of the night really does give me the opportunity to be alone with my own thoughts.

For anyone out there like me, with four dependent family members and two other jobs, I can truly say there is nowhere better than Uber! So what are you waiting for? Your quick-fix solution to the suffocating woes of late-capitalism "will be arriving in 5 minutes."

## Jordan Peterson follows up 12 Rules for Life with another 800

Jordan Peterson writes about himself in third person.

University of Toronto Professor of Psychology Dr Jordan Peterson, renowned for his groundbreaking insights into crustacean politics, recently published a sequel to 12 Rules for Life to less critical acclaim than thought humanly possible.

"Life is terribly evil"

The 7800-page, eight-part sequel, entitled "800 commandments for modern students" variously advises against alcohol of all kinds, drugs, sex, talking to serpents, talking to humans, being happy, being sad, singing in the shower, walking on the street, dancing, eating food, consuming liquids, using the toilet and eating, amongst other things.

"Life is terribly evil—only darkness awaits mankind," said self-identified atheist Peterson before he disappeared into the night.

Peterson, who has garnered a reputation responding to distressed student enquiries with excessive doses of existential nihilism and empirically

erroneous references to Daoism, creatively told *The Dependent* that "life has a lot of meaning but it also does not—it depends on your perspective." "[Dr Peterson] told me I haven't been standing straight which explains why in the last week, I've been kicked out of my unit by my landlord and received no simple extensions despite being savaged by wild crustaceans. Look, shit happens," a student said.

However, *New York Times* columnist Dari Beiss praised Peterson's work, describing it as a "a spectacularly philosophical book and much needed reproduction of the ethics of the Christian metanarrative. 5 stars."

## TECHNOLOGY:

"I'm pondering my own mortality": Student drops phone and cracks screen. >>P18

# Welcome Week is not as welcoming as you think.

1/8 campus sexual assaults happen during orientation weeks across Australia.\*

68 college students are raped weekly in Australia.\*

College students are 7 times more likely to be raped than non-college students.\*

It doesn't take much to see that Welcome Week is but a thin veneer to mask widespread, entrenched cultures of misogyny and sexual violence.

## *Here are some useful resources:*

### **numbers to dial**

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*RDVSA NSW Rape Crisis Hotline • 1800 424 017 • 24/7*

Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia provides 24/7 telephone and online crisis counselling for anyone in Australia who has experienced or is at risk of sexual assault, family or domestic violence, as well as their non-offending supporters. RDVSA also has access to a free telephone interpreting service.

*RPA Sexual Assault Clinic • 16 Marsden St, Camperdown • 9515 9040*

The clinic provides medical services, such as forensic kits and STI testing, alongside face-to-face counselling.

### **places to go**

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*Wom\*n's Room*

The Wom\*n's Room is a room that only wom\*n and non-binary identifying people can use to rest or study. Email the convenors of the Wom\*n's Collective at [usydwomenscollective@gmail.com](mailto:usydwomenscollective@gmail.com) if you need to access it.

*Queerspace*

The Queerspace is a room that only queer-identifying people can use, also to rest or study. Contact the Queer Officers [queer.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:queer.officers@src.usyd.edu.au) if you need to access it.

\*Funnell, N. and Hush, A. (2018). *The Red Zone Report*. End Rape On Campus (EROC).