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# Planner

## HONI'S GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON



### Twelfth Night

7pm, The Cellar Lawns

\$2 SUDS/\$3 ACCESS/\$4 non-ACCESS student

Check out the opening night of the second SUDS play for Semester 1. Similar storyline to 'She's the Man', but better.

### Ghost Stories

8pm, Customs House Library, FREE

If you prefer something a little scarier, then head down to Circular Quay for a night of murder, suicide, hangings, hauntings and ghosts.



### Shave Aid

7pm, The Beresford Hotel, \$20+bf

In support of the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave. The Beresford is putting on a show feat Art Vs Science, Groove Terminator and Pluto Jonze. So you can support the cause without shaving off your luscious locks.

### BEACHBALL

7:30pm, Manning Bar, Access \$15/Gen \$24+bf

As usual this is the event of the semester. Bands feat The Aston Shuffle, The Swiss, Rufus, Luke Million, Tom Loud, FRAMES, Count Scratchulla, Clair & Movement. Check out the Beat the System Facebook page to win a free double pass!



### City of London Lord Mayor, David Wooton

10:30am, Sydney Law School

FREE (registration required)

A must for law students, or anyone interested in becoming a Mayor. Plus there is free morning tea!

### Her Nature to Decide

7pm, The Red Rattler, \$15+bf/\$19 door

An event in celebration of International Women's Day. You will see artists, poets, a musician and a sketch artist all thrown together to create something unique.



### Orange Grove Markets

8am - 1pm, Cnr Perry St & Balmain Rd, Leichhardt, FREE

A very sweet organic food market. Perfect for a hazy Saturday morning when in need of a bacon & egg roll.

### Naked Boys Singing!

7:30pm and 9pm, The Seymour Centre

\$58.50

Look you can go any night, but we would suggest Thursday night is best. It's a nudist night. What more can we say.



### The Sun-Herald Surf Swim

All day, Dee Why, FREE

Raising funds for the Dee Why. SLSC this would be the perfect day out at the picturesque beaches of the North Shore.

### Moonlight Cinema

7:30pm, Belvedere Ampitheatre, Centennial Park, Student \$16

As we are now well into autumn, most of the summer outdoor cinemas have shut-up shop so make sure you head down for the last few sessions. The feature is 'A Few Best Men'.



### Michael Kirby Speaks to Shades

Mon, 6:30pm, St Andrew's College

\$5 Access/\$10 Gen

Join Shades for their first Speaker Night of the season! The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG will deliver an address to the university's LGBTQI society, followed by mixing and mingling, food and drinks.

## LETTERS

### Pipe Dreams

"Colourful campus identity"  
BA/LLB IV

Ceci n'est pas une pipe!

I write as a concerned citizen in response to the University's new 'Smoke Free Campus' Policy.

Last Thursday I was engaged in what could only be described as a 'protest smoke' on Eastern Ave. Fast forward six to eight splendid puffs and I was confronted by the University gendarmerie.

I was politely informed of the new policy as I puffed defiantly only then to be met with the threat of a fine from the officer - a fine which the University has no competence to issue. While the lofty legal heights of parking tickets are within the University's jurisdiction, no fine provisions are made within the existing 'Smoke Free Campus' policy.

In fact, there is no discernible enforcement mechanism as the policy stands beyond requesting politely that the offender remove themselves to one of the elegantly appointed 'designated smoking areas'.

Smoke yourselves silly - they can't touch you. Why not go further? Perhaps some of the activist types would be keen to hold a 'smoke-in'?

I digress. There is more to this ban than meets the lung.

Now more than ever we see that our University's traditionally bohemian brand of hessian, drug-fucked nonchalance and cool indifference slipping into a fog of management pseudo-bullshit and corporatisation.

This 'grey chalkstripe' revolution, staffed exclusively by failed academics cum jotter-blotter-desk-drivers is slowly killing the liberal, tar stained soul of our institution.

The chief architect, renowned 'serious belt tightener' and Vice Chancellor, Reverend Dr Spence, has beset his unique calvinistic puritanism on all of the University's recent policy adventures.

From the attempted thrill-kill of the USU in 2011 to the staff cuts we're fighting this week these muppets are the gift that just keeps giving.

Reverend, you can put your policy in my pipe and I'll smoke it.

### Air Supply

Frank Derrick  
Arts XVIII

Dear Honi,

When Rafi Alam says "if someone lights up nearby you, just move a few metres away", isn't this just giving in to the oxygen fascist who's stolen your clean air for herself/himself? Why not tell her/him to move a few meters away with the carcinogen vapours? And then if there's another fascist smoker a few meters away, how far do you have to retreat for clean air?

In shared space, smoking is a form of anti-democratic fascist theft of the commonwealth of clean air.

### Academic Advocate

Richard Schonell  
Masters of Human Rights

Dear Honi,

I've been attending Usyd since 2009 and in that time it has undergone several changes. You notice it at Manning, it's discussed over tipsy lunchtime conversations, or at the end of a tutorial, when a tutor with a PhD employed on a casual basis fires off a cynical remark about the university administration. It's nothing glaringly obvious, just a slight shift in the tone of the place.

I am of course referring to the university administration's attempts to castrate the USU, as well as its disregard for the welfare of its teaching staff and their representative bodies. For many students', strings of emails and facebook threads relating to contracts, coffee carts and constitutions have obscured the significance of these developments. This is unfortunate as to dismiss them as irrelevant machinations misses a vital point; that what is going on is about more than who controls food outlets (let's face it, they'll be shit irrespective of the landlord), or longer lines at the arts office, but about the heart, soul and meaning of tertiary education.

As was pointed out at the NTEU rally on Wednesday, Usyd is more than a balance sheet - it's a place that enriches staff, student and society. It has

an output that cannot and should not be measured in dollars, and where the student experience matters. It is also a place with an arse tonne of money and a budget of approximately \$1 billion.

With this in mind I fail to see how the university intends to stay true to its ethos whilst firing staff and raising student numbers. It's with this in mind that I call on all students to support their lecturers, tutors, and staff as they fight for their jobs in the coming weeks.

Especially the shit ones. Because we'll wish they were still around when we're ten-feet deep in Bosch with only the USSC left to teach us.

### Staff-Cuts Outrage

Jackson Busse  
Arts (Advanced) III (Hons)

In the words of Ludwig Wittgenstein, aged five, "Wrong! Wrong! Wrong!". Catrina Yu ("A Corporation By Any Other Name", Week 1) seems to think that it is acceptable to stand by and watch members of staff be undeservedly dismissed from post by our esteemed Vice-Chancellor. She contends that these cuts are not inequitable because staff were "painfully" aware of their research requirements as academics.

On the contrary, they were not. The system that the Vice-Chancellor is using is a retrospective model that academics never knew about, nor were ever expected to comply with. Moreover, how can this model not be seen as a travesty when Dr Spence himself, (some years ago), condemned quantitative evaluation as only a poor proxy for quality?

Miss Yu argues that rather than fighting against the staff cuts, and the commercial shift of the university that they represent, we should merely 'understand' these changes. The idea that we ought to remain apathetic and complacent in the face of abhorrent change is as insidious and reprehensible as Dr Spence's proposed staff cuts.

## EDITORIAL

In this week's Honi Soit we put the spotlight on Japan one year on from the tragic tsunami and earthquake that battered the east coast, with an excellent feature article on the Fukushima fallout and resulting energy crisis. Honi Soit reporter Madeleine King visited the Fukushima prefecture seeing the effects of the disaster first hand and meeting some of the locals involved. Her article provides great insight and factual details on the current situation.

Closer to home, our Campus News section covers the current backlash against the planned staff cuts that resulted in a staff and student protest in the Main Quad last week. Also, be sure to read up on our report on the new campus infrastructure projects, like the amazing study spaces for the Engineering precinct and Carslaw study labs.

Our regular Tech & Online page will feature a report on the new iPad that hits stores this Thursday, which is also when Beachball, the renowned start of semester party, is on at Manning, with a stellar line up of local artists. We interview Frames, a Sydney DJ and fbi radio host, who will be playing on the Beat The System stage.

If you're a fan of electronic music you'll love our report on the future trends for Sydney in Culture Culture, and this week we visit Damo, everyone's favourite college larkin, who gives us the lowdown of his most recent adventures in The Sandstone Report.

Finally, we write this newspaper for you, the students, and always love to know your thoughts on Honi Soit in the year 2012. Get in contact via Twitter, leave us a message on our Facebook wall or send us an old-fashioned email.

Have a great week,

James Alexander.

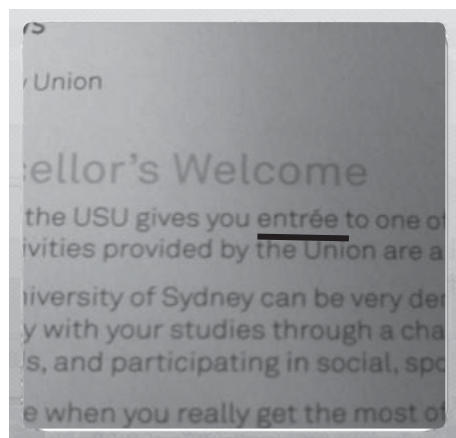
Find me on Twitter: @shortino29



## #HoniPics The best weekly pics from Twitter



@claire\_martin  
#graffiti #tunnel #sydneyuni  
#socoool



@sonotpostmodern  
Notice Spence's spelling of 'entry' on the new diaries... taking the pretention a bit far perhaps?

@courtoddy  
Lake  
Sydney  
@sydney\_uni  
(University  
Oval No.1)



## Academics hit back: “the VC should resign”

Max Chalmers reports on the backlash against staff cuts

Over the summer Vice-Chancellor Dr Michael Spence released a video to all university staff.

Shown smiling with egregious effort, his gaffer-taped grin suddenly fell as he announced the University could “no longer carry” staff “not pulling their weight”. Since this awkwardly-shot Razzie contender hit inboxes in late November, 100 academics have been offered redundancies and 64 teaching-only roles.

Staff have steadily mobilised against the cuts. Last Wednesday at least 500 academics and students attended a rally on the Quad lawns overlooked by the vacant office of the VC. “No cuts, no way! Staff and students say” was chanted as a large banner was mischievously unfurled from the top of the Quad’s sandstone façade.

The National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) has now lodged a formal complaint with Fair Work Australia and is hinting that industrial action is not far off.

A group called “Students against Staff Cuts” has started lecture bashing on the

issue and is set to begin a joint campaign with the SRC Education Officers. SRC President Phoebe Drake has labelled the cuts “unfair to students”.

Academics and the NTEU have denounced both the need for staff cuts and the way the University has implemented them. A key section of the Final Change Plan, which established that academics with less than four publications in three years would be considered for redundancy, has particularly caused outcry.

The Political Economy Department’s Dr Damien Cahill told *Honi Soit* there are currently stringent measures in place to ensure academics maintain appropriate work levels. Like many others he blasted the “retroactive” nature of this publishing quota which he compared to moving goalposts after a game.

Senior Lecturer Dr. Nicholas Riemer of the English Department echoed the sentiments, saying such arbitrary measures of productivity were “a recipe for shoddy, hasty work that will only damage the university’s reputation”.

Academics believe the publication quota is a thinly veiled excuse to justify sackings. “The VC should resign, as should all the underlings that have defended the redundancy plan and are implementing it,” Dr Riemer said.

Impending infrastructure spending and overestimated profit growth appear to be the causes of the University standing accused of manufacturing a reason to fire staff.

At the Quad rally NTEU University of Sydney Branch President Michael Thompson questioned the urgency of the University’s spending priorities, especially the Abercrombie Street Sports and Aquatic Centre extension. He argued it was not the fault of academics the University had overestimated its future revenue growth. “They got it wrong and they want us to suffer,” he said.

The Vice-Chancellor and his staff did not respond to *Honi Soit’s* enquiries.

Got an opinion? Tweet: @honi\_soit or email: honisoit2012@gmail.com

## Learning Hubs to Ease the Squeeze

Joseph Wang dives into the digital revolution

The University of Sydney has begun a digital revolution, opening a number of ‘Learning Hubs’ at the Carlaw and Peter Nicol Russel (PNR) Buildings last week. Funded jointly by the federal government and the university, these new areas aim to address student and staff concerns over the lack of adequate learning and teaching spaces throughout the university.

The hubs (open from 8am to 6pm) increase the computer inventory by over 150, and the available seating area by around 600 places. With a mix of traditional fixed desks, flexible desks and couches, and an abundance of whiteboards, power outlets, network ports and WiFi, these areas provide for collaborative learning and, according to the press release a “seamless learning environment” for the student population.

The defining feature of these student learning hubs are the new ‘Pods’ which foster collaborative groupwork and are backed by state-of-the-art Information and Communications Technology infrastructure. In the PNR building, these hexagonal-shaped open rooms feature a 64-inch touchscreen TV that allow you to connect your laptop, as well as whiteboard marker-friendly ‘idea paint’ on the walls. Video conferencing and long-distance work is also supported by the Skype-compatible HD webcam mounted on the TV, with services such as Google+ enabling screenshare. Similar pods are also available in Carlaw.

With the Carlaw and PNR hubs reaching completion, a new 24-hour Fisher Library hub and cafe under construction, and more teaching spaces under consideration, students can look forward to receiving a truly modern educational experience.



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## HONILEAKS

All your university gossip, rumours, allegations and revelations with **Paul Ellis** and **Kira Spucys-Tahar**

### E=MC Board...Hoax?

Former NLS member Joel Einstein is going to great lengths to have people believe he's making a run for Union board later this semester.

*Honi* received a leak last week suggesting Einstein was strongly considering running. The leak detailed Einstein's "strong and diverse support base" noting how in 2011 Einstein was President of the University of Sydney branch of AUJS and now "owns everyone on that executive". The email also implicated other names, including Rhys Pogonoski as campaign manager.

The tip-off came from 'Benny Helland', who after some investigation *Honi* discovered to be a fake persona we suspect was created by none other than Einstein himself. Friends of Einstein told *Honi* that he has maintained this alter ego via Facebook for at least two years.

Einstein currently has an executive role on Sydney



**Benny Helland**  
Joel Einstein The Jewish communities very own Golden Skinned Genius  
Share · December 27, 2010 at 11:38pm ·



**Joel Einstein** Screw you man That name better not stick  
December 27, 2010 at 11:39pm

## Mardi Gras Mayhem

Not all is happy and gay behind the curtains, writes **Joseph Istiphan**

On February 15 this year, the Facebook page of the committee responsible for organising this year's cross-campus Mardi Gras float erupted in an explosive argument. Hundreds of comments later, the UTS and UNSW queer officers had withdrawn most of their funding from the project and the majority of the people involved were successfully alienated.

The cross-campus float was an Australian Queer Student Network (QSN) initiative. The drama began when questions were raised regarding the equity and transparency of the application process for the float's fifty positions. At a meeting earlier in the year, the committee had decided that a number of positions should be set aside for students who either attended a regional campus or were starting their first year of university. There were no formal conclusions reached regarding how many positions should be reserved, which campuses were regional, and the process through which these two priority groups should be contacted.

On February 14, two students of this university, Jade London and William Wallace, volunteered to formally open the application process. Following a 'First in, best dressed' policy, they included an email address in the float's public pages. They were the only two with access to the email account.

The following night, the pair reported that forty-five of the fifty available positions had been filled. Six of these positions had been given to students from UNSW and only two to students from UTS. The online arguments became quite heated.

Arts Students Society and has given his support to the Union's 'Are You With Us?' campaign.

When asked personally about his Board ambition, Einstein said it was a matter of deciding if he could balance all his other commitments. He told us: "People [from all sides of politics] have said they will help me run. They have been flattering me shamelessly."

*Honi* doesn't buy it. Einstein was recently appointed National Vice Chairperson of the Australasian Union of Jewish Students, a position not likely to leave him much time for a board push. What is more believable is that Einstein is simply attempting to muddy the waters, paving the way for Pogonoski's real candidate to fly under the *Honi* radar.

By the morning of February 16, the UNSW queer officers posted a joint statement on the page saying they had been forced to question the feasibility of the UNSW Queer Collective spending 15 per cent of its budget on an event that would only benefit several of its members. Meanwhile UTS Queer Officer, Jasper Pool said, "The reality of UTS donating a similar proportion of its budget to be represented by 2 students is a rather disappointing prospect."

The Queer Student Network, launched in 2009, is unburdened by an official constitution and has yet to devise any formal objectives. It has received several hundred dollars worth of funding from the Student Representative Councils at both this university and UTS.

Some members of the queer community feel the QSN has done little to engage meaningfully with the majority of queer students, and more importantly, it has failed to produce a float. As a result of this, the competence of the convenor, Thomas Munro and the haphazard plans enacted by Ms London and Mr Wallace, have also been called into question.

At last weekend's Mardi Gras, the students still involved marched with only a banner as plans drawn up earlier in the year came to nothing.

Without formal guidelines to govern the Queer Student Network, there is no way to ensure an adequate level of accountability, resulting in bureaucratic issues in an organisation benefiting from student money.

## Second Round for SSAF

**Michael Koziol** investigates

Student organisations will attempt to salvage an extra \$1.2 million in funding through a renegotiation of the Student Services and Amenities Fee allocation.

The SSAF, introduced this year under new federal government legislation, allows universities to charge students \$263 per annum, to be used in support of non-academic student services.

It is estimated Sydney University will collect \$10.5 million in SSAF funding this year. But representatives of those groups, who hoped to gain \$18 million in total, were largely disappointed with the university's offer.

The President of the Students' Representatives Council (publisher of *Honi Soit*), Phoebe Drake, said most organisations had been given the same amount of funding as last year, adjusted only for inflation. The SRC will get \$1.25 million under the proposed funding schedule, the USU \$3.18 million, and Sydney University Sport and Fitness \$3.76 million.

The postgraduate organization, SUPRA, would receive \$802,000, while \$326,000 would be directed to the Cumberland Students' Guild.

The funding breakdown was passed by the university's Senior Executive Group (Education) 7 votes to 6, with the chair, Professor Derrick Armstrong, taking the deciding vote. But Ms Drake told *Honi* it was pressure from student organisations which has sent that original plan back to the negotiating table.

"The university really picked up on the dissatisfaction of the student organisations, and thought if we could come to a solution, that they would take that on board," she said.

*Honi* understands there is a further \$1.2 million available originally to be invested in a "Sydney Life Fund". This pool would allow student organisations to jointly apply for funding for collaborative projects.

Ms Drake says there needs to be a "year of transition" before that takes effect, and is calling for the \$1.2 million to be allocated to individual student organisations for this financial year. She says the SRC could stand to gain a further \$300-400,000 to fund a breakfast bar (similar to that at UTS), an extra case worker, and programs for hard-to-reach students.

"It would mean we'd be able to maintain basic service provision, but it would also give us a little bit of space to expand some of our activities," she said.

Ms Drake said while she was confident the new round of negotiations would yield results, "there's obviously going to be a degree of compromise involved".

Michael Koziol is on Twitter: @michaelkoziol

HONI TAB

WHO WILL STOP KONY?

TONY ABBOTT  
\$1.02

TRACY GRIMSHAW  
\$2.10

BATMAN  
\$2.54

OPRAH  
\$11.39

CHUCK NORRIS  
\$13.91

INVISIBLE CHILDREN  
\$720

WHO WILL STOP THE CHILDREN?

JOSEPH KONY  
\$1.01



For more visit Sydney Uni Memes at [www.facebook.com/USydMemes](http://www.facebook.com/USydMemes)

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## WikiLeaks vs Stratfor

Reuben Stone considers what to believe about the US government's vested interests

On February 27, the debilitated whistleblower website Wikileaks began publishing their self proclaimed Global Intelligence Files; a stash of over five million private emails from Texas based private intelligence company Stratfor.

Wikileaks describes the emails (obtained by the hacker collective, Anonymous) as an insight into the inner workings of a private intelligence company that provides services to both corporate and US government agencies including Dow Chemical and the US Marines.

The contents of the emails so far have revealed many things, some of which can only be taken with a grain of salt at this stage. The findings range from the US government having a sealed indictment on Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, to claiming that Osama Bin Laden's body was taken back to the US instead of being disposed of in the ocean.

The emails reveal that on the 26th of January 2011, Stratfor Vice President for Intelligence Fred Burton sent an email saying: "Not for Pub - We have a sealed indictment on Assange. Pls protect." Australian and US governments have denied having knowledge of any such

indictment on Assange.

In relation to Bin Laden's body Burton wrote on May 2: "Reportedly, we took the body with us. Thank goodness." And later: "Body bound for Dover, DE on CIA plane. Than [sic] onward to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Bethesda." This could reopen the debate surrounding the death of Osama Bin Laden.

These emails are interesting and certainly make for juicy headlines, but where is the proof? The answer is that there isn't any yet, but there are certainly things that give the emails and the intelligence in them some credibility. While Stratfor mainly sells its intelligence to corporate clients, it also deals with the US government, namely the US Department of Homeland Security, the US Defense Intelligence Agency, and the US Marines. An interesting question to ask: why would the US government buy intelligence from a company such as Stratfor if it was not reliable?

According to the emails, Stratfor has both analysts in the field and "cronies" in the FBI and CIA who apparently assist with intelligence. One email from CEO

of Stratfor George Friedman to analyst Reva Bhalla, dated 6 December 2011, concerning an Israeli informant who had information on the medical condition of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez reads: "[Y]ou have to take control of him. Control means financial, sexual or psychological control... This is intended to start our conversation on your next phase."

Stratfor, like Wikileaks is in the business of information. The difference between the two is that Stratfor seems to collect its information in a seemingly less ethical manner and sells it to domestic and foreign corporations and governments for financial gain. Wikileaks on the other hand has files anonymously leaked to its website, does not sell its information, and is interested in exposing truth rather than financial gain. But who is the US government going to every length to subdue?

Wikileaks has in its possession over five million emails from Stratfor. Watch this space.v

Reuben Stone is on Twitter: @reubenstone

## The Real Problem at St John's

Attitude, not alcohol, is the issue, writes Eleanor Gordon-Smith

You might've heard. The fourth floor of St John's College Polding Wing is pretty quiet this week. The resident students have all been suspended, after refusing to tell Rector Michael Bongers who was involved in an incident that culminated in a girl being taken to hospital.

Allegedly, some boys accosted a woman in a hallway and told her to have a drink. She allegedly said she was allergic to alcohol. They said she wasn't allowed to leave until she drank. She drank, and subsequently was hospitalised.

By Sunday evening, 72 news articles were published online that covered the St John's incident. There were two observable trends in the reporting.

The first was that the story was about the boys. Suspending an entire floor of college students is a big deal, in fact it's unprecedented in its scale. But apparently, the discipline is a bigger story than the accusations. Of the 72 articles, all but one went with some variation of "college throws out thirty students". "Group allegedly forced girl to drink cocktail in O-Week game" was the one headline that referenced the girl or what supposedly happened to her.

The second was that the booze was the story. "A wild Orientation Week drinking game left a young woman in hospital," said the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Take note of the voice - the boys didn't leave her in hospital; the game did. "Students suspended after wild booze game," said WA Today. Alcohol is scandalous.

Alcoholic culture is nothing new at college, or for that matter University. It's easy for the media to talk about raucous teens downing jaeger til they heave, but on this occasion that's not the story.

Whatever the reason, the media didn't want to talk about the girl or the intimidation. They wanted to make their headlines and their grabs about alcohol, and about the impact on the boys. Hold the front page.

Eleanor Gordon-Smith is on Twitter: @TheRealEGS



## With no-one left to guard the guards...

The Finkelstein media review has raised more questions than answers, writes Fabian Di Lizia

A six-month review into the effectiveness of media regulation, headed by Ray Finkelstein QC, has been handed down to somewhat predictable reactions.

It was commissioned following the *News of the World* phone hacking scandal in the UK and pressure from classic News Limited targets such as Bob Brown.

The report is sometimes scathing, stating that regulatory structures failed to achieve sufficient "accountability desirable in a democracy". Consequently, as lawyers are wont to do, Finkelstein recommended more legislation.

Finkelstein called for the establishment of a new body, the "News Media Council", to uphold journalistic standards and deal with complaints.

Criticism was directed at the current self-regulated bodies, particularly the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and the Australian Press Council (APC). The APC survives solely on the voluntary contributions of members. Certain members have forecast that they will remove resources from the APC.

ACMA's failures have been well documented, with the Communications Minister, Stephen Conroy, calling the body a "toothless tiger". Arguably, the most infamous case was the ACMA slap on the wrist of the *Kyle and Jackie O Show* in 2009, when a 14 year old girl revealed she was raped on live radio.

Mr Conroy was quick to pass the baton without extensive commentary; media regulation is a precarious topic

for any government, especially one that is getting hammered in the polls.

The big guns in print media came out and the commentary was like a schoolyard bashing. Fairfax and News Limited publications criticised the Finkelstein review by stating that its proposals would impinge on media freedom. Criticisms were levelled at one particular recommendation that the body should be funded by the government, leading to a lack of independence in the media.

Jonathan Holmes of *MediaWatch* was sceptical, perhaps rightfully, of whether a regulatory body would ever come in to being. His point: that no government would have the courage to drop a new regulatory body on the concentrated media landscape at present.

However, if the media are so defensive of themselves and certain that they are producing quality journalism, why are they scared of Finkelstein's suggestions? There are plenty of independent, government funded bodies (such as the ABC or the Electoral Commission). These bodies are indeed independent and function very well.

Finkelstein has also called for the mandatory publishing of apologies, retractions and corrections. This is a simple and effective way of keeping the media to account. Finkelstein's review is trying to watch the watchmen, but it has led to more questions than answers. The largest of these is whether or not the government will have the courage to implement recommendations.

Fabian Di Lizia is on Twitter: @the\_ovingeye



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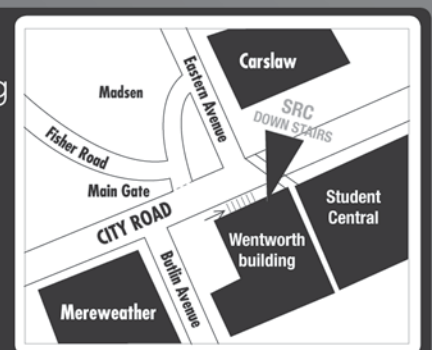
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## Leave Kony alone! The #StopKony debate

Arghya Gupta and Joel Einstein didn't enlist child soldiers to fight this battle

With Joel defending *Invisible Children* and Arghya condemning them, we'll look at the claims and counter-claims being made about the Kony 2012 campaign.

"Only a third of their money is spent on the ground."

**Arghya:** There are doubts about *Invisible Children* (IC) as an organisation. You may have come across blogs saying that they're a bit too interested in ravaging the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) while forgetting about other things, like Uganda's existing problems. Or that they are basically an NGO who feed on donations and end up giving less than half (reportedly 32 per cent) to actual tangible help. And the help at the moment refers to some walkie-talkies which help the locals know when the LRA is coming to get them.

**Joel:** IC spends its money in three different ways, with roughly equal amounts on each part. The first is raising awareness of the LRA through documentaries (like the video) and sending speakers around the world. This is clearly working. The second is mobilizing people and trying to channel energy on changing policy. That would be the Cover The Night campaign. The final part is on-the-ground operations that provide rehabilitation and assistance to those affected by Kony and the LRA.

Yes, this means that only a third of the money goes to the ground. But what people forget is that the first and the second parts fuel the third. It takes money to make money and as if the success of the video is anything to go by the strategy clearly works.

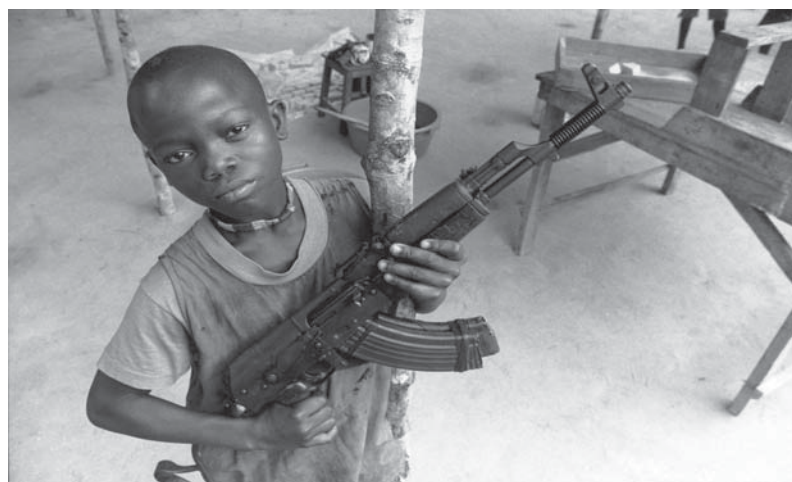
"They're calling for military intervention."

**Joel:** Oh, but they're not. As can easily be seen by anyone who watches the video, the campaign does not once call for US troops to be put on the ground. What it does advocate is the continuing presence of 100 military advisors who are already there.

**Arghya:** The only way to stop a renegade army is usually a violent intervention, something conveniently known as 'genocide' (these are people of a cult). IC claim to have convinced the Obama Administration to send 100 diplomats down to Kampala to do something useful, like translate. But in the end, is dispatching a foreign force or creating another liberated army front any better than what Kony and his KrONys are doing? The LRA are doing what they believe is right for the world. Who are some arrogant pricks from Palo Alto to correct them?

"Kony doesn't matter any more."

**Joel:** While it is true that the LRA was driven out of North Uganda a little while ago, its activity has now spread to several more countries. How is this a win? Within the LRA Kony has developed a cult following. Many of the members actually see him as a religious figure. To say that Kony is just one person, ergo stopping him won't matter, shows a fundamental misunderstanding of everything the LRA is.



**Arghya:** While the video portrays Kony to be today's Hitler, it omits many key facts, for example: this is Africa. I'm not one to make a sweeping generalisation about a continent, but since when did an African guerilla army recruiting kids and killing people become a breaking news story? Rwanda, Somalia, some place called Sudan. Mugabe must love the spotlight shining 2000km north of his palace thanks to this 'initiative'.

"Sharing a video isn't going to make a difference."

**Arghya:** Yes, evil men like Kony should face justice. But having 1000 middle-class people post a link on Facebook via their iPhone will do shit all. How many of these people are going to go to Uganda and capture members of the LRA in order to protect the "innocent" people of Uganda (the country that feels it's OK to kill the gays)?

You know who has been to Uganda? Me. It was only a couple of days, but I spent time walking around Kampala's outskirts with a coffee farmer who had taught himself English, knew the hotel manager where I was staying, and did a little city-guiding on a

side. At the end of the day I bought a kilo of coffee beans off him for \$4 (I'm a pretty dick bargainer). That \$4 probably got him a kilo of rice to help him survive, unlike Phoebe from Rose Bay's video link or Stacey from Killara's telegraph poster outside Royal North Shore.

**Joel:** I could respond to this with the idea that bringing people out of their comfortable western bubble is always a good thing. Or I could draw attention to the value of putting public pressure on governments by keeping it at the forefront of people's mind. Instead I'll respond with one quick thought.

Let's say that out of every 100 people who see the video, 99 do nothing but like and share. Think about what this means. As I type this roughly 80,000,000 people have seen the video. Let's assume that only one out of 100 does anything about this: that's 800,000 people globally who due to this video have decided to impact the world around them. This could mean donating to *Invisible Children*, learning more, or joining me on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April to Cover the Night and let the world wake up to a campaign they can't ignore.

## You say you want a revolution...

The West should put its money where its mouth is in Syria, reports Patrick Morrow



Barack Obama, in conversation with the Danish Prime Minister on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, stated that "it's important that we not be bystanders during these extraordinary events," and he was right to say so. It is very much in vogue to criticise the western world's intervention in the Middle East, but to do so is by and large unfair. Certainly, interventionist conduct in the past has been sub-par; where there was any, it was often cynical, opportunistic, and resulted in long-term loss. However, if we are to take seriously our role as arbiters of

democracy (a role which plenty, admittedly, contest), there is an obligation to put a collective foot down, and insist that Assad move along – or at least let the people freely decide for him.

Six thousand have now lost their lives in the Syrian revolt, since the uprising began a year ago in March.

Despite disavowing any responsibility for these deaths (a sentiment oft-parroted by Iranian and Russian news outlets), two of the most recent victims among the seventy or so foreign correspondents

that have died in past year of conflict were Marie Colvin of Britain's *Sunday Times* and French photojournalist Remi Ochlick, both of whom were killed in an attack on a known hub for international journalists.

On February 29 a further thirteen Syrian opposition activists were killed within a group of 40 ambushed by Syrian security forces. This targeted and unrelenting assault on foreign presence is highly suspect and entirely reprehensible. Most abhorrent is the fact that those in "control" still refuse to permit international humanitarian aid into the country. These numbers will continue to climb while Assad remains uncontested.

A recent ballot for reforms to the Syrian constitution (with passages regarding political freedom and torture curiously ignored) has been condemned as a sham by most western media outlets and opposition groups from within the region. It is not hard to appreciate why, given that polling took place while government tanks fired on civilian areas. The government had the decency, when publishing the outcome, to not describe a unanimous win. Rather it was recorded as an 89 per cent win. But according to

an online poll by YouGov, 45 per cent of Syrian respondents said that Assad ought to step down. Less than one fifth of Syria has access to the Internet, and few areas of strong opposition have access at all. These two statistics are grossly incongruous.

Despite inevitable allegations that this revolt is a fabrication of the Western media, it is worth considering which is more likely: disinterested nations spreading lies about a strategically negligible Middle Eastern nation in a broader Zionist conspiracy, or another demonstration of a regime that's gotten abhorrently ahead of itself, in a part of the world known for its lack of an effective governing class?

In Syria we have a despotic and deceitful regime, feigning legitimacy, with a penchant for spilling foreign blood, backed chiefly by two nations - Russia and Iran - with a marred permanent record for much the same. This does not inspire confidence.

To fly in the face of those who will inevitably cry shrill, racist and neo-con, it's high time we accepted that the Syrian people are revolting, and it's important that we not simply be bystanders.



## WHERE AREN'T THEY NOW?

Brad Mariano loves to rifle through Women's Weekly back pages

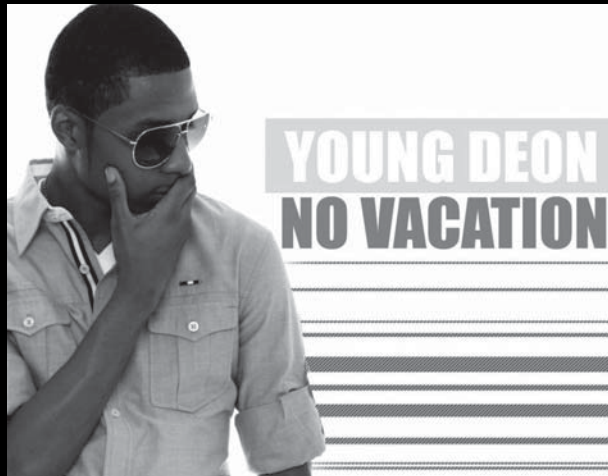
This section is about marginalised figures in pop culture, the 15 minutes of fame, the faces who appeared once somewhere in between the D and Z list of celebrities, and where they are now. I originally planned to write about Joseph Kony, but more for his early stuff – he's way too mainstream now. So instead, let's cast a light on an insignificant figure from the dustbin of the internet. Rebecca Black's "Friday" was a cultural phenomenon, and for a while it seemed no-one could get enough of cringe-worthy internet pop songs. Among this prepubescent cacophony that the internet turned into minor stars were names like Alanna Lee, Devin Fox and others that we watched and Brock dubbed. The only one who achieved anything near the infamy of Black was a girl called Jenna Rose, with her sardonic ode, "My Jeans". It ticks off all the criteria for the genre – middle class white singer, generous usage of auto-tune and of course, the contractually obligated inoffensive rap verse, and this is where we come in, with not one but two young rappers.

Their names are Baby Trigg and Young

Deon, they're dressed like models in a Big W preteen catalogue and their combined verse marks the arrival of the hottest 1-2 punch in hip hop since Eric B & Rakim. Baby Trigg raps, and Deon ad-libs and repeats lyrics in the background, save for one crucial junction where after Trigg says "Trig bought a new BlackBerry" three times, Deon interjects with "Oh, just take the picture already". That's the only line Young Deon says in the whole song, and yet on his Facebook page (which has 54 FB fans, presumably half of whom are uni students like me who misunderstand the concept of irony) it says that Deon "caught the eye of the public with his guest rap in Baby Trigg's guest rap" (the Xzibit meme there writes itself). And that's also what brings him to attention here. But that song was released in 2010, what has this enterprising "Deon" done since? Well, what every other aspiring rap and R&B star does best: abuse social media. You can find his mixtapes and songs on Facebook, MySpace and Twitter. And boy, does he love tweeting – he's done it more than 15 000 times. Some are

cute (uploads a picture of a microwave ready meal saying "2 my future girl – ya man can cook!"), but most are nonsensical motivational tweets ("music is universal...talent is international").

He's made songs again with his partner in crime Twiggy (including a single aimed to help the rebuilding effort after Haiti), and has a mixtape called "For The Love" which you can find on YouTube, if you must. The songs themselves aren't the worst things I've ever heard, but on a scale from David Lynch's Crazy Clown Time and Mozart, it's towards the former. They're just generic R&B ballads featuring the words "shawty" "boo" and "I'mma be real witchu", and every song weirdly repeatedly references pop artists ("I'm H.O.V.E. and you got me Crazy in Love" is a chorus on one song). That his most viewed song on YouTube (with 30,000 views – his mother must really like the refresh button) is called "Just Another Love Song" is telling. For the time being, Young Deon is just another generic aspiring rap artist.



## From the memoirs of Bob Carr



I didn't quite expect it to happen in this way. Keating would've been great, and I could even have tolerated Hawke, but Gillard? When I answered the phone call, I was nothing if not a little surprised. Sure, I am the best Premier NSW has had since inception, and I am the intellectual equivalent of Stephen Hawking (if not a little more articulate, I would venture to say).

But what made poor Julia think I would be interested in helping her ailing flock of political sheep, seven years after leaving the game? It was a tough call in the end, and the first things that occurred to me were all of the reasons why it would be an extraordinarily foolish idea; Kevin's unfortunate fate (that can't be a good omen), and the fact that I'll get 18 months at best as foreign minister in this absolute shambles of a government. Not to mention their flagrant insolence in ignoring my review on the reasons why it's so shite. (Shout outs also to Johnny Faulkner and Stevo Bracks).

Then there's the question of the how I would be installed, not just the why. I'd be taking a vacancy in the senate – a place for spineless bastards who can't be popularly elected, full of intellectual pygmies (funny that Wayne should feel comfortable applying that label...). Besides, the chamber won't be big enough to house my IQ. And now I'm also reinforcing the very machinations that I denounced in that fucking review!

Fortunately, almost all of these potential pitfalls were offset by one mitigating factor; the prospect of fronting up against Julie Bishop. This got me over the line. Too many times have I watched that ignoramus idly on Q&A, frantically tweeting perfect putdowns and diligently hashtagging #qanda, but to no avail. Do the ABC not like me, or were there just seven too many expletives in my 145 characters? Do they not remember that I was Premier of fucking New South Wales, I'm kind of important...

But other than the airtime on 9 News to take cheapshots at Bishop, who knows? I may be able to obsequiously position myself for a run in the House of Reps at the next election (hopefully in Kev's seat). I might even challenge Shorten for the leadership in 2020. Hey presto baby, I'm back folks!



## Dumpster Diving

Lucy Watson brings the trash back in

As a student living out of home, I'm always looking for ways to save money. Initially, dumpster diving seemed to be that one step too far. But the more I learnt about it, the more keen I was to try it.

For the unaware, it's pretty easy to guess what dumpster diving essentially involves. My first thoughts were what you'd expect: that it was gross, unhygienic, and for people who couldn't afford better. However, as I became more educated, these myths began to dispel. A lot of food thrown out is still packaged, and often within its [real] use by date. It's perfectly edible.

As well as being an option for the poor, dumpster diving is also, for some, a political act. By taking discarded food, you are supposedly avoiding the market driven economy of capitalism, and saving the environment from that little bit of extra landfill. As a result, I expected to see more Environmental Studies students than bums on my dumpster run.

The night we chose to dive was the night Sydney basically flooded. We arrived at our first dumpster as the rain got torrential. Deciding that this would add to the sense of adventure, we got out of the car, and dashed for the bin. Empty. The second one: locked. The third one: full of paper. I had thought the stray cats hanging around were a good sign. Not so.

By the time we reached our next location, the rain had slowed to a drizzle. Our bad luck continued. An empty dumpster, and one full of horrid, warm, raw meat.

Our third location was diving gold. Well, not quite. Perhaps bronze, or

maybe copper. It was a single dumpster in a lonely alley in Newtown. On the surface, it was useless rubbish, but we could smell food in the depths. Being a bit of a princess, and not having gloves, I was afraid of getting my hands dirty. Luckily, my partner in anti-capitalist semi-crime, was happy to get down and dirty. Jumping into the bin, she rummaged through until she found three tied garbage bags full of fruit and vegetables. We took our pick and left the rest.

After this moderate success, we returned home to have a hot shower and change into dry clothes. Our final result? Three apples, two pears, two pieces of corn, a tomato and a bowlful of grapes. A perfect feast for two.

While we did some things right, we also did a lot wrong. Diving aficionados have these tips to share: go at night, preferably on a day that supermarkets receive a new shipment, or before the bins have been emptied. Go with one person; any more and you're too conspicuous, any less and it's too dangerous. Wear boots, gloves, and a head torch. Clean up after yourself. Take only what you need. Bring a bag, and a bike or car. If you run into any security or police, don't run. You'll most likely only risk a trespassing charge, a minor misdemeanour. Running will make it worse.

I've heard stories of people getting their weekly groceries from dumpsters. As impressed as I am by this, I don't think I could do it regularly. It took around 90 minutes for me to find a loot that would've cost less than \$10. Call me a capitalist pig, but I think I'll pay for the convenience next time.



## On Humanism

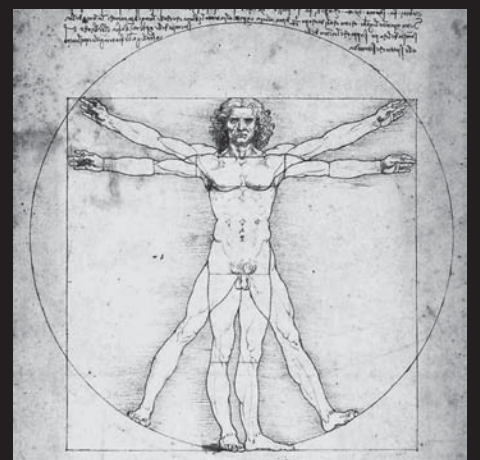
Cale Hubble gets introspective

You deny the existence of the supernatural, you feel that science has the best answers, but still feel that you live by a strong ethical code. You could be a Humanist – and yes, that's a capital 'H'. Humanists are by and large atheists, but they form communities, hold rituals and codify their beliefs in ways that are more akin to a religion.

Let's start with beliefs. Unlike most religions, the Humanists have a simple, codified document outlining these: the Humanist Manifesto. The original was written in 1933, and later versions updated in 1973 and 2003. Notable signatories have included philosopher John Dewey, authors Isaac Asimov and Kurt Vonnegut, recognisable atheists such as Michael Shermer and Richard Dawkins, as well as more academics and Nobel laureates than you can shake a thurible at. The 2003 document is suitably brief for our soundbite age, with six central affirmations:

1. Knowledge of the world is derived by observation, experimentation, and rational analysis. (i.e. Yay science!)
2. Humans are an integral part of nature, the result of unguided evolutionary change. (i.e. Cheers Darwin, although you're dead so no longer exist)
3. Ethical values are derived from human need and interest as tested by experience. (i.e. Humans rock and we should look after them)
4. Life's fulfilment emerges from individual participation in the service of humane ideals. (i.e. There is beauty in human existence)
5. Humans are social by nature and find meaning in relationships. (i.e. Go have a coffee with that old friend)
6. Working to benefit society maximizes individual happiness. (i.e. We're all stuck in this shit together)

These are clearly written to be broadly appealing and, in general, pretty difficult to disagree with. There aren't any who would argue that science does not work, that we should not live by humane ideals, or



that looking after each other is not the best way forward. As is always the way, however, plenty of people have it in for the Humanists. Obviously the first two affirmations pretty much exclude the supernatural from any consideration, which is enough to get most religious people off side. But Humanism is given flack from some hard-nosed atheists too. They find its obsession with having a 'positive' image too sentimental, distracting from the reality of its thoroughly 'negative' rejection of the supernatural. The emphasis on humanity has also been branded as speciesist and perpetuating the myth of man's ontological separateness from nature, a hair's breadth from the Bible's "fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion ... over every living thing" (Genesis 1:28).

Some atheists also tend to be fiercely independent, making them uncomfortable with the idea of creating a 'Humanist religion', something the 1933 Manifesto made explicit. Humanist communities continue to have regular meetings and social gatherings, distribute publications, and offer the services of Humanist celebrants for baby namings, weddings, funerals and so on.

The Humanist Society of New South Wales (<http://www.hsnsw.asn.au/>) is the place to go for more information, including events in Sydney. On campus, they are represented by the Atheist Society.

## HORNI SOIT

It was a smoggy Wednesday evening, and Roberta was at debating (the noun), debating (the verb). Debating is hardly a suitably erotic setting for a smutty piece in the student paper, but that's unfortunately where our protagonist chose to spend her evening. In a cruel rebuff to Rebecca Black, Wednesdays were Roberta's favourite day. They meant three things: fierce argument, dividing things artificially into three categories, and the possibility of casual sex with a fellow debater.

Her target was an insufferably handsome, or handsomely insufferable, second speaker, Richard. The succulent spittle that flew from his mouth when he became particularly incensed set her heart and eyelashes aflutter. His onanistic oratory turned her (and, secretly, him) on. Unsurprisingly, given the almost homophonic resemblance between debating and masturbating, Richard was a wanker. For fun (warning: not actually fun), he penned letters to the editor, which always began "SIR:...", and as wankers often do, he wanked, live-

tweeting Q&A with his spare hand. His personality was debatable, but like most debaters, Roberta was convinced she was right and would rebut to the death anyone who disagreed.

Absurdly drunk on the copious amounts of booze the Union subsidised weekly (the same USU you probably paid \$110 to during O-Week), Roberta and Richard went at it, 'it' being a euphemism for wildly argumentative sex. Unfortunately for our two mouthy protagonists, debating prowess did not

translate into sexual prowess. It was, to borrow Richard's criticism of his opponent's arguments from earlier that night, uninspired and lacklustre, and it did the stakeholders more harm than good. Frankly, it was detrimental. The problem was that lovemaking was not a competitive sport, or indeed a competitive speaking competition, and that nobody could win it. As it ended, so did this week's edition of Horni Soit, sticky and lacklustre.

ALP GREENS

# Running the numbers...

COALITION



Image courtesy of the ABC

The know-it-all guru of Australian politics was created through mere coincidence, writes **Dominic Wilcox**

Antony Green is a Government student's idol: the man who fronts the ABC's election coverage and consistently predicts the results long before anyone else. His groundbreaking election model, as well as his encyclopedic knowledge of all things political, has given him cult status among anyone with even a passing interest in politics. Yet when I speak to Green, I'm greeted by a reluctant hero whose interest in politics is more a coincidence than a lifelong passion.

Green first came to the University of Sydney to complete a degree in Maths and Computer Science. The son of English migrants, it was seen as a field in which he could easily find work. His family wasn't interested in politics, and while studying here he was only concerned with completing university and entering the workforce. He admits to having very little interest in the student politics scene, which was at that point dominated by a young Tony Abbott and Malcolm Turnbull.

His interest was sparked, however, when working in mathematics, by the election of the Hawke Labor Government in 1983. Green says he was fascinated by the intersection of economics and politics during this period, and this led him to return to Sydney University to complete an Economics degree, majoring in politics. Although he enjoyed his studies in Economics, Green admits that the discipline has its limitations.

"Economics ignores power relationships," he says. While it might lay claim to being objective, Green believes that "economics automatically has a bias". When I mention that perhaps his belief is more consistent with that of the Department of Political Economy at Sydney University, he agrees. The split between Economics and Political Economy is, according to Green, about "breaking the connection between price

and value". He believes that it is impossible to separate economics from the values which form its context.

This interest in context also informs Green's view of politics, which he sees as being heavily reliant on history. "You can't look at an election without looking at the history", he tells me. As well as his work on current and upcoming elections, Green is also compiling a history of NSW elections for the State Library. Combine this with his work in mathematical election models, and it becomes clear that Green's real interests lie not in political debate, but in the context and operation of the electoral landscape.

As a result, he is a strong advocate for electoral reform, and he nominates the abolishment of compulsory preferential voting as most important. "I see no reason why voters should be forced to choose a major party," he says. "Major parties should be forced to deal with minor parties."

But as for policy debate, Green steers clear. "I don't want to get involved in politics. I couldn't be bothered". Nonetheless, I suggest, he surely must have his own political beliefs? Is it sometimes difficult to remain objective? He confesses that sometimes this is the case, but points out that his role is simply to run a computer model—he doesn't participate in policy debate. Talking to Green, I get the impression that his interest in politics is in fact just a culmination of his interests in mathematics, history, and economics.

Although he may have found his niche through a happy accident brought about by his other interests, it is difficult to deny Green is a bloody good political analyst. There have been reports he was approached by a group of Labor politicians before the NSW election and asked how they could possibly save their seats. Green's answer: they didn't

have a chance. With this in mind, I ask Green whether he thinks NSW Labor has a future after their comprehensive 2011 election defeat. Once again, he brings us back to history.

"In 1996 after Keating's defeat, Bob Carr led the only Labor Government in the country," he says. "You wouldn't have thought that they could come

the upcoming Queensland election, due largely to the merger of the Liberal/National Party which has alienated many previous National voters in regional seats.

This, Green believes, is a difficulty the

"I see no reason why voters should be forced to choose a major party," he says. "Major parties should be forced to deal with minor parties."

back". And yet they did. According to Green, the current unpopularity of Labor both at a federal and state level is just a part of the electoral cycle—it doesn't signify any kind of paradigm shift towards conservatism. While he concedes that the Labor party's support is being eroded by the Greens, he sees the threat of the Greens as overrated.

"The Greens are here to stay", he says. "But everyone who is going to vote for the Greens already is." He believes the reason for the plateau in support for the Greens is due to a "fundamental philosophical problem": while the Labor party believes in using the benefits of economic growth to redistribute wealth, the Greens, another re-distributive party of the Left, is opposed to economic growth due to its environmental impacts. The challenge for the Greens then, according to Green, is to articulate how they will redistribute wealth without economic growth.

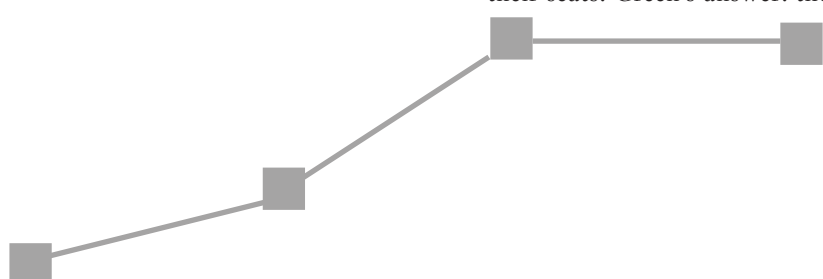
The subject of third parties brings us to the phenomenon that is Katter's Australian Party (KAP), a rural-based protectionist party making inroads in Queensland, largely thanks to its eccentric namesake, the federal independent Bob Katter (for the most awkward minute of your life, look up the video of their flash-mob campaign launch). Green believes that the KAP actually has a chance of picking up a few seats at

LNP will face at the QLD election. Its leader, Campbell Newman, is struggling to shake off accusations he is too focused on Brisbane. Nevertheless, Green predicts an easy LNP victory. "It will be very difficult for Labor to win", he says. "They've governed for the past 20 of 22 years and have broken a number of promises since the last election." But what about the possibility of an LNP win without Newman taking the seat of Ashgrove? Green believes this is quite possible. "The LNP is running a very high-risk campaign."

Given Green's immense knowledge-base and regular television appearances, it is not surprising that since the early 90s he has developed a cult-celebrity status. Given this, I ask whether it is time for Antony! The Musical. He laughs: "I don't think I'm that interesting a person."

Despite his public persona, the real Antony Green is something of a reluctant hero. "The worst thing about television", he says, "is that people think they know you and can intrude. It's quite irritating...I wish they'd go away sometimes."

Unfortunately for Green, it doesn't look like the admirers will be going away any time soon.



# JAPAN

## ONE YEAR ON

# FUKUSHIMA FALLOUT

Madeleine King toured the Fukushima prefecture as the nation attempts to rebuild and deal with its new energy crisis

Winter in Fukushima. Photograph: Jun Takeuchi



Photograph: Gonzalo Deniz.

“Yes, even by Koriyama standards, this is cold,” the cabbie says cheerfully, snow-laden winds buffeting the windscreen. I’m in northern Japan, Fukushima Prefecture, to attend a meeting between a group of Tokyo lawyers and local farmers. A group of schoolgirls on bikes struggle past in skirts and socks, and a small, morbid part of my curiosity wants to know what it feels like to bare skin to such sub-zero temperatures. I can’t recall ever being so cold in my life.

My complaint is unwarranted, though. According to NGO Direct Relief International, it’s in these same conditions that around 117,000 people found themselves searching for places to live and work in the aftermath of last year’s March 11 disaster – earthquake, tsunami, nuclear meltdown.

At the local community centre where the meeting is held, the local farmers – in their parachute ski-gear and weathered skin – seem far more comfortable than the legal suits. The hum of human and electric energy fills the room: the murmur of farmers consulting with the lawyers, and a simple gas stove, stutteringly spreading warmth from the back.

It’s an appropriate combination,



Local Fukushima farmers consulting with lawyers. Photograph: Madeleine King

representing the short and long term energy woes the nuclear meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi reactors have delivered: the crash of electricity

production, and the continuation of a historically fraught relationship between the Japanese people and nuclear power. The past year has seen the Kanto electricity grid in the north – encompassing Tokyo and a region responsible for half of the country’s economic output – flicker in and out of life, posing an immediate threat to Japan’s economic health. But there’s worse to come. An exodus of residents, business-owners and farmers from the exclusion zone around the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant face an uphill battle against the infamous “nuclear mura” (nuclear ‘village’) – an elite estate of pro-nuclear bureaucrats, pro-nuclear industry and the ten electric power monopolies in Japan. The compensation nightmare and social fallout of the catastrophe are tearing at the resilience of Fukushima society.

Walking home to my apartment in the hills district of Tokyo, I see Tokyo Tower – incandescently red in the winter night. It humbles the constellation of lights from surrounding office buildings. But almost a year ago, its light was snuffed out.

### THE HEART OF DARKNESS

It’s hard to imagine a darkened Tokyo. Surely it lays claim to one of the most iconic nightscapes in the world – think the neon signs of Shinjuku behind Scarlet Johansson’s silhouetted, insomniac body; the ever-bright vending machines; the incessant chatter of pachinko pokies and games arcades.

My visit comes at the end of a year that saw the city’s shops, galleries and offices cut down on much of their electricity use in the wake of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant meltdown. Harumi Ozawa, a journalist living and working in central Tokyo, said that even the city’s subway was dimmed. “When you’re standing on the station platform and you see a dark train sliding in, it really looks like a ghost train!” she said of the eerie phenomenon. “Now we have more lights on, but not all of them are back like before the disaster.”

Life and light may have returned (relatively) to normal, but beneath the façade is the dark reality of the disaster. Japan’s energy production is crippled,

and it can little afford to keep its nuclear reactors offline for much longer.

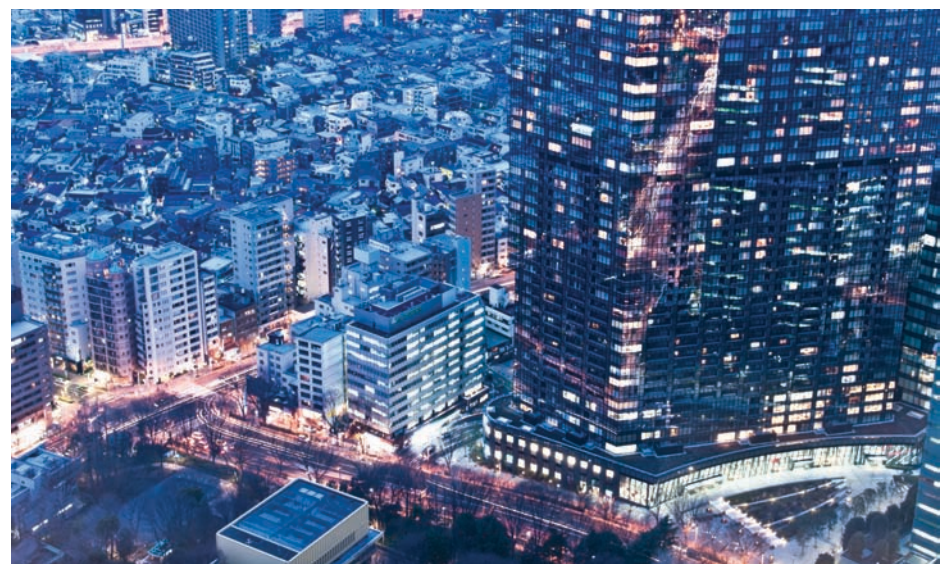
### RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT?

Every disaster has an iconic image, and perhaps the one that notched such a global foothold in last year’s three-fold disaster was the grainy image of the Fukushima Dai-ichi reactors exploding.

A wave of radioactive energy pulses through the air – the visible wince of every country using nuclear power – before plumes of smoke, filled with debris, engulf the plant. It’s less dramatic than the aerial footage of Hiroshima and Nagasaki some 67 years before, but over the past year, its shadow has passed across the country’s cities in waves of energy shortages.

Starved of 30 per cent of their regular electrical energy supply, the nation has been forced to rely on alternative sources to meet demand – particularly during the summer. The Japanese media report that the government estimates a 9.2 per cent overall shortage if the reactors aren’t switched on this summer.

A report from *The Economist* shows that the shortages during both winter and summer were less frequent than expected, largely sparing Tokyo, thanks to the efforts of households and businesses to curb consumption. News reports predict city-dwellers shaved 15 per cent of their regular electricity use, as office hours were shortened, LED lights installed and ties loosened in un-airconditioned offices.



Photograph: Ben Lau

“..... Starved of 30 percent of their regular energy supply, the nation has been forced to rely on alternative sources...”

It’s been bad for Tokyo’s aesthetics, but even worse for the country’s economic viability. The Fukushima crisis led the government – swayed by domestic and international concerns about the ability of reactors to withstand natural disasters – to shutdown all but two of Japan’s 54 plants. As of April this year, all are expected to be offline.

Ozawa, reflecting on this, thinks many residents were willing to endure a darker city. “Even if it is slightly darker at stations and in other public places, you’ll still have to use [and be in] them eventually,” she tells me. “And if it helps the capital avoid a massive blackout, it’s worth it, isn’t it?”



“Japan’s Nuclear Damages Act exempts the operator from liability in case of extraordinary natural catastrophe. Debates are ongoing...”



IAEA fact-finding team visit the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant to assess the damage. Photo by Greg Webb.

Many people around the globe contributed to fundraising efforts, including students at the University of Sydney. Photographs: Jackman Chiu, Noel Feans

## CORPORATE ECONOMICS



Protestors take to the streets. By April, all of Japan’s nuclear power plants are expected go offline.

Photograph: Madeleine King.

But the energy diet comes at a price. The daily fast by ordinary Japanese citizens seems naïve next to the needs of corporate behemoths – food production companies, car manufacturers, mining giants and computer chip makers – operating in the Kanto region. These industries mean the Tokyo region, supplied by TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company – the same firm behind the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant), accounts for around half of the country’s economy.

With these companies threatening to move business offshore in fear of power cuts – a brief outage could derail an entire line of computer wares, car steering, or jeopardise food safety standards – the government has scrambled to find energy alternatives.

The energy crisis in Japan has created a boom in Australia’s fossil fuel and gas imports. The Consulate General of Japan, Dr. Masahiro Kohara, speaking last month at a Sydney University conference about the disaster, said he had recently attended a signing ceremony in Darwin between the Japanese government and an Australian liquefied natural gas company.

“The nuclear accident was a big trigger for the Japanese government to reconsider its energy policy for the future,” he said. “A key point is how to decrease our energy dependence on nuclear power ... [but at the moment] the main dilemma is how to meet the gap between supply and demand for electricity.”

But investing in foreign energy reserves is not something Japan can really afford. With the world’s highest level of GDP debt – sitting pretty at 218% – it’s far above the red flag economies of Italy and Greece (128 per cent and 159 per cent, respectively). Somehow it’s kept its head above the global sea of economic woe, but for how much longer is anyone’s guess.

The cultural baggage of nuclear energy may well be the sinking blow. After almost

a century of nuclear victimhood, the country’s relationship with the resource is set for a troubled future if TEPCO continues to evade responsibility and nuclear liability laws are not changed. The reason Tokyo’s legal elite have travelled two hours north on a freezing Sunday is to try and solve the current acrimony. The farmers of the region haven’t been able to claim compensation from TEPCO because, according to the company, “the damage is still ongoing.”

## BUREAUCRATIC NIGHTMARE



Aerial view following the second explosion at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant. Photograph AFP/Getty Images

An old flower farmer, barely the better side of 80, is one of hundreds battered by governmental and corporate bureaucracy. Speaking at the beginning of the meeting in Koriyama, she says the uncertainty of contamination and the lack of information from TEPCO have ended visits from her grandchildren. Neither she nor they feel confident eating from her crop of garden vegetables, once a permanent fixture of her table. She’s adamant that while her farm lacks the size of agricultural behemoths in Australia, Europe and America, its smallness garners more attention and care. It’s exactly the right size for her. Its meaning is perhaps far greater than the company can – or will have to legally – compensate.

This very problem is what makes Fukushima the definition of ‘bureaucratic nightmare’. In a very large nutshell, Article 3 of Japan’s *Nuclear Damages Act* exempts the operator from liability “in case of extraordinary natural catastrophe.” Debates are ongoing as to whether the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami were ‘extraordinary’ in comparison to other disasters that have scarred the country’s history, but it’s certainly a clause TEPCO is attempting to hide behind.

Further constraining compensation efforts is – unsurprisingly – the paperwork. As if the disaster had not taken enough of a toll on the environment, TEPCO has

produced a 60 page claim form – with over 1500 entry fields to fill out, and accompanied by a 100 page explanatory booklet – and distributed it to more than 100,000 applicants. Claimants are expected to produce records of loans, bank statements, property ownership – much of which was lost in the tsunami or is inaccessible in the exclusion zone.

It’s part of the reason the Tokyo lawyers have volunteered in the region. Fukushima Prefecture has around 27 registered lawyers. Many residents cannot navigate the large amounts of legal jargon on their own, and are also reluctant to complete the form at all. By submitting a claim for compensation, TEPCO has ensured they immediately waive the right to any other claims against the company in the future.

A report in *The Economist* late last year notes that “The nuclear industry is deeply incestuous. Not only do bureaucrats parachute from their ministries into the utilities, but their sons and daughters occasionally marry each other too.” The literal nuptials now spill over into a corporate marriage of convenience, with the central government providing aid to TEPCO to help pay the bills.

This has been done by setting up a separate bailout institution, which will be filled with money from the coffers of other nuclear plant operators, government fiscal aid and the country’s banks. “The burden is removed from the power plants, and instead placed on the treasury,” says Julius Wietzdoerfer, an academic from the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law.

Toshiaki Otsuka, a local produce wholesaler and organiser of the meeting, brings the compensation saga back down to reality. “In Koriyama, people have stopped buying things,” he says simply. “So the farmers bring less to sell, and it has meant they’ve had to reduce the size of their crops. The customers are worried [about contamination].”

It’s a reminder that loss of customers is just a blip on the damages radar, filled with a host of non-physical injuries for which TEPCO does not legally have to provide compensation.

## A RENEWED JAPAN

There’s hope yet, though. While the compensation minefield appears impossible to negotiate, the disaster may signal a dramatic change in power relations between the Japanese people and nuclear energy.

“It’s been a big wake-up call”, says Richard Broinowski, a former Australian diplomat to Japan. “What Fukushima has done is refocus on the dangers of nuclear power, and a lot of that middle ground [of public opinion about nuclear energy] – the quiescent segment of the population – are becoming more anti-nuclear.”

Broinowski has recently returned from the Fukushima region and is about to complete his book examining the consequences of the meltdowns. “You’ve got the beginning of what I think is a very strong public revulsion toward nuclear power,” he says. “It’s going to lead to pressure against [the government and nuclear industry]. My guess is that nuclear power only has about another 10 years in Japan.”

In the meantime, Japan will have the opportunity to tap into the renewables technology and market – an area previously suppressed by the unquestioned nuclear mura. It’s too early to tell whether developing alternative energy sources – at a time when almost the entire fleet of reactors is offline and huge economic burdens call for more tax burdens – will be economically viable or sustainable. What’s guaranteed though, is that the mura inhabitants will go “kicking and screaming” toward such a future, believes Broinowski.

So passes a hellish year. As the anniversary approaches, the fallout from the natural disasters has been challenged only by the harm caused by the subsequent man-made disaster.

Madeleine King is on Twitter: @maddyking\_

## Tsunami Facts

- 9.0 magnitude earthquake near the east coast of Honshu, Japan
- 401 confirmed aftershocks
- 15,850 confirmed deaths
- 3 reactors melted down at Fukushima, the 14th-largest nuclear facility in the world
- More than 160,000 people remain displaced

## FRAMES

**Angus Farrell** talks with the renowned fbi presenter and up-and-coming Sydney artist

A DJ at some of Australia's most well respected parties and venues, host of *Late Night Social* on Sydney's FBI Radio 94.5FM and a self-described "general music dude", DJ Frames has certainly earned his chops. He acts as curator extraordinaire of forward thinking dance music, programming a weekly schedule of guest DJs and his own mixing talents on the cult station. "Nothing is taboo," he notes.

**Honi:** So how did you first get involved in DJ'ing? House Parties? Older brothers donated Technics 1200's?

**Frames:** It's super cliché but I was just working in a record store and decided to use my staff discount to explore my curiosity.

**Most messy gig?**

Splendour in 2010 was literally the messiest - building a 'Jager cube' over a mud pit does not make for a delightful smell. Throw a lack of nearby toilets in the mix and a bunch of Jager... Fun though!

**How about your most straight and narrow gig?**

I don't think I've ever been on better behaviour than DJ'ing one of my best mate's weddings. I was that nervous

about it until I realised that I held the power to spontaneously make a room of people I don't know begin to line dance by playing 'Nutbush City Limits'. After that realisation I definitely started to overindulge a little.

**Best set you've ever seen? Describe the night**

There's been so many great gigs over the past year or so - Tim Sweeney, Shit Robot, Mike Simonetti, DJ Oneman and Jacques Renault are always 'must-see' for me. A five-hour Soul Clap set in Berlin on NYE last year was also pretty bloody fantastic. Most recently I was blown away by how good Nile Rodgers & Chic were at the Metro - closest I'll ever come to Studio 54!

**Describe your music, without mentioning genres.**

Shifting handclaps, grooving bass loops, stabbing chords, cascading arpeggiators, hinted vocals and a slight tendency to get just the right amount of weird.

**So what can we expect from you at Beachball this Thursday? Expect the unexpected?**

Deep yet funky, cool yet classy, edgy yet familiar. Mostly it'll be a bunch of fun and a mix of things you might know and things you might not. I'm looking forward to it.

**DJ Frames is playing this Thursday night at Beachball on the Beat the System Stage.**

Angus Farrell is on Twitter:  
@angusfarrell

## STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY



The canals of Venice. Photograph: Maddie Parker

## REVIEWS: THEATRE

### Vintage Shakespeare

with **William Drake-Cockman Haines** and **Jackson Fagwá von Bussè**

By which we do not mean classic Shakespeare. Think Cream, Vinnies, and Salvos all fused into one costume assortment sure to delight any Baz Luhrmman fans. The Genesian Theatre has, thankfully, branched out of their niche to give Constantine Costi, (the second youngest director to work there, and the youngest since the days of John Bell and Luhrmman), the chance to prove Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice* needn't be performed in tights.

There were groans from many of the seniors amongst the audience, and for obvious reasons. Costi created a gaudy Venice replete with flashing lights, blaring music, confetti, and comic dance routines. Whilst the tawdry style of the play communicated well the utter hollowness of Venice, one could not help but think it unoriginal. Worse, it felt as though it was used at times to drive the play along, particularly in Portia's courtship scenes, which were entertaining and accelerated the play nicely, but didn't create any real fertility within themselves.

The actors dealt with Costi's pace and style laudably, though the physicality took its toll on articulacy in places, especially during the 'dating show' sequences.

These shortcomings acknowledged, it must now be said that at no point did they really damage the integrity of the play, which, thanks to some stellar principle performances, always managed to find the stillness and gravity required to do justice to the most complex parts of the play. Tiffany Stoecker's Portia was striking and poised from her first appearance, meaning the transition to

master manipulator was made cleanly and believably. Stephan Lloyd's Bassanio was, to our minds, almost flawless. Youthful and earnest, Lloyd provided a wonderful centre of gravity around which the 'boy's club' could operate. Whilst not as vigorous or organically "Shakespearian" as Stoecker or Lloyd, Andy Fraser's portrayal of Antonio as a drunken nihilist demonstrates how much a clear character choice can do to change the tone of a play.

*The Merchant of Venice* is an insanely complex play morally, and by refusing to play Antonio as the archetypal Christian he is so often thought of, Fraser denied the audience the chance to really rejoice in Shylock's demise. We did not see good Christians escaping the snake-like ways of the awful Jew, but rather decadent and hollow people escaping from a hole they probably deserved to fall into. This is not to say Geoff Sirmai's Shylock was to be sympathised with. He was portrayed as misogynistic, calculating, and almost psychotic with bitterness (a truly captivating performance showing great study in accent and mannerism). In a corporate age where all values have eroded, the play presented us with a fantastic reflection of ourselves, voicing values, Christian or otherwise, for our own selfish ends.

Despite feeling rushed at times, Costi succeeded in the only criteria that really matters when judging a Shakespeare; he made it new. He did so not only with costumes, but by reframing the moral force of the play such that it can be felt in a modern context, and whatever the pensioners thought, he did so without bastardising it, if he did occasionally obscure it.



## MUSIC NEWS

### What's new in the house?

Tim Neumann predicts the new trends in electronic music

To predict or observe the current trends in electronic music, whatever genre it's been filed under, you really don't need to be constantly refreshing Resident Advisor, Bleep! or any music blog. All you need to do is walk into a café, a shop, or a bar that doesn't follow the (frankly tiresome) Sydney trend of playing 90's hip-hop all night.

House: it's everywhere. All of Sydney's "hip" venues are moving back to the Detroit and Chicago tradition of the 808-clap. However this doesn't mean that all we'll be hearing for the next year is a bunch of cheesy vocals. On the contrary what's coming now is a new wave of innovative, interesting, electronic fusion. This has been called deep house, deep tech, tech house, minimal tech, techno-bass, or just straight techno, but really does a genre name matter? The best tracks and artists use and channel influence from many different styles. To

pigeonhole them all by what styles they reference would leave us with a different genre for each track.

As usual with trends, to see what is going to be big in Sydney 2012, it's as easy as looking at Europe or the USA for the 6-12 month outlook. After *Flying Lotus*' 'Los Angeles' nailed it and "beats" became huge, Australian kids from all over started popping out of the woodwork, armed with an MPD32 and a whole library of samples. With the huge spike in interest for UK garage/bass music, from labels like Hotflush, Young Turks, and Hyperdub of last year, we watched *SB-TRKT*, *Burial* and *Mount Kimbie* make massive waves in the Australian scene. James Blake's recent offerings have gone back to his original experimental, minimalist style and the *Radiohead* 'TKOL RMX' EP made an enormous splash.

Last year when 'bass music' made waves in Europe, we felt a few ripples

here in Australia. During this year a more house-inspired side of new electronica is moving up the European/UK charts and is receiving more and more attention from the Sydney scene with artists like *Scuba*, *Joy Orbison* and *Ramadanman*. Just look at the Playground Weekender lineup – an entire day and night of one stage dedicated to London's Crosstown Rebels, a tech-house label, for their world famous REBELRAVE parties. Three years ago, France's Ed Banger records would have held a night of Soulwax and Busy P electro-thrash tracks. But now a bass-driven, deep house sound has taken hold, and people don't feel the need to jump all over one another, or even get too sweaty. I say bring on the civil behaviour.

Recommended Track: Battle For Middle You – Julio Bashmore

Recommended Mix: Fabriclive 56 – Ramadanman

## REVIEWS: TV

### Who's that girl?

Hannah Bruce is cornered by the cuteness

It's Jess. Jess is a girl who sings her own theme tune, owns a ribbon hat and packs an overnight bag complete with a sewing kit in preparation for a one-night stand.

Released late last year in the US, *New Girl* follows Jess Day (Zoey Deschanel), a chirpy, singing, skipping, full-of-joy and kittens and cupcakes, schoolteacher who has just left her cheating boyfriend. She stumbles across an ad online and with the help of her slammin' model best friend Cece (Hannah Simone), moves into a spacious loft apartment with three single male roommates. Jess' "simply adorkable" (yep, that's the show's tagline) personality is tempered by the lov-

ability of her roommates; Nick (Jake M. Johnson) a rugged law school dropout cum bartender; Schmidt (Max Greenfield) a self obsessed white-collar worker and failed womanizer; and Winston (Lamorne Morris) an overly competitive former basketball player. The major network sitcom from Fox focuses on the house dynamics as the four search for sex and meaningful relationships.

Jess is clumsy, awkward and offbeat, which endears her to you but also makes you want to tear her heart shaped hairclips out of her perfectly waved locks. She exclaims "pink wine makes me slutty" and attempts to have a one night stand with Ryan Kwanten (of *True Blood* fame) because she's "feeling pretty twirly" (horny). All the characters are massive dorks in their own way. Winston is a talented hand bell ringer. Nick has an emotional breakdown over a cactus given to him by his girlfriend and

Schmidt is constantly forced to deposit dollars into the 'Douchebag jar' every time he makes a dick comment, such as "LLS" ('ladies love Schmidt').

The show's creator Liz Meriwether spent four years writing the series as she searched for an apartment on Craigslist post break-up, just like Jess. She says of Deschanel, "I didn't think I could find someone as weird as I am."

I loved Deschanel in *(500) Days of Summer*. She was mysterious and beautiful. And she didn't sing. But as Jess she is simply insufferable. She flounces around in cutsey outfits, batting her impossibly large blue eyes behind her black thick-framed glasses.

Even though Jess irks me to no end, I'll keep watching *New Girl* in the hope that some of her whimsy 'adorkability' rubs off on me.

Hannah Bruce is on Twitter: @HBdizzle

## REVIEWS: THEATRE

### SUDS tackles the Bard

Matt Clarke is sonnet

Semester may have barely begun, but SUDS has hit the ground running this year, with a number of successful productions already under their belt. This week's offering is none other than Shakespeare's gender-bending story of mistaken identity, *Twelfth Night*. Not familiar? Cast your mind back to the gloriously awful 2006 film *She's the Man* – imagine that, but you know, better (and without the women's soccer). A classic tale from the Bard, *Twelfth Night* tells the story of the shipwrecked Viola, who, disguised as man, goes to work for the lovesick Duke Orsino. As will happen in Shakespeare, a whole lot of people fall in love, get confused, and then work everything out. It's an emotional rollercoaster that combines music, drag and a little bit of craziness to produce a heart-warming story of love and loss.

The show's director Victor Kalka says it's this contrast between the comic and the tragic that makes it such an interesting story. "It's one of those plays that walks the fine line between light and dark, funny and heartbreaking, madness and sanity, and that's something I really wanted to focus on in the production." Shakespeare is of course a staple in the SUDS repertoire, but the show's cast is still hoping to offer audiences a fresh interpretation of the play. "It's an eclectically modern production" says Kalka, "with a vibrant cast of characters bringing to life what is really a very funny and very moving piece." Interestingly, the production also includes original music composed by Con-artist in residence, Travis Ash. So grab your English-to-Slightly-Earlier-English dictionaries and head over to The Cellar Theatre anon for a night of love in the time of pentameter. I know iamb.

Location: The Cellar Theatre  
When: 14-17 March, 7:00 p.m

## STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY

### REDFERN'S TRANSFORMATION

"I recently spent a day exploring and photographing Redfern to find out how the suburb is being transformed from a notorious 'ghetto' area, into the new trendy suburb of Sydney. Although elements of Redfern's troubled history remain, quirky shops and cafes are changing the way people think about Redfern. This photo aims to explore this transformation."

Photograph: Redfern Fly-By.  
Drew Rooke



## The new iPad

Clearer, better, stronger and faster – but not in Australia, writes Rob North

Last Wednesday Apple introduced a new version of its hugely successful tablet computer range simply called, the iPad. Boasting a high definition display and faster processor, the new iPad will be the first Apple product to feature 4G LTE mobile network capabilities, offering significantly faster download speeds than its predecessor.

However Australians will be unable to connect to Telstra's 4G LTE network with the new iPad upon its March 16 release. Telstra launched its 4G LTE network last year using a different frequency (1800 MHz) to that of the United States (700 MHz, currently used by analogue television in Australia). Australian consumers will still be able to connect to WiFi and the 3G network, but will be unable to match the mobile download speed (up to five times faster than the 3G network) of the 4G capable rival product, the Samsung Galaxy Tab 8.9.

The most substantial upgrade to the iPad is its 9.7 inch, 2048 x 1536 pixel "retina display", boasting a higher resolution than a standard HD TV and a 44 per cent increase in colour saturation from the iPad 2. There's been a slight increase in thickness and weight, presumably to pack in the HD display; increasing in thickness from 8.8 millimetres for the iPad 2 to 9.4 millimetres, and a 50 gram increase in weight across models, at around 650 grams.

Amateur photographers and filmmakers will also be happy to know the iPad comes equipped with a five-megapixel camera with backside-illuminated sensor, five element lens with IR filter, capable of capturing video at 1080p. Additionally, the iPad camera will feature face detection and image stabilisation. It is hardly top of the line, and there's no escaping the awkwardness of taking a photograph with a tablet computer, but it is more than adequate for family happy-snaps and video calls.

The Apple iPhoto and iMovie apps have also been given updates and iPad optimisation to coincide with the release, allowing for greater manipulation and easier options for sharing. Unfortunately these apps won't be bundled with the iPad, instead priced at a \$4.99 each and available via the app-store.

Keeping in line with its competitors, Apple also unveiled that the iPad features a 'dictation' tool for composing text.

Despite these seemingly power heavy new features, Apple claims that the battery life will be around 10 hours, matching that of the iPad 2.

It is disappointing to see that the iPad, much like other iOS devices, will not support flash or divx video formats out of the box. Moreover, there will be no USB or SD card slots on the new iPad, requiring a \$35 adaptor available online or from Apple's

retail stores. However, it is still the cheapest tablet on the market possessing these features, with the WiFi-only 16GB model costing \$499.

Apple CEO Tim Cook unveiled the iPad at an invitation-only media event in San Francisco, ushering in what he described as "the post-PC revolution," an era in which tablets and smart phones will replace traditional desktop and laptop computers as the predominant consumer computing devices. Apple made 76 per cent of its fourth quarter 2011 revenue from post-PC devices, selling more iPads than any PC manufacturer sold of their entire PC product line worldwide.

Apple also revealed an upgraded Apple TV set-top box which will support high definition (1080p) movie and television downloads. The new model set-top box will sell for \$109 in Australia, available March 16th. The upgrade also includes a new iOS styled 'icon' user interface and built in genius recommendations based on previous purchases and viewing habits, Apple stating that the new layout would allow for easier navigation. Apple also said that it would allow users to access previously purchased movies, TV episodes, music and photos stored on the iCloud remote storage service.



### 264 pixels per inch

At normal viewing distance your eyes will not be able differentiate between the pixels at that high a resolution.



### 5MP 'real' Camera

Dedicated image processing chip, great optics and auto-focus means the new iPad takes great photos & 1080p video! If you can get over looking like douche bag while doing it.



### Dictation

Amazing. Not really. This was literally copy-paste code from iOS 4 but it works well.



### The most powerful

The now infamous graph comparing A5X chip to the NVIDIA Tegra 3 is impressive but no one can vouch for this. Yet. Eitherway it's really ridiculously powerful for a tablet.



### iCloud movies

iMovies now synch across all your iCloud enabled iOS devices bought from iTunes. iiiiiiiiii!



### 1080p Apple TV

This feature and the fact it now supports apps and recommends movies & TV series makes it totally worth \$109! Get it. Now!



### Slightly thicker

This really isn't a feature but its worth noting. To pack in a screen that dense requires the new iPad to be thicker and heavier.



### Not in Aus

Unfortunately the 4G LTE speeds are no available at the Aussie frequency ranges. Until the next model, tethering is the answer! (if you want those epic speeds)



## SCIENCE FEATURE

### The Art of Memory

Felicity Nelson looks at ways to improve your memory, starting with how to remember people's names

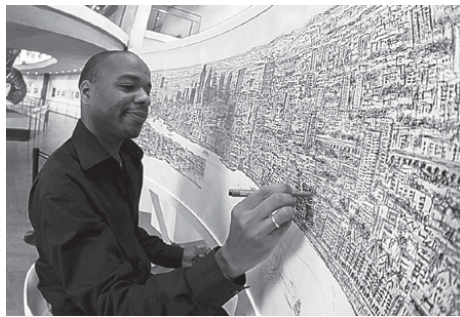
When IBM's Deep Blue famously beat grand chess master, Garry Kasparov, in 1997 by processing over 200 million moves per second it seemed computing power had trumped human memory once and for all.

What we didn't hear at the time was that the computer only won two out of the six games played (three were draws). The human brain is such an incredible piece of organic hardware that it can out-manoeuvre even the world's most powerful computer in a game of chess.

Our minds have a tremendous capacity to absorb, learn and adapt. Like any other organ the brain can be trained to achieve incredible feats of memory. To see this in action we need only to take a look at the records set by champions around the world.

For instance:

- In 2004 Daniel Tammet recited pi at 4500 digits per hour for five hours. That's 22 541 digits of pi.
- World champion, Ramon Campayo, can memorise 48 binary numbers in a single second.
- Kim Peek has memorised twelve thousand books and can recite from any page you choose with an accuracy of 98 per cent.
- Stephen Wiltshire MBE created a ten-foot long painting of Tokyo within one week of taking a brief helicopter ride over the city. He has done paintings of many cities.



Stephen Wiltshire sketches a panorama

Understandably, it's hard to get excited about mnemonic triumphs when most of us have truly terrible memories. Fixing all those examinable facts in our minds is such a strain that many of us just delete everything we've learnt once it loses the ability to bump up our credit average. Even people fortunate enough to be intelligent and highly educated can find simple memory tasks difficult. My favourite example is the ichthyologist turned Vice Chancellor, Jordan Star, who once complained that every time he learnt the name of a student, he forgot the name of a fish.

A big problem is that we are never taught how to improve our memory skills. A fair amount of scientific research has never found its way into the classroom.

Over thirty years ago Piotr Wozniak invented Supermemo - a computer program that enhances memory. It operates on the basis that there is a definable moment when it is the perfect time to

repeat something you've already learnt.

Repeat it too early and it makes no difference, repeat too late and you are learning it again for the first time. You need to get the timing just right. This exact timing is a measurable statistic and Wozniak spent many years on memory experiments working it out. His program drastically reduces the time it takes to send information into your long-term memory but hardly anybody has ever heard of it!

Rote learning may not be the key to a great education but memorisation is still a crucial skill. How can you become fluent in Spanish without memorising verb tables? What use is a doctor who can't remember diseases and symptoms? Alas, the tricks of association that memory wizards find so useful are hardly ever applied in the classroom.

What's crazy is that memory training goes as far back as Ancient Rome. Aristotelian 'Arts of Memory' were considered an integral part of a classic education. How is it that after millennia of progress most of us still endure the everyday embarrassment of not remembering people's names?

I think it's time to combine science and wisdom to tackle the problem of weak memories and inefficient learning. It is clear that the human mind has a boundless capacity to hold information and as students, we really should be unleashing that potential.

## FREAKS OF NATURE

### Elephant Seals



Richard Withers gets very excited about animals, particularly seals

There are various ways to see Elephant Seals in action. If wealthy and extremely passionate about the idea, you could travel to Northern America to see these predominantly inactive creatures (they reside on beaches, where they are commonly discovered lying down, soaking up the sun in their colonies at the Channel and Farallon Island regions in the US). Alternatively there is also the far more convenient and often more logical means of viewing these mammoth seals by watching a healthy range of Youtube clips. A vast majority of these clips will depict the ferocious stoushes between alpha-male Elephant Seals. This is primarily due to the fact that outside of fighting, they do very little other than resting and mating furiously.



However, the lives of these lovable hunks are undoubtedly best documented in Sir David Attenborough's *Frozen Planet*, in the episode 'Spring'. This way you can glimpse the incredible scenes on Blu-ray format (assuming that you have a full HD television with Blu-ray player attached) and gorge on the incredible footage Attenborough throws your way.

But what's so fascinating about these big balls of blubber? Much is actually very fascinating.

A full-grown male Northern Elephant seal weighs over three tonnes, and some Elephant Seals have been recorded as weighing as much as 3700 kg! This means that when these great beasts slug it out, their fights are some of the most brutal you will ever likely see, and can often prove fatal. Fights can last as long as fifteen minutes and involve both seals repeatedly plunging their thirty sharpened teeth into the other.

Males will compete in order to establish a harem of fifty to a hundred females, often with the sole objective of ensuring that he, and he alone, will mate with every one of them. Males have been known to impregnate over fifty of the significantly smaller females in a single season.

The fights do seem to be worth it, however, with the male seal's ear-curdling mating roar known to be one of the loudest exultations of joy in the animal kingdom.

## SPORT

### State of Play: Turmoil in the English Premier League

Paul Ellis worries about how scandalous football in England has become



England is home to the quickest, toughest and most fiercely-contested football league in the world. By nature, it's a spectacular brand of football that has been growing stronger since the top-tier of English football was reformatting into the FA Premier League in 1992. Think back to 2004 when a young and fearless Manchester United side boasted the exquisite talents of the recently come-of-age Cristiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney. Or you could go back a little further to when a bold United side announced themselves as the Champions of Europe on their way to winning a famous treble in the 1999/2000 season.

This golden era of the game in England could, however, be under grave threat as more than ever spectacles are occurring off the pitch, not on it. The billionaire takeovers, player rows, sex scandals and the 'Beckham conglomer-

ate' are of little surprise given that we're talking about a league followed almost literally the world over. More press; more craziness. It was a trend though that surely seemed unable to sustain itself.

The recent summer of English football proved otherwise. Liverpool's Luis Suarez was banned for eight games for racially abusing Manchester United's Patrice Evra, despite denying the allegations. The affair was long and painful for pretty much everyone, with football proving to once again be blind of common sense and a disabler of human empathy. Chelsea, just half a year after performing the rare act of paying money to another club to secure the services of a manager, fired him. The club now appears to all extents and purposes to be in turmoil.

It was also the summer of comebacks. Both Thierry Henry and Paul Scholes returned to the pitch, proving useful if not revelatory. All the while, the United Arab Emirates bankrolled Manchester City continues to show money can buy a great quantity of success.

For a long time the media frenzy surrounding the English game did not seem to have an on-field impact. Whilst only

winning once in the last five years, English teams have otherwise fared well in the Champions League. They have been runner's up three times. Of the twelve semi-final spots available between 2007 and 2009, nine featured teams from the EPL. That's an almost unprecedented level of dominance.

There are signs however that this era is over. This season only Chelsea and Arsenal made it past the group stages. Since then, Arsenal has already been knocked out and Chelsea is unlikely to progress further, meaning that for the first time in almost a decade England looks like it will fail to have a team in the Champions League quarterfinals.

Maybe it's just that finally the off-field drama of the English game is taking its toll. The strength of their league has been an important crutch for many English fans disappointed by years of underachievement by the national team. Has the same curse that inflicts the Three Lions spread now to the Premier League? It may very well be too early to tell. At the same time, one can't help but think that if the media continues to preference scandal over Swansea's breathtaking possession stats, then it's less than likely an English rally is on the horizon.

# The Sandstone Report

## College Cultcha with Damo 'Donger' Thomson



G'day fuckos (regular university students - Eds.) and welcome back to another installment of me tellin' youse how much better my life is than yours! Now as you may or may not know old Dong-dong here has been coping some flack of late for me last column. According to those pencil-pushin' pooftas who run these great institutions my column portrays college in a bad light. A bad light?! More like a fuckin' awesome light! Who doesn't wanna read about how fuckin' awesome it is to be a PCL? For all you dumb shits out there that's a piss-cutting legend (someone capable of ingesting a large quantity of alcohol - Eds.) just so youse know. We

drink hard, we party hard and that's the spirit of colleeeeee! And I'm not about to go around pretendin' that it's not just 'cos a bunch of whingers tells me to! Do ya reckon Sir Harry Rawson would've backed down in the face of this kinda shit? Fuck no! He'd a sculled another schooey and punched on like the loose unit he bloody well was! Loooooosel!

Speakin' of Rawson, Rawson (the inter-college sporting competition - Eds.) started up again this week and I was more excited than a fResher in a rape dungeon! Straight off the bat we had the cricket in which yours truly had been chosen to go the tonk! And in the fine tradition of Boonie I got stuck in for the long haul. At formal dinner the other night Ripper was telling me that there's a comp to see who can scull the most tinnies before goin' out to bat. The current

record stood at 23 and I fuckin' smashed that out of the park! Sure, I only faced three balls before passin' out, falling on my own stumps and vomiting in me own helmet but it was a innings to be proud of! At least I wasn't as bad as Robbo who tried to one up my record only to shit himself as he stumbled out to the crease. All in all we may have lost the match but I beat the record, so who's the real winner? Donger. As our coach said to us: "Now go on you piss-wrecks, get the fuck out there and win us the fucking Rawson cup ya bunch of blouses!

So keep your eye out for me next column muggles (regular university students - Eds.) when I cover the Rosebowl (the female equivalent of Rawson - Eds.). HAHAHAHAHAHAHahahahahaha fuck that, as if anyone gives a shit about chicks playing sport! Cheers cunts!

(Dear readers, we regret to inform you that shortly after writing this article Donger was suspended indefinitely from college for an alcohol related 'incident'. The college community expressed its concern for the alleged 'victim' by purchasing a case of pre-mix Bundaberg Rums and playing a game of touch football - Eds.)



Sir Harry Rawson - rumpig.

## tumblr girl.

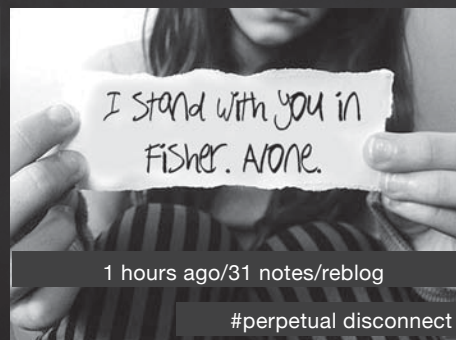
message theme about me my face

Unfollow

People often ask me about my blog in a flimsy attempt to connect with my existence. If they knew me they'd understand; I do not 'blog'. I tumble.



1 hour ago/28,564 notes/reblog #kneehighs



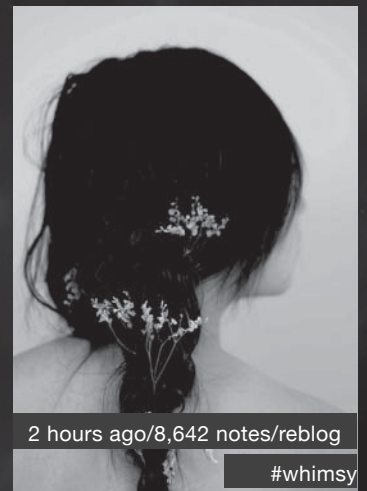
1 hours ago/31 notes/reblog #perpetual disconnect

Blogs are the realm of washed up political analysts and self-indulgent gap-year students. Tumblr is art. It is cryptic. More than you know. More than I know. More than I'd like to know.

These are some of the key ideas and concepts I discuss in my Tumblr. You would do well to keep a journal reflecting on some of these issues. They define our generation in their tortured simplicity.



2 hours ago/792 notes/reblog #lana



2 hours ago/8,642 notes/reblog #whimsy

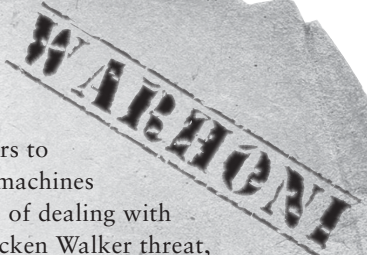
In this column I will decode for you the deeper meaning of my musings, photos and typography. Why a serif font you ask? I will tell. Read on.



elliott smith - bottle up and explode

Hypster.com Player | 01.06 | 2.58

## WORONI WAR-PLANS LEAKED



With the battle lines drawn, Woroni prepares to strike.

A rare on-campus screening of the original Star Wars trilogy at ANU is rumoured to have inspired the production of AT-ST 'Chicken Walkers' by Woroni officials. With the incredible cost involved, it appears Woroni has thrown all their eggs into one basket. Fronting the media after the leaked plans were discovered, charismatic SRC General (Secretary) Tim Matthews used an intelligent double entendre to dismiss the move as "an indication of just how paltry the Woroni forces are", while winking fervently at the surrounding press.

Despite the Chicken Walker's poor outing in Return of the Jedi, the information leaked to the Sydney University's SRC Headquarters this week suggests that Woroni has corrected inherent

design flaws in the AT-ST unit: steadying their infamously wobbly legs. Seen for the first time on high-definition Blu-ray disc, the strangely obtuse angles of the Walker's legs are now believed to be the cause of their wobbliness. The Blu-ray edition has also exposed a previously unnoticed Princess Leia partial nipple slip at the 37 minute, 49 seconds mark in Return of the Jedi.

The information is believed to have been leaked to the SRC by a man referred to only as 'Luke'. He is now known to be a Sydney University student who travelled down to Canberra for the screening of Star Wars. When questioned over why he was in Canberra, he was unable to provide a response and has since been held captive.

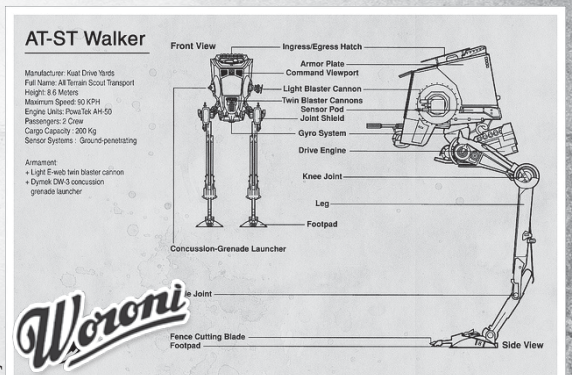
Despite Matthew's defiant performance in his recent press conference, news of the Chicken Walkers' manufacture still comes as a severe blow to the Sydney

University community. The recruitment of ground troops during O-Week now appears to be a waste of the SRC's time and resources. Chicken Walkers can move at speeds of up to 90 KPH and are equipped with concussion grenade launchers.

Meanwhile, the SRC has confirmed they are conducting an intergalactic search for the Chicken Walker's fabled nemesis, the adorable teddy bear-like Ewoks.

There appears to be a rift emerging, however, after Honi officials put forward that Ewoks may be in fact a fictional construct, and denied rumours they had an army of them at their disposal. With this distressing realisation, a new plan has been forged, involving crisis talks with the Engineering Faculty. The SRC hopes to enlist several specialist

engineers to design machines capable of dealing with the Chicken Walker threat, purportedly in exchange for women and several copies of the Star Wars Blu-ray edition, now extremely popular after word got out about the Leia nipple slip.



The leaked plans.

## Student Guide to Living on little money

Many students are forced to live on very little money while they are studying. Here are some ideas that might help you get by.

### LOANS, BURSARIES & SCHOLARSHIPS

University Financial Assistance Office:  
9351 2416

Loans are interest free and bursaries do not need to be repaid. Talk to them about your situation and they'll guide you to the most suitable option.

Scholarships Office (University & government scholarships) 8627 8450

There is range of different ways to qualify for a scholarship. Talk to the University about which ones you're eligible for and how to apply.

SRC Emergency loans up to \$50 are good to fill that gap the day before payday or if you forget your wallet.

9660 5222

### MANAGING MONEY

When you don't have enough money to make little mistakes it is a good idea to have a budget plan. Write down how you are going to spend money each week, including putting some aside for unforeseen expenses if you can. Look for "leaks" that can help you to save a bit more. Look at:

[www.moneyminded.com.au](http://www.moneyminded.com.au)

[www.wesleymission.org.au/centres/creditline](http://www.wesleymission.org.au/centres/creditline) "budget planner".

### DEALING WITH DEBTS

The SRC Legal Service will work with you to clear your debts. This service is free to undergraduate students.

If you have a problem with gambling, free, confidential help is available at the

University. Call 9351 6346 for more information.

### HAPPY HOUSING

Cheap quality accommodation is hard to get. Most of the cheap options go very quickly, so you'll have to be patient and flexible. If you are in urgent need of housing ask an SRC Caseworker about emergency accommodation.

If you are about to move into a home or if you are behind in rent and are on the lease you might be eligible for Rentstart through Housing NSW.

### PHONE

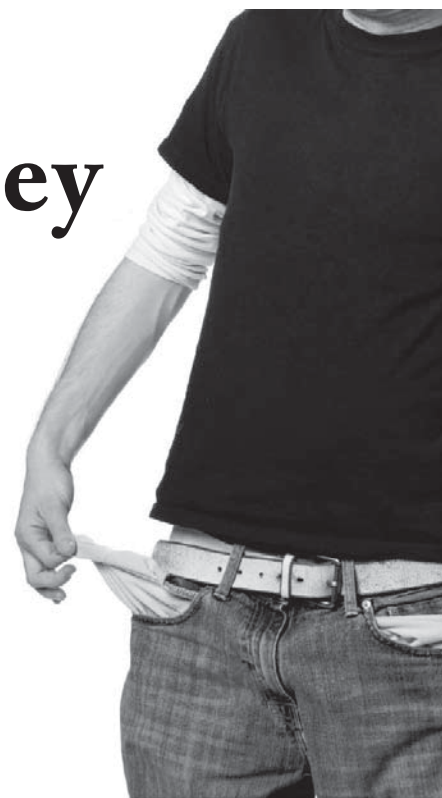
Pre-paid accounts allow you to give yourself a fixed budget for phonecalls. Encourage your friends to call you or text to make a skype date.

### FREE FOOD, CHEAP FOOD

There is no reason to be hungry if you live in Sydney. Go to the SRC Help section of the SRC webpage and look at the Useful Links. There are many places around Sydney that offer free meals and a few that may do food parcel.

### HEALTH

Bulk billing (or direct billing) doctors means that you will not be charged for the appointment. This is covered on Medicare and Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC). eg University Health Service in Wentworth and Holme buildings.



## Ask Abe



Hi Abe,

I moved into a place in Stanmore at the beginning of February. I paid my bond and 4 weeks rent in advance. Now that I've lived there a while I really hate it and want to move out. The house itself is dark and gloomy and I don't really like my neighbourhood. I told my landlord but she said I had to stay until the end of my contract. This is a real problem because I've already signed a lease for another room in a different house. Please help me.

*Doubled Up*

Safer sex is important. You can pick up free condoms from the

SRC office, level 1 Wentworth.

Clean needles and injecting packs are available from the Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS). Call their 24 hour confidential telephone service on 9361 8000 or 1800 422 599.

Dentists can be super expensive on a student budget. But your teeth are important. There are some services you may access for free. Come and speak to SRC HELP caseworkers.

Australian citizens and permanent residents can apply for a Low Income Health Card Card if you earn \$480 a week or less, or get a Centrelink student payment. This gives you a reduced price on prescription drugs, free ambulance cover etc. Go to [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au) "Low income health care card".

[help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au)  
Phone: 9660 5222

Dear Doubled Up,

There are 2 types of renters: tenants and borders/lodgers. Tenants are covered by the Residential Tenancy Act. It sets down rules for both you and your landlord. In this situation you have described you want to "break your lease early". As a tenant you would have to pay a penalty of between 4 and 6 weeks rent in addition to rent up on till the day you move out. If you have maintained your room in good order you should receive a refund of your bond.

If you are a border/lodger you are covered by the contract that you signed. There is usually some clause in their about how to break the contract early. You may be able to convince your landlord to allow you to find someone to take over your contract, that is, move in and pay the same amount of rent for the remainder of the time you had on your contract. If this doesn't work you might like to speak to the SRC Solicitor about breaking your contract with as little financial penalty as possible.

Abe

**Abe is the SRC's welfare dog.** This column offers students the opportunity to ask questions on anything. This can be as personal as a question on a Centrelink payment or as general as a question on the state of the world. If you would like to ask Abe a question send an email to [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au). Abe gathers his answers from experts in a number of areas. Coupled with his own expertise on dealing with people, living on a low income and being a dog, Abe's answers can provide you excellent insight.



SRC Legal Service

For undergraduate  
Sydney Uni Students

FREE

**FREE legal advice, representation in court and a referral service to undergraduate students at The University of Sydney.**

- Immigration Advice
- Tenancy law
- Credit & debt
- Discrimination & harassment
- Traffic offences
- Criminal law
- Employment law
- Credit and debt
- Administration (gov) law
- Victims compensation
- Consumer complaints
- Domestic violence
- Insurance law
- University complaints
- and more ... *please ask us*

We have a solicitor who speaks Cantonese, Mandarin & Japanese

法律諮詢  
法律アドバイス

**NEED a Justice of the Peace?**  
Our solicitor will certify documents & witness statutory declarations

**Appointments**  
Phone 02 9660 5222

**Drop-in sessions (no appointment needed)**  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 1pm-3pm

**Location**  
Level 1 (basement) Wentworth Building, City Road, Darlington



Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney  
Level 1 Wentworth Building, Uni of Sydney  
02 9660 5222 | [www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au) | ACN 146 653 143

## SRC President's Report

Phoebe Drake wraps up International Women's Day - Women at Universities



Over the past week women from all around the world have taken enthusiastically to the streets - marching in celebration of International Women's Day. Simultaneously, the idea that, despite being in the 21st Century, we aren't quite equal yet has filtered through all campaigns and transcended each state, territory and nation.

And now that our celebrations have come to a conclusion, and the 8th March (International Women's Day) has ticked over to the 9th March (and well and truly beyond), it is a time not to end our action on this topic, but rather reflect, energise and activate ourselves around the issue of women and equality.

Notably, the theme for this year, economic empowerment, looks at women's employment and opportunities for self advancement. Whilst what might empower one woman differs from what might empower another, there is no arguing that an education and an occupation (with or without an education) are fundamentally crucial.

As many of you know, I ran for president because of my passion for education, and improving quality of teaching and learning in the Higher Education sector. I have always argued that it is through education that we can overcome the disadvantage entrenched in our local and international communities. Now I'm not arguing every single individual should go to university- there are many viable alternate options to establish a career- but I fundamentally believe that

the choice should be open to all.

This choice came to Sydney University in 1881 when the Senate unanimously voted in favour of opening its gates to women. Interestingly, by 1900, the number of female enrolments exceeded that of men. It's a trend that continues today with women comprising 57.7 per cent of all students enrolled. Evidently women are, on the whole, taking up the opportunity of higher education more so than their male counterparts.

My capacity to enrol at a university (any university) is something I value, yet recognise this right is not extended globally. And, as a young woman, making my way though university and not entirely sure which career path I intend to follow, I am thankful of the many women before me who have fought so that I might have this choice.

Yet, how does this all link up? If we return to the theme of this year's International Women's Day and alter it slightly, we discover a slightly more controversial turn in conversation. Money and (em) power(ment). Money and power- two words that one hesitates to put too closely together. Yet, it is important we do so, because it is money and power that drive any workplace or organisation and it is both money and power that decides who is promoted or nominated to sit on committees and boards where the powerful decisions are made.

As we all know- there are too few women at the top. We see this reflected in our governments and broader community, where women make up 25 per cent of the House of Representatives and less than 14 per cent of ASX 200 board members.

Interestingly, here in the sandstone halls of progress and education at Sydney University, women in positions of senior management fare little better. If we peruse the table below we can see that for Level A and B, more women are employed than men as lecturers.

Yet interestingly, if we climb the ladder towards that glass ceiling we see fewer women employed at Level C and an appalling 261 women employed as an Above Senior Lecturer compared to 661 men employed in this same category.

I will note here that statistics do not necessarily speak for themselves, and my data (obtained from Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations) is quantitative rather than qualitative, so the exact reasons for these figures are unknown. Yet this does not alter the fact that very few women in



senior positions translate into an above senior level, comparative to their male counterparts.

If you want more information, you can do what I did, which is trek through the Sydney University website until you reached the Equal Opportunity Unit. There I discovered that 'chairs of boards and committees are responsible for action to achieve progress towards the 30% target of female representation.' Additionally, I found that 'Deans and Heads of Departments are often given the opportunity to nominate a representative: when possible, this opportunity should be utilised to increase the number of women on committees...'

And so just how is that 30 per cent target going? It's a bit of a scenario of hit and miss. Academic Board, notably, exceeds all expectations and there, women comprise 42.3 per cent of all members. Many of the sub committees are similar.

Yet, Senate, the most powerful deci-

sion making committee, can only boast seven female members out of 22. And, if we turn to the Senior Executive Group, which sits just under Senate, only eight of the 32 members are women and, out of our 16 Deans, only four are women (Veterinary Science, Health Science, Law and Nursing).

So it seems that although women are being nominated for committees, they are not being nominated or appointed to the senior committees, and therein lies the fundamental struggle for equality within the boards and committees at university.

And the solution? Quotas? Certainly the arguments for and against are compelling and I, certainly, am in favour. Yet this is not an issue restricted within our own university, it is a struggle that stretches through committees and boards across the nation, and indeed, internationally.

Economic empowerment is essential in breaking through the traditions of the past and working towards an equal future. Promoting women within the workplace, and putting them on the decision making committees within an organisation are also crucial and it needs to start somewhere.

So whilst there is another year until our next International Women's Day, continuing to be informed and participate in the various events of the year is one way of not giving up the fight. You can also be involved in our Women's Collective- contact our Women's Officers for more information.

*Phoebe Drake is the SRC President*

Position	Male	Female	Total
Above Senior Lecturer	661	261	922
Senior Lecturer (Level C)	358	329	687
Lecturer (Level B)	392	444	836
Below Lecturer (Level A)	311	321	632
Non Academic Classification Level Group	1423	239	3821
Total	3145	3753	6898

For more information about the SRC, visit: [www.src.usyd.edu.au](http://www.src.usyd.edu.au)

## Education Officers' Report

David Pink and Sam Farrell explain why you need to eat your veggies

These SRC reports are not dissimilar to the vegetables you left to go cold and mushy on the side of your dinner plate as a kid; you know they're good for you, yet they don't appear quite as exciting as the rest of the meal. Everyone knows you should eat more vegetables, and this here report is one vegetable that is intended to keep you up to date with all the latest and greatest educational policy happenings at the University of Sydney. This year at the Education Action Group, we're placing an emphasis on analyzing the issues in education – be they staff cuts, SSAF funding allocation, implications of the Base Funding Review or the quest to get our lectures podcasted.

As students, the university is only ever going to take us seriously if we are seriously informed. Perhaps more importantly, the core of educational policy hacks like ourselves are never

going to gain traction with the broader student community simply by shouting campaign slogans at them; it is my firm belief that more students are likely to be converted to the cause once presented with intelligent and reasoned arguments. There is always more than one side to the story, and by painting the university administration as irrationally evil schemers we only do ourselves a disservice. Of course there are reasons why the staff cuts have been announced, why all of our lectures have not yet been mandatorily recorded. But it is our job as students to offer two equally important types of arguments.

The first is a pragmatic and practical alternative to the measures (such as staff cuts) that we oppose, whether that be a suggested saving somewhere else, a decrease in enrolments, a more rigorous and plausible set of criteria, a staggered approach or otherwise. The second is a

reminder to university administrators that there is an ideological level to how and why education is delivered. It is perfectly conceivable that the Senior Executive Group gets overwhelmed by budgetary constraints, the profitability of the university, the development of a research capacity and The Times rankings, that they devote less time to examining how a student experiences their university education. Another focus of the EAG this year is to provide the university with new arguments on old issues.

What this translates to in our next campaign for podcasted lectures is a collection of anecdotal information about your experiences in your classes. We'll be running a postcard petition on which you can rant about why online lectures would improve your learning experience and capacity to get the most out of your degree. Come along to the Staff

Cuts Forum on Monday at 3.30pm at which Lee Rhiannon and Damian Cahill will be speaking! Lastly, remember that David and I are super contactable at [education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au). We're hankering for your stories, concerns and ideas! Come along to our next EAG meeting, open to all students on WEDNESDAY 14th March at 12pm.

*David Pink and Sam Farrell are the SRC Education Officers*

## General Secretary's Report

Tim Matthews sat at the back of a Canberra restaurant running the numbers



When the University told you that you were going to have to part with \$263 as part of a student services fee, you would be entitled to believe that

you would get an increase in services for your trouble. It turns out you would be mistaken. The University is currently considering a proposal about where to direct those funds raised by the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF), which suggests that they should increase the services provided by student organisations either minimally or not at all. I'm pissed. And you should be too.

The University in 2012 has a unique opportunity to provide services to meet

the demands of students on campus – a better social environment, more robust counselling and casework services, and exciting new programs that we are ready and able to provide.

No doubt you have heard about the SSAF (or if you haven't – I have bad news for your bank balance, but some good news for your student services...). Introduced by the government to go some way to reversing the impact of the introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) in 2006. This isn't going to be a report making the case against VSU. Not only do I think that those arguments have been canvassed in these pages and elsewhere quite significantly, but I also think that the detriments of present arrangements to student organisations are self evident whether you believe in compulsory fees or not.

You are paying money, and you should be seeing some benefit for it.

Before I continue with this report I do want to acknowledge one thing. Whereas the University of Sydney has consistently provided funding to all student organisations since the introduction of VSU in 2006 – student organisations on other campuses have been less fortunate. That is absolutely something for which they should be applauded. However, it is precisely because our University has a history of recognising the value of student support services that their present position of declining to expand those services despite a significant influx of new funds seems incongruent.

One of the most pernicious impacts of Voluntary Student Unionism is that student organisations across the country have been forced to haggle with

Universities over every single service they provide year to year. The pressure to reduce services is constant, but the demand for them is ever increasing. By way of illustration, in 2008 the SRC's caseworkers saw 761 individual students. Last year, that number was 1105, despite receiving 10% less money from the University over that period.

That the University will this year take two hundred and sixty three more of our dollars and provide little discernable benefit feels extortionate. You are right to expect better.

*Tim Matthews is the SRC General Secretary*

## Women's Officers' Report

International Women's Day is important in celebrating female achievement, but there's still a long way to go, write Kate O'Brien and Annabel Osborn

It was really exciting to meet so many enthusiastic feminists at our first collective meeting last Wednesday. It was also great to hear that collective members have very diverse areas of interest and are passionate about a huge variety of women's issues.

From this week we will be planning our campaigns for the semester as well as starting to organise some social events like film screenings and discussion groups. If you'd like to be involved, all women-identifying students are invited to join collective at anytime just come along to the meeting at 1pm Wednesday in the Women's Room, Holme Building.

On Thursday, the collective celebrated the 101st International Women's Day with a breakfast on campus. We were lucky to have two wonderful speakers, Fran Hays and Alicia Pearce. Both speakers have worked extensively in

campaigning for equal pay and gave really fascinating talks about the history of the struggle as well as the nature of the problem. Myself and other members of collective came away with a much better understanding of what the issue really is and what has to change in order to close the gap.

I think we generally assume that women will be paid the same hourly rate as their male counter-parts and therefore it's hard to see what the problem is and where the 17% pay gap is coming from. The issue is (generally) not that men are being paid higher hourly rates, as this is obviously illegal. The problem is far more complicated and insidious than that.

Firstly, inequity arises because during their lives women are far more likely to take on large roles as carers and due to this are disadvantaged in every

way in the work force. Part-time work, maternity leave and working from home almost invariably disadvantage women when it comes to promotions and finding new jobs. So part of the problem is that most Australian work environments fail to cater for the style of work that many women require.

The other big issue is that in industries where women make up the majority of the workforce, such as teaching and nursing, their work continues to be undervalued and therefore poorly remunerated (as opposed to many traditionally male dominated sectors which have become much better paid).

The solution to these problems therefore lies in restructuring Australian work places so that women are able to participate more fully throughout the different stages of their lives and also addressing the issue that the work of

many women is chronically undervalued. Increased flexibility and inclusivity would be beneficial not only for workplaces and industry but for society as whole and would, for example, allow men to take on larger parenting and other caring roles. Check out Alicia Pearce's website [www.equalpayfacts.com](http://www.equalpayfacts.com) for more info and to see her short film that was released on IWD.

Thanks to everyone who attended the breakfast and made it such a success, look forward to seeing you in collective!

*Kate O'Brien and Annabel Osborn are the SRC Women's Officers*





## The Horoscope

Resident Honi astrologist, the All-Knowing Esmerelda, kidnapped some children, held them at gunpoint and made a future potion with their tears.

### Pisces

Did you wake up today? You're off to a flying start! Gold star!

### Aries

Did you ever want a pony for your birthday? That pony is dead, and soon you will be too.

### Taurus

Don't put all your eggs in one basket, ya dumb dumb. Tauri...Tauruses...Taurus people are generally happy at this time of year, so make sure you keep smiling. Luck will fall upon you both good and bad, what does that mean? Whatever you want it to mean...ya dumb dumb.

### Gemini

There's nothing saying that Geminis have to be the sexiest people on earth, it's just a happy coincidence. I would do horrible, horrible things to your body...

### Cancer

I feel uncomfortable joking about this. Just enjoy what little time you have left.

### Leo

Today is the day you've waited for. For seventeen years you have waited. Oh, you have waited for so long. But it's here. BUT WHAT TO DO NOW?

### Virgo

Mirrors have been aligned today so as to show you a reflection of what is front of them. Today, there is cake. Yay, cake!

### Libra

Isn't this some kind of a brand? If you own a brand I recognise, I think you're probably doing alright for yourself. Stop reading up on this hokey religion.

### Scorpio

Scorpio! You'll sting us with your dreams, of power and wealth. Beware of... Scorpio! Your twisted twin obsessions are his plot to rule the world and your employee's health. You'll welcome us into your lair, like the nobleman welcomes his guest! With free dental care and a stock plan that helps us invest! But beware of your generous pension, plus three weeks paid vacation each year, and on Fridays the lunch room serves

hot dogs and burgers and beer! You love German beer!

### Sagittarius

God you're ugly today. Or is it every day? Why do you go on?

### Capricorn

Somewhere in the cosmos, a star is going supernova. Will this mean you will get laid tonight? I really couldn't say.

### Aquarius

You know, everyone who reads any horoscope ironically is still supporting horoscopes. Stop the madness. Burn the horoscopes. Burn the horoscopers. Burn the stars if you have to, just MAKE IT END.

## Classifieds

### LOST

Paradise

Contact: J. Milton

Baby

Contact: L. Chamberlain

Madeline McCann

Contact: Anyone! YOU MONSTER!

Job

Contact: Robert McClelland

The War

Contact: A. Hitler

### FOR SALE

Tall boy. No good for storing clothing, but an excellent child slave for all those hard to reach places!

Collar Bomb, only used once!

Contact: Madeline Pulv- actually, you know what, too soon...

Greece

Contact: Germany

Dead Baby

Contact: A Dingo

Media Objectivity

Contact: Fairfax Media c/o G. Rinehart

New Ipad!

Price: Friends!

### WANTED

Starring Angelina Jolie

More please

Contact: O. Twist

Dry Land

Contact: Wagga Wagga

Political Freedom

Contact: Syria

Dignity

Contact: Please call, please.

Antido-

Pants

Contact: P. Hartigan c/o Bull Magazine

Youth, form and talent

Contact: R. Ponting

Malcolm Turnbull

Contact: disillusioned Australian electorate

Dingo

Contact: L. Chamberlain

Barangaroo Casino Project

Contact: J. Packer

Someone like you

Contact: Adele

### WORK WANTED

Barista, horrible spelling but excellent legal knowledge

ANYTHING!

Contact: the Eurozone

Hotdogs from Big Brother (will NOT work for hotdogs)

Robert McClelland (WILL work for hotdogs)

### TO RENT

Basement

Contact: J. Fritzl

A Kennel Of One's Own

Contact: Virginia Woof

Barangaroo

Contact: NSW Govt.

### ADULT SERVICES

Phone Talk - I'll talk, you just listen...

Contact: Your Grandmother

Super Sexy Sex Kitten

4-6 weeks, unweened, watch it mewl as you meow!

HOT HOT HOT

Enigmatic Esmerelda

Contact: A.K. Esmerelda c/o Honi Soit

### DEATHS

Davy Jones, 66: "Hey hey we're the Monkees, people say we monkee arou- no they don't, they say he's dead Margaret, he's dead and we can't bring him back!"

Comedy

Contact: Honi Soit

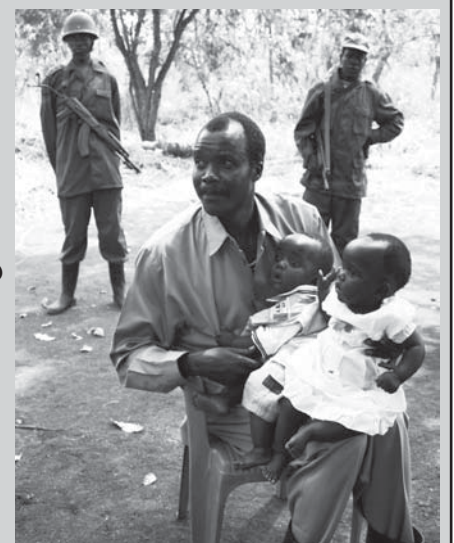


Major Trouble.

**SICK OF YOUR PARENTS BOSSING YOU AROUND?  
DESPERATE TO BREAK FREE FROM THE YOKE OF CHILDHOOD?  
ENJOY COMMITTING CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY?  
THEN PERHAPS BEING A CHILD SOLDIER IS FOR YOU!**

The Lord's Resistance Army is looking for new, fresh-faced recruits aged 4-9. You'll be washed, brainwashed and trained to be a merciless baby-faced killing machine. You'll even get a gun! Yay! Guns! No prior experience is required and best of all we come to you! (And kill your family...)

Tweet us @KONY2012



Pictured: Early Childhood Professional with over two decades of experience!

FREE bullet-proof holy oil with every subscription!

Just draw a cross on your chest and you'll be Superman in no time!

Week Two | March 14



都内最大1,000席!

東京カラオケ本舗

飲み放題

24時間

東京カラオケ本舗

カラオケ

送水口