



weekthree

The Power Lead - Costa: I've got the Power?

Hilmer wants higher HECS

Women's Health & Lives - Still not worth a deal

IMAGE The Kingpins
PRODUCTION STILL VIDEO WORK 2003
 Courtesy of artists & Kaliman Gallery

COVER IMAGE Emma Price
THE KINGPINS DECAL
 COFA MFA Exhibition - Disneylandslide 2008

Welcome to the Jingle



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the tharunka team 2008

EDITORIALS

Hilmer wants higher HECS 06

Students opt out of VSU 06

Anarchism: Probably
not what you think it is 06You say you want
a revolution 07WOMEN'S HEALTH & LIVES
Still not worth a deal 08THE POWER LEAD
Costa: I've got the Power 10

Fossil fools day 13

UNSW student reps
reports 14Spreading the word about
nuclear devastation:
Photojournalist Robert Knoth 17

Camp for climate action 21

The sexy leader 28

Welcome 04

Dear Editor 04

Uni News 05

Uni Articles 22

> COFA whats on?

> Changes to UNSW

> What's in it for me?

> Yellowshirty

The Daily Commute 25

The Bellamy's Barometer 26

Miss Moore 37

Creative Writing & Poetry 30

Confessions of an Obama-phile 34

Vaclav the Balaclava & other
reasons why Arts graduates
make great leaders 35

Reviews 36

Satire Section 38

Tharunka would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which the university now stands, and on which this magazine is printed, the Cadigal people of the Eora nation. In doing so, we would also like to pay our respects to elders, both past and present.

Tharunka recognises that this land was never ceded. Furthermore, we express solidarity with Indigenous people in the struggle for land rights, self determination, sovereignty and the recognition of past injustices.



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All our fabulous contributors.

Printers MPD - Printing the news everyday.

tharunka needs u

We need your articles, arguments, letters, creative writing, poetry, satire & artworks.

Tharunka, comes out roughly every 3weeks.

This issue is themed "Leaders". Our next issue is called "Fabrication" and our material deadline for this issue is Friday 4th April. Please see the back cover for our next contributors meeting.

welcome

Issue two, and the wheels are still firmly attached! This miracle is clearly due to the bold leadership of the Tharunka editors. We have not been afraid to make unpopular decisions, like slashing the number of spelling mistakes, and (almost) sticking to the deadlines. Our leadership is like a five-headed hydra: ruthless, punctual, and always setting off fire-alarms. Though our constituents are clearly regretting that they voted for us last year, we will push on regardless.

The focus of this issue is leadership. Leaders have a lot to say about student issues. Just recently the Vice Chancellor lent his support to HECS increases, and the Minister for Youth, Kate Ellis, spoke to student leaders about VSU. In other domains, NSW Labor, AusAID, Vaclav Havel and Kevin Rudd are connected by the responsibility of leadership. However, our contributors suggest that how these leaders have exercised their powers differs greatly.

We promise to be slightly more humble about our leadership in the future. Until next time, long live the Republic of Tharunka!

Tharunka Editors '08



Dear Editor

Have something to say?

Get it published!

Attention all Letters to Tharunka

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From the Editor

Again, not a lot to work with for this issue. We received precisely one letter that even referred to the previous issue, the first here - the second comes to us via our Facebook group wall. To be honest, I'm not sure how 'politically correct' the sexualising of toast spreads is. And where are the complaints about our 'obvious' political bias or our blatant misuse of packing tape? Perhaps they are still to come.

RT

Hello and sorry to the poor editor who opened this email.

I am one of those annoying, pesky things you see floating around the campus that you have already claimed as yours. Yes, that's right, I am in fact *inhales deeply* a brand spanking new UNSW student (or COFA student more specifically), the same kind that would stop you on your way to your next lecture or class just to ask directions. I'm sure we all shit you to tears even at the best of times, but it brings me much joy to know that I will feel the same way about the fresh meat that nervously step foot on what I'll soon be calling MY campus next year.

I do actually have a reason for writing to you, and once I remember that reason, I'll be sure to hastily get to it.

...and now, after a substantial amount of thinking, I have remembered.

I felt the imperative need (and you know that with words like 'imperative need' it must be relatively serious), to email you with a great big thanks for reminding me of why it is exactly I decided to spend a ridiculous amount of money by coming to university.

O-Week, despite the fun activities, is EXTREMELY overwhelming, because no matter how many badges or t-shirts I made, nothing saved me from being bombarded with more information than my brain could barely fathom (let alone store). I now hope to build a papier-mâché house out of the trillions of pamphlets that were given to me.

Your magazine, however, made me feel more welcome than any Yellowshirt could. That's not saying that they didn't do a great job in trying, I think all of us new undergrad's were just too nervous to take notice. I found your

magazine to be both informative and incredibly humorous (kudos to Chantel Cotterell on her Library Etiquette piece and Jess Bellamy on the Hot or Not section, both made me literally chuckle, if not laugh out loud).

But most important, was for me the idea of being able to relate to the views that were expressed and the ideologies shared. This was seriously the most fun I've had with a magazine since I was ten years of age buying 'TV HITS' just to get the free stickers and posters of cheesy pop idols. Thankfully, with age comes maturity, and with maturity comes the sense in seeing Britney Spears and Jennifer Lopez as the talentless fucks they are. Anyway, please excuse this complete load of word vomit, but if it is ever held against me, I stand by the fact that I did after all apologise way before I began to rant and rave.

Thanks again,

Era Zancanaro
(a.k.a Fresh Meat 08)

Editors

I'm a little concerned about the foreword (of sorts) in the new issue announcing a renewed sense of political correctness from *Tharunka*. I hope this will be applied with discretion - half the fun of old *Tharunka* was its balls-out, no-holds-barred approach to irreverent journalism.

PS - Please, no more scavenger-hunt lists this year. That's pure *Blitz* territory, along with their cut-n-paste coverage of campus news by way of the *Overheard in UNSW* FB group. :o)

Philip Partalis

NEWS

UNSW Elections: Nominations Open

Nominations for student positions on University Council, Academic Board and Faculty Boards have opened. Nomination forms must be completed and either posted or handed in to the returning officer by 8th April. Nominations are also open for staff positions on University Council and Academic Board, and graduate positions on University Council and the Alumni Association of Governors. Nomination forms and further information can be found at the website: www.elections.unsw.edu.au

Student Liaison Group: Next Meeting 28th April

The first Student Liaison Group (SLG) meeting for 2008 will be held on Monday 28th April, from 12.00 noon until 2.00pm in The Chancellery. The meetings are chaired by Professor Joan Cooper, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students), and are aimed to create a formal process for students to communicate to the University's administration. Recommendations from the meetings are passed on to the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Richard Henry AM. Meetings are held twice a semester and are open to all students.

UNSW Student has a hand in making an electronic tongue

UNSW student Erika Davies is part of a CSIRO team involved in groundbreaking research to develop so-called electronic 'tongues' to 'taste' pollutants in water. Whilst electronic 'noses' have previously been used to 'smell' pollutants in gases, this is the first time that sensors have been used in liquids. This research is aimed at providing a more convenient and accurate means to test water quality, by creating "a portable, cheap and reusable sensor that can be used on-location", she said. Davies is hopeful about the future uses of the research. "People are very concerned about what is in our waterways because our economy is so strongly linked to agriculture and also because there is a water shortage...so we need to monitor any nasties that find their way in", she said.

Archibald Prize goes to another COFA Graduate

COFA graduate Del Kathryn Barton has been awarded the 2008 Archibald Prize for her self-portrait, *You are What is Most Beautiful About Me, a Self Portrait with Kell and Arella*. Barton is a graduate of COFA's Bachelor of Fine Arts and later taught at COFA until 2003. This is the second year in a row that the Archibald Prize has been awarded to a COFA graduate, last year's prize going to John Beard for *Janet Laurence*. The Archibald Prize is showing at the Art Gallery of New South Wales until 18th May.

Hilmer wants HIGHER HECS

Chris Moore

The Vice Chancellor of UNSW, Fred Hilmer, has said he believes that HECS fees are too low. He said that universities such as UNSW should be able to charge students more, and that nationally-set fees were to the detriment of better universities. "I would like to see [HECS] deregulated. The cost [of regulation] to this system has been in flexibility and diversity."

Hilmer was speaking at a meeting of UNSW students. He said that universities had not been funded properly under successive governments, and that it was not only students who should pay more. "Deregulation has to be accompanied by the government saying that their share of the contribution will not decrease."

Professor Richard Larkin, Vice Chancellor of Monash University and head of Universities Australia, made similar comments recently. "There is no evidence that HECS is a disincentive for students," said Professor Larkin.

Although Hilmer said he would be open to "some obligations in terms of access", student groups are worried that increased HECS will not only lead to more student debt, but decreased participation in universities by students from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Angus McFarland, President of the National Union of Students, said that students would end up graduating with debts of \$50,000 to \$100,000. "Studies have shown links between HECS debts and delayed home and car ownership, delayed business investment and even increased tax evasion! Any change that allows fees to skyrocket will not be in the best interests of students nor our economy."

STUDENTS OPT OUT OF VSU

Chris Moore

As O-Week began at UNSW, representatives of student organisations from universities around Sydney met with the Federal Minister for Youth, Kate Ellis MP. The meeting was part of the Government's consultations about voluntary student unionism (VSU), and students were eager to express their dissatisfaction with VSU.

Minister Ellis travelled around Australia over a ten-day period, visiting capital cities as well as spending four days at regional campuses. She said that the Howard government's VSU legislation had damaged universities, "They were pursuing an ideological obsession to silence a political voice." She spoke specifically of the barriers that faced students wanting to play sport, "We don't know the impact on our health system."

Though students from organisations at campuses like USYD and UNSW told the Minister that they had secured several years of full funding from their universities in the aftermath of VSU, students from UTS, Wollongong, Macquarie and Newcastle shared horror stories about the funding and services that had been cut.

Chris Pettett, President of the Wollongong University Students' Association (WUSA), said that WUSA had applied for \$156,000 of funding from their university. This was considered the minimum sum necessary for the survival of

the organisation, but Pettett said the funding deal was rejected by the university. "They treat us on a project by project basis. If we manage to find funding outside the university they'll match it, but what external organisation wants to fund a political student organisation?"

Anarchism: *Probably not what you think it is*

Stephen Livera

I get the impression that if you asked the average person what they thought of anarchism, you'd get a mental image something along these lines: hyper-aggressive males, dark clothing, spiky hair, gangs, pillaging, and grenades. When anarchists think of anarchy, they generally aren't thinking of actively promoting this kind of *Mad Max* behavior.

I'd like to start off with one fairly uncontroversial statement which is, "Everybody is the sole owner of their own body." Your ownership of your own body even goes to the extent where you may choose to exclude it from other people. This means that there is such a thing as freedom to associate, which must include the freedom not to associate.

So why would someone want to be an anarchist? I'm an anarchist because I think it's wrong to just say, "I choose this, and if you don't like it, we'll lock you away." This is wrong because we don't own other people. To even use our own bodies, we are pre-supposing the right of self-ownership. To then go and take that same self-ownership away from other people doesn't make much sense.

Ok, so about now you're thinking, "How would we do x without government?" While there are many possible alternatives to government services (which you can easily find on the internet if you have a look), the primary point I make here is a moral one, not one regarding efficiency. So, even if I had no alternative solution, the argument still stands on its own merit. It's wrong to lock people away for not wanting to pay taxes that fund causes they find immoral. The government does not act like some kind of voluntary opt-in service, where you can choose not to pay it if you don't like what it does (e.g. war). It does not give you any kind of guarantee that it will perform services for you. It does not allow people to opt out of the system, even if they own land.

To say that, "Because you remain in a country you agree to those rules," is incorrect, since this kind of argument relies on the government being the legitimate owner of all the land (hint: conquest is not a legitimate way to take land, the only legitimate ways are to be the first user or to trade for it). This argument also suggests that if you do not want government control over your land, then you should move your land to another country. Failure to move your land to another country could scarcely be regarded as tacit consent to government control over your life and property.

Anarchism does not mean no laws or rules, it just means no rulers. It's wrong to impose your own rules on anybody else, because this detracts from their own right to self-ownership. Your individual freedoms end where other

people's freedom to use their own property begins.

I'm not proposing some kind of violent, "Let's all storm the palace," revolution here. Rather, this is a peaceful, evolutionary change that I hope to help bring about. I don't think governments have a place in our world today because I think we can do better than that.

Stephen Livera runs a blog at www.democracysucks.wordpress.com

you say **YOU WANT A REVOLUTION**

Rory Thomas

Revolution. It's a word you hear a lot, used to mean all sorts of things. Violent uprisings, monarchs getting their heads lopped off, red flags... The word conjures up a lot, and it's easy to call yourself a revolutionary. For what is a revolution, in the end, but a fundamental shift in thinking?

Revolutions change everything, don't they? The American, French and Russian revolutions each rewrote the rules of national governance. The Industrial and the current Electronic/Information/Technological/(insert term here) revolutions have both altered social structures irrevocably. The only constant is change, as we're often told.

And who doesn't want to change the world? I do. There's things I don't like – little niggling things for the most part. But, as Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly told us, "from little things big things improvements to the steam

engine saw James Watt usher in the Industrial Revolution. A few words written down saw communism become a major political philosophy for much of the Twentieth Century (and according to a few groups will continue to do so).

Of course, change isn't always for the better, and can go too far. The Reign of Terror grew from simple muttering about monarchic excess. Eugenics developed from interest in science divorced from any sense of morality or human decency.

Then, of course, there's the Reaction. The American Revolution, if anything, spurred even more colonial imperialism in Africa, Asia and Oceania. The French saw a shoring up of monarchies throughout Europe. Luddites destroyed wool and cotton mills and attacked mill owners.

So, what with all this, why would someone call themselves a revolutionary? All revolution seems to breed is violence and discord. I don't think anyone really wants that – they may talk about it, but usually only as an opportunity to impose their own order. Some groups try to create a short period of chaos, or call for all power to be given to a particular group (often called 'the people', but meaning themselves).

I don't like violence. I don't think you can really create effective, positive change by using violence. I also don't think that any particular group will automatically be fair in governance, simply because they've historically been oppressed. Workers are not always fair bosses. Women are not always fair to men. Queers are not always

fair to straights. I expect that's ruffled a few feathers, and I think it should. I want people to think about their baseline assumptions about power.

Power corrupts, and in many cases it is the power itself that is corrupt. No-one is beyond its reach, and nor should they be. Perhaps it seems strange for me to be saying this, since after all I've got some power here as an editor. The only answer I can give is that I'm at least aware of my situation. And yes, I will be happy to pass on this position come the end of the year.

In those last two paragraphs you've got large slabs of my theories of politics and leadership. I fervently believe them, and try to put them into action in my life. That is what being a revolutionary truly is. Not flag waving, not firebombs, not trying to con gullible first years into joining my club/society/party as the 'only' 'left' group on campus. Simple belief. If you disagree, then do so. No need for violence, since all that'll prove is that you're violent.

Write letters to *Tharunka*, write articles debunking my theories. I like to know what people say, and to debate ideas. In the end, the only way I can justify my beliefs is if I can defend them. If I can't, then I'll modify them to suit reality. Because if I don't change my beliefs, I'm not part of a revolution, but simply a reaction.

women's health & lives:

Still not worth a deal

Chantel Cotterell

Over a decade ago political wrangling ensued over the privatisation of Telstra. What many people do not know about the sell-off is that it had repercussions beyond the nation; repercussions that continue to negatively affect women and families in nations that receive Australian aid money. In order to appease former Tasmanian Independent Senator Brian Harradine and thus ensure his crucial vote in favour of the privatisation, the Coalition struck a deal with the conservative former politician.

This deal was the introduction of the *AusAID Family Planning Guidelines*, which remain in place to this day. These Guidelines place restrictions on the manner in which aid funds can be used. In particular, if an organisation that is based overseas receives aid money from Australia, it cannot supply women with information and resources to obtain a safe abortion. Ironically, a woman can access such services for treatment *after* an unsafe abortion, but by then it is often too late.

With the May 2007 release of the Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (PGPD) report titled *Sexual and Reproductive Health and the Millennium Development Goals in the Australian Aid Program*, the AusAID Guidelines have come under renewed scrutiny. This report was the result of roundtable discussions involving members from all the major political parties. One of the key recommendations of this report was that the "cruel and illogical" AusAID Family Planning Guidelines be abolished. At the time of the report's release the then Foreign Minister Alexander Downer did nothing to implement the recommendations.

In January, *The Age* reported that a spokesperson for the new Foreign Minister Stephen Smith commented that the Rudd Government was "currently considering the report". However, campaigning is required to push the government to not only consider the PGPD's report, but more importantly implement the recommendations. These Guidelines do not require a prolonged legislative amendment that has to go through parliament, but rather a signing off by the Foreign Minister.

The continuance of the AusAID Guidelines remains incomprehensible considering the percentage of women who are physically injured or die due to unsafe abortions. When contacted by *Tharunka* as to why these Guidelines remain in place, Greens Senator Kerry Nettle, one of the members of the PGPD, stated: "These Guidelines were put in place as part of a deal with former Senator Brian Harradine and governments have been reluctant to remove them even to save women's lives because they are scared of criticism from anti-choice organisations and parliamentarians".

A World Health Organisation report published in 2007 examined the prevalence of unsafe abortions. It stated that 65,000 to 70,000 maternal deaths occur globally as a result of these practices. Staggeringly, nearly five million women are also temporarily or permanently disabled.

Within the Asian region where Australian aid money is directed, it was reported that 28,400 women died within 2003 as a result of an unsafe abortion. The PGPD report claimed that unsafe abortions account for 13% of all maternal deaths, and could be reduced by up to 35% if the Guidelines were abolished. By failing to take action, Australia is contributing to these statistics.

Furthermore, the Guidelines represent Australia as less than committed to its international obligations. As the report states, they not only contravene the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (1979), but also the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo to which Australia was a signatory in 1994. The Guidelines also contradict Australia's support for the United Nations', one of which is "commit[ment] to improving maternal health". Australia should set an international example and encourage other nations such as America, which also introduced a similar policy in 2001, to follow suit.

Now is the time to campaign for the abolishment of these Guidelines.

The Rudd Government does not have to fear a backlash from an allegedly conservative electorate within the near future. Moreover as Senator Nettle states, "There is cross-party support for the removal of these restrictions on our aid funding. It is crucial that the new government makes this change in the next three months because from July the new government will rely on the vote of Family First Senator, Steve Fielding and may come under pressure not to remove these restrictions". Thus, the new government will be reliant on Fielding in much the same way that the old government depended on Harradine to get matters through the Senate.

Whilst you might be thinking that you disagree with abortion, this matter should transcend whether you are pro-choice, pro-life or an occupier of the middle ground. It should also transcend the argument that more readily available contraceptive devices and reproductive education would eliminate the need for abortion. The number of women requiring abortion will never be reduced to zero. Women require abortion for many reasons such as health complications, poverty and as a result of rape and incest.

As the chair of the PGPD report, Liberal backbencher Dr. Mal Washer, pertinently noted in *The Age*, "No one likes abortion – I don't like abortion – but it is ridiculous that we can't give any advice to women overseas about abortion at a time when the government funds abortion advice to women in this country. It smacks of misogyny and stupidity". It also smacks of political deal-making. By failing to allow aid-funded organisations to provide information and services about abortion for women in countries such as East Timor and Papua New Guinea, Australia is contributing to the number of women who die or experience injury due to unsafe abortions.

IMAGE Caterina Pacialeo
 PHOTOGRAPHY
 COFA Master of Art
Untitled



Get involved in the campaign to abolish the AusAID Family Planning Guidelines:

#1

Printed letters are available in the autonomous Women's Room, which is located on Level 1 of The Blockhouse, Lower Campus. Please sign these letters. They will be attached to a clipboard; the UNSWomen's Department will post them.

#2

If you wish to post your own letter, you can visit Senator Nettle's web site: www.kerrynettle.org.au and navigate your way to the 'Campaigns' page. You will find a link to a page about removing the restrictions. On this page, there will be a letter which you can download, print off, sign and send to the Prime Minister.

#3

Write to newspapers, student magazines and ring callback radio to try and get the message out there. Be imaginative.

#4

If you want to write your own letters, Senator Nettle recommends not only sending them to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, but also suggests writing to Foreign Minister Stephen Smith and the Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, Bob McMullan. Their addresses:

The Hon. Kevin Rudd MP
 Prime Minister
 Parliament House
 Canberra ACT 2600

The Hon. Stephen Smith MP
 PO Box 6022
 House of Representatives
 Parliament House
 Canberra ACT 2600

The Hon. Bob McMullan MP
 PO Box 6022
 House of Representatives
 Parliament House
 Canberra ACT 2600

THE POWER LEAD

Costa: I've got the Power?

Scarlet Wilcock

The NSW Government's drastic plan to privatise the state's electricity infrastructure has been met with severe opposition from energy workers, environmentalists and even Labor MPs. Despite this growing opposition, treasurer Michael Costa, with the ungrudging support of Premier Morris Iemma, has held steadfast to the plan. Will his play with the state's power cost him his own?

The plans would see state-owned power generators and electricity retailing businesses either leased out or sold to the private sector. Costa has justified the move as a way to secure the state's energy needs, claiming the sell-off would encourage business to develop a new base-load power station.

Many are outraged by the plans. Energy workers, environmentalists and the broader community fear potential energy price hikes, unreliable services, job losses, and soaring greenhouse gas emissions if the plans go ahead. Furthermore, questions have been raised about whether NSW actually needs a new base-load power station, which has been Costa's main

justification for the plans. A press release from Unions NSW suggests, "The State Government should instead upgrade its existing power stations to meet our short-term needs while taking urgent action to promote renewable energy". Environmentalists argue that NSW cannot afford a new power station. A statement issued by environmentalist, Holly Creenaune of Friends of the Earth, said, "Allowing private, profit-driven corporations to control NSW's biggest source of domestic greenhouse pollution would be an unmitigated disaster for the climate... Iemma

and Costa are misleading the community and workers on the real cost of the sell-off of our energy: selling off public control of our climate future."

These concerns have been vocally put to Mr Costa. Protests have occurred around the state, peaking



with thousands of demonstrators marching to Parliament House on the first sitting day of parliament. Protesters directed their opposition at Costa, with crowds roaring "What do we want: Costa Out. When do we want it: now!" Energy workers concerned

for their jobs and the impact on energy services dominated the protest. *Tharunka* spoke to Mick O'Toole, a power lines worker for Integral Energy. He said that the sell-off would be bad for workers and families. "Businesses don't care. They just want the money", he said. Joe*, an operator of high voltage machinery, told *Tharunka* he was protesting to protect safety standards. "They [businesses] don't care about our jobs, our safety... the main thing for me is safety. Business only cares about making money, not about safety of workers" he said.

Perhaps most threatening to Costa's plan and his power is the growing number of disgruntled Labor MPs who have joined protestors in opposition to Costa's plan. Fifteen Labor MPs including Kerry Hickey, Grant McBride and Paul Gibson, joined protestors at Parliament House to show their opposition to the plan. Many have also publicly spoken against the plans. McBride launched a public petition against the sell-off, whilst Penny Sharpe has joined an online campaign opposing the plan.

Despite this groundswell of opposition to the government's plans, Costa, alongside lemma, has so far unrelentingly stuck to his plan. Costa has insisted that even a vote against the plan at the Labor

State Conference in May would not move him. If this opposition continues, it looks like Costa and lemma may face a power stand off with their party and the public. The question is, will they have the power to take the power from the people?

* For privacy the name has been changed.





IMAGE Lachlan Anthony
INSTALLATION
COFA BFA Sculpture Installation & Performance
Tock

fossil fools day protest

Demanding a sustainable future

Lauren Carroll Harris and Leigh Hughes

A lot has changed in the last few months: there's a new government; Australia has ratified the *Kyoto Protocol*; climate change as an issue has arrived in the mainstream in a big way. Unfortunately, one thing still changing is our climate.

The way things are going now, ours will be the last generation to see summer ice in the Arctic and living coral in the Great Barrier Reef, and could live through a time where halting global warming becomes impossible.

Thankfully, people have woken up to this emergency and have realised that this is not the road we want to go down. In Australia, many people are considering their carbon footprints, installing solar panels on their roofs, buying locally grown food, riding bikes and installing energy-efficient light globes.

However climate change can't be stopped by individual change: social change is needed, on an international level. We're not going to fix things if - while we're cutting our personal contributions to greenhouse gases - coal is still being burned and exported, and oil remains the lifeblood of the economy.

The Federal Government is still holding off on setting binding emissions reduction targets. We're still burning coal like there's no tomorrow; and because of that, there might not be. We're still making energy inefficient appliances and buildings. Australia is the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases per capita.

What's more, it's getting harder for people to live green. Continued lack of investment in public transport, the privatisation of public infrastructure

and attacks on workers' pay and conditions make green living a luxury few can afford. Moreover, many of the individual lifestyle changes to reduce our individual carbon footprint are inconceivable for people living in Third World poverty (including those living in Third World poverty within First World nations).

In the last few years we've made huge progress in bringing the threat of climate change to centre-stage. But in 2008 we need to go further. This needs to be the year where that willingness to change at a personal level becomes a willingness to make change at the social level. The millions of people who have taken the first step in changing as individuals must now be encouraged to take the next step of uniting for political and social change.

The changes for a sustainable society necessitate a mass movement to transform our goals from ideas into reality. This year, we have to work together to build a movement that can stop climate change. We need a massive shift away from the mining and burning of hydrocarbons and a shift toward renewable energies; from governance for corporate interests, toward governance for the interests of ordinary people; from the priorities of profit, toward the priorities of ecological and social sustainability.

Our movement needs to put forward clear political demands pointing the way towards a sustainable society. These demands can draw broad layers of people concerned about climate change into activity and mobilise them to put pressure on the government and corporate Australia.

We should call for an end to coal mining; an end to uranium mining and the nuclear cycle; a mass conversion to renewable energies; and retaining energy infrastructure under public ownership. Such demands can provide the political focus for building a mass movement that can begin to challenge the "right" of big business to pollute, and government collusion with corporate profiteers.

Previous generations have stood up against the great injustices of their time and found that others stood with them. They envisioned the world as it should be, not just as it was, and through their struggles achieved things thought impossible. Our generation is faced with nothing less than saving the planet and all its inhabitants and now is not the time to turn away from that great challenge.

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Your Student Representative Council (SRC) has been prioritising the campaign to get Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) scrapped. VSU is the legislation that the previous government introduced that stripped student organisations of their funding. Things are pretty bright and colourful at UNSW for the moment, but we're acting now to ensure that future students get the same student experience and support that we have during our time at uni.

We're doing this to keep essential student services like the solicitor at Arc who is dedicated to helping students get legal aid and the student support officers who are independent of the university that will help students with academic grievances or getting a mark reviewed.

These services need to be funded by students instead of by the university or government so that the student support officers will not have any conflicts of interests when they help students. These services should also be accessible to all students when we're in need of help. VSU means that services such as these might not exist in a couple of years, even though they are essential for helping students get through uni.

Let's face it, if we had the choice to pay for all the things that really keep students interested in studying at university, like student support, student run volunteer programs, social events, well funded student clubs, societies and sports, there wouldn't be any money to keep it going.

National Day of Action

By the time you're reading this, the National Day of Action on student rights will have already happened. However, it's only the start of the campaign. The budget will be released in a few months, and we have to make sure students and universities are funded properly. There are also so many on-campus issues: the 12-week semester, Saturday exams, and course cuts.

Save Arts Coalition

The course and major cuts in Arts have been disgraceful. We're fighting to restore the Arts faculty to its former glory, and affirm that the Humanities are an important part of education. Come along to our meetings: Thursdays at 3pm-4pm, on the Library Lawn, in even weeks (every fortnight).

Free Breakfast Club

Your SRC continues to provide free breakfast, every Wednesday morning from 8.30am to 9.30am in front of the Library. Poor and busy students take note: we are giving you free food! Who could say no to that?

Come along to the Collective meetings, and help organise these and other campaigns. Get involved and get political!

The Education/Welfare Collective meets Tuesdays 1pm - 2pm Blockhouse.

The Adventures of the Women's Collective! 'Please evacuate the building...neorneorneor' x 20

It was a deep dark night and two women were doing some layout for *femmelore*, the 2008 women's handbook, when one of them went to make some toast in the Women's Room and set off the fire alarm (hence the please evacuate...). I got suitably pissed off when I discovered (fire)men would have to go inside the Women's Room (well it was a potential fire).

The Impact of Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) submission to the federal government

VSU sucks. If you want a copy, email me.

O-Week - random fun

It was great to meet you if you approached the stall, and/or filled out the 'women's needs on campus' survey. We had a working bee and made sure the stall ran smoothly. ... thanks to Anisha, Erin F, Erin M, Nicole, Chantel, Randa, Medeline, Mel R, Jade, Angie, Mary and Jess G.

International Women's Day

What a grand affair to celebrate the achievements of women! Over 1000 women listened to speakers then marched from Town Hall to Hyde Park, among them the UNSW Women's contingent (women's bloc). UNSW Women were also well represented in the Hyde Park performance line up.

Women's Week is in Week 7!

Want to join in the adventures?
Want to get involved in any way possible?
Then come to Women's Collective gatherings.

We meet **Mondays 3-4, Women's Room, Level 1, Blockhouse.**

COFA Women meet Wednesdays 1-2, Womyn's Room, Level 1, E Block!

Tell superJade that I sent you.

Alternatively, check out my details up there or go to the Women's Room whenever you want... you never know what's going to happen!

Quest for Harmony

After a full-on first few weeks of semester with O-week and Harmony Week, we're setting the scene for a more culturally harmonious uni - yippee!

Both harmony murals, on display until the end of semester at COFA and on the Quad Lawn, express what students felt harmony meant to them. So have a peek! Hopefully we can keep them there forever. :P

As for the très interesting forum with speakers Associate Professor Kevin Dunn on the geographies of racism in Australia, Warren Roberts on indigenous issues and Ihab Shalbak from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) - you'll have to read the next edition to see the ideas brought up for ways in making UNSW more harmonious in terms of standing against racism and discrimination!

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped Harmony Week run sweetly, to all the cultural clubs especially the Vishwaas Hindu club, both the Indigenous and International Students Departments, to Clare Ellis from the Equity and Diversity Unit and the Anti-Racism Collective. Lastly to all those who got involved in all the events!

Plans for the Anti-Racism Collective this semester

Firstly, a correction from *Tharunka's* last edition, our weekly Wednesday meetings are at 1-2pm on the Quad Lawn. Look out for the chalkboard!

As we try to delve into what racism looks like and ways of overcoming it, we also wanted students to be given the opportunity to vent their oppressions.

So, in the next couple of weeks the Collective will try to set up some boxes around campus for anyone to submit their experiences of racism anonymously. This provides the Collective with some sense of the type of discrimination or racial exclusion that exists out there today, and whether the ideas brought up from the forum will address some of these concerns.



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Others suggested volunteering for Mosaic Fusion Forums (email mosaic@arc.unsw.edu.au), where you get trained to outreach to regional high school students on race issues. As the youth of today, we have a much larger influence on the lives of our little brothers and sisters.

Last but not least, I personally am passionate about doing something about the real people that must live in detention centres waiting to be processed. But, unfortunately not many people know about them. Recall Woomera or Villawood? According to HREOC, Villawood's high security section is the "most prison-like" of all Australia's detention centres. Mandatory detention for a detainee has no time limit nor are they given notice of how long they will have to remain in detention. At Villawood no cameras, no video recorders, no mobile phones and no tape recorders are allowed inside the compound, making it nearly impossible for detainees to tell their stories.

To gain insight into the lives of these people and the environment they live in I wanted to inspire you into action by meeting them. So, if you know how to have a chat, listen respectfully and eat – that's all there is to coming on a Villawood Detention Centre Solidarity Visit!

Our first monthly visit will be on Sunday, 20th April, either meet at 10.30am at Central Station under the clock or 11.30am at Leight-onfield train station, but please email me on ethnic@arc.unsw.edu.au to let me know about numbers as 8 people is the maximum.

Well, we're back into the swing of things and I hope you've enjoyed your first few weeks. If not, then don't despair too much because our valuable 'mid-session' break has come and gone and it promised relief after 2 weeks of strenuous WORK! And after that you're basically on the homeward stretch anyhow due to those great semester cuts. Yes, we're down to 12 weeks. In the blink of an eye uni will be over for another semester, giving you barely enough time to register you were even here. Ah, quality, quality education...

Anyway, get involved and make the absolute most of it!

So what's been happening at COFA since our successful O-day?

- The COFA Enviro Collective has been starting to gear up for Fossil Fools Day – a day of action against the polluting fossil fuel industries. To get involved, contact Lauren at idioteque.x@gmail.com
- The COFA Women's Collective has put on an International Women's Day breakfast and has commenced its weekly meetings (Wed 1-2pm in the Womyn's Room).
- By the time you're reading this, the Anti-Racism Collective will have put on Harmony Week at COFA, effectively raising awareness about racism in Australia and looking at ways of collaboratively overcoming it. Let's continue the good work.
- Our Education Collective will have joined other students (and hopefully you!) in the National Day of Action to fight for improvements to our education system. Keep informed and keep up the pressure!
- The Queer Collective has been organising meetings to be held at COFA in weeks 4, 8 and 12 for you to look forward to.

So all in all, we're off to a great start. If you want to find out more, make suggestions, raise concerns or get involved, contact me anytime.

Hope your first couple of weeks of semester and the Easter break have been great.

The first COFA Activities Meeting is on Wednesday Week 3. This is a brand new forum for COFA students to talk about COFA campus life, find out information and brainstorm ideas for the future. See the COFA Arc Office or email me for more info.

Clubs and Activities has undergone a name change following the Arc's AGM. We are now known as Student Development, incorporating Arc's clubs, programs, courses and activities. Come and find us to say hi or get involved in our new home, Level 1 of the Roundhouse, or at the Arc COFA Office in D Block.

I'd like to share some more details about what we do:

Arc's Student Development Committee oversees the Arc services provided to affiliated Clubs, such as funding grants, insurance, the Clubs Resource Room, promotion of Club activities, free or discounted space hire and Club of the Year Awards.

The newest service to be provided in 2008 is Club Executives Training. All Club Executives are encouraged to attend training sessions throughout the semester to find out and share helpful hints about running Clubs.

Since the beginning of 2008, Arc Clubs have been in a transition period with regards to membership and Club constitutions. All affiliated Arc Clubs must update their constitutions to allow membership to occur. Let us know if you have any questions about Club membership, Arc membership or Club constitutions.

And, next report I'll share with you details about another part of Student Development.

Hey all!

Thanks to those who showed some interest in the Students with Disabilities stall. It was great to see that people out there are enthusiastic about issues like this. However, statistically, and this could be due to some people not willing to speak up about it or to the awkward placement of the stall or any other reason, an overwhelmingly large percentage of people with disabilities did not come to the stall. Of course, it's not a necessity, but it is pretty useful!

This is why the next planned project will be an online forum to complement the already-in-place meetings, so we can co-ordinate more effectively using technology. This will be advertised hopefully through the Equity and Diversity Unit, which by the way I hope you have already contacted. Not to imply any criticism because I think they're doing an excellent job so far, however, if the Equity and Diversity Unit does not help you because of certain issues such as a special need not being classed as a disability or similar issues, I will be very interested in hearing from you.

Anytime and anywhere just contact me! :)



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Since picking up the 0-week edition of Tharunka, the Environment Collective has been busy with the beginning of session. We had our first Collective meeting on Wednesday of Week 1, **12pm - 1pm every Wednesday on the Quad Lawn if you're keen**, with lots of new faces and energy to spark up some of our campaigns from last year and also get some new ones going. It was great to see many like-minded people concerned with environmental issues sharing passion and ideas. We also had a climate change film screening on Thursday. We have events like these to keep in the know with what is going on in the world around us and to meet people who mightn't be able to make meetings, but want to hang with other environmentally-minded people.

Some things coming up in the not-too-distant future include **Fossil Fools Day** on the **1st April**; a day of action planned around exposing the role the fossil fuel industry plays in causing climate change and a focus on renewable energy as a solution. The majority of this day will take place in the form of a major rally in the CBD. As the first of April is traditionally April Fools' Day, a day of trickery and pranks, we're going to be creating an atmosphere of fun and festivity, so it will be enjoyable as well as delivering an important message.

The Stationary Re-use Centre is also in full swing for the semester, with stores of folders arriving and being used rapidly, reducing the waste generated from our uni. The Stationary Re-use Centre can be found at Quad1001A and should be open, however if you can't find the room or its closed, CONTACT can direct you there or give you a key. So many treasures to be found!

And we'd love to hear from you if you have any queries: enviro@arc.unsw.edu.au

0-Week was so awesome, with cool people coming to our stall and a jumping castle next to us! The International Student Department managed to get quite a lot of people to become members of the International Student Collective.

So, what exactly is the International Student Collective & what do we do?

The International Student Collective is a group of international students who gather on a regular basis. We're doing lots of activities including discussions on issues concerning international students, workshops about international students' rights (with guest speakers coming), organising campaigns and big events throughout the year. Not to forget, social nights out.

So what will be the benefits for you if you decide to join?

It is an opportunity to make new friends and to develop team building and organisational skills by running campaigns and big events. It is also an opportunity to educate yourselves about what rights you have and how to demand those rights. Not to mention a chance to have fun.

We had our first meeting on Thursday, 13th of March and it went well. Thanks to our Collective members for attending the meeting! We had an excellent discussion about what we should plan throughout the year. It is really great to have people who care about the international student community supporting this Collective by attending the meetings and actively speaking up with their ideas and opinions. If you too are keen to support your international community and want to attend our gatherings, you can contact me via email or just show up to our meeting.

Our Collective meeting is every Thursday, 1-2pm in the Blockhouse, Level 1, Activist Space (sometimes we change our meeting point, so it is best to register yourself to our mailing list first at SUPPORT YOUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMMUNITY!!!

Queer Collective Meetings

These are great meetings which are very informal where people can meet each other on-campus in a safe and friendly environment.

We usually have a short agenda of things to talk about such as renovation of the Queer Space and upcoming events. Often the meeting ends with people going off together to various outings such as dinner.

It doesn't matter how you identify, as long it's non-hetero or supportive of those who are, we encourage you to come along and access the services which are provided especially for you.

Thursday, 4.30pm - 6.30pm in the Queer Space, which is located in Chemical Sciences, Room 920.

Queer @ COFA

The Queer Collective is planning on running a few collective meetings over at the Paddington campus and maybe even some events. Please stay tuned for more info.

Le Plaisir

French for 'the joy', this great party has made a fabulous start to the semester in the Roundhouse Club Bar in Week 1. Stay tuned for our next Le Plaisir party, where queer/GLBT fun never stops! Well, it may stop when security says so. . .

Fooling Around

Come to the Queer Space on 4th April 2008 from 4pm till 10pm and enjoy a night where we just fool around over board games and card games. Celebrate that drunken nights out clubbing are not the only way queers can have fun. Remember Twister??? All genders welcome.

Queer Space Elections

Madeline was appointed as UNSW's Female Identifying Queer Officer for 2008. She can be reached via e-mail: queerwomen08@hotmail.com

Queer/GLBT women now meet - Queer Space on Tuesdays from 2-5pm.
Non-females meet - Queer Space on Wednesdays 2-5pm.

G'Day all students,

During 0-Week there was a great response to the interest of having more Indigenous Cultural events at UNSW, and also a large interest in YARN. YARN is a collective, which creates discussions on Indigenous issues, these issues could be local or national. Basically YARN is an avenue where students can learn more about Indigenous Australia. Email list has reached more than 50 emails.

Week 11 this semester is Indigenous Week, so hope you all get your assignments done before then as it going to be full of fun and excitement, so don't miss out!

Remember all is welcome to check out YARN on Mondays 4-5pm weekly.

Spreading the word about nuclear devastation:

Photojournalist Robert Knoth

Chantel Cotterell

Earlier this month Russia announced its intention to build four nuclear power plants by 2020. Nuclear power remains a contentious topic, particularly with the history surrounding the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster in 1986. A photographic exhibition currently showing at the Australian Centre for Photography, *Certificate no. 000358/ Nuclear Devastation in the Former Soviet Union*, documents the impact the nuclear industry has had on individuals and their communities. In this provocative exhibition, Dutch photojournalist Robert Knoth distances his work from the media hyperbole and instead focuses on the human consequences of the nuclear industry.

A Greenpeace report, *The Chernobyl Catastrophe*, released on the 20th anniversary of the disaster examined the surrounding health issues. Such issues included an increase in the occurrence of cancer and musculoskeletal deformities, amongst other complaints. For example, a study referenced in the report argued that from 1986 to 2056 around 270,000 people will be diagnosed with various cancers, whilst another 93,080 will die. However, as the report states the disaster will continue to be felt by future generations



and thus the exact damage will remain unknown for centuries.

Robert has donated his photographs to the United Nations and other non-government organisations to fundraise and campaign about such health issues. *Tharunka* recently had a chance to sit down and talk with Robert about his work and its purpose.

IMAGE © Robert Knoth PHOTOJOURNALIST
BELARUS 2005, 1 OF 2 IMAGES

Gomel

Annya suffers from a reoccurring brain tumor as a consequence of the Chernobyl disaster. She is in constant pain and bedridden. Annya's parents care for their daughter, including repositioning her every 15mins to avoid bedsores.

CC: Whilst the photographs are important for historical documentation, they also seem to have a political edge directed towards raising awareness.

RK: I think Antoinette [de Jong who supplied the text for the book accompanying the exhibition] and I specialise in how things work on the ground for people. So, what we always try to show in not only this work, but in all our work, are what effects certain decisions by policy-makers have on people.

CC: Your photographs make a person very aware, as opposed to just statistics.



IMAGE © Robert Knoth PHOTOJOURNALIST

BELARUS 2005, 2 OF 2 IMAGES

Gomel

Anya suffers from a reoccurring brain tumor as a consequence of the Chernobyl disaster. She is in constant pain and bedridden. Anya's parents care for their daughter, including repositioning her every 15mins to avoid bedsores.

RK: You know, you always hear about these things in newspapers, but they're always very limited stories. It's always very much focused on news and on incidents. We just like to step back and tell the whole story. It was very important that we have a book. If somebody fifty years from now wants to know about nuclear accidents in Russia, all they will have to do is pull out the book. Each individual story has been reported.

The nuclear accident in Chernobyl is well-known in the media. It is about putting the story together, which is important. We see more and more photographers, journalists and filmmakers making these efforts and putting things into perspective.

CC: Talking about perspective, you have mentioned how an intense relationship is created between the photographer and the person being photographed during those five minutes of shooting. When one walks through the exhibition, one feels that relationship is recreated with the viewer. This seems particularly so with the

And, if I am distracted, tired or don't feel like photographing or feel ill, I don't get this quality of photographs. I have to be very focused myself. After I've taken three or four portraits in one day, I am exhausted. You have to make sure you peak at the right moment. If you peak too early or too late, it just doesn't work. And, what I always prefer is that all people go out of the room, and I'm there with my translator.

CC: Just as a bit of background, you saw a BBC documentary on nuclear devastation. Your first project was then in Kazakhstan in 1999, followed by a project in Mayak with Greenpeace. How



photograph of the six-year-old girl who stopped growing at the age of three.

RK: That girl [Ainagul] was very angry. Her parents had taken her away from school, so she was around the house everyday. She was very keen on learning; she was writing her own stories and poems. Her parents simply did not allow her to go to school, so she was very angry. And I think that is what makes it a strong photograph.

did you become involved with that?

RK: Well, we made the photographs in 1999 as a magazine commission. I then called Greenpeace. They liked the material and bought some of the photographs. I hadn't heard from them for a year and a half. Then they asked if I wanted to go to Mayak with a Greenpeace team. There were disagreements, so I left and went to Greenpeace and said, 'Look, if you want me to take these types of photographs I'll have to work by myself'. Next year both Antoinette and I decided we wanted to continue.

About ninety percent of the work we do is self-invented. We think of a project and try to finance it by selling it to magazines, radio and television. So, we produced our own story then transformed into a book and an exhibition. This travelled in

IMAGE © Robert Knoth PHOTOJOURNALIST
UKRAINE 2005, 1 OF 2 IMAGES

Narodichi District

People cannot settle in the Narodichi District due to its close proximity to a contaminated closed zone. However people still visit it for recreation.

Russia, Eastern Europe, Great Britain and America. It was very successful for us, and for Greenpeace. They've been sponsoring this exhibition, and for them it's a new approach. Greenpeace is all about banners and climbing on rooftops and then trying to get the news. However, that's not working for them anymore. Nobody seems interested.

CC: There is a bit of a dismissive attitude.

RK: Yeah, it doesn't appeal to people anymore. Your generation probably says, 'There goes another hippy'; and it is especially with this subject. In the '70s and '80s it worked, as it was all over the

*"Certificate no. 000358/
Nuclear Devastation in the
Former Soviet Union"*

Exhibition opens Fri 14th March

**THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR
PHOTOGRAPHY - ACP
257 Oxford Street Paddington**

Continues till Saturday 26th April
For more info & opening hours check
the website: www.acp.org.au



media. Here was this huge raging debate over nuclear energy, whether it was good or bad, so people knew the basics. Now no-one knows the basics. So, you can put up your banner, but people will have no idea.

CC: It doesn't get the message across.

RK: It is about re-educating and informing people on a different level. It is at a much more personal level. I think this way it appeals to people, because you as a viewer can identify with certain people. I'm still getting a lot of e-mails from people who like to know how certain people are, such as asking 'How's Annya and her family?' [Annya is the young girl in the images used for this article]. So I think we've hit a nerve, and I think it's a good way to personalise it very much, and to humanise it.

IMAGE © Robert Knoth PHOTOJOURNALIST
UKRAINE 2005, 2 OF 2 IMAGES

Narodichi District

People cannot settle in the Narodichi District due to its close proximity to a contaminated closed zone. However people still visit it for recreation.

Camp for Climate Action

Nicky Ison

When the laws are unjust or are destroying our future, people of conscience have a responsibility to act. It's just as true now as it was in the 1700's when Irish politician Edmund Burke said: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing."

Climate change is already resulting in more extreme weather events, and if it reaches the tipping point that many scientists fear, we will be living in a very different world from the one our parents grew up in. Runaway global warming will be violent. Rising sea levels, acidified oceans, drought and extreme weather are violent disruptions that scientists predict will result in mass extinction and massive displacement of people. It's serious, and we have a rapidly closing window to make deep cuts in greenhouse emissions

At this point, we don't just need a 20% renewable energy target. We don't need people just to buy energy efficient light bulbs. We need a radical and urgent transition plan to a green economy. We need to ban new coal fired power stations and coal mines. The transition away from destructive industries and their replacement with efficient, sustainable alternatives needs to be the basis of the next industrial revolution.

And what do we have? We have our Governments taking us in exactly the opposite direction. We have both major political parties supporting a massive expansion of the coal industry, with a doubling of the export capacity of the world's largest coal port

in Newcastle. Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel. To state the obvious: we cannot stop climate change and expand the coal industry. The disconnection between the reality of climate change and our political leadership is stark. We've sat through twenty years of "blah blah blah" - making submissions to government processes, endlessly providing evidence and arguing the science. We need action, and we need it now.

You might say, it's okay now, we've kicked out Howard and we've got Rudd, he cares about the climate, he ratified Kyoto, he'll save us. In response I say, firstly Rudd may want to do good by the climate, but he's got the coal industry lobbyists at his door every day. The Greenhouse Mafia has been a force in Canberra for over 10 years, and they're not going to roll over and disappear anytime soon (see Guy Pearse's book *High and Dry* for more on the Greenhouse Mafia). The only things that will enable the Rudd Government to make the hard policy decisions (i.e., putting a price on carbon, removing the close to \$10 billion annual subsidy to the fossil fuel industry), which are one important part of stopping dangerous climate change, are strong social movements demanding it of him and giving him political cover.

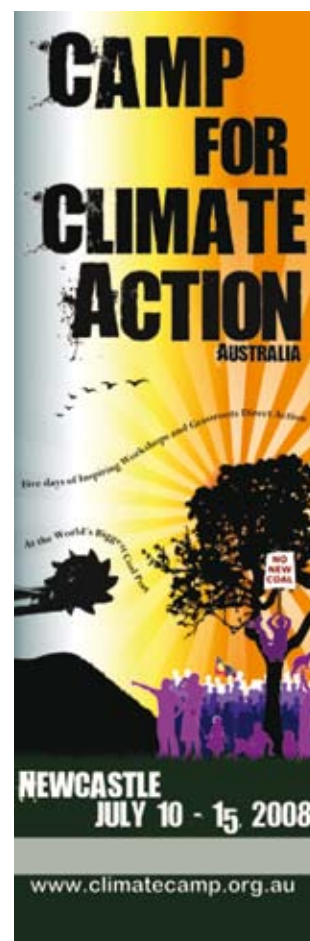
Secondly, one person will not "save us" from climate change. The change must come from all of us, working together in communities, in our workplaces, in the streets and at the coal face of climate change, and to think otherwise is to underestimate the power we have when we work with other people to make change. Peaceful direct action and civil disobedience are a fundamental part of our democracy. The reason we have weekends is because of labour movement protests. Women have the vote because the Suffragettes took to the streets. The anti-slavery movement, Gandhi, Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement all used civil disobedience to win fundamental freedoms that we now take for granted.

It is now clear that people power will be the only effective counterbalance to the vested interests of the coal and fossil fuel industry who are effectively writing climate change policy and who are threatening our future. After twenty years of inaction, non-violent direct action increasingly becomes a moral duty. It is time we claimed our right to a world free from catastrophic climate change.

The camp for climate action will be an inspiring 5 days of workshops and grassroots direct action aimed at stopping the expansion of the world's biggest coal port in Newcastle. The camp will be a participatory, sustainable space, where people are invited to share, learn and take action. Timed to coincide with climate camps happening in Europe

and North America, it will be an inspiring gathering of people of all ages and from all walks of life who are standing up together to take direct action for a living future.

We invite you to join us, get involved in organising the camp, and help spread the word.



For more info - check out:
www.climatecamp.org.au

**Come to the UNSW
Enviro Collective,
Wednesdays 12pm, Quad
Lawn or email Nicky on
nickymison@gmail.com**

STUDENT SHOWS

ON NOW till 5 April Wed-Fri 11am-6pm & Sat 11am-4pm
KUDOS GALLERY

"All about Eve" Rena Phuah

Opening night **Monday 7 April 5-7pm**
COFA SPACE

"Pyrographs" Kendal Heyes
Continues till 11 April

_Opening night **Tuesday 6 April 5-7.30pm**
KUDOS GALLERY

"Atrium" Nick Baldas
Continues till 19 April

Opening night **Tuesday 15 April 5.30-7pm**
COFA SPACE

"The city that never sleeps" Lynne Furgang
Continues till 18 April

_Opening night **Wednesday 16 April 5.30-7.30pm**
IVAN DOUGHERTY GALLERY

"Pearls of arts project Australia"
Stuart Purves Collection - Curated by Stuart Purves
Continues till 24 May

_Opening night **Tuesday 22 April 5-7.30pm**
KUDOS GALLERY

"Inherent Delicacy" MFA Exhibition
Genevieve McCrea & Juliana O'Dean. Opened by Dr Idris Murphy
Continues till 26 April

Opening night **Monday 28 April 5.30-7pm**
COFA SPACE

"Jenny Birt Award" Continues till 2 May

STUDENT GALLERIES



COFA SPACE

Open
Mon to Fri 10am-4pm

UNSW College of Fine Arts
Campus
Ground Floor E Block Rm EG04
Greens Rd Paddington
Ph 02 93850797
Email eps@COFA.unsw.edu.au



KUDOS GALLERY

Open
Wed to Fri 11am - 6pm
Sat 11am - 4pm
Mon & Tue by appointment

6 Napier Street
Paddington NSW 2021
Ph 02 9326 0034
Email kudos@arc.unsw.edu.au



IVAN DOUGHERTY GALLERY

Open
Mon - Sat 10am - 5pm

Selwyn Street
Paddington 2021
Ph 02 9385 0726
Email idg@unsw.edu.au

CHANGES AT UNSW

Jonathan Head

Late last year there was an announcement via email that changes would be made to the university calendar, with the length of semesters being reduced from 14 to 12 weeks. Reactions were mixed. Some were concerned regarding the effect that this would have on the quality of the curriculum. Some were hopeful that staff would be able to dedicate more time to their research, and others, such as myself, failed to grasp the implications of the changes. The realisation that something had changed did not come to me until I selected my subjects, and found that I was signing up for teaching periods instead of semesters. What the changes mean for myself and most other students is that we'll have four more weeks of holidays this year. Something which, at first glance, can't be all that bad. The students who might be particularly excited about this announcement are those who are currently employed in part-time jobs. No doubt they will benefit from being able to devote four more weeks a year to their work if it is necessary.

On the other hand, the reactions of certain academic staff members to the changes are quite different, to say the least. Some feel that a significant amount of content, which could have been covered within the lost fortnight, will either have to be dropped or squeezed into a significantly restructured

timetable. One practice that will likely suffer because of this is the final week or lecture of revision before exams. One change to the timetable that has baffled many is the setting of the mid-semester recess less than three weeks after the commencement of semester one; a change that one academic staff member derided as 'absolutely stupid'. Academic staff have also expressed concern towards PhD students, who will lose four weeks of work because of the cuts to the university calendar.

Criticisms of the changes are not exclusive to staff members. Some students have spoken out against the lack of consultation before the changes were made, believing the lack of a survey or a vote on the issue shows that the university administration is unconcerned with public opinion. Some have gone on the record with their views, like last year's president of the Student Representative Council, Jesse Young. Young argued that the shorter semesters, along with other changes, would definitely have an effect on education.

However, it has been acknowledged by certain staff members that the need to restructure timetables has provided an opportunity for critical reflection on how they teach their subjects. Lecturers have been working to make their presentations tighter, searching for any 'dead wood' that can be cut without causing difficulties. This process has been discussed as one of the reasons for the changes, with the university administration claiming that their purpose is to 'streamline teaching and learning'. Also, it may be that

one of the other reasons these changes were made was to allow academic staff to devote more of their time towards research rather than teaching.

It must be said that these are early days for the new calendar and it won't be known for some time whether the criticisms of it and the predictions about its future are justified. Staff at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences have reported that they have encountered no 'significant difficulties', and say they will be more comfortable in giving feedback on the changes after they have been in place for a year.

We will have to wait and see.

what's in it for me?

Clairie Ormiston

The university subculture we live in - broadly, a Westernised group of young adults heavily influenced by capitalism, hedonistic music video clips - over-indulgent parents and the push to be the 'intellectually cool' can often leave people feeling hollow in victory and in short, perpetually wanting more. The university's recent push to recognise 'graduate attributes' gained through volunteer programs such as leadership and teamwork is an interesting move pandering to a new market. The official certification at the end of

one's degree listing the volunteer programs within the university that one has participated in can be read in a few ways as highlighting some (disconcerting) trends.

It's exciting that people can now have an extra piece of paper with the university logo on it saying "Yeah! You're awesome! Congratulations on doing stuff other than study and sleep on the Library Lawn". It's exciting when people need to justify to their parents why they need to slow down their degree to part-time, so they can do more than just study. It shows that their university supports this choice! It's exciting because many people do give up a lot of their time to be part of the university community. Just think many years later when random intruders enter your house, stop, and look at your study room wall and see a lovingly framed certificate saying 'I didn't just study, I also helped disadvantaged kids learn how to read; they might be less inclined to rob your house or something.

But then on the flip side of this, when getting that listing on the piece of paper becomes a marker of value there is a problem. There are many people who contribute so much to university life who currently aren't listed on this Graduate Attribute Certificate. Club executives and those who manage events are significant examples. If you currently are on the executive of a club - whether sporting or otherwise - there is no acknowledgment. (This is, however, marked down to be introduced in the near future.) What about those who volunteer to write articles for university media? Or those who staff a stall

in O-Week? There are plenty of people who could be listed but where does one draw the line? Who decides 'value' in terms of volunteering? (That's a whole other article!)

Ignoring the 'drawing the line' issue, when you just want to do something because it gets an extra line on an official piece of paper it brings into question ethics and values. Although saying this, many people (probably including me) do this already - getting involved in volunteering not just for the sake of it, but as a way to develop new skills and look better to prospective employers. But of course, the more rewards you offer, the more reward-dependent people become and people could be turned off certain volunteering activities just because it doesn't get on that Graduate Attributes Certificate. Can't you remember as a kid doing something for free, and later offered some sort of lolly for doing a good job? After that, remember refusing to do it again unless someone gave you something of equal or greater value to the original lolly? And that's my point - do we just want volunteers who want to be there because of a piece of paper received with a sweaty handshake and an over-sized gown?

Ultimately the Graduate Attribute Certificate will be another pretty piece of paper along with primary school merit cards, pen licences and good sportsmanship ribbons for those who try but never get a place. It won't prove anything that you couldn't write down in your résumé or mention

in your interview anyway and it's only you who can acknowledge the real breadth of skills you have gotten out of volunteering. What it does symbolise, however, is the university's growing acknowledgment of student participation in campus life and what it needs to do as a body to encourage this new generation of mildly narcissistic and carrot-dependent beings with a piece of paper that may make that person feel just that little bit more valued by the community they have put so much into.

Yellow shirty

Mirza Nurkic

Loud, irritatingly chirpy and happy, patronising, annoying and just everywhere. Those are the sorts of thoughts most of my friends around campus think when the compound word Yellowshirt comes up. (As an aside, I believe the official spelling is Yellow Shirt, but to me that doesn't sit quite right. A Yellowshirt is the person who wears a Yellow Shirt, and so it's the spelling I use). There's another word that often follows: cult. People are always saying that Yellowshirts are in a cult. And you know what?

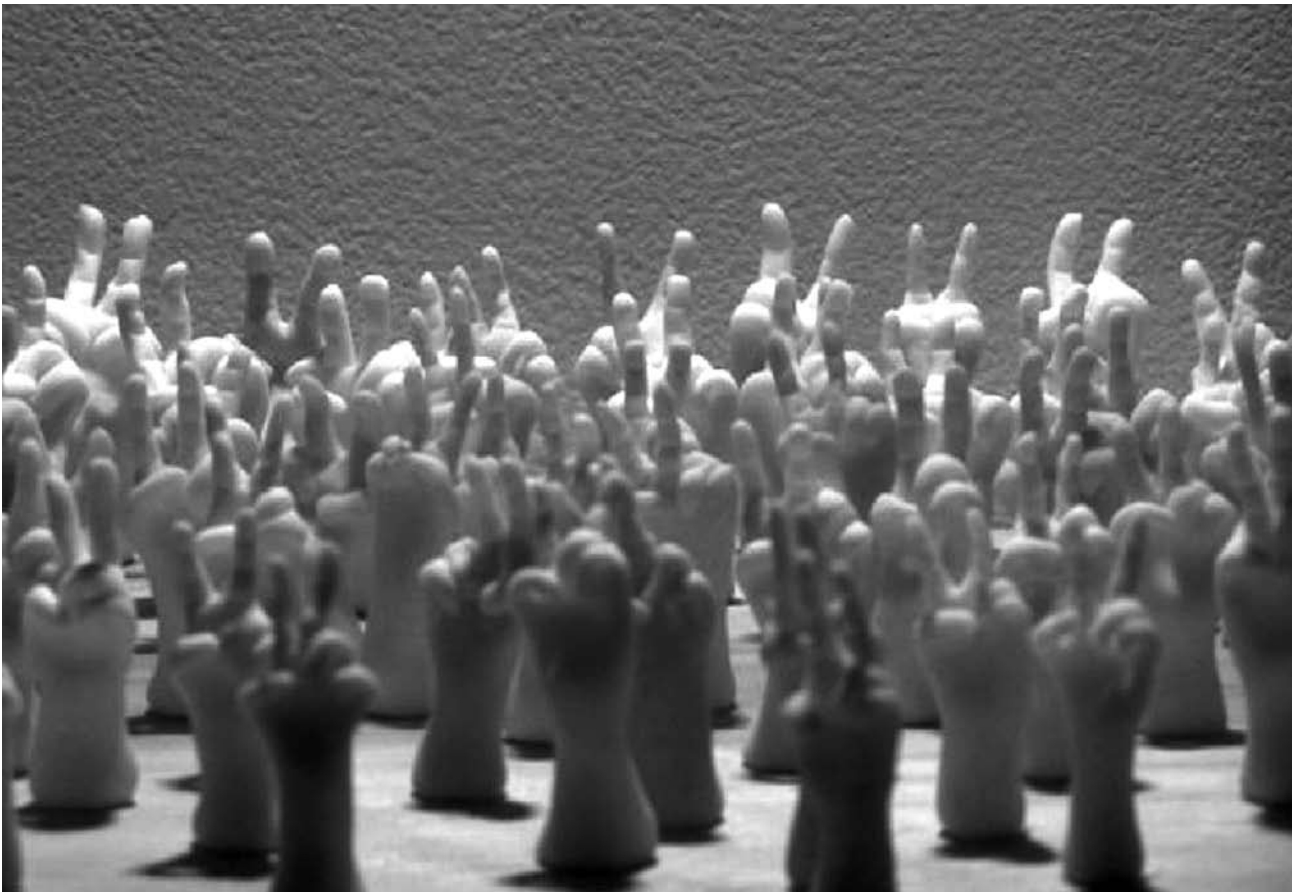
We are.
More or less, anyway.

It's the inevitable result of spending so much time together: 5 full days of official training,

including a 3 day camp, along with at least a few days worth of social activities in between. And that's not even counting O-Week itself. There's some sort of primeval bond that forms between us when we lift and carry heavy shit all day, make fairy floss, walk up to Matthews from the Main Gate and back 3 times in a row ("Can you tell me where to get my student card?"),

more often at or past midnight. A delirium born of exhaustion inevitably follows, particularly by the Friday of O-Week. But it's the camaraderie that keeps us going, one such as I've yet to witness. Have you ever been part of an organisation where you could hug anyone within the organisation, no matter how well you know them, and not feel like you're a weirdo?

in people's lives, as only giving out free fairy floss can. It's a high, and I can guarantee you that every Yellowshirt out there feels the same. In fact, one previous co-ordinator of the program even made himself the following shirt: "Yes, I am a Yellowshirt. No, this isn't my 'Yellow Shirt'. Yes, I can help you anyway". I think that's really what it's all about.



make some more fairy floss, make some badges and paint faces, lift and carry more heavy shit, and then go to night time events and seek out scared first years to help make them feel more comfortable.

That's just part of a normal day at O-Week for a Yellowshirt, which is often followed by a night of D&Ms at whichever Yellowshirt house you happen to be staying. You're at uni at 7.30 for breakfast, and only leave campus at 22.00 at the earliest,

I'm a big softie for hugs. Either that or a weirdo. I have, and I feel richer for it.

We're all there to help.

Volunteering as a Yellowshirt has been one of the most rewarding and positive experiences in my life, and that's only helping first years settle in on campus. Let's face it, in the grand scheme of things, it's not up there with curing cancer and stopping the spread of AIDS. However, it makes a difference

IMAGE Anna John
BW DETAIL OF INSTALLATION
 COFA BFA Sculpture Installation & Performance
Peace Collective

The Daily Commute

John Watkins can kiss my travelpass

Perry Stephenson

If I were to take the recommended form of public transport to get to uni, it would take me two and a half hours to get from my door to my lecture theatre. The way I currently get to uni, it takes me two hours and fifteen minutes. If I were to drive, it would take me just under an hour.

I think I should set the scene. I live in the Hills District of Sydney, near Castle Hill for those who know it. If there is no traffic I'm only fifteen minutes from the start of the M2, and only forty minutes from uni. On the occasional Saturday exam I have been able to get to uni in thirty-five minutes. Most weekday mornings I can get to uni in just under an hour by car.

The problem of course is that cars use petrol. I drive a Commodore, which is a little bigger than the car I probably should drive, but still averages about 12 litres per 100km. This isn't too bad on petrol, but it adds up really fast. At last calculation I worked out that driving in every day for a week cost me nearly \$100 in petrol. Add to this the fact that there are four Toll Roads on the way, three each direction (Harbour Bridge and Eastern Distributor are both one way tolls), and so it becomes a \$20 round trip from tolls alone. Those who are quick with mathematics will realise that travel by car from the Hills District of Sydney now costs \$200 quite easily. Oh, and non-toll roads aren't an option now

the State Government very cleverly made Epping Rd one lane...

This is frustrating in two ways. First, the most time efficient and convenient way for me to get to uni is ridiculously expensive. Secondly, it shows the blatant discrimination against the North West of Sydney. If I was able to use the M4 to get to uni, I would be able to access the Cashback Scheme and tolls would cost me essentially nothing. Instead of this, the State Government continually makes more toll roads and closes the old toll-free roads, meaning there is no way to avoiding paying \$20 a day.

Moving on, I guess that leaves the only viable form of transport to uni as public transport. There are two ways of getting to the City from the Hills District: train and bus. We are encouraged to use the bus, so I will talk about that first.

There's no parking anywhere along the bus route. At all. Most people have to get dropped off by relatives. This is hardly encouraging the use of buses. The buses in the Hills District are run by HillsBus and they have their own ticketing system. This ends up meaning buses cost more than trains (Over \$11 a day for adults), and also means it's impossible to buy a weekly ticket. In fact travelling to the city five days a week by bus costs over \$55 for an adult, which I think is rather excessive. Add to this the fact you then have to buy a TravelTen, and it becomes rather an expensive way of getting to and from the city.

However, the worst thing about buses is the time it takes. I get on at the first stop as it's the only way to get a seat for the hour-long ordeal that is getting into the City. I then have to wait for every single person getting on the bus at the next seven stops to find their

\$5.80 out of their purse or wallet and hand it to the slow driver who then has to wait for the paper ticket to print before he can start to serve the next customer. That's right, there's no way to prepay for HillsBus services. In total the bus spends thirty minutes driving, and thirty-five minutes loading customers. When we get to the city, at least one bus a week is running so late they decide to terminate at QVB instead of central. This then means I have to wait even longer for a bus to take me to UNSW, on top of the fact I'm already running late. Oh, and no one ever buys return tickets, of course. The whole ordeal is repeated in reverse when it comes time to go home. In total I spend five hours of my day in transit when I use buses.

The third option, which is the one I have settled on this year, is catching the train. To get to a train station I have to drive for up to an hour, depending on traffic to Beecroft Station. The train stations are very cleverly located near major traffic routes, and as such, from this area are near impossible to get to in peak hour. Of course, when you get there you also realise all the parking is gone! This means parking a kilometre away and walking all the way back to the station, which adds even more time to your journey.

There is one benefit of using trains and that is that once you are at the station it works reasonably well, and is quite cheap. TravelPasses work well, and train travel is well set up with the trains becoming express after Epping in the mornings. Once you get to Central, though, it all goes pear shaped as we get the morning queue at Eddy Avenue. I think my record waiting in this queue was fifty-three minutes before a 9am class. For a dedicated, express bus service it's pretty unreliable. Why they didn't

put a train station at UNSW when they built the airport line is beyond me. Filling hundreds of buses with 80 students each seems a bit silly when they can fit 2000 people on a train easily! When you take into account the traffic getting to and from the train station, this method takes two hours fifteen minutes each way.

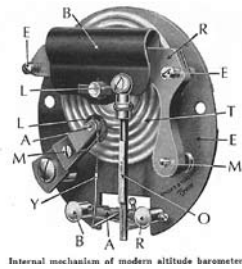
Now these travel times are ridiculous in their own right, but especially when compared to the time taken to travel by car. What it's basically saying is that if you are rich in the Hills District, you are allowed to have a decent run to the city. If you are a poor uni student however, you're stuffed. What really frustrates me though is that if I lived in Berowra, which is approximately 50% further away from uni than my house, it would take me half an hour LESS to get to uni!

I guess what this all comes down to is the stupidity of the NSW Government in their recent scrapping of the North West Rail Link. If there was a train station in Castle Hill I couldn't see it taking much longer than an hour and a half to get to uni, which I think is quite acceptable. Why they thought it wasn't worth building this train line I have no idea, but I am certainly not impressed.

I just can't believe that I live in Sydney, yet it takes me two hours and fifteen minutes to get to Kensington. What sort of ridiculous public transport system allows this to happen?

John Watkins, you are cordially invited to kiss my TravelpASS.

Are you fed up with your daily commute to uni? Tell us about it. Write to Tharunka at PO BOX 173 Kingsford 2032 or email to tharunka@arc.unsw.edu.au



Jess Bellamy

The Bellamy Barometer:

HOT or NOT

Chessy Puns **HOT**

The other day someone knocked on my office door and said "Knockadoodledoo". I can't add any pithy commentary to that. Just let it live.

Family sized salads for one **HOT**

I have this Monday ritual at work, well, it may be less of a ritual and more of 'yet another bit of boring shit that I do'. Since I do my grocery shopping on Sundays, and I always seem to go to Coles because I have this weak spot for multi-national corporations who are taking petrol out of the hands of small-business owners, I often find myself perusing their salad

section. And what a salad section, right? There's something about the mixture of processed cheese and croutons with shredded iceberg lettuce and errant pieces of cabbage that makes me lose my shit, and I find myself buying an inappropriately huge salad and taking it to lunch on Mondays. The healthiness just cancels out the sheer volume of what you're eating. Except for those croutons, they are just **EMPTY CARBS**.

People who say things like

"It just
never stops"

OR

"TGIF"

OR

"If only there
were more
hours in the
day"

non-ironically **NOT**

I might just have to put on my Big Fat Hippy Hat for a second. Just wait, just wait, just... OK, done. It's easier to put on because I recently had a really major haircut that some of my co-workers like and the others make vague anti-compliments about like, "You look like some sort of doll". But anyway, here we go. **BEING BUSY IS NOT A STATUS SYMBOL**. It is not something to flaunt gaily around your 'hood, an ammunition against your neighbours and co-workers. You know what I think when I'm told that you're really busy? I think that you have **BAD MANAGEMENT OF TIME** and **THAT IS NOT A COOL THING, THEY**

HAVE CLASSES AND BOOKS AND TV SHOWS ABOUT DEALING WITH THAT KIND OF PROBLEM.

Cane furniture **NOT**

OK, so you've been sitting outside all day, the breeze puffing up your linen shirt, your hair dancing about your unlined forehead, sipping on a icy mint julep and just wishing, wishing so valiantly, that the summer time would last forever. I respect that, in fact, I also envy it, but this isn't about me for once. So, when you leave your delicious outdoors summer sojourn and re-enter the Real World, it is quite clear from your glazed, exultant expression that: **YES**, you have been sitting outside in the dancing breeze, loving life and maybe starting to believe in God again. **I DON'T NEED YOU TO PROVE IT TO ME BY SHOWCASING ALL THE CHECKS AND LINES FROM THE CANE FURNITURE RUNNING UP THE BACK OF YOUR THIGHS, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT ONLY SERVES TO MAKE THE FAT THERE BULGE A LITTLE BIT, IT JUST DOES NOTHING FOR YOU, OK?** And I'm only telling you this because I really love you. Here, have a piece of rose quartz.



Miss Moore's Guide to Etiquette

Heads of State

Miss C. Moore

*A Modern Lady's Guide to
resolving the Acute Paralysis
that results from not
knowing How to Act Properly.*

Scenario

A visiting head of state is to be recieved in your home.

To receive a head of state is a great honour, but it can also be a great nuisance. Heads of state are known for their impeccable table manners and atrocious personal hygiene. If you do not prepare sufficiently for the reception, the odour may render your house uninhabitable for weeks afterwards.

Solution #1

Pretend you're not home.

It is widely known that heads of state cannot operate door handles, as they are so used to having doors opened for them. In fact, their fingers slowly fuse into a flipper, which is why heads of state are also known as "land seals". Therefore, shutting all of the doors will effectively exclude a head of state from your home. If one is employing this strategy, one must take care to shut all of the doors and windows and draw the curtains. If the head of state sees you peeking out from an upstairs window, you will incur their wrath, and wrathful heads of state have been known to dismiss governments and destroy letterboxes, neither of which will improve the value of your home.

Solution #2

Stall with protocol.

Heads of state adhere to protocol almost as stiffly as they adhere to their wigs. If you engage in the right formalities, you can delay the reception of the head of state for a number of hours. You must first bow, then shake hands, and then bow again. Then present a series of small gifts, including roses and erotic literature. This will cause a minor diplomatic scuffle, and by the time the minders are finished squabbling the head of state will have been received at the local pub, where it's five-dollar pasta night.

Solution #3

Lay on a grand feast.

The diet of a head of state is comprised entirely of tea, teacakes and biscuits. The sweet smell of biscuits and sugar will mask the malodorous dignitary. Do not offer the head of state whole raw fish, no matter how preposterous their flippers. In fact, ignore all resemblances to a seal including any sharp barking noises. Make sure you have not accidentally allowed a seal to enter your home. Catering for a head of state requires that only the finest biscuits be provided: this means Monte Carlos and Melting Moments. Wholewheat Digestives should only be served to minor officials such as the Australian Governor-General.

The Queen

If you are receiving the Queen, special protocols must be adhered to. The woman we think of as the Queen is actually only a drone, serving the real Queen: the hive-mind that resides in the swarm of corgies that accompanies her. You must communicate directly with the corgies, by uttering a series of high-pitched squeals. The Queen is also a voracious meat-eater, and according to tradition you must serve her favourite dish: Steak Diana.

the sexy leader

Camilla Gulli

The year was 2000, platform shoes were out, cargo pants and army prints were in. The fear of Armageddon had left us all in an awkward anticlimax of dirty streamers and popped balloons to continue on into the millennium. All of us except me of course. I was in Year Six, and wasn't even cool enough to be invited down to Five Dock Park. No, I spent the evening watching TV at home with my parents. I was frustrated and impotent, even in Tweety Bird pajamas I was always too big for my boots. I wanted to be a teenager. This year was going to be my time to shine; finally the Big Fish in primary school. After years of being that weird greasy kid with visible underarm hair, I was going to be *drum roll* popular.

You see, Samantha Moroney was the most beautiful girl in school. She was smart and the best at running and she secretly liked me. Her best friend Cinzia had just left, and I was going to take her place in "the group" (I was also the only brunette candidate, so as not to detract from the blondes). I half hated her because she got School Captain, but beggars can't be choosers. I was soon told that my niche was my boobs. Triangular as they were, I was the only girl with a C-cup in sixth grade. Now that I was in the popular group, I wasn't a reverse Quasimodo anymore. I was (apparently) the "sexy one". Hurrah!

I made it my mission to find a new identity, and before you can say spangly boob tube, I was going to be the leader of nice young girls in a world of young suburban moles. I was high on celebrity, in a dizzying whirlwind of hair, mascara and poorly-shaven legs. Art Randolph was my boyfriend; approximately half my size with a blonde bowl-cut and shoes that looked too big. But we were the toast of the multi-purpose court, kissing with thick spit and sweaty palms while everyone squealed. I gave the girls kissing and DIY beauty tips (courtesy of the Newsagent's *Dolly*) like putting toothpaste on your pimples. After waxing my monobrow (only the middle) overzealously I ended up with two slugs above my eyes. I even smoked my mum's cigarettes a few times.

The real leader has no need to lead - he [sic] is content to point the way. Henry Miller

Trouble brewed when I was cast as the lead in the musical over Art. The role was an English Man called Archibald Lamington Smith Badger, and Art was an English man (well, sort of). He dared to laugh at my pinstripe suit during rehearsal and I snapped "You're just jealous! You're jealous because I am the star and you are nothing! NOTHING!"

And so began my descent into the adolescent clique dictatorship.

Over the years things got worse before they got better. Someone whose new identity was based around being inappropriately 'sexy'

isn't destined for healthy self-esteem or positive relationships with desperate scumbag teenage boys. I disguised all my unhappiness by morphing into some sort of vicious slime monster, feeding on the, ooohhhs, ahhs and suffering of everyone below me in the food chain.

But sheep will find shepherds who bring them to grass, or whatever sheep are into these days. I had a few good friends, but the majority who I thought worshipped me actually hated me.

The last straw was when my sister started high school.

My sister was everything I wasn't: honest, nice and pure. She couldn't understand why the Mussolini of her grade was making her life a living hell. I watched her cry herself to sleep every night and understood what I had become. I tried everything. I even made the Junior Me cry and it didn't work. That was when I decided to stop oppressing people and sucking their spinal fluid (figuratively – that wasn't some new trend I started). I decided to apologise to the innocents in the hope that it would somehow have the same effect as in *Billy Madison*.

As much as I left a trail of destruction behind me, I learned a lot. I'm wiser and I can read people easily, so I now use my powers for good instead of evil. I'm not really the leader of anything, and these days I give advice instead of orders. Henry Miller is indeed a smart man, because helping out is much more rewarding than having a famous cleavage. I traded my tube top for real friends a long time ago, and Samantha Moroney is still one of them.



IMAGE Justine Shoulder PHOTO
COFA Bachelor in Digital Media
Untitled

creative writing & poetry



Flags

Ivana Rnjak

I think of all the flags they drape me in and it makes me fucking sick. I am selling myself for a cheap representation of a strategically constructed feeling. This idea that these colours and symbols run through my veins blinds me. It places me in one category to distinguish myself from another and thus, when necessary, create conflict or allies and loud war cries or chants about this or that hero or enemy. Us and them. Us versus them.

IMAGE Lachlan Anthony

SCULPTURE

COFA BFA Sculpture Installation & Performance

Congregations of broken stars

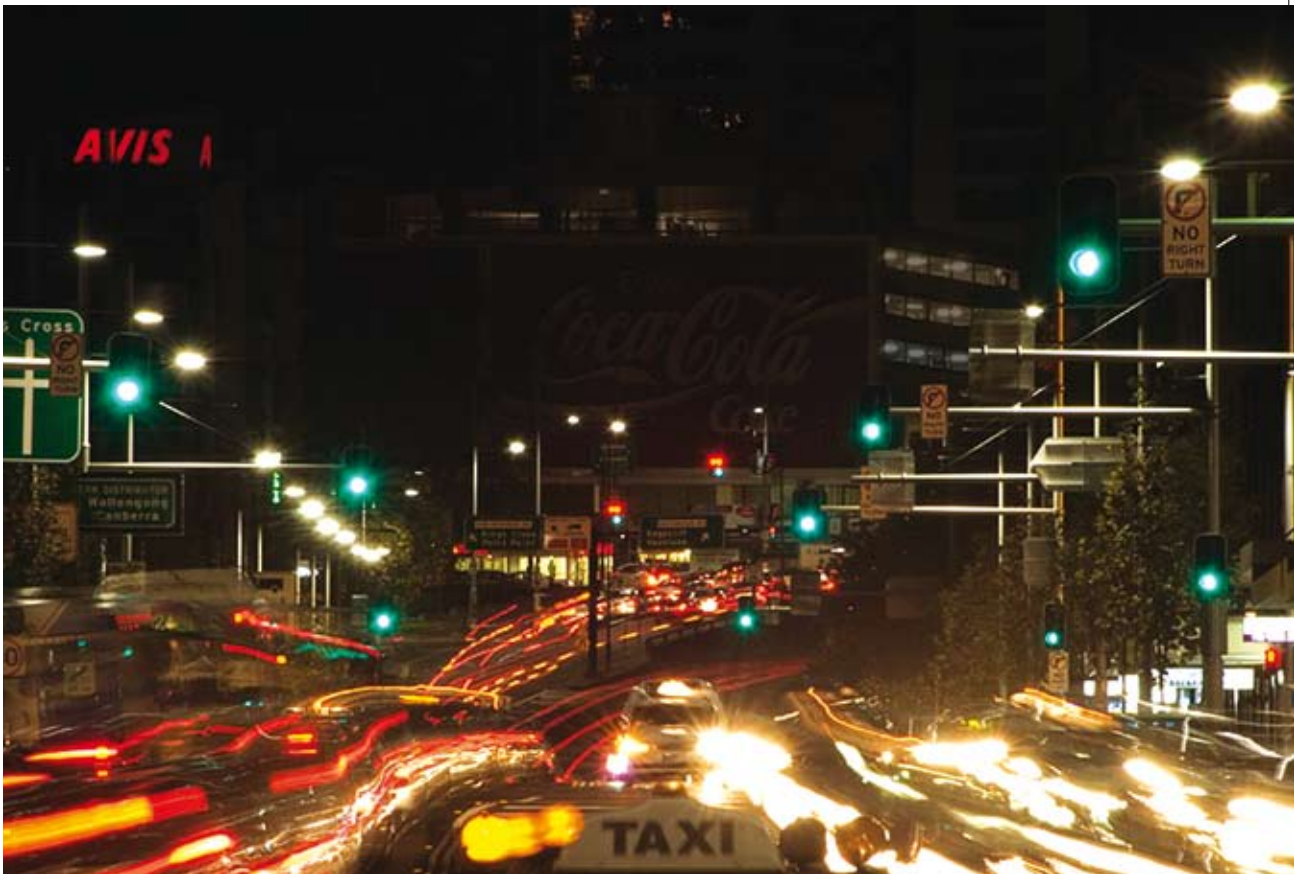


IMAGE Earth Hour Sydney
 8pm 29th March 2008
 William st Kings Cross CocaCola Sign
See the difference u can make

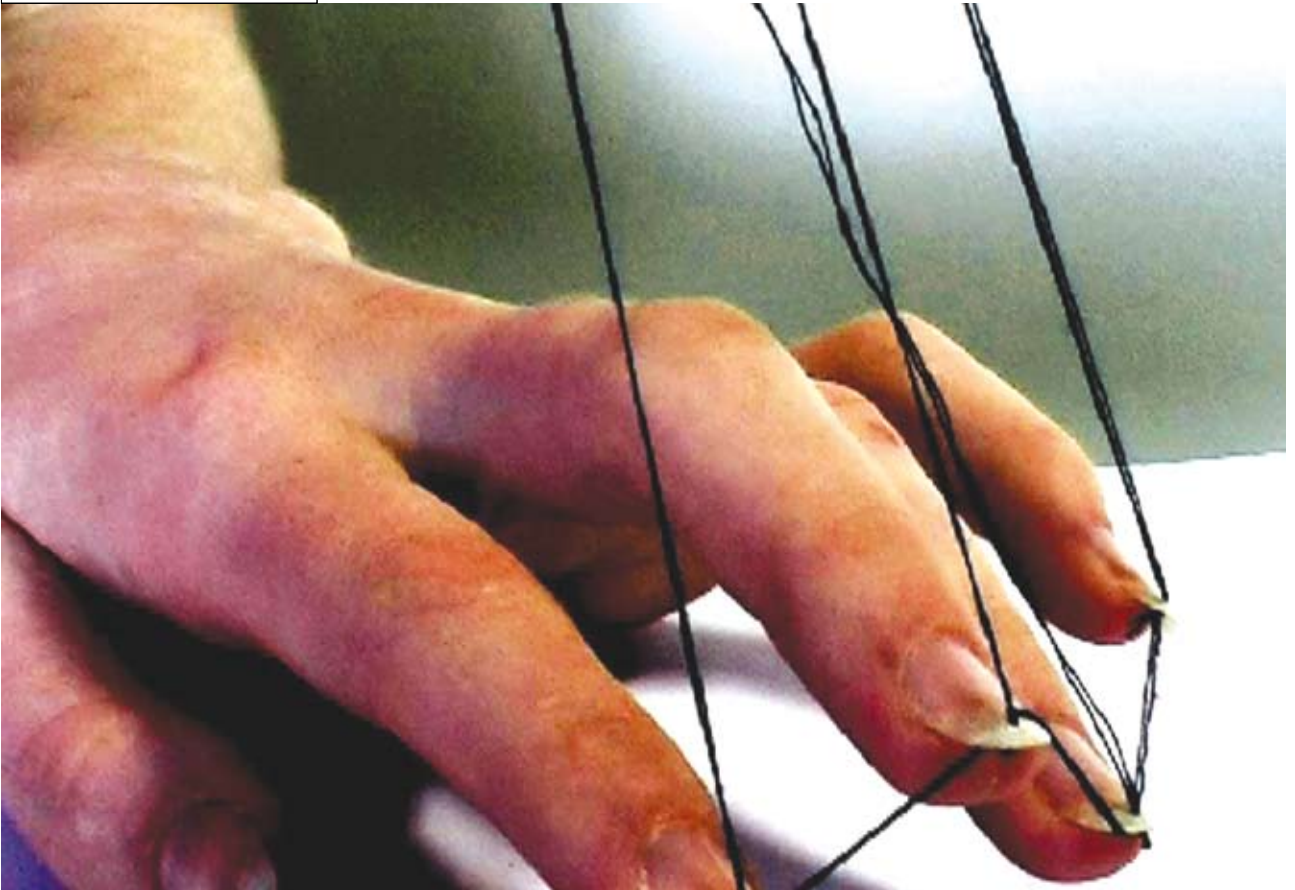
Taxi

Ivana Rnjak

Boston shakers and tiaras left unwanted in passenger seats of plastic cabs where innocence is lost for a cheap ride home. Pointing out directions as police lights trail my navigation, the last of my money going towards an unworthy cause. The radio remains off and the silence rests heavily on our shoulders.

creative writing & poetry

IMAGE Penny Spankie
 STILL FROM PERFORMANCE VIDEO
 COFA BFA Sculpture Installation & Performance
Attached



Struggle

Ivana Rnjak

She rolls over in her mind thoughts about the struggle. The Struggle. What struggle? A deck of Camels, no filters, and a short, short, really short black and she is –

Blood of caffeine, blood of tobacco, nicotine, Red Label, a white line...

And yeah, she struggles. Struggles to get up in the morning without a convincing reason. Got clothes to wash and bills to pay and books to read and stays in bed. Would get up if she could only be –

Blood of a country, blood of a nation, blood of a people...

If she could only be something worth bleeding for.

Thinks of Hampton and Zapata and Newton. Then remembers the dealer on the corner, the coffee lady and the boy in the leather jacket.

IMAGE Penny Spankie
STILL FROM PERFORMANCE VIDEO
 COFA BFA Sculpture Installation & Performance
Still Life



And realises she is progressing from reason to reward. From inspiration to intoxication. From real to remainder. Remainder of what struggle is left that she can care about (a handful of angry voices in a whitewashed crowd).

They are: Suppressed. Oppressed. Censored.

She: Detached.

It is all so far removed from her yellowing fingernails and heavy eyelids that all she gets is a vibe. A feeling. A mood. A bruise on her pale skin and a wayward glance from the fight.

The Struggle? What struggle?

poems for our polities

Scarlet Wilcock

Ode to a Prime Minister

There once was a Prime Minister called John.
He stayed in power for too long.
He cared only for interest rates,
Gave tax breaks to his rich mates,
Fuck, I'm glad to see him gone!

Pete

They call me Pete Costello.
I was once an ambitious fellow.
But greedy Howard prolonged his stay,
So, I missed out on my big day.
Now, I've opted for the back bench
Amongst the old liberal hack stench,
But, with the downfall of my party
You've already forgotten me.

Song for Bob Brown

(to the tune of *Roxanne* by The Police)

Boooooob Brown!
You don't have to wear that suit tonight!
It's just not you, it's not right.
You've subdued your activist fights.
Just put back on your cheese cloth
Put back on your cheese cloth,
Cheese cloth, cheese cloth....

Confessions of an Obama-phile

Mirza Nurkic

Barack Obama, saviour of the American Left. He will be the first minority President, one to unify and give hope to a people who seem as lost. Memorial libraries will be built in his name, statues erected, speeches quoted more often than with any president since John F Kennedy. Obama has been placed among immortal company before he's even contested the election proper.

Europeans certainly don't doubt this. According to a recent *City Journal* article, "For continental elites, the candidate exemplifies 'the good American.'" He supports universal healthcare, and has always opposed the war in Iraq, a point that he has not been shy in promoting. He also advocates an immediate withdrawal, a marked change from the past eight years of Republican "we're doing just fine" talk.

His aura, the feeling that he can do no wrong, that he is nigh untouchable stands in stark contrast to the feeling surrounding Hilary Clinton. She is a sycophant, a neo-con, a harpy whose greatest interest is ensuring that the annals record the following presidents in the period from 1988 to 2012: Bush, Clinton, Bush, Clinton. She is a southern white man in the body of a southern white woman. She is also the Republican's preferred Democrat, because she is so divisive and polarising. To choose Hilary is to tacitly endorse John McCain.

But wait.

Where did Obama get his squeaky clean image? He certainly looks the candidate most likely at this moment, but will he actually deliver

the sort of inspirational, uplifting presidency that everyone expects of him?

To be honest, there's scant little difference between Clinton and Obama in areas of policy. They both support a hard line on illegal immigration, and both have taken strong pro-Israel stances in their foreign policy statements. While certainly not uncommon views within US politics, these are not the sorts of policies that you'd expect of a hero of the left. Both of Obama's strong policies I mentioned earlier - immediate Iraq withdrawal, and universal healthcare - have been matched by Clinton, with little difference even in the detail. Does this tactic sound familiar to anyone?

I guess it's easy to see why he's doing so well, particularly against Hilary. As a woman with power in America, she is subjected to the sort of close scrutiny from the media that no man would ever endure. What suit is she wearing, what colour is it, and how did she accessorise? How does her make-up look? Why is her laugh so grating? From that point she's fighting an uphill battle just to get her policies noticed.

Add to that the fact that Obama is, if nothing else, charismatic. But to mistake that charisma alone for honesty and trustworthiness is dangerous. It's worth remembering that this is US politics that we're talking about, and for all of Obama's publically avowed refusal of lobbyists' money, there's never any way to be sure. Just look at the example of Eliot Spitzer, former New York Governor, and his expensive call girl.

Writing this article a few months ago, I would've endorsed Obama without hesitation, but now I'm not so sure. One thing's for sure, the 2008 election will be very interesting indeed.

Vaclav the Balaclava & other reasons why Arts graduates make great leaders

Angela Kintominas,
resident Morven Brownian

Czechoslovakia, the famous bit of land that seemed to get in the way of one World War too many, has been famous for its Bohemians, Hitler's desire to consume her virginal soil, its national output of Baltic-style cigars, the whole commie thing, winning that European Football Championship in 1976 and a lack of free media. A beautiful country, with rustic lands, mountain ranges, a rare breed of femmes fatale (fat-tales) with hairy moustaches, gothic buildings of grand historical heritage, gypsies, nationalistic freaktarts...

Alright, I bullshit you.

Even to the profoundly easily interested historical nerd archetype there is generally a lack of common interest in this nation with one (perhaps two) too many syllables. But unfortunately this common conclusion is misleading, and may make us forget perhaps the most important thing of all. There was a man, an important man, whom history should not ever forget that serves as a reminder to us all that lonely

arty-farty-golo-mofo-emo-lofos can change the universe entire. He is known for that infamous questions 'Is the human word truly powerful enough to change the world and influence history?' and 'Would you like fries wit' that?' and Samuel Beckett's *Catastrophe* is dedicated to him, as are Tom Stoppard's *Professional Foul* (1977) and *Rock 'n' Roll* (2006). His name was Vaclav Havel.

Vaclav was born in Prague, where most cultured people were or probably should have been born (for the sake of glorious biography) on 5th October 1936. He was a pimply teenage boy, the sort whose voice did not break until later in teenage-hood, much to his social embarrassment. The real chick-magnet life-changing moment of his early years (bless Freudian psychology flabbergaster which imbues a truer sense of his being) was military service (1957–59). Guns, they do things to men.

Like many men destroyed by the horrors of war, an economics degree, poverty and personal brushes with bourgeoisie comforts, Havel found refuge in theatre. The Divadlo Na zábradlí (or The Theatre On the Balustrade for the uncultured) was Havel's awakening. Working as a stage hand, Vaclav came across actors who did not know what irony was, and found this to be a great irony. For such reasons he studied drama by correspondence at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. By this time, Havel was a full-time fluffy artisté; Havel discovered an uncanny and often forgotten power, that is, the power of the actor over his audience. Soon he got mixed up with The Theatre of the Absurd, The Theatre of Cruelty and dined with great men like Brecht who sought to free people through theatre. As he grew more dramatic,

more eccentric and less pimply, people often joked that when he wandered about the streets of Prague, lost with those dreamy eyes of his, it was as though he was waiting for Godot, the fall of the satellite states, or worse yet, waiting for public transport.

In 1960 Havel's first play, *An Evening with the Family* was publicly performed. An instant success, this paved the way for his controversial plays *The Garden Party* and *Memorandum* to be written and performed between 1963 and 1965. Soon the realms of the theatre and the display in the street became blurred. The movement for social change began to snowball when a peaceful demonstration by students ended in the massacres of the Prague Spring. Massive demonstrations erupted and Havel, the actor, the playwright, addressed a crowd of half-a-million people gathered in Vaclavske Square, projecting, "The truth and love will always beat the lie and hatred."

Whilst the communist government had banned Havel from political activity, the aspiring Shakespeare was not easily quieted. Particularly when his favourite avant-garde communist rock band, the Plastic People of the Universe, was thrown in prison. Like the conjuring of a script, Vaclav wrote his *Charter 77* manifesto as the voice of public outcry.

This public chorus of disapproval grew more and more passionate as Vaclav too was thrown into prison. Here he wrote his essay on 'Post-Totalitarianism' critiquing conditioned human blindness as "living within a lie", a lie much worse than the lie of theatre, which actually only lies to speak truth. Vaclav called upon the power of the powerless in a power-construct political vortex

known as the world. And so our hero, already free from the bounds of the four sided stage, was not contained by the four sided prison cell.

Vaclav was the mere and modest the leader of the Civic Forum, a small group on the fringe of political affairs. He was elected the tenth and last President of Czechoslovakia in 1989. When the Czech Republic was created in 1993, he was elected as its first president. And thus, Havel played a huge role in the re-democratisation and reconstruction of his famous bit of land that seemed to get in the way of one World War too many, famous for its Bohemians, its national output of Baltic-style cigars, its rare breed of femme fatales with hairy moustaches and nationalistic freaktarts...

So as leaders go, perhaps a heart, a soul, and a tad of philosophical dramatic flair go a long way. And perhaps, after all, that Economics degree Havel churned out at Czech Technical University wasn't the only ammunition he needed up his sleeve. Havel's most recent play *Leaving* is set to premier in Prague in June 2008.

Many thanks to: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaclav_Havel#Cultural_allusions_and_interests

REVIEWS

Perry Stephenson



1981

ALBUM SINGLE

ARTISTS Gyroscope

This song really impressed me. Up until 2006 Gyroscope were a pretty average Perth band without any real edge, however in 2007 when they released *Snakeskin* that all changed. This new song, released in February, continues their momentum and heralds what is hopefully the arrival of a great new rock band to the Australian music scene.

The singing is almost punk. It's young and passionate and very immediate. The two guitars provide great counterpoint rhythms and the whole rhythm section is well-locked in. The bass and drums are very predictable and just playing basics, however for this style of music it's all that's needed.

The song is catchy and very radio-friendly, and doesn't really get tiring if you listen to it over and over again. Well worth the \$1.69 on *iTunes*. I'd also recommend checking out their new album *Breed Obsession*.



Dig, Lazarus, Dig!!!

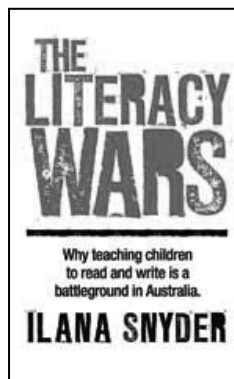
ALBUM

ARTISTS Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds

To be honest, this album was rather disappointing for me. I have always been a huge fan of Nick Cave through all his stages, from his haunting ballads such as *Where the wild roses grow*, to his creepy rhythmic songs like *The Mercy Seat*, and his rough rock like we heard on his recent album performing as "*Grinderman*." This new album, however, has none of the creepiness and none of the passion that made all his old songs great.

It's certainly by no means a bad album. I've listened to the title track way too many times to count, and it certainly grows on you. The rest of the album, though, I've listened to twice. Both times I found my thoughts drifting to everything from the patterns in the paint on the wall to the way everything looks when you go cross-eyed. While it certainly didn't push me away or compel me to turn it off, if an album's strongest point is that it doesn't hurt your ears, then it's probably not that good an album.

It really just comes down to the fact it's boring. There is nothing new here. Sure it's a new sound for Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds, but there is no emotion behind it. Perhaps this is due to the fact this is the first album in a long time which doesn't have Blixa on guitars, however I think it's got more to do with the fact that Nick Cave is mellowing. Most other reviews have praised its accessibility and the fact it appeals to fans of all music genres, however I think in doing so it's lost exactly what makes Nick Cave great: his weirdness.



The Literacy Wars: Why teaching children to read and write is a battleground in Australia

Ilana Snyder 2008

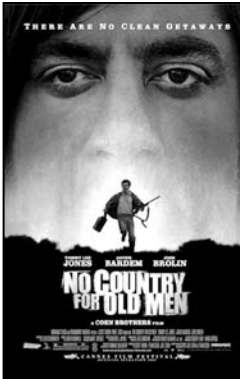
Allen & Unwin

Scarlet Wilcock

The Literacy Wars delivers a sobering analysis of the battle being played out in the media between those who want to restore the 'old ways' of literacy education, and the educators who appreciate new methods of teaching literacy to confront the twenty-first century. *The Literacy Wars* looks past the emotions and hidden agendas behind the claims and counter-claims being tossed around in the media battleground to reveal what's really going on in Australia's classrooms.

Snyder's analysis is undeniably comprehensive. She scrutinises fights around various facets of literacy education including grammar, reading, the use of technology and methods of testing. Segmenting analysis within logical and well-defined topics allows Snyder to create a much more readable and clearer text. I held fears that this segmentation may oversimplify the complexities of these multi-faceted and connected battles. Yet, the clarity with which Snyder writes, and the logical, readable structure makes *The Literacy Wars* more than a text for academic elites. It is a resource for teachers, students, parents and anyone else connected to literacy education.

Follow up analysis would be warmly welcomed, particularly with respect to the developments of this so-called literacy war brought about by the change in government and its promise of an 'education revolution'.



No, Our Country's for Old Men

Directed by The Coen Bros.

Starring acclaimed & well-seasoned Johnny-PC-Jones, Recession 08, hotcake Gillard who brings her boys to the yard. And not much else.

- Four Oscar Wins
- Nine Nominations
- Voted for by you

Angela Kintominas

The epic ball-buster sensation *No, our country's for Old Men* is a bloody but glorious rendition of hard-core Aussie values and a pinnacle of the postmodern fantasy cinema of the 21st century. As a tribute to a gerontocracy with its tight grasp over Australian Parliament and the People, the motif of the paleontological debris and archaeological detritus hovered over by gold-diggers is a neat symbolic gesture, which accolades the simplicity and brilliance of *No, our country's for Old Men's* artistic directors and design. Alive with gore, pounds of flesh and action-packed election campaign melodrama it can take something out of every audience. And this ain't no typical Hollywood show pony. Although the last minute budget cuts meant that Ocker accents and Sydney suburbia could not be overdubbed to adequately conjure the setting of 1980s Texas, directors Coen and Coen had vast cultural overlap on their side; Australeen audiences didn't know no better.

The film opens, in the picturesque dawn of a poetic far away day, where creaking cowboy Krudd (not to be confused with Kruddrick, made famous by his role in *No, our country will throw you overboard* and *No, our country doesn't want Hicks either*) limps out hunting antelope during his free day from Canberra's Aged Care Facility. Suddenly he sees half a dozen dead bodies attracting flies out there in the desert alongside a stash of heroin and US\$2 million. Before we can say no to it, democratic socialism is off on an evangelic Eastern-suburbs led drive to purify Bankstown of its wogs. As the rallies chant "It's our country for old (white) men!" in the newly empty streets, cutting to the low angle shot over Al Sultan Halal Butchery, amidst the background of soft unrecognized unfunded underground Australian music, it's such a beautiful cinema moment that it brings audiences to tears.

The fast pace of the film unpacks itself quickly and before we know it, Krudd hatches a plan to wield the prowess of global warming to the Australian advantage by directing flooding tidal waters to wipe out neighbouring South East Asian economies and wash East Timor's oil ashore. The cunning and clever postmodern pastiche of Krudd with beach blonde girls surfing over Indonesia blowing kisses to Soehearto's floating ballooning body brings a round of laughs from every audience.

But a favourite scene of mine, which should be singled out because of its musical brilliance and immaculate timing is where cowboy Krudd with his fellow cowboys Koward, Bad Habbot and Cursstello sip their milk in the local coffee hut discussing the pros and cons of overnight denches. Headlines "BLESS THE PREDECESSOR'S CONSERVATISM, THE DROUGHT'S DROWNED OUT", "WHAT SCANDAL?" "FUCK YOU VSU" and "FAT OLD TO BUGGERY" lie in the corner of the shot, morbidly undermining the team's sigh of relief. Having signed Kyoto with one of the Weasley twins' cheating quills Krudd congratulates the cowboys and gets ready to split the \$US2 million all round. His secretary runs in, however, and yells "Krudd we've got to do something about the cruddy-ness of your image! When was the last time you checked your facebook status?" It is then agreed by the team that after considering his success on *Rove Live* in the election campaign genius plan perhaps he should go on *So you think you can lead the country* and whack out a few charming dance moves.

But what would he sing and dance? Can he beat the arthritis? The audience crane their collective necks forward. The metadramatic parallels between the real and signified audience on *So you think you can lead the country* and those watching *No, our country's for Old Men* is spectacular. Dishing out an arm, Krudd begins to hum whilst bobbing to his clicking, and starts to crone "I said it's too late, I won't APOLOGISE, it's too late. Eh eh eh. Ur holdin' on ur rope got you ten feet off the ground. U'ready jumped in ur prison cell, that's y u just can't make a sound. It's too l-a-t-e. I won't apologise. EEEEEaaaaaaaah. It's too l-a-t-e".

Critics of the film like to insinuate that often pace is lost e.g when Krudd takes his midday naps or when half way through the car chase Krudd tries to get a train from Richmond (all stops, even) to the City, but has to wait two and a half hours due to track work. But all I can say to those uncultured twerps which litter the Australian film critic population, "Hello! it is called DÉNOUEMENT and VERISIMILITUDE. That's right. Oh yeah. I am yet to see a film which whips out the candour, elegance and sophistication of plot like *No, our country's for old men*". In its closing moments, as Krudd's cowboys are sent on mission XXX to hunt down and destroy his rival, the great tragedy unfolds. Though given explicit instructions to destroy the "Shiny bald head, hairy eye-browed, old white man" the gun-squad are unable to spot the difference as the two rivals for office stand side by side in the 90 minute *Great Debate*. And accidents happen.

As the credits roll up audiences are flooded with dread – the kind delivered by flawless cinematography and brilliance of plot – that maybe in the real world there ARE wogs in Bankstown, that maybe poverty stricken and starving uni students MIGHT feast on their young, and that the very one and the same John Howard IS still in office, only well-disguised by masquerade, eyebrow clippings, sexier glasses and a pomaded wig.

"ASTOUNDING..."

"DARK, THRILLING, SLOW-PACE
MASTER-PIECED!"

"SHIT HOUSE!"

"I FELL ASLEEP, BRO."

Kevin Rudd: Australia's New Prime Minister

Alan Zeino

In one of the many notable events that occurred over the university break, Kevin Rudd was elected Prime Minister of Australia after a Short and Jocular Conversation with the electorate. Australia disposed of its eleven-year Thetan-dropping Volcano-loving Xenu John Howard. In the process of doing so they also threw out a few others past their use-by-date, including Mal Brough and Jackie "I'm not racist but fuck everyone from that Middle Eastern region" Kelly (but unfortunately not Jackie O).

Australians watched in disgust as channels Seven and Nine bothered to host election coverage on the night, while the rest of us laughed pompously along with Kerry O'Brien and his hilarious, "I for one welcome our new Labor overlords" quip.

The tattered Liberal Party proceeded to elect the only person not able to win them an election a few weeks later, with the loved-by-university-leftists-everywhere 'Dr' Brendan Nelson rising to the throne. His appointment has raised the ire of the few who still think the party should flog everyone whose last name isn't Smith - as his tenure is predicted to be left of centre, politically neutral and all those things geriatric conservative voters hate, you know, progress.

In good-news to come from the election, nobody from the Christian Democratic Party was elected to any seat, a win for rational voters everywhere.

SOCIALIST TRAVELLER

Kylar Loussikian

Listen closely comrades! It is well known that the only refuge for a socialist in these money-market times is genteel, left-wing Europe. Forget Lonely Planet and its 'shoestring' guide – this is a bloated capitalist shoestring. Can you believe it comrades, that Lonely Planet (from hereon in CM – Capitalist Menace) advocates spending €60 per day, not including accommodation!?! Nearly \$120 per day is unaffordable to all but the most self-serving bourgeoisie. This handy guide, general as it may be, will provide you with some handy hints for your pilgrimage to where socialism began, and where it still bubbles away under the surface, ready to swell once again and sweep away the remnants of this unjust society.

- 1. Transport:** Eurail is the best approach, but don't succumb to stupidity and pay for a pass. Instead, take the simple approach and hop onto any train you desire (Note: France checks some tickets on departure). If you encounter a ticket inspector, blame ticketing staff, and claim you were told no ticket was required. This method also works on intra-city transport (checked in: Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovenia), where there is no ticket barrier. A favourite method of many hardy comrades is to purchase one ticket and never validate; if caught wave it around like it was the word of Marx himself and feign stupidity.
- 2. Accommodation:** Forget five-star hostels! These are for bourgeoisie scum. Try and take as many 'free' night-trains as possible, and if this makes it hard for you to sleep, try abusing relatives, distant acquaintances and people on the street for offers of free accommodation.
- 3. Sights:** Don't. Stay indoors, pretending you aren't in Europe. Once out there, your coffers will be running dry in days. For food, try the supermarket, or better still, take up smoking. If you insist on venturing out, remember, it is your revolutionary right, nay, responsibility to acquire free donations from the capitalist vermin. A short list of what you may take includes but is not limited to (per day of course): 4x Postcards, 3-4x Fruit, 1x Bottled Water, and if you're particularly nimble, various items from the electrical department at Harrods. Remember comrades, think big: need a new dishwasher, claim it!
- 4. Tours:** While usually nothing more than propaganda about the grandeur of some pathetic monument, tours can sometimes be quite humorous and an apt way of filling the time between cigarettes. Of course, there are few free tours, and it is infinitely more satisfying tagging along on another paid tour absolutely free of charge. Simply pack your camouflage outfit and away you go.

And so comrades, in a matter of minutes we have sliced up CM's bloated shoestring into bits. Save your €60 and liberate your wallets. Travelers of the world, Unite!

**Next Edition: How to survive
as a socialist in China.**



IMAGE Sarah Langdon & Emma Pike
STILL FROM VIDEO WORK
COFA BFA Time Based Arts
Strange Love

NEXT ISSUE #3 THEME Fabrication

MATERIAL DEADLINE Friday 4 April

EMAIL tharunka@arc.unsw.edu.au

CONTRIBUTOR MEETINGS: 4-5pm Wednesdays

WK4 - 9 April, WK6 - 23 April, WK8 - 7 May,

WK10 - 21 May & WK12 - 4 June

LOCATION: Training RM 2 East Wing The Blockhouse



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IMAGE ILLUSTRATION Anne-Louise Dadak & INSTALLATION Nyssa Miller, COFA project in Milan 07