

tharunka

ISSUE 04 EDITION 54

UNSW STUDENT VOICE

week nine

Give a Shit About Arts

Inflamed Tensions

SEX & SENSIBILITY

Challenging Stereotypes About Sex Work

ATC
UNSW Student Life

IMAGE Andrew Haining
 INSTALLATION VIEW - First draft 2008
 COFA BFA Sculpture Installation & Performance
Arena



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the tharunka team 2008

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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Publications Co-ordinator Jude Whitfield.
All our fabulous contributors.
Printers MPD - The fabulous job they do!!!

tharunka needs u

Your articles, editorials, arguments, letters, creative writing, satire & artworks.

Tharunka, comes out roughly every 3 weeks. This issue is themed "Interference". Our next issue will be the Women's Edition.

Please see the back cover for deadlines and our next contributors meeting.

COVER ART Jennifer Tran "Red strings, mirror"
BFA Sculpture Installation & Performance.



Dear readers,

This issue we bring you a mixed-bag of articles, loosely connected by the concept of interference.

We look at intrusions into our lives, our minds, and our communities. It seems like an appropriate topic, especially since we've seen our university take a rather 'interventionist' approach in the Arts faculty. Its so-called streamlining measures are discussed by Chris Moore in "Give a Shit about Arts". We have also borne witness to interference in and around the Olympic torch relay, and the confronting media assault of both pro-Tibet and pro-China activists. "Inflamed Tensions" captures the divergent views of two UNSW students who went to Canberra for the torch relay.

Claire Nemorin takes a look at the politics of race, asking confronting questions about Blackness and Whiteness. Then, from Matt Kwan we learn that one person's political actions are another's social interference.

This issue is the last you'll see of Tharunka's many men. They bid you goodbye for the semester, as the women of Tharunka cannot have them interfering in our upcoming Women's Edition.

IMAGE Tully Arnot
PHOTO OF INSTALLATION - Milan Italy 2007
COFA Bachelor of Design

Blackout



Dear Editor

Have something to say?

Get it published!

Attention all Letters to
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Dear Editor,

Just a quick response to the delightful article complaining about the injustices of public transport provision in the Week 3 issue of your esteemed publication.... dur, MOVE! Seriously, whilst you claim to be an impoverished student I'm assuming that when you (eventually) get home your dinner is on the table and your clothes have been washed. You're at least 18 years old, let go of the apron strings for crying out loud! You're old enough to drink, vote and have promiscuous sex (don't try that at the voting booth). Get yourself a room in a share house or flat close to UNSW and do something with the spare 5 hours a day. You might even meet people you didn't go to school with or are in the same classes as you (scary).

I'm a Pom, did my undergraduate at a Uni not more than 40km from my parents (at tops a 50 minutes commute, driving) and would have never even considered staying with them. Even people from the same city would think it a bit odd to be

dependent on mums and dads for a roof overhead when an adult. Live close, cut down on your travel. Hell, you might even save the environment at the same time - you'll have to learn to budget and (shudder) cook and clean up after yourself. In other words, a valuable life experience.

Since this is the all new "balls-out *Tharunka*", I'll dabble in a bit of pseudo-racism. I've heard numerous undergrads complaining about overseas students getting to lectures before them or staying later in the evening. Whilst any debate over stronger work ethic and the like is purely open to conjecture you'll find that most live near to UNSW or are closer to the city on decent public transport links.... go figure.

Andy Tice

Editors,

Feeling like you aren't getting enough letters to *Tharunka*, unlike in the good old broadsheet days of pre '07? Maybe you should start offending more people, no more of this PC crap, no more 'hellos' to the indigenous owners of the land, more "Haha we made the cover so thick with dodgy black newspaper ink it came off on your hands, sucked in, now you are branded."

But seriously, it is some part of your "the only way we could get post-VSU funding" deal to not offend anyone? I remember the old days when *Blitz* was shit and *Tharunka* was entertaining... well that's still pretty much true, *Blitz* is a glorified 'What's On' page, but I used to enjoy *Tharunka* because it was people saying what everyone else thought but didn't have the balls to say. Not whinging about "wa wa it takes me too long to get to uni because I live in a McMansion in the Hills".

On that particular subject, if you can afford to spend so much to get to uni, MOVE THE FUCK OUT AND STOP TELLING EVERYONE ABOUT IT, WE DONT CARE IF YOU SIT IN TRAFFIC, traffic is boring enough when you do it yourself, we have all done it, even college kids at some stage have done it, it is worse when you tell us about it. You think that 2 hours is a big deal, one of my friends used to commute

from the Blue Mountains every day, almost 3 hours each way. That sucked for her, but she didn't whinge about it and then after 2 years she moved out, to next to uni.

Peter Sugden

P.S if your response to me about this is that maybe I should write an article, I will... but some of us do science and don't have lots of spare time...

Perry Stephenson writes,
To Andy Tice,

Despite my use of the "whinge" text type for my article, I think I raised a number of valid points. There is always the solution of moving out, however it's only ever going to be a short term solution (as eventually I'll run out of money) and given I live in Sydney it seems like a gross waste of money spending hundreds of dollars a week to move a whole 40km from home.

Perhaps instead if the State Government stopped dangling the carrot of a train line in the North West and actually got to work on building something, then we might finally see some justice for the residents who are unfortunate enough to live within "Sydney" but are more than half an hour from a reliable public transport service to the city. Or alternatively we could see some equity and get our tolls paid back to us as part of a "cashback" scheme, similar to that used to buy the votes of M4 users.

I guess I can make the assumption here you did an Arts degree or something with a similar number of hours. For people like me studying Engineering, the idea of having enough time to get a job and earn enough money to live out of home in anything other than a tent is a dream we will never realise.

No one who lives within "Sydney" should have to move out to attend University in "Sydney". What a load of crap.

Perry

To Peter Sugden,

I think the point of my article seems to have gone in one ear, mistaken your brain for dead, and gone straight out the other ear. I'm not looking for someone to tell me how hard done by I am. My goal is to highlight the horrendous state of public transport within Sydney.

I take it you have never been to the Hills, not everyone is loaded with cash as you patronisingly suggest. And we certainly aren't as rude as people like you. (You complained we weren't offending enough people, may I start with you?)

If you disagree with my sentiment, why do you discredit your comments with SHOUTING and incomprehensible blabber? If you really feel like the situation with Public Transport in Sydney is a shining example of efficiency and equity, then why not put together a written argument pointing out the positives of leaving the fastest growing region in Sydney out to dry?

Perry

Editors,

Your article in the week 6 edition reported on a new combination of support services offered to students in Physics 1a. The writers correctly observe that students have the choice of attending very large problem-solving classes, held by experienced academics in lecture theatres, or attending small or individual sessions with teaching assistants, typically graduate students in physics, or both of these, as well as having a range of rather deep and broad online support services.

They also correctly point out that, in the problem solving classes, we usually look at just three or four questions in detail. This is because we use these classes to explain the techniques of problem solving, rather than to rush through answers to all homework questions: worked answers to all problems, and discussions about them, when needed, are available on-line.

The writers suggest that the reason why few go to the individual sessions may be timetable difficulties, though

we have tried to provide a suitable range of time-slots.

The article did not mention the alternative explanation I proposed when one of the writers phoned me about this, which has to do with format and preparation. In a meeting with the teaching assistant, the assistant will ask the student to show his or her homework and ask where s/he had problems. A large majority of the students attending the problem solving classes have made no serious attempt to solve the problems themselves first.

It is possible that, because of work, travel time and other commitments, many students simply do not have time to do their homework and so prefer to watch someone else solve homework problems, rather than to admit in a small group or personal consultation that they have not tried to do their homework.

Joe Wolfe
one of the teachers in Physics 1a

From the Letters Editor:

Well well well, what have we here? Letters actually addressing what we've printed? Hallelujah and praise the skies! Makes a nice change from spur-of-the-moment remarks about Barry Hall or the Rabbitohs, which will in all likelihood be so out-dated come this issue's publication they won't even be funny.

So, responses, though perhaps they could have been combined. But it is somewhat odd to see a claim that engineering students never have time for work I know several personally, plus what do you suppose college and international engineering students have to do?

In closing, however, it probably isn't that good an idea to accuse Arts students of just lazing about. Especially since, as Mary Egan writes on our Facebook wall, "I also like that you're blatantly left leaning arts students. It gives me warm fuzzies." Us too, Mary, us too. - RT

NEWS





UNSW STUDENTS RIDING SHORT BUS

Chris Moore

Students at a recent town meeting held by university management were keen to vent their anger about the Eddy Ave bus queues. The queues at Central, which is the main hub for transport to UNSW, have grown so much that they now frequently reach to the rail bridge near Elizabeth St.

UNSW's Chief Operating Officer, Peter Graham, explained the massive queues as due to increased patronage by students. He said that delays in introducing six new large articulated buses, as well as bus drivers calling in sick, had meant that there were simply not enough buses to carry students.

Mr Graham said that he had met with the Chief Executive Officer of Sydney Buses, and that the Vice Chancellor Fred Hilmer had

met with the Deputy Premier John Watkins, and petitioned for more buses to be provided for the 891 route. However, the six extra buses which Sydney Buses had promised would not be ready until June.

Brett, a student at UNSW who attended the meeting to raise his concerns, said "We are Sydney Buses' single biggest customer, yet they insist on providing the shorter buses - it doesn't take a genius to know that they'll fill the longer buses with students."

Other concerns raised at the meeting included the 12-week semester, the state of toilets at UNSW, and the lack of microwaves in food courts.

GIVE A SHIT ABOUT ARTS

Chris Moore

The Arts faculty at UNSW is in a sorry state. University management has been exerting pressure on the faculty to sustain itself independently, instead of cross-subsidising from other faculties. The changes in the Arts faculty are striking.

The number of courses offered has dropped markedly across schools. "History has cut its overall course offerings by 75%," said Claire Nemorin, a student representative on the Arts Faculty board. "For example, there used to be seven first-year history courses. Now there are only two."

Ben, another Arts student, said that UNSW "used to have the second largest range of arts courses in Australia." The small number of generalist courses that are being touted as replacements for courses that have been cut are often taught by lecturers who are highly specialised.

All casual teaching staff in the Arts faculty were sacked last year, many of whom were tutors. The permanent staff, mainly lecturers, who were asked to run the tutorials in place of the casual tutors have been hard-pressed to sustain them.

Tutorial sizes have blown out, and students are finding it hard to interact with their peers. Nick Moore, who is studying linguistics, says that the number of students in his tutorials has increased markedly. "You all sit at tables facing the board because you can't move into a circle." Languages students have been particularly critical of increased tutorial sizes, complaining that when experience in speaking is so crucial, it defeats the purpose of tutorials to have thirty students in a classroom.

The frequency of tutorials is also under threat. Samira, a Sociology student, said that her tutorials are now only held once a fortnight, "the tutor said it's because of budget cuts."

She should count herself lucky to have a tutorial at all. Prudence and Xin say that their Social Science and Policy tutorials have been axed in favour of online coursework. "They say to direct our questions through the website."

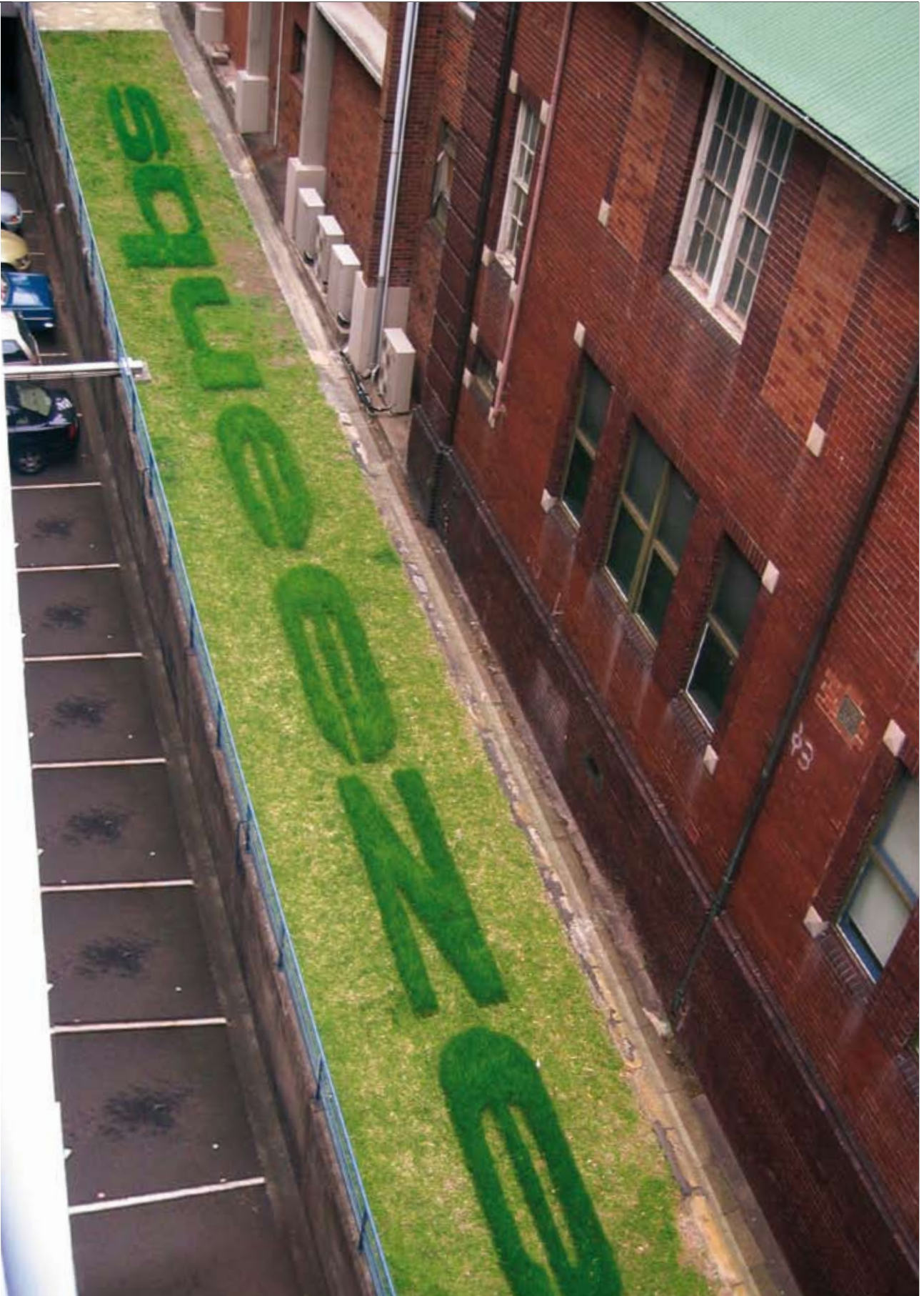
If you're studying in the faculty of Arts, the imperative is clear – fight for your faculty's survival, or your education will be degraded. The ever-narrowing breadth of subjects on offer will mean less choice, and having to settle for subjects you're not entirely interested in. Your faculty's survival is on the line.

"Save Arts" meetings are every fortnight in even weeks, Thursdays 3-4pm on the Library Lawn.

Chris Moore is the Education/Welfare Officer.



IMAGE Alison Simon
 PHOTO OF INSTALLATION - Cofa 2007
 COFA BFA Sculpture Installation & Performance
Squeeze





Inflamed Tensions

Chris Moore

When the Olympic torch passed through Canberra recently, it attracted demonstrations not unlike those seen on earlier legs of the relay. Pro-China and pro-Tibet protesters attended in large numbers, UNSW students and alumni among them.

Han Zhang, a PhD student, went with his girlfriend to join the pro-China groups, travelling on one of the buses organised by the UNSW Chinese Students Association. He was motivated in part by a perceived media bias in favour of the pro-Tibet protesters. "After what happened in London, Paris and San Francisco, I feel more compelled to go there... I felt that unless we turn up in large numbers, we're just not going to be heard."

Aston Kwok, an alumnus of UNSW, was in Canberra with some people from the Australia Tibet Council. He attended because he was "knowledgeable and aware about the human rights violations that go on in China, not just against Tibetans but also against Chinese in general... In countries like Australia, there are checks and balances against the abuse of state power. There are much less checks and balance against the abuse of state power in China."

In Canberra, as with many of the relay's legs, the pro-China protesters were in the majority. "It was a sea of red flags," said Han. Aston attributes this to efforts by Chinese government officials. "We knew in advance that the Chinese embassy was going to ship in a truckload of protesters," he said. Han said the embassy didn't orchestrate the protests, but rather that students approached the embassy for assistance in organising transport logistics. "It is unreasonable to assume that anything pro-China was conspired and executed by the Chinese government."

The atmosphere was tense, but the protests were peaceful compared to those in Paris or London, where attempts to extinguish the flame resulted in mass arrests. Aston said the abuse from pro-China protesters was constant. "I found the atmosphere quite confrontational... They told us to go home. Some told us that all Tibetans were 'running dogs'," an expression that Aston explains has connotations of being, "less than human."

Though both agree that human rights in China could be better, Han and Aston disagree how bad they are, and how to go about improving them. Aston said that, "In China there is no right to protest. There's a heavily censored media. Civil rights have been curtailed... This is the only way right now for people outside China to make the world know that things are not right in that country." Han believes that though human rights is an issue for China,

they could be worse. "From 1989 [when the Tiananmen Square Massacre occurred] until now... there is some kind of improvement." He also said that the pro-Tibet protests have been unconstructive. "It's like making up excuses to criticise [China]."

There is debate over whether the Olympics should be above politics. "I don't think the Olympics is an appropriate forum [to raise concerns about human rights]. It should just be a sports venue," said Han. "It's getting so much attention, so it's a very effective weapon to raise any issues and current affairs, and I don't think that should be done."

"I have very little sympathy with the argument that politics shouldn't be mixed with the Olympic games," disagrees Aston. "I would remind people about the history of the Olympics, and the history of the Olympic torch relay, which originated in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. It was used originally as a way of illustrating German racial superiority."

Though the international protests have resulted in China agreeing to meet with aides of the Dalai Lama, it seems unlikely that any resolution will come out of those talks. As the torch moves closer to Beijing, the future of Tibet is as uncertain as ever.



THANKS TO PHOTOGRAPHER Mira Wroblewski

Youth Slam Coal Industry Hijacking of 2020 Climate Agenda

Anna Rose, 2020 Delegate

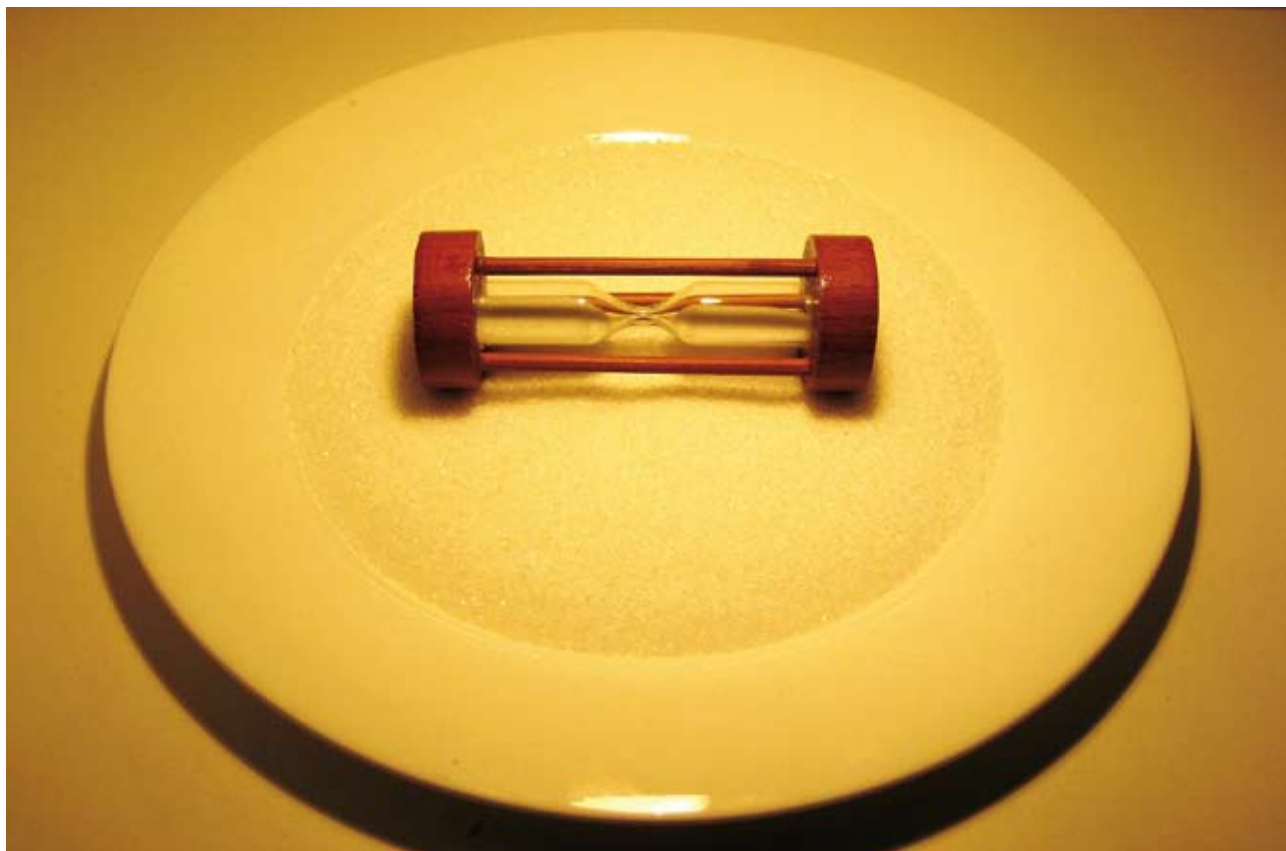


IMAGE Jennifer Tran
PHOTO OF INSTALLATION
COFA BFA Sculpture Installation & Performance
The last supper

It was touted as a forum where people would put aside their vested interests and think about the future of our country, not the future of their company. In Kevin Rudd's opening speech he encouraged all Summiteers to be bold. He said, "There is no such thing as a bad idea". But the coal industry and their allies had decided otherwise: transitioning away from coal was, in their minds, a very bad idea.

The first surprise came when delegates were divided into streams within our broader portfolio and I found myself in the climate stream with representatives from coal mining companies including Xstrata and Shell, yet not a single person from an environment Non-Government Organisation. No-one from Friends of the Earth, the Australian Conservation Foundation, Greenpeace, Climate Action Network Australia or any of the State Conservation Councils. These are the organisations who were campaigning on climate change decades before Al Gore's film and decades before it became a popular political issue. These are the organisations – the movement – who put climate on the agenda, and who did all the groundwork to make last year's election the world's first climate election. They put the issue on the table, so surely they deserve a seat there! Why would the coal industry be represented, but not the climate movement, in the 'climate' stream of 2020? This was remedied on the second day, by abolishing the issue-based streams and coming together as a large group – but the damage has been done.

I was there as a representative of the youth movement, with the simple message that we are running out of time to act on climate change. We must make fundamental changes to our economy now, and that we urgently need to do whatever is most effective to safeguard our climate and our future.

So I came to the Summit willing to listen to new ideas and creatively brainstorm around a few I'd been thinking about – a personal carbon allocation scheme, and a nation-wide green job creation scheme. We could design a massive green job program that would inspire Australians to get involved, create hundreds of thousands of new jobs, and make Australia a world leader in renewable energy and energy efficiency. These were just two of my ideas: I was excited to hear what others had come up with.

However, it became clear at the start of the summit that members of the coal industry and their 'business as usual' allies had pre-determined their position and approach – and it was one that aggressively pushed so-called 'clean coal' and argued for more subsidies to the coal industry for them to build clean coal plants. At one point a delegate argued against reducing

Australia's carbon footprint (ostensibly because we have a 'special place in the world' and could provide energy for the rest of the world – I was unsure why we couldn't still do this while reducing our emissions if we move to renewables). Peter Coates, from the giant coal mining company Xstrata, even argued that we should abolish the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target. This is the position of the Australian Industry Greenhouse Network, who are focusing all their efforts this year on undermining the emissions trading scheme by proposing free permits to coal-fired power generators – which totally defeats the purpose of a trading system.

One of the coal industry members stated that he wanted a level playing field for so-called 'clean coal' and that the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target is unfair. This is laughable considering that the fossil fuel industry in Australia already receives \$9 billion in federal subsidies each year – 28 times more than what is spent on renewable energy.

The day before the Summit, twenty 20-year-olds representing all major Australian youth organisations presented a statement calling for urgent and immediate action on climate change to Minister for Youth, Kate Ellis, in Canberra. The statement urges the government to give young Australians a real chance of a safe future by urgently adopting much deeper greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. The organisations call on the government to make Australia a world leader in energy efficiency and renewable energy, which would create thousands of jobs for young Australians.

At the end of the Summit, youth delegates re-grouped and voiced our frustration and disappointment at the way the coal industry had hijacked the climate agenda. They did not act in good faith, but rather pushed their business agenda, meaning a small minority silenced the majority of people in the room who pushed for a statement calling for no new coal-fired power stations in Australia (unless or until carbon capture and storage was proven to work, proven safe, efficient and commercially viable – which it is not at this stage, and the majority of the climate movement believe it will never be). We believe that the sense of urgency – our future is at stake – was lost. We released a statement to the media congratulating the Rudd government for their willingness to hear our ideas, but condemning the coal lobby for their intervention, which obstructed discussion of some really new ideas.

Youth certainly don't blame Penny Wong or Kevin Rudd for the weak outcomes on climate change from 2020. I was excited to be involved and thought the idea of an ideas-generating summit was excellent. The coal industry, however, used the Summit to push their agenda through an organised attempt – strategically, in the lead-up to the federal budget – to position so-called 'clean coal' as the solution to climate change and one in need of more federal subsidies. We do not need new coal in Australia. We can deploy energy efficiency and renewable energy, and fundamentally change our society and economy – for example through distributed energy systems rather than the centralised grid. And we could do it tomorrow, long before 'clean' coal has been proved or disproved (in fact, the majority of the climate movement say it has already been disproved).

Our generation expected – and needed – better outcomes from the 2020 Summit for our climate, and our future. As Friday's youth statement reads, "We have one climate, one future, and one chance to save it."

Republic

Kylar Loussikian

heartedly. What the government actually means by this is that the latte-left are whole-heartedly in support of republicanism. McKew even told *The Sydney Morning Herald*, "There was no-one to be found at the summit who did not support a Republic." WOW! That looks like a fair and balanced cross-section of the Australian people.

As I said previously, it really wouldn't bother me if we were a republic or if we were a monarchy, but I don't understand why successive governments waste time and money either way. The Queen isn't exactly holding Kevin Rudd's hand and telling him how to run the country. She doesn't comment on our election or hold the nation hostage during televised addresses every second week. The only time I think of her is when this ridiculous republican push is bought up in the news. Surely the government can think of something better to do



IMAGE Rosie Deacon
PHOTO OF INSTALLATION
COFA BFA Sculpture Installation & Performance
Trash Bag

I'm not a fan of the Queen. Don't get me wrong, I don't hate her, but I really couldn't care less if Her Majesty was tap-dancing backwards on the lawn of Buckingham Palace while her grandchildren sold drugs to make a living. I barely think of the monarchy; there are many more important things to do. Unfortunately, the government doesn't see it this way. Home Affairs minister Bob Debus spoke recently of an Australian republic by 2010; and Maxine McKew told the press that no-one at the 2020 summit was in favour of retaining the monarchy. The question remains: why are we still discussing this? Who cares if we have a president or a monarch? It's largely the same role anyway.

The 2020 summit's main objective was to bring about new ideas. Somehow one of these new ideas, the republic, has been floated since Paul Keating. We've been told that the Australian people support republicanism whole-

with their time – bring on the education revolution, do something, anything – rather than talk about some pointless flight of fancy of the elite inner-city crowd. Will an Australian republic improve education? Will it improve the living standards of regular Australians? Will it reduce interest rates and reduce unemployment?

The PM may say there is a national consensus, but there is not. His summit has told him to press ahead with the republic, but I'd like to remind him that no matter how you look at the figures, the last referendum that was held said no to a republic. Are we going to continue to recycle this pointless cause every change of government until we get the answer the politicians want?

A change to a republic is a pointless exercise, and is needlessly distracting the government from meaningful change. The latte-left can piss off; instead of monarchy, let's talk about university funding, or perhaps new environmental standards, who cares, but can we please just get off this subject.



Phuong Au PRESIDENT

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The thing that defines us as students is the fact that our first and foremost priority is to study and get through uni. Our ability to be inspired by our learning and focus on our assignments has been hindered by many factors this year, such as the shortening of the semester from 14 weeks to 12 weeks, and the apparent lack of preparation on behalf of many faculties and the university to deal with many of the issues that have resulted. One element of the 12 week semester is Saturday exams, which students were told last year would only occur as a last resort. The tightness of the semester, and the fact that course co-ordinators can't afford to give up an hour or so of class time for assessments, has meant that for many students Saturday exams are the norm. This is particularly bad for students who NEED to work on weekends to get through uni, otherwise they don't have the money to buy enough food for the week, pay for public transport and pay the rent without asking to borrow money from people they know.

Many factors outside the university are also putting the squeeze on students, such as the increasing cost of living, particularly rental costs in the local area, bad public transport facilities that are stressing us out by making us late to class, and recent industrial relations changes, once known as WorkChoices, which gave employers the right to stop paying overtime, Sunday and public holiday rates to students who needed that extra cash. Not the mention the inadequate rate of Youth Allowance, Austudy and Abstudy for those who managed to leap through all the hoops to get it.

Getting through uni always has its challenges, but it shouldn't be this hard for the many students who come to uni without a huge amount of financial support from their family. Help your Student Representative Council make student life better for all of us and for future students by getting involved and contributing in any way you can. Please contact me for any info you need.



Chris Moore

EDUCATION & WELFARE OFFICER

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The university has axed two weeks of our semester.

You might notice a feeling of panic about this time of semester. That's because last year you had two more weeks than you do now. The changes include not only the 12-week semester but also Saturday and night exams, 2-day Stuvac and more exams crammed into a shorter period of time.

What's the problem?

More stress, less time to complete the same assignments, a poorer quality education, less time for paid employment during semester so students can't support themselves.

Who's responsible for this?

Academic Board, one of the uni's decision-making bodies, passed the changes a few years ago. Hardly any students (or staff!) knew about it until last year, when everyone realised how huge a change it was.

Express your anger - fill out our online survey

To find out just what effect these calendar changes are having on students, the SRC, together with students on Academic Board, have put together an online survey. Your responses will help form the SRC's recommendations to Academic Board.

Find the survey on the Arc website:
www.arc.unsw.edu.au/Rep-Council-29.aspx

Get involved – come to the student meeting

When: 12pm-2pm Tuesday, Week 10 (20 May)

Where: Quad 1001

What: We'll be getting more people informed about what's going on, and figuring out what else we're going to do about it. We'll be distributing action kits that people can take to their classes, and sending letters to Academic Board. In other words, fighting to get our semester back!

The Education/Welfare collective meets on Tuesdays from 1pm to 2pm, in the Blockhouse.



Claire Nemorin WOMEN'S OFFICER

Student Representative Council

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I'm overjoyed with being part of the Women's Collective and how Women's Week is unfolding, but I'm really tired so I'm going to break this up into chunks.

In the future: The Women's Collective will have a relaxed and group-run workshop challenging common meanings of sex on Monday 19th of May (week 10) from 2-3pm. ALL women welcome!!!

Also a group of us will also be going to the Network of Women Students Australia conference in July.

Recently: Women's Week (Week 7)!

Four women who are religious, spiritual or atheist courageously shared their experiences and stories as part of the Women's Collective and Atheist Society's Women and Religion forum: Oh My Goddess.

As part of our Women's Safety on Campus Campaign, we have been compiling survey responses re how safe women feel on campus, and giving out Security pamphlets given to us by Facilities. After weeks of preparation, it's been very exciting to take it to the streets (i.e. outside the Library)!

There were workshops on women and assertiveness, and on gender identity. The Indigenous Women and the Apology forum was amazing. I can't wait for the genders discussion groups!

Thanks: Women's Week happened because of so many awesome people, groups and organisations: the super-rockin' Women's Collective, Alan Zeino and the Atheist Society, Dr Helene Bowen-Raddeker, Hillary, Bron, Tonia, Nasim and Shomaice, the super-cool SRC inclusive of Angie Rozali, Chris Moore, Warren Roberts, Andrew Rose, Calvin Shaw and Madeline - the female-identifying queer convenor, the Blitz team and Jude, the Counselling Service, April Long, Jilda Simpson and Nura Gili, Katherine Cummings, awesome Arc colleagues, and anyone who just offered to help or helped with publicity including leafletting!

In collectivism, anything can happen!



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First off, just letting you all know, action against racism is still happening on campus through the collective now called Cultural Diversity Collective. It used to be called Anti-Racism Collective but I guess it didn't seem to reflect the approaches we wanted to take such as organising with and aimed at cultural clubs for cross-cultural events such as International Night Markets and soccer games with a twist.

Our first Villawood detention centre solidarity visit was very intense indeed, meeting a woman from China who has been in that same place for over 4 years!! Imagine living in less than one square kilometre for 4 years of your life? With no hopes and dreams beyond just continuing to live, this limbo has been incredible and ridiculous. A small group of us want to continue going there monthly to provide real continuous support but more importantly give variety to the menial lifestyle of detainees.

Next visit is this Sunday 18th May. Meet at 11:20am under the country link clock at Central Station. Please email me on ethnic@arc.unsw.edu.au if you'd like to come, as all are welcome. Plus, get ready for Refugee Week!

Refugee Week 2008: A place to call home

June 15 – June 21

The Refugee Council of Australia is once again coordinating Refugee Week. The week will be celebrated from June 15 to 21 to coincide with UN World Refugee Day on June 20. Refugee Week is a time to acknowledge and celebrate the amazing contribution that refugees make to Australian society. This year's theme has many aspects and facets. The feeling of being home provides security. As a secure base, home is the certainty that you have a place to return to. Home shapes our identity. Therefore everybody needs a home, a place to identify with.

If you need some help or want to do something off campus for Refugee Week (even though it is during exam time) send us an email as we'd like to know too!



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Hi all. Well let's get straight to it...

- Every Wednesday students from Arc are running a book fair at COFA so come along and pick up a bargain. You'll find art magazines, novels, textbooks, cookbooks – you name it! Wednesday's book fair is also a great opportunity to ask any questions you might have about Arc, about exhibiting at Kudos gallery, about forming a club/society or getting involved in collectives.
- If you're unhappy with the 12-week semester then tell us so! Your rep council is currently running a survey about the effects of the reduced semester on students and we want your input. If you haven't yet filled in a survey, drop by the Arc office and pick one up. It's important that we let the university know our concerns/experiences.
- Just a reminder... if you're interested in running a student initiative and need help with organising or with accessing resources or funds, then come and see us at the Arc office. Arc is there to support you and your creativity so come to us anytime with ideas, plans, concerns etc, and find out how we can help.
- At the end of this year COFA is undergoing major redevelopment and it's important that students' needs are met, both during the building process and upon its completion. What changes do you want to see? What do you want from your campus? Meetings are being held throughout the year so make sure you keep informed and have your say.

Hope you are having a great lead up to end of semester.

Student Development has been spending the past few weeks looking at what volunteering is and what it means in a membership environment. How are programs going to provide the best value to our members – in skills and experiences – in the future? We are looking at it and working out ways to do things better and to provide more value across all programs.

I have been updating readers on the different aspects of Student Development this semester. A major outstanding aspect are the courses.

Student Development runs courses in conjunction with the Eastern Suburbs Community College. Arc members get discounts on these courses. There's quite an array to help you get employed, or just provide new skills – Responsible Service of Alcohol, First Aid and more.

As always there's more info at Student Development Reception – Level 1 Roundhouse or D Block COFA.

Hey all!

Just so you know - the National Disability Awards nomination deadline is approaching (Friday 9th May), so I really suggest to everyone (including those who do not have a disability) that they nominate themselves or someone for these awards. You can check out the website at <http://www.idpwd.com.au>.

If you have made, or know someone who has made, a significant contribution to their community, either at a local, regional, state or national level, tell them about it by nominating them for the National Disability Awards 2008.

There are five award categories:

- Community Contribution Award - Person with disability who has made a significant contribution to their community (no age limit)
- Young Community Contribution Award - Young person with disability who has made a significant contribution to their community (aged between 12 and 25 years)
- Inclusion Award - Person who has made a significant contribution to improving the lives of people with disability (no age limit)
- Go Getter Award - Young person who has made a significant contribution to improving the lives of people with disability (aged between 12 and 25 years)
- Personal Achievement Award - Person, either with disability or caring for someone with disability, who has overcome adversity to achieve personal goals

Until next time!

Since last making contact with you, the Environment Collective has been chugging away saving the world, most notably with our new binder. This beautiful creature has the ability to turn scrap paper into a writing pad, without employing any new unused paper or any intensive recycling process. Just donations of paper used only on one side and a bit o' elbow grease. Should you desire an environmentally sound writing pad, to reduce deforestation and to curb dangerous climate change, one can be found in the Student Rep Council, in the Blockhouse, for a gold coin donation. Or you may wish to acquire the skill of working the binder and make your own enviropad (or bind another equally important document, assignment etc.), which can be achieved at the aforementioned location.

We also co-hosted a forum, A Climate for Change, with Engineers Without Borders, Christian Students Uniting and Greens on Campus. We had three speakers talking about the social and technical aspects of climate change, and what we can do as students (come to collective 12-1 Quad Lawn, for example).

Some lucky collective members spent their Anzac long weekend down the South Coast with environmental activists from all around the state learning and developing skills in activism and environmentalism.

Most importantly though, in this installment of the Environment Department Report: Students of Sustainability Registration Is Now Open!! Limited places at discounted price! This is going to be an amazing week with people learning and sharing ecological and social sustainability, with national and international experts. Go to www.studentsofsustainability.org for more information and to register. Following this amazing week and conveniently in the same location, will be Camp for Climate Action. This is a week of skillsharing and activism around the coal industry in Newcastle. So much excitement on the horizon, keep your ears out for more updates.

Jacqui and Maria



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What's on in the International Student Department this month?

Recap from previous weeks...

- We just had a Work Rights Workshop with guest speaker: Helen Yuen from NSW Workplace Ombudsman
 - International Student Collective and Cultural Diversity Collective just organised a BBQ and it was free for everyone! It was great and we fed more than 100 people...
 - International Student Collective just had a meeting about Disclosure of Fee Increases for International Students
 - We're also brainstorming about International Night Markets and calling for interest and students who are willing to organise it
- Our plans...
- Follow up the meeting about Disclosure of Fee Increases for International Students
 - Cultural Clubs Information Session for International Night Markets (Week 9, Thursday, 1-2pm, Blockhouse Level 1, Training Room 1)
 - International Photo Competition to scrap Stereotype against International Students (See Blitz for details! Huge prize for the winner...)
 - Also calling for organisers and volunteers for International Night Market, which will be held on Week 8 Semester 2 (it's going to be a huge event and students, especially international students who are seeking experience inside organisations should not miss this!)

Be a part of it!!!!!!

Inquiries about Organiser and Volunteer positions for International Night Market 2008 to: n.miranti@arc.unsw.edu.au or come to International Student Collective meeting Every Thursday, 1-2pm, Block House, Level 1, Training Room 1

Cheers, Nadia Miranti

Opposing Homophobic Violence

The Collective has discussed the possibility of running a discussion group/forum with the NSW Police to interrogate them about the lack of support for victims of homophobic violence. Statistics show a dramatic rise of homophobic violence, especially around or on Oxford Street. In some instances it has been reported that the police claimed not to have adequate resources to help these people. The Queer Collective would like to know if this is really true and if so, why is this the case? Any violence is unacceptable and all offenders should face our criminal justice system.

Access to the Queerspace

It is now possible to access the Queerspace by asking for a key at Arc reception. Your details and a contact number will be kept as record of who possesses the key. The record will be confidential given the nature of the request. Those who borrow the key are responsible for the state that the Space is left in when the key is returned. If the Space appears to have been vandalised in any way when you first enter, you should report this to Reception immediately.

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.

Tuesday – Womyn on Top, 2pm to 5pm, Queerspace, room 920 Chemical Sciences

Wednesday – Guy 2 Guy, 6:30pm to 8:30pm, Queerspace, room 920 Chemical Sciences

Thursday – Queer Collective, 4:30pm to 6:30pm, Queerspace, room 920 Chemical Sciences

Queer @ COFA

Queer Collective meetings for weeks 9 and 12 will be held at COFA in the Committee Room, beside the Student Common room. This is to foster a more inclusive environment for our COFA cousins. During Week 4, some COFA students attended the Collective and some arrangements have been made to connect queers on both campuses. The Collective is interested in having COFA Queer Officers for next year.

Le Plaisir: Masquerade

Following the roaring success of the week 1 party, the Queer Department threw its second party of the session on Thursday, 8th May 2008 from 7:30pm until midnight.

Held at the Club Bar, the event delivered entertaining performances. The Collective would like to thank Circusoc for their support..

Rainbow Chatter

The Collective has restructured the Rainbow Chatter sessions to flow more evenly and thought-provokingly. After discussion with the group, an executive decision was made that the sessions will be split into one hour parts. Each of the topics will also be using material raised by students in emails to the Department as core discussion material. The next Rainbow Chatter session is about lives without sex and is followed immediately by fetishes and kinks, and will be held on Wednesday Week 9, 4:30-6:30, in the Queerspace.

Writing Competition

The Feminist Bookshop, the Darlinghurst Bookshop and New Mardi Gras were all emailed to ask for support for a writing competition to be held some time next semester.

The Feminist Bookshop is interested in supporting our event, via judging and/or prizes. No reply has been received from the other two organisations.

This semester is almost finished. People are busy doing their studies and hopefully having fun.

Those who are interested in YARN, our Indigenous discussion group open to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and staff, please send me an email ASAP, so I can send you the details of how YARN works.

Yarn is now working with GetUp, Oxfam and CloseTheGap. Hopefully we can get more people interested in YARN and Indigenous issues.

Week 11 is Indigenous Week so get amongst it during week 11. If anyone wants to find out what is happening send me an email. Remember, it's going to be full of fun and excitement. Indigenous Week is for everyone on campus to get actively involved with Indigenous events.

Currently YARN is focusing on "Where to from the apology?", so if this is something that you would like to be a part of come along, or send me an email if you cannot make this time and I can set up another time to meet as well.

The apology from Prime Minister Kevin Rudd is just the first step of healing for the stolen generations. It is also a move towards reconciliation in Australia. If we as Australians are to move forward, it is through our actions that we make the future of our country. Change can only be achieved through our individual actions, such as understanding each others' differences through a simple act such as a yarn, which will lead towards our collective goal: for true reconciliation to exist.

YARN Collective

**5-6PM Meeting in front of the library
Look for the Aboriginal flag for a point of reference**

SOME POLITICS OF RACE

Claire Nemorin

In the hallowed halls of universities – OK, in humanities faculties – the study of whiteness is standard to some curricula. Critical whiteness studies challenge the entrenched ideas that:

1. the 'white race' is without privilege so that 'everyone is born equal';
2. the 'white race' is biologically determined like other 'races'.

Instead whiteness is a racialised social construct. White folk have access to unearned privileges because they 'are' white. This construct produces deep ramifications for those who are classified as non-white. It also prevents claims of 'reverse racism'. Some people of colour who are also hard workers are often accused of taking away the school and job places of the Anglo-Australians who perceive a sense of entitlement; the places had to be originally 'theirs'.

Critical whiteness studies also identify white folk as having a 'race', a non-luxury afforded to most non-whites since we were children. In an Australian context, whiteness must be framed within considerations of Indigenous sovereignty – and even though I am a woman of colour, I am also non-Indigenous and benefit from living on Indigenous land.

Now here you might be thinking: how useful is this academic unpacking of whiteness in order to combat racism (for that is the purpose)? Can this theory ever go beyond the university's hallowed halls?

Beautiful, engaging, turn-me-on theory – with jargon galore (as you've already seen) this academic focus on whiteness can be guilt-inducing for the white students and academics who come to recognise their white privilege. This recognition of privilege

can be as basic as knowing that they are very often treated differently because they are white. However while racism can be quite painful, folk of colour cannot be part of anti-racist actions by ourselves. We are also not here to provide all the anti-racist answers. So while critical whiteness studies produce a constructive way of looking at the world, this way of looking needs to translate to somewhere a little more accessible. But where to?

How about to an online satirical website? I see you nod eagerly. Satire is the unofficial and relatively safe panacea for the world's social ills.

So I third-hand present to you the satirical American blog, *Stuff White People Like* with the title mirroring the content.

I have (not) randomly chosen more than a few blog entries to first describe and later critique the site. White people supposedly like #10 "Wes Anderson movies" (I only like *Bottle Rocket*), #11 "Asian girls", #7 "diversity" (should be interesting), #71 "being the only white person around" (I'm black! How do I know?), #62 "knowing what is best for poor people" (I don't), and #88 "having gay friends" (hey I do too!).

The blog basically homogenises white people as a group and describes some aspects that supposedly embody white people's tastes or experiences. The common themes to the listed blog entries are as follows:

1. White people are pretentious (i.e. they like Wes Anderson auteur films and want to be the first white person to discover an exotic restaurant when travelling).
2. White people are also apparently very self-interested (i.e. they want to look progressive and have a 'spicy' life, so having an Asian girlfriend, and gay and black friends are musts but ultimately sending the kids to white private schools is the only option).
3. White people are evidently paternalistic (i.e. they know what is best for others such as the poor).

While the blog is supposed to be about a loose definition of whiteness, class is intrinsic to some of the entries. The equation becomes whiteness + being upper-middle class = culture in some of the entries. The blog in parts can induce hysteria but is also highly cynical in terms of how people across 'races' relate to each other. It can also treat folks of colour as dupes who do not understand that they can be the victims of racism – however mundane it is. Yet the discussion in the comments' sections is valuable; the blog entries – however much they engage in stereotypes – actually get people thinking and talking about race issues. It seems that people are sometimes more willing to be challenged online.

BLACKNESS

However despite the politicisation of whiteness, we still (!) need to re-politicise blackness. Why?

1. Some people think it is OK to address a black person as "nigger" because some black hip hop stars and gangster rappers call each other that. I hate the 'n word' but if you're not black, then the word isn't yours to reclaim.
2. It is now apparently funny for a white person to do blackface in performance regardless of the historical connotations and deep racism in making fun of what a black person supposedly is. Or does a white person in blackface now have the excuse of being ironic?
3. It is now seemingly appropriate to use the word 'ghetto' or the phrase 'acting black' to describe black people's actions – 'cause we're all the same, didn't you know?

Wait...wait, in consideration of the above – aren't I advocating a type of political correctness *Lovely Reader*? Aren't I not interfering with the ideals of freedom of speech?

Why can't fighting racism be as important as freedom of speech? Surely freedom of speech must be balanced with the responsibility to be accurate in the representation of

different groups. Yet one question remains: Is irony completely useless when it comes to exploring blackness? No! The satirical (and American) website *Black People Love Us!* is so damn hilarious and effective. *Black People Love Us!* tells the story of two white folk, Sally and Johnny, who are in raptures because yes... black people love them. Black folk are given the opportunity to write testimonials of how they feel in response to Sally and Johnny's love (awww!)

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES:

Black woman with dreads: "Sally loves to touch my hair! She always asks me how I got my hair to do this. That makes me feel special. Like I have magical powers!"

Black man: "Johnny calls me 'da man'! That puts me at ease. It makes me feel comfortable, because I am Black and that's how Black folks talk to one another."

There are others so go check out the site.

I'm not sure why this website works so well. Maybe because there is the well appreciated and understood grain of truth that underpins the humour. However, it is plain to see from the letters section that many people took this site very seriously! Perhaps this seriousness gives an ironic inkling of how well-received this kind of satire would be in a real life comedic performance. The potential for real life conversation would be limited because talking about race issues can still be fraught and challenging for many people.

So what avenue is best to go down in anti-racist action? Do we do it onstage, online, in anti-racism groups or on a ready-made soapbox whenever we discuss racism with friends? Are all paths equally valid? Do we take the path of irony that must be contextualised? Are irony and satire ever enough? What telescopic tools can heavy academic theory give to us? The satirical websites provide a quick, relatively safe and immediate interaction and engagement with race issues. Yet there must be a place to go after a quick click.

IMAGE Paula do Prada
PHOTO
COFA BFA Honours
You better keep quiet





CHALLENGING STEREOTYPES ABOUT SEX WORK

SEX & SENSIBILITY

Challenging stereotypes about sex work

Chantel Cotterell

'What students will do for money' was the title of a recent article published in *Blitz*. A photograph of a conventionally attractive woman dressed in red, half obscured by shadows and avoiding the camera's gaze accompanied the article. Similar to *The Age* "study" which inspired it, this article claimed that "up to 40%" of sex workers are female university students who are turning to the "oldest profession" to cover the cost of living. Unfortunately, this presented sex work from a negative, one-sided perspective that replicated damaging stereotypes about those in the industry.

In order to provide an alternate perspective, *Tharunka* decided to contact Scarlet Alliance, the peak representative body for sex workers within Australia. Scarlet Alliance was founded in 1989 to raise awareness about the rights of sex workers within the community. To this end it campaigns governments to decriminalise sex work, introduce anti-discrimination measures and promote occupational health and safety guidelines. Moreover, it seeks to educate the public and dispel stereotypes within the media and society as a whole about sex workers.

Tharunka spoke with Tish Norris from Scarlet Alliance, who is on the executive of the organisation and a university student herself. Ms. Norris was disappointed with the article, and rejected the positioning of sex work as a field that people only enter when “desperate”. She also rejected the inference that sex workers need to be saved à la Julia Roberts in *Pretty Woman*. “These stereotypes present sex workers as victims and denies them agency. People choose to enter the sex industry for as many different reasons as people choose to enter any other occupation. It is not out of desperation”, elaborated Ms. Norris.

Whilst the *Blitz* article quoted two interviewees from *The Age* – a female student from Monash University and the male manager of a brothel – it nonetheless did not provide any balance to the original article. For example, a sex worker organisation such as Scarlet Alliance was not contacted. Rather, brothels were relied upon to speak on behalf of these women. As Ms. Norris stated, “This denies sex workers a voice”. Furthermore, by only quoting one female student this suggests all sex workers believe that in an “ideal world” they would not have to be engaged in sex work. It also perpetuates the stereotype that all sex workers are women, a point Scarlet Alliance wishes to counter as men and transgendered people also work in the industry.

In addition, Ms. Norris criticised the replication of the stereotype that all sex workers earn huge amounts of money. “Sex workers are not a homogenous group – the money each individual earns is relative and dependant on many factors”, she commented. Not all sex workers are employed in brothels either, as the article suggested. For instance, sex workers can be employed in erotic massage parlours, work from home or be street-based. Sex workers can also cater to particular fetishes or be involved with the BDSM community, amongst many other activities.

Ultimately, such stereotypes are damaging to both sex workers and the campaigns run by Scarlet Alliance and other organisations to improve the legal, social and political rights of those in the industry.

For example, Scarlet Alliance and the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations produced a report in 1999 titled, *Unjust and counter-productive: the failure of governments to protect sex workers from discrimination*. This report argued for the legalisation of sex work and the introduction of anti-discrimination measures, such as the inclusion of “occupation” as a category of unlawful discrimination within the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977* (NSW).

The report discussed how legal reforms are constantly impeded by claims that sex work is “inherently exploitative and harmful”. In light



For more information about Scarlet Alliance please visit www.scarletalliance.org.au/

of this, the report recommended an Australia-wide campaign to challenge prevailing stereotypes. It also strongly advocated for sex work to be seen as work, so that the position of sex workers within the community is improved. As Ms. Norris attested, “Sex work is a job like any other. In the process of choosing to enter the industry, people – especially women – are asserting ownership over their own bodies, and this is an issue for some people”. Articles with titles such as ‘What students will do for money’ perpetuate the dominant view that sex work is damaging, an ill-informed choice and needs to be legislated against. More to the point, it encourages moral panic around sex work.

Ironically enough, it seems that it is the negative representations in the media that are more harmful to sex workers. Instead of simply replicating stereotypes about sex workers as ‘victims’ who are desperate for money, it is important to challenge them and provide a fresh and more balanced perspective. In light of the articles in *The Age* and *Blitz*, it seems organisations such as Scarlet Alliance still have a long campaign ahead of them in overcoming such negative representations of sex workers.



IMAGE Adrian Chen
PHOTO OF INSTALLATION
COFA BFA Sculpture Installation & Performance
Untitled

protest & *interference*

Matt Kwan

I recently added a Facebook application called 'Nations', where you get to create and govern a fictitious nation in your own image. It is fascinating. One of the things I have done is to crush all dissent and protest in the Holy Empire of Land and Sea. The application now calls me a dictator with no regard for political freedom.

Some, in fact, most people, would argue that such drastic suppression of protest is interfering with human rights, democratic rights, human nature and other such concepts. They argue that the police should just let these people protest, because we pride ourselves on freedom of expression. It is true that if the police intervene to stop a protest, it is interfering with this freedom of expression, but there's more to life than that. Is holding a protest not interference in and of itself?

Let's focus on the most visible form of protest – street marches. They are intended to disrupt the rest of society so everyone else takes notice. When hundreds of pro-China demonstrators charged into Hyde Park telling the Western media to "stop telling lies", they ruined the enjoyment of other park-goers and turned the weather bad. It's true. The heavens took notice and were so displeased with their actions that it started raining. There was even lightning! This divine intervention shows that interference can also be other-worldly.

Closer to home, there are regular protests organised by militant unions demanding pay rises. These are loud, boisterous, and force policemen to close off roads. Ironically, this is police intervention for the good of protest. But the cause of the police interference with the rights of road users is the protest itself. Protesting therefore physically interferes with everyday rights.

During last year's APEC meeting, there was a particularly large protest, in which all kinds of people demonstrated against anything and everything. For a significant period of time, they chanted "This is not a police state! We have the right to demonstrate!" – ironic, considering they were in a demonstration whilst saying that. It seemed they were really stating the obvious.

But that is an interesting statement nonetheless – how far should protest go? At what stage can police interfere with that right and start stopping protests?

The police should interfere with the right to freedom of expression when it harms society. Street march protests harm society. Therefore all future street march protests must be stopped.

In my opinion, street march protests are all silly and useless and should not be allowed. They disrupt traffic, are a massive source of noise pollution, and are a large source of carbon dioxide emissions. I have never actually

had the guts to point out the last point to environmental protesters.

Society has advanced in such a way as to allow protest through other means, such as writing to members of parliament, writing letters to the editor, or writing to Tharunka. These methods are peaceful, non-confrontational, and allow for dialogue in a measured and mature manner. Street marches are the complete opposite. They are militant, confrontational, and make no attempt at dialogue.

Protestors sometimes claim that the government does not listen to them. Perhaps it is because they don't want to go out to face placard-waving hooligans. Protesting via street marches actually harms their cause. They should be thankful that the police are trying to help them see the error of their ways.

So, going back to the beginning of the article, strong police powers are necessary. Not to crush all dissent, as His Holiness Matt Kwan does in the Holy Empire of Land and Sea (although that would be great if 'Nations' was real life), but to crush dissent expressed in an incorrect fashion. Dissent that interferes with the lives of non-participants is wrong and must be stopped.

Perhaps not with the water cannon, though, to save water. There's a drought on, you know?

"A strike teaches workers to understand what the strength of the employers and what the strength of the workers consists in; it teaches them not to think of their own employer alone and not of their own immediate workmates alone but of all the employers, the whole class of capitalists and the whole class of workers.

A strike, moreover, opens the eyes of the workers to the nature, not only of the capitalists, but of the government and the laws as well."

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin

the weight of HECS

Chris Moore

Students often forget about the huge debts they're accumulating as they study at university, so many were surprised when asked if they'd like a photo with their HECS debt. Many students are now paying more than the government's share for their uni degree, and for students from debt-sensitive families, this can be a real barrier to higher education. If you care about student welfare, contact the Education/Welfare department (edwelfare@arc.unsw.edu.au).





Petition for the replacement of the word 'mate' with the word 'dude'

Su-Min Lim

I have long believed the word 'dude' to be the best the English language has to offer. It exudes flair, charisma and *je ne sais quoi*. It is the most dudish word I know.

On the other hand, the word 'mate' has been spoken by John Howard. People who use it have been known to wear white tennis socks with black leather shoes. It is almost as stale, old and tired as the phrase 'stale, old and tired'.

Here are some reasons of consuming national importance why all instances of the word 'mate' should be replaced immediately by the word 'dude'.

1. Cultural import

According to Wikipedia the concept of 'mateship' dates back to the earliest European settlers in Australia. The word 'dude', however, is invoked with great frequency in 1989's *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*, the one where Keanu Reeves and the other guy travel into the future to meet themselves. Like, woah!

Indeed 'dude' has long held a position of paramount importance as a social and cultural marker. Some say the world changed on September 11, 2001. I would contend that the real shift took place six months earlier with the release of Ashton Kutcher's seminal *Dude, Where's My Car?* As John Pilger said at the time: "Official truths are often powerful illusions, dude."

2. Gender neutrality

Struggle as we may to reclaim the term, women are not 'mates'. What was the last local movie you saw where the quirky heroine met up with her 'mates' for a quick beer or surf? We could fight for reform but why bother when women can already be dudes? Many prominent public figures, including Julia Gillard, Myf Warhurst and Monica Attard, are self-evidently dudes.

There are some who contest the term's inclusiveness on grounds that the variation of 'dudette' creates gender differentiation. I refer these individuals to the highest authority on the subject, the site www.dudeism.com, which states categorically that:

"the term 'dude' is commonly agreed to refer to both genders. Most linguists contend that 'dudette' is not in keeping with the parlance of our times."

In summary, every time you call someone 'dude' a little piece of oppressive, heteronormative, patriarchal capitalism tumbles down. Have some with your latte today!

3. Etymology

As with all heroic deeds, the origins of the word 'dude' are shrouded in mystery. However, there is a credible theory that it was created by none other than OSCAR WILDE! That's right, Oscar of 'Earnest' and 'Gay Dorian' fame. You can Google it if you don't believe me. According

to various sources, Wilde cunningly amalgamated the terms 'dunce' and 'attitude' to create the word we all know and love. He may also have been inspired by the old Irish 'dúd' – Gaelic for 'a foolish person'.

By contrast, the word 'mateship' is clearly an abstract noun of the word 'mate'. This fact is of no interest to anyone other than English teachers, Linguistics majors and dead people.

Thus it must now be clear that the word 'dude' is superior to the word 'mate' in every way. If 'mate' were a person, it would be the sad guy up the front giving the tutorial presentation no one listens to. Dude, on the other hand, is life. Dude is modern medicine, democracy and the welfare state. Dude is what the Campus Bible Study people promise but don't deliver. Dude is the future.

Paradoxically, however, we need to delve into the past to truly understand the meaning of dude. The *Brooklyn Eagle*, an American newspaper, published the following definition on 28 February 1883:

"The dude is from 19 to 28 years of age, wears trousers of extreme tightness."

Let these words be the guiding light of our era.

Facebook strikes again

Rory Thomas

I'm sure many if not most of you have noticed it. A new bar along the bottom of the screen. Yes, that grand tool of procrastination has taken a new approach to causing mass university failures – Facebook Chat has arrived.

Apparently, it was in the pipelines for a while. Some people claim they knew it was coming, that they actually paid attention to the Facebook Blog. I certainly didn't, and was taken completely by surprise when that bar appeared. What was this about? What's wrong with the wall, or messages, or – for that matter – picking up the phone?

Before going on further, I need to point out I'm a latecomer to a lot of technology. Knowing that I'm easily distracted, I delayed getting FB at all until I realised I was missing out on too many events.

I've also desisted from using IMs, as I knew I would just spend hours talking rubbish. Any serious conversations would take place over the phone or in person.

So here we are. Facebook has decided to ignore my attempts to isolate myself, and has set up a full chat system. Okay, so it may not be as developed as MSN or variants, but it's a start.

And it's useful.

One of my friends, who refuses to post on my wall after being named in a 'Last 21 People' game, now talks to me about possible Tharunka articles – all by Chat. There's no need for a phone conversation here, it's not that urgent, and given it's the weekend I won't see her until Monday at the earliest. However, it's nowhere near as slow as messages or email, or a wall-to-wall conversation (assuming she'd even post on my wall again).

But then there's the problem. And it's a big one. Facebook is a giant distraction from uni work. We all know it. It may not be at the levels of Wikipedia for procrastinatory purposes yet (for instance: I started out wanting to check something about Lady Jane Grey, and ended up reading about obsolete letters in Greek. Who knew there used to be a w-analogue?), but it's getting there. And with this new function, it's becoming more and more distracting, more and more diverting, more and more interfering in our studies.

I've got an essay to write? Hold on, I'll see if there's anyone to chat with about how horrible the essay is.

I need to prepare for a tute presentation? Hang on just a tick, let's see if anyone online at the moment has anything to add.

I need to proofread some articles? Wait there, I'll write about this leviathan that's swallowing all my attention first.

So what can be done? I haven't got a clue. It is useful, especially if you're around people who might eavesdrop on your phone conversations, but aren't going to read the computer screen over your shoulder. But it's also infuriating.

Still, one has to appreciate the irony. Facebook, a site set up to allow college students to keep in touch, now helps destroy our marks. Ah well. Hopefully the creators will catch on at some stage.

TOLD YOU SO

Camilla Gulli

There have been many notable interferers/busybodies/know-it-alls, if you will. Linda Tripp, the giant nark who narked on Monica Lewinsky. Westboro Church, those deranged Christians who 'Praise Jesus' every time an American 'fag-enabler' (anyone) has a funeral. America. And crikey, who could forget our own Germaine Greer (I hate myself for writing that. I love you Germaine, but it has to be said). But the world's biggest interferer, she with infinite 2c coins to throw in, is my Nonna.

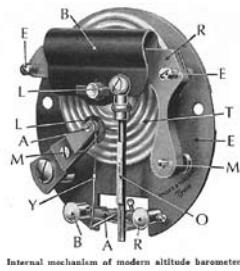
Now don't get me wrong, I love my Nonna. Caring, proficient at all domesticities and looking the part with a floral blouse and orthopaedic shoes, she is in fact the greatest Nonna who ever existed. Having lived through the Depression, spent months on a scummy ship as an immigrant, she arose from the ashes of a hard-knock life as Nonna; champion of everything. With a smug squint and shake of her head (head - not hair, the hair won't shake in a hurricane) she supercedes the judgement of any professional. "Tsk tsk. No, no," says Nonna to the doctor/police officer/surgeon/head chef/architect/Prime Minister. Armed with knowledge of the Old Country, she enforces the following rules on anyone: 1. Moving air (i.e. a fan) or not wearing a spencer year round will freeze the kidneys and YOU WILL DIE. 2. If you do not grab your purse and walk briskly avoiding eye contact with everyone YOU WILL BE MUGGED AND YOU WILL DIE. 3. If you walk within two metres of the yellow line at the train station or do not hold your Nonna's hand and leap when boarding YOU WILL BE CRUSHED BY THE TRAIN AND YOU WILL DIE A TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE DEATH. Without any creative licence I assure you that

I could not catch a train alone till the 10th grade.

Besides being generally neurotic and mental, I blame this interference on a number of other faults in my character. As a child, if I left a scrap of food on my plate I would be subjected to, "In the guerra (war time), we are grateful for any food at all. People are dying everywhere, and I have to eat de cats." At this point I would look down woefully at my childhood kitty Salamina, naively rubbing my feet. "We freeze them in the snow. Taste, not so good." To this day I lick my plate, and share an uncanny resemblance to a Christmas ham.

Now, interferers can do much on their self-righteous stomp, but they can also do a lot of good, like changing the status quo, sticking up for the little guy. While my Nonna may have sent me on the long path to OCD, she did many good things for all of us. Her eternal wisdom predicted the relationship of my cousin and me, separating us as toddlers while she stole my toys and bit me. If I hadn't persistently crawled back I could have saved myself years of headaches. In the lovely nook that is Maroubra, when the sun is always shining on the people below, a woman screamed at my mum in the parking lot, "Oi, get fucked. I was 'ere first." My mother, ever so middle-class reacted like a flustered and incoherent Hugh Grant, "Ughh, pardon me, ugggg, I'm terribly sorry." To which my Nonna stepped in and said, "Eh, fuck you too!"

Where would we be without people like my Nonna, Nelson Mandela, Eddie Mabo and everyone's favourite Germaine Greer? We would be minding our own business in someplace much worse.



Jess Bellamy

The Bellamy Barometer:

HOT or NOT

HOLIDAY EDITION:

This week I display the Barometer's findings away from my usual musty den of share-house living. You might find it's a little fresher, a little cleaner, or maybe just fatter.

earnest hippies **HOT**

So, I stumbled into a Buddhist workshop today. I'm in Byron Bay at the moment, so that kind of thing is just part of the everyday routine. Get to town, eat some sourdough bread, drink rainwater, and find which area of Tibet this week's monks hail from.

The ones we had this week were pretty cool, a bunch of guys who looked a lot like my favourite

Russian relative, Uncle Kolya, a guy who stops children in the street and gives them chocolates until Auntie Luba told him it just wasn't cool in this day and age to do that sort of thing anymore.

So anyway, my parents and I creaked noisily into a room of cross-legged hippies; their eyes were closed even though the meditation hadn't started yet because they were JUST THAT EARNEST. Well we started meditating, and there was this awesome monk who spoke in Tibetan, his words rolling over us like a bubbling brook or a desert wind, and another guy with an 'I Heart Tibet' t-shirt who translated for him. We were sitting in impossibly uncomfortable chairs, it felt like they were made of bags of coins or rosettes of silver foil, because every time we stretched or sighed or meditated too hard, there'd be this awful spine-chilling crunching sound that just bit into everybody's sense of chi.

But we got through the meditation a-ok, and the session prattled to the only reasonable close that exists when you're in Byron Bay: Lengthy and Irrelevant Question Time. A woman with severe cerebral palsy asked what to do when anger rises up in your heart during meditation, and we all felt sad for her for a while and then proud of ourselves for our compassion. Then a guy asked the following question: "I found myself also getting angry during meditation. As soon as I dealt with that anger and moved into a state of peace, I got a pain in my back. Do you think it's related to this healing?"

There was a pause while the guy who Hearts Tibet translated the question to the monk with the Tom Waits voice. The monk's awesome

answer was, "Maybe you should see a chiropractor." Consider yourself PWNED, Earnest Hippie, and by a pithy Buddhist monk of all people.

buying unhealthy food under a mask of quirky childishness **HOT**

Buying unhealthy food under a mask of quirky childishness

All you need is to look really wacky and faux-guilty while hiding a box of ice-cream sandwiches behind a carton of Skim Milk and you will be MORE THAN ABLE to incorporate a bit of Maxibon into your regular family shopping trip. Let's just say, as soon as your favourite humour columnist finishes typing this column, she's about to dig her choppers into 10cm of biscuity goodness.

everyone's obsession with Olympic swimmers & their stupid violent ways **NOT**

I actually had the following conversation with my Mum this evening:

Mum: So what do you think about this Nick D'Arcy getting kicked out of the swim team?

Jess: Don't care. Don't know anything about it. Don't care.

Mum: Oh. It's all over the news.

Jess: DON'T CARE!

Mum: Ok. Chill. I mean, it's a bit interesting with the Olympics coming up, though...

Jess: WHY DOES EVERYONE CARE SO MUCH? I DON'T CARE. I DON'T CARE. I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS. I DON'T CARE WHO HE IS. THERE ARE CHILDREN STARVING IN COUNTRIES WHOSE NAMES I CAN'T PRONOUNCE OR DEIGN TO REMEMBER. BUT I DON'T CARE ABOUT NICK D'ARCY. I DON'T DON'T DON'T CARE.

Obviously I'm a really fun house-guest. But seriously, readers. I don't know what it is about this whole situation that makes me so angry but I think it's something like this: to play competitive sport you have to be a bit of a dickhead. You don't see artists and actors and authors beating each other up unless it's ironically. And when artists and actors and authors drink a lot they don't king-hit people, they just make bitchy comments or have sex with the wrong people, or write crappy beat poetry, which is the way it should be.



Miss Moore's Guide to Etiquette

Vomiting in an Alley

Miss C. Moore

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

Solution #1

A Gentleman sees you vomiting in an alley.

It is important to first recognise that to vomit at all is to bring disgrace upon yourself. Whether it's the result of excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages, nervousness before public speaking, or the curse of a demonic foetus incubating in your abdomen, vomiting is a truly impolite act. To vomit in an alley, which is the lowest form of roadway, is even worse. A Lady should never be in an alley and a Lady should never vomit.

However, you must remember that the Gentleman's screams will no doubt attract attention, and it may not be convenient to be delayed concocting an explanation involving acid-spitting aliens. If an alien really does spit acid into the Gentleman's eyes then you may consider yourself to have scored a "freebie".

Solution #2

Cover the vomit with soil.

By scratching at the ground with one's fore and hind paws, one may move soil onto the vomit so as to obscure it. The movement of soil is useful for many purposes besides hiding vomit, including the preparatory earthworks that are necessary before laying the foundations of bridges, and burying the corpses of one's enemies. Acting in such a manner has the added bonus of explaining why you're in the alley, for the Gentleman will exclaim, "Of course this lady is in an alley, she is a cat, and cats are oft seen in alleys." Do not rub yourself against the Gentleman's leg, as you will get hair all over his nice pants, which he will have to launder. The unwelcome laundering of his pants will disincline the Gentlemen to marry you, ruining yet another of your nine lives.

Solution #3

Pretend you are examining some else's vomit.

Though not the most productive of occupations, it could successfully be argued that, having seen the vomit, you were compelled to examine it, thereby determining that it was vomit. You should support your position by exclaiming loudly, "Dear lord, someone has vomited in this alley!" and "Oh my, I do believe this is vomit," and also "Oh, ghastly nauseated vagrant, what hast ye done!" There is still the matter of explaining your presence in the alley. Resolve this incongruity by shouting, "And all this on Fleet Street, gem of London's gem-filled bosom." The gentlemen who has disturbed you will point out that you are not on Fleet Street, you are in an alley, and by graciously accepting his correction you will have avoided embarrassment.

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

**3 FOOT SQUARE GALLERY**

Open 24/7

Main Entrance UNSW COFA
Greens Rd Paddington 2021
Contact: Dominique Serisier
threefootsquare@unsw.edu.au

**AWESPACE II**

Open 24/7
Open for 2008 Proposals

UNSW Main Campus Kensington
Located on the Basser Steps
Contact: Penny Spankie
pennyspankie@gmail.com

STUDENT PERFORMING ART SPACES

**Io Myer Studio**

UNSW Kensington Campus
Gate 2 High st Kensington

UNSW main performance and exhibition space. This space is used for production teaching, hosts residencies and creative developments and research into performance and cross media.

**Studio 1**

UNSW Kensington Campus
Gate 2 High st Kensington
(next to Io Myers Studio)

Studio 1 is the performance space for a number of student theatre societies on campus including NUTS and STUDIO 4.

Contact Ms Su Goldfish
EMPA - School of English, Media & Performing Arts

Phone 02 9385 5684
Email s.goldfish@unsw.edu.au

STUDENT ART EXHIBITIONS

ON NOW till 24th May

IVAN DOUGHERTY GALLERY

"Pearls of arts project Australia" Stuart Purves Collection

Steven Ajzenberg, Alvaro Alvarez, Samantha Ashdown, John Bates, Des Beavis, Peter Ben, Dorothy Berry, Antonella Calvano, Nick Capaldo, Kieren Carroll, Valerio Ciccone, Alan Constable, Leo Cussen, Joyce De Jong, Dawn Edward, Scott Ferguson, Patricia Gebbie, Brigid Hanrahan, Kelvin Heffernan, Paul Hodges, Miles Howard-Wilks, Anne Lynch, Wayne Marnell, Julian Martin, Chris Mason, Belinda Mellington, Sarah Miles, Bruce Morrison, Cameron Noble, Jodie Noble, Tim Noble, John Northe, Chris O'Brien, Robin Plowman, Lisa Reid, Anthony Romagnano, Catherine Staughton, Georgia Smerling, Malcolm Vincent, Terry Williams, Timothy Williams, Steven Worrel

OPEN 12 till 16 May Closing drinks Thursday 15 May 5-7pm

COFA SPACE

"Window Cake" 2nd Year SPI

Opening night Tuesday 13 May 5-7.30pm

KUDOS GALLERY

"Jewellery & Objects @ COFA" Curated by Wendy Parker

Kudos Gallery Contained. Jewellery and Objects @ COFA

Diane Appleby, Marilyn Bailey, Brenda Factor, Yoshiko Ito, Joungmee Do, Kamila Shepherd, Susanna Strati, Szuszy Timar, Bic Tieu, Zoe Veness
Continues till 17 May

OPEN 19 till 23 May Opening drinks Monday 19 May 5-7pm

COFA SPACE

"Transparency" 2nd Year Photomedia

Opening night Tuesday 20 May 5-7.30pm

KUDOS GALLERY

"A Graphic Investigation of the Atlas as a Narrative Format for the Visual Communication of Cultural & Social Data"

Mdes - Richard C.T. Gregory

Continues till Saturday 24 May

Opening night Tuesday 26 May 5.30-7pm

COFA SPACE

"Imaging the Urban Landscape"

Continues till 30 May

Opening night Tuesday 27 May 5-7.30pm

KUDOS GALLERY

"Naminma"

Indigenous artists currently studying at COFA

Presented by Nura Gili Indigenous Programs

Continues till Saturday 31 May

Opening drinks Thursday 29 May 5-7.30pm

IVAN DOUGHERTY GALLERY

"Concrete Culture" Curated by Felicity Fenner

Sponsored by Australian Government: Australian Research Council, UNSW Centre for Contemporary Art and Politics, Biennale of Sydney, Casula Powerhouse
Continues till Saturday 5 July

Opening night Monday 2 June 5-7pm

COFA SPACE

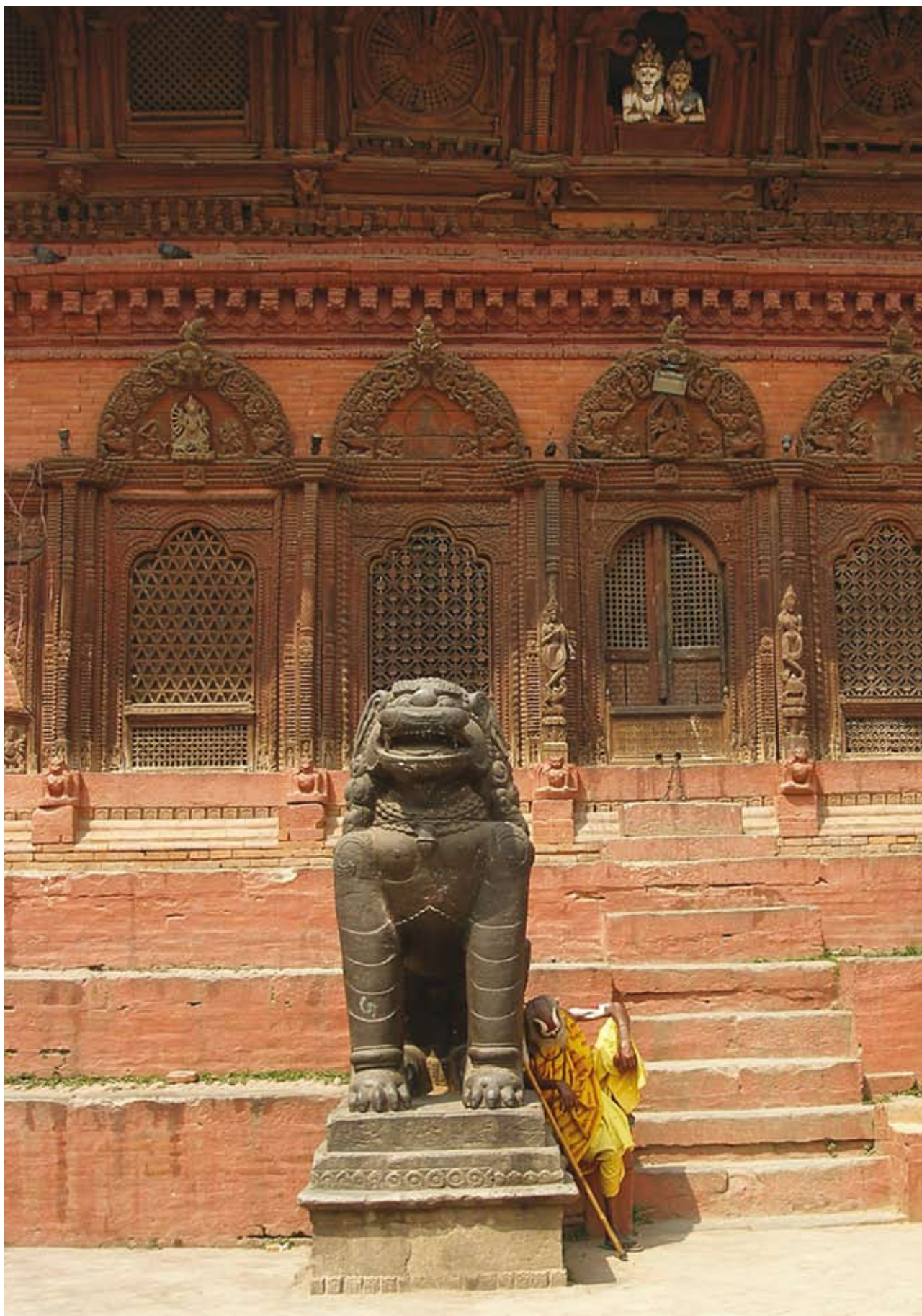
"ILIRI" Continues till 6 June

Opening night Tuesday 3 June 5-7.30pm

KUDOS GALLERY

"10year Birthday Celebration" Showcasing previous exhibitors of Kudos Gallery alongside emerging artists from COFA.

Continues till 14 June



Kathmandu Kaleidoscope

Thomas E. King

A solitary bird stands sentry over one of the most astounding cities on earth. Neither the cacophony of locals nor the chatter of visitors incites the lone figure to abandon its proud position in Durbar Square, the ancient heart of one of the planet's most fascinating cities, Kathmandu.

It can't ever flee because the winged yet flightless creature is a Garuda, the mythical man-bird of a timeless religion. Finely crafted from dark stone the bulky statue kneels in reverence before Trailokya Mohan, a three tiered temple dedicated to the Hindu god, Vishnu.

A winged man-bird paying homage before a picturesque pagoda is but one of the countless wonders of Palace Square, the 'living museum' of this vibrant and enthralling world capital. Nearby is an even more curious sight.

Stooping to enter an old building through a low passageway guarded on both sides by stone lions I stepped into a small courtyard overlooked by large elaborately carved windows. I had arrived at the residence of the Kumari, the Living Goddess of Kathmandu.

It wasn't long before a young girl revered as the incarnation of a deity appeared dressed in a scarlet robe and adorned with makeup from eye to temple.

The origin of the Kumari 'dynasty' dates to the 8th century with the same rituals used to select the virgin goddess today. A group consisting of Buddhist priests and an astrologer assemble a group of three to five year old Buddhist girls belonging to a goldsmith clan in a darkened room.

Inside the chamber are nine freshly severed buffalo heads. Loud noises occasionally punctuate this macabre setting. If a young girl shows fear or cries she's eliminated from the selection as not fit to be the human representation of the demon slaying Hindu deity, Durga.

The sole little girl remaining at the end of the selection process is proclaimed to be the Kumari. She is then taken to the upstairs quarters of a wooden house in Durbar Square and remains confined until the onset of puberty.

While visitors flock to her residence, the Kumari rarely makes a public appearance. When she does it's only on special occasions and then she is carried aloft in a religious procession through the narrow streets of Durbar Square.

This cultural cauldron is the place where most visitors begin their exploration of an incomparable treasure trove of Nepalese art and architecture.

Most imposing of all buildings is the 17th century Hanuman Dhoka or Royal Palace. The historic seat of royalty is guarded by Hanuman. With a garden umbrella suspended above his head and wrapped in a scarlet cloak he squats on a stone plinth keeping watch over erotically entwined couples explicitly depicted on the nearby Jagannath Temple.

A token payment allows visitors entry into the courtyard where they are exposed to a visual feast of carvings and mouldings in the nine storied palace pagoda built around 1650 by the Malla kings.

Although Hinduism is the state religion, Lumbini in southern Nepal is the birthplace of Buddha. The spread of Buddhist doctrines among the people already practicing the older Hindu religion produced a unique blend of two great religions found only in Nepal.

The Royal Palace best exemplifies this religious intermingling through its incredible collection of wood carving masterpieces and brilliantly painted figures of deities.



KATHMANDU TRIP TIPS

+ Singapore Airlines has three daily Sydney/Singapore flights and frequent services on to New Delhi and Kolkata.
Call Australia-wide on 13 10 11.
See www.singaporeair.com

Indian Airlines has a daily flight from New Delhi and six services a week from Kolkata to Kathmandu. For details of flights and fares contact the STA office or the Sydney office of Indian Airlines on (02) 8251 3911.
See www.indian-airlines.com

+ The required visa can be easily obtained on arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport where the Nepal Tourist Board Information Centre also has maps and brochures to help plan your getaway in the kingdom.

+ All arrangements for a memorable holiday can be made by contacting Kathmandu-based Mountain Adventure Trekking, email deepakroka@hotmail.com.
See www.matnepal.com

+ Kathmandu abounds with accommodation to fit all budgets from the 160 room Everest Hotel which provides modern facilities and an adjoining casino just beyond Kathmandu's city centre to inexpensive lodges in the heart of Thamel, an area popular with students and backpackers.

PHOTOS THAMAS E. KING

1. A Hindu holy man takes a break after a busy day posing for tourist photos in the old city.

2. Selected during an ancient ritual, the Kumari is revered as the incarnation of a living deity.

Sydney's Best Kept Secrets

Beatnik's & Bohemian's

Jessica Ison

In a world where three-wheeled designer prams with matching designer running-attire are the norm, havens of quirkiness are becoming rare.

I recall the good old days of rifling through piles of clothes at my local op-shop. There was no cash register, just a Nan with a pen, jotting down the fifty-cent purchases. Tagging was something done with spray cans and computers were still yet to see Windows 95. That is what an op-shop is meant to be. Now you can head over to Newtown or Paddington and buy a dress that is 'vintage' (meaning old) or 'retro' (wanky), all for the super-low price of \$150. The closest thing to fifty cents is a re-mix of P.I.M.P by Justice blaring over the speakers while a sales girl tries to up-sell you with claims of "like, awesome".

The thrill of finding a gem amongst the junk was like a shot of vodka; intense burning deep inside and then a slow sense of relief. Friday night will be a well-dressed night.

This is no more.

Or, so I thought until I stumbled upon the Wayside Chapel and the hub of madness alongside it.

Now, I was reluctant to write about this, but realised that greed is a vice. I decided to share this gem, just as long as I don't see any fluoro-clad 18 year-olds searching for their next Field Day outfits, raining on my parade. Because that would make me mad and then I won't ever let anyone know about the op-shop I discovered in Hurstville, which is a twenty minutes walk from the station on a hot day. I'm dedicated.

If you don't know anything about the Wayside Chapel then you obviously aren't cool and shouldn't go to this op-shop anyway because you'll probably find something ugly which you think is "rad", when really, it's just ugly. For everyone else, you might not know that this op-shop, Beatnik's and Bohemian's [sic], actually pays for the Crisis Centre. So, donating your no-longer-needed designer one-offs guarantees them to actually be used, rather than turned into rags, and purchasing a 'sick' outfit for Friday night isn't supporting Grandma's trip.

I was privileged enough to see behind the scenes which made me feel über-cool, somewhat like the feeling I had when my Mum was in the canteen and I got to jump the cue and hang out amongst the frozen lasagnas. Sadly, I didn't discover a production line of mothers sorting choc buds (which were really carob - bastards) but I did find their crisis clothing room. Through the Crisis Centre people in need can outfit themselves in the latest fabulous threads, and choose a sexy new pair of knickers to match.

But it's not just a clothes store. It's a meeting place. When I receive a nod of recognition or a hello from Gabe at the front I feel just as special and just as community-oriented as when my barista asks, "Soy latte?" in the morning. And really, that's what the Wayside Chapel is all about: community.

Oh, and just one more tip, they have markets. Good markets. Out the front. Everything is 50 cents. But I'm not telling you when.



IMAGE Scrap Wall
PHOTO OF INSTALLATION - Milan 2007
COFA BFA Sculpture Installation & Performance

#2

South Western

Ivana Rnjak

Another school attacked,
four steps forward towards
the mother country, blindly
leading one another
towards the promised land
of Starbucks and The Biggest
Loser, sorting through the
filth to pick out the weak
ones, another boy dead in
the bushes, bloodied and
gagged like the dreams of
seventy-one students locked
in their classrooms crying for
the green school-gate safety
of rich parents and private
school uniforms in a suburb
by the sea, their screams
fading into the concrete like
their futures, a construction
site, an abusive marriage
and a bad memory,
another migrant shipped to
Villawood, a never-ending
story.

Social Networking Using Rice

Andy Friedhof

Throwing rice at someone: Thanks for the add.

Grain of rice stuck to upper lip: I'm single.

Allowing uncooked rice to slip slowly through your
fingers: It's my birthday.

Screaming and burning oneself while eating very hot
rice: Poke.

Offering rice to everyone: I've posted an insightful blog I
think you may well enjoy.

Sitting near rice, but kinda ignoring it: Yes, I do remember
you from High School.

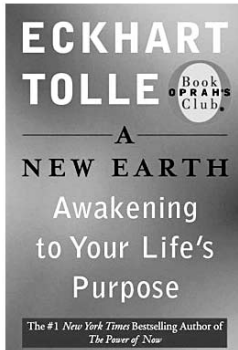
Sitting near rice, but looking at it a lot: Your new photos
capture the quintessence of youth.

Two grains of rice held gracefully in unfurled palm: OMG
I've just been bitten by a vampire.

Carrying 2kg bag of rice on one's shoulder: Here for:
Friendships, Dating, Serious Relationships.

Storing leftover rice in small Tupperware container: LOL.

REVIEWS



BOOK REVIEW Gemma Smart

A New Earth: Awakening to your Life's Purpose

AUTHOR Eckhart Tolle
MICHAEL JOSEPH LTD, VICTORIA,
2005

If the title wasn't ambitious enough, Tolle tells you exactly what the purpose of his book is: "... to bring about a shift in consciousness, that is to say awaken. This book is about you..."

Welcome to the pop psychology and self-help world, where everything and nothing is about you, and every book claims to be the one that will change your life forever. I would be the first to admit that the genre contains a lot of bad eggs.

Critics of *A New Earth* argue that Tolle is simply rehashing Buddhism, but I would argue he is doing more than that. For a start, Tolle draws from many religions - Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and so on. He aims to bring together the threads that bind all religious and spiritual thought through the idea of 'the ego'. It's an ambitious task, and the book wanders at times, making some conclusions that are not altogether convincing as a result.

However, for the most part *A New Earth* is well-argued and compelling. I can't say it changed my life forever, but it certainly did give me a lot to think about. For anyone interested in new spiritualities, philosophy or religion I would recommend ignoring the Oprah hype and giving it a go, though if you're not familiar with the genre start elsewhere! Overall, what Tolle has produced is probably the best thing to come out of the genre in some time, and well worth the read. 4/5

Paris

DIRECTOR Cedric Klapisch

RATING M

RUNNING TIME 128mins

Paris is director Cedric Klapisch's cinematic ode to the City of Love. With a supreme cast of French actors led by Juliette Binoche and Fabrice Luchini, the film tells the story of ten characters as their daily lives interconnect, whilst each searches for love and fulfilment. I'm sure these opening lines have given you the impression that this film is riddled with clichés. And it is. Perhaps you remember seeing a movie like this that was set in London and called *Love Actually*? This is the French version of *Love Actually*, but without the heart-warming characters and no Prime Minister played by Hugh Grant.

The gimmicks begin in the opening scene of the film, when we see a beautiful shot of the Eiffel Tower. This must be just in case the film title doesn't tip the audience off about the setting. The plot follows Pierre (Romain Duris), a former Moulin Rouge dancer who has been diagnosed with a possibly fatal heart condition. As his condition worsens, his sister Elise (Juliette Binoche) moves into his apartment with her children. From his balcony, Pierre watches the Parisians below going about



MOVIE REVIEW Shari Marie

their daily lives. Fabrice Luchini plays Professor Roland Verneuil, a history expert who's in love with his beautiful female pupil. His performance is brilliantly comic. Somewhere within this disconnected plot the other seven characters make appearances, but the audience is never given a firm grasp of their intentions or positions within the story.

French film aficionados may believe I am criticising the work of a respected director due to my lack of understanding of the subtle representation of human relationships in French cinema. This is not true. I loved *Amelie*. And I think Gerard Depardieu looked great in tights when he played the *Count of Monte Christo*. But Klapisch has over-indulged and created a film that would be better to send to a friend as a postcard than offer any commentary on the lives of modern day Parisians.



MUSIC REVIEW Grace Perez

Bridezilla EP

ARTIST Bridezilla

Bridezilla are the latest in a slew of new, upcoming talent travelling up, down and around Australia, delivering frenetic and

energetic live performances. It's also handy when said performances include some great tracks like *Brown Paper Bag* and *St. Francine*.

Whilst the combination of the seemingly eclectic mix of guitar, saxophone, violin and drums may on paper sound like an invitation to disaster, the balance between all of these elements, including the commanding (with a slight dash of husky for good measure) vocals of Holiday Sidewinder (a.k.a. Holiday Carmen-Sparks) creates a compelling sound.

The opening track, *Brown Paper Bag* has a solid foundation in the rhythm section throughout, the introduction including the simple, understated, but effective guitars of Pia May and Josh Bush's drums. The song builds in the verses in a great crescendo up to the chorus and outro, where the main instrumental riff sounds a bit like it could be the violin, but is in fact the saxophone, rounding out the rich sound of the song.

Other tracks such as *Chainwork* and *Forbidden Holiday* have a slightly slower, mellow, but just as engaging vibe as the opening track.

The stand-out track from the Sydney band thus far, however, is *St. Francine*. The trademark build-up of their songs is also present in this track, but the instrumental interplay between the saxophone and violin, particularly in the latter half of the song, is what really gives *St. Francine* the almost-crazy, energetic and intense sound I mentioned before. The violinist (Daisy Tully) and sax player (Millie Hall) perform this track just as intensely, if not even more so, live.

Lastly, the lyrics and vocals on this EP give that right amount of subtlety to let any listener enjoy the song on their own level as well as enjoying it with others.



BAND REVIEW & PHOTO Peter Shopovski

Ghetto Pussy DUO

www.myspace.com/ghettopussymusic

Sydney electro hip-hop/ punk rock duo Ghetto Pussy are an amalgamation of sleaze, punk, sex beats, stilettos, dynasty and Dallas.

A theatrical exploration and exploitation of the seedy underbelly of "Art-Star" cabaret, this is boy/girl anti! An androgyny fuelled hedonistic take on performance, inspired by their predecessors in art-punk/ pop history such as Madonna, Courtney Love, Lil' Kim, Bikini Kill and David Bowie. Ghetto Pussy are venom laced glitter-hardcore set to music.

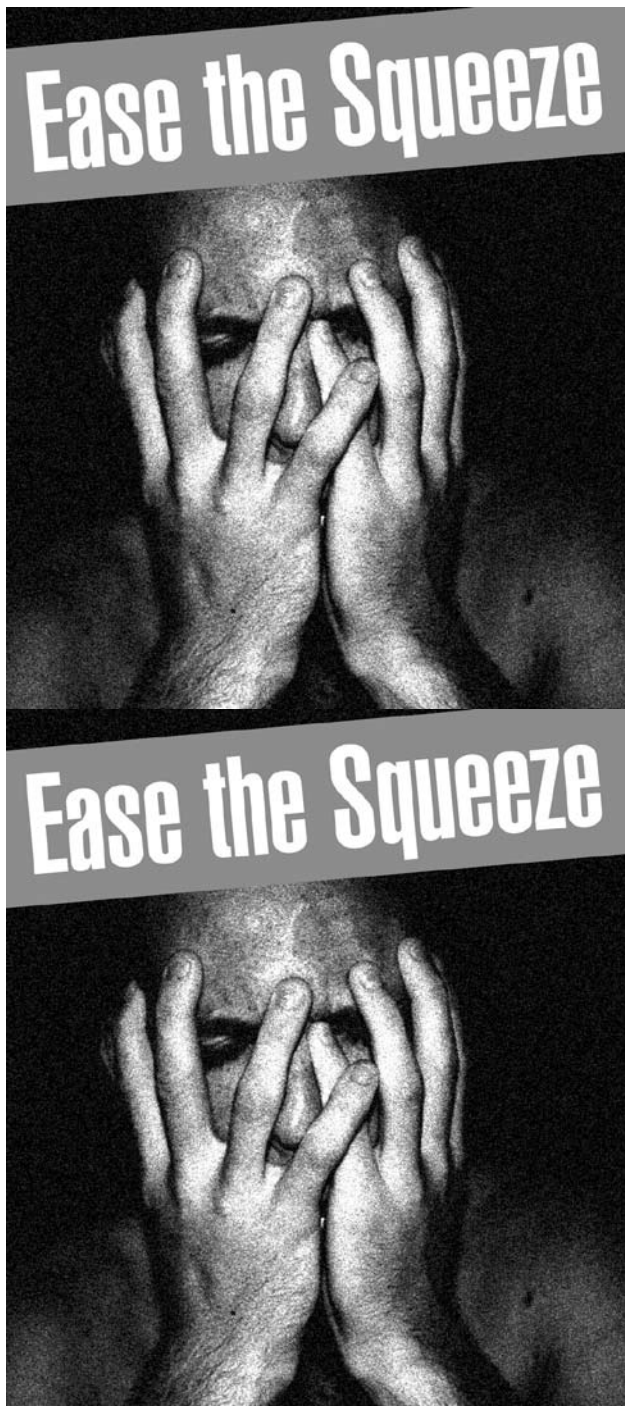
Explosive beats with tongue in cheek, Ghetto Pussy are here to make you grind with their first EP "*We R Ghetto Pussy*" to their up and coming release "*The Milk-bar*".

Their live shows are an insane installation of sex and mess. A "never-know-what-you're-gonna-get" take on the Sydney rock show scene.

With microphones, guitars and drum machines. Mouth gags, make-up and high heels. Rapping, screaming and shredding – a *GP* show is sure to make you sweat.

Ghetto Pussy's next gig, Dorothy's Dance Camp at the gallery, Oxford Arse Factory - Sat May 31st - FREE GIG.

Check it out motherfuckers!



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Alan Zeino

Rudd announces establishment of inquiry into the feasibility of a commission to regulate inquiries

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd today announced the establishment of an inquiry into the feasibility of a commission to regulate inquiries, to be headed by over seven-thousand "prominent and literate Australians".

The 'revolution' has turned heads in marginal seats today, with an outpour of support for his willingness to study the feasibility of regulation. Macquarie Fields resident and mother of twelve Sharon Conray spoke of the plan's suitability, saying that it represented "real action" from the Rudd Government. When a snap poll was taken of residents in a 2m vicinity of Ms Conray, the consensus was overwhelming. "Kevin Rudd understands new leadership," said one of Conray's neighbours. "Or at the very least, the same leadership, but dressed up in a blue/red website with a catchy name."

Rudd's policy announcement was welcomed by all proponents of outdated protectionism, with Greg Combet noting that it "heralded the creation of a new Australia - one where even the most irrelevant of matters is analysed and documented."

However the Opposition was quick to put down the new policy, with Brendan Nelson noting that the policy was "98% copied from a document we wrote in 1992 - where we discussed the creation of an inquiry into the feasibility of John Hewson winning an election for us." Former Prime Minister John Howard was also quick to dismiss the policy, saying it was both "pessimistic" and "the complete opposite of economic conservatism - especially since it does not inspire contempt for your fellow man."

IMAGE Matthew Onyett
INSTALLATION
COFA BFA Sculpture Performance & Installation
Old Pinter





NEXT ISSUE #5 Women's Edition
OUT BEFORE THE BREAK Monday 26 May

ISSUE #6 THEMETBA - OUT Monday 21 July

CONTRIBUTOR MEETING
Training RM 2 East Wing The Blockhouse
WK12 - Wed 4 June, 4-5pm

MATERIAL DEADLINE Friday 11th July

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