

THARUNKA

University of NSW's ~~Independent~~ Student Newspaper



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SEE PG 2

Editors' Letter

Hey Folks,

Another semester drawing to a close, another Tharunka full of good stuff.

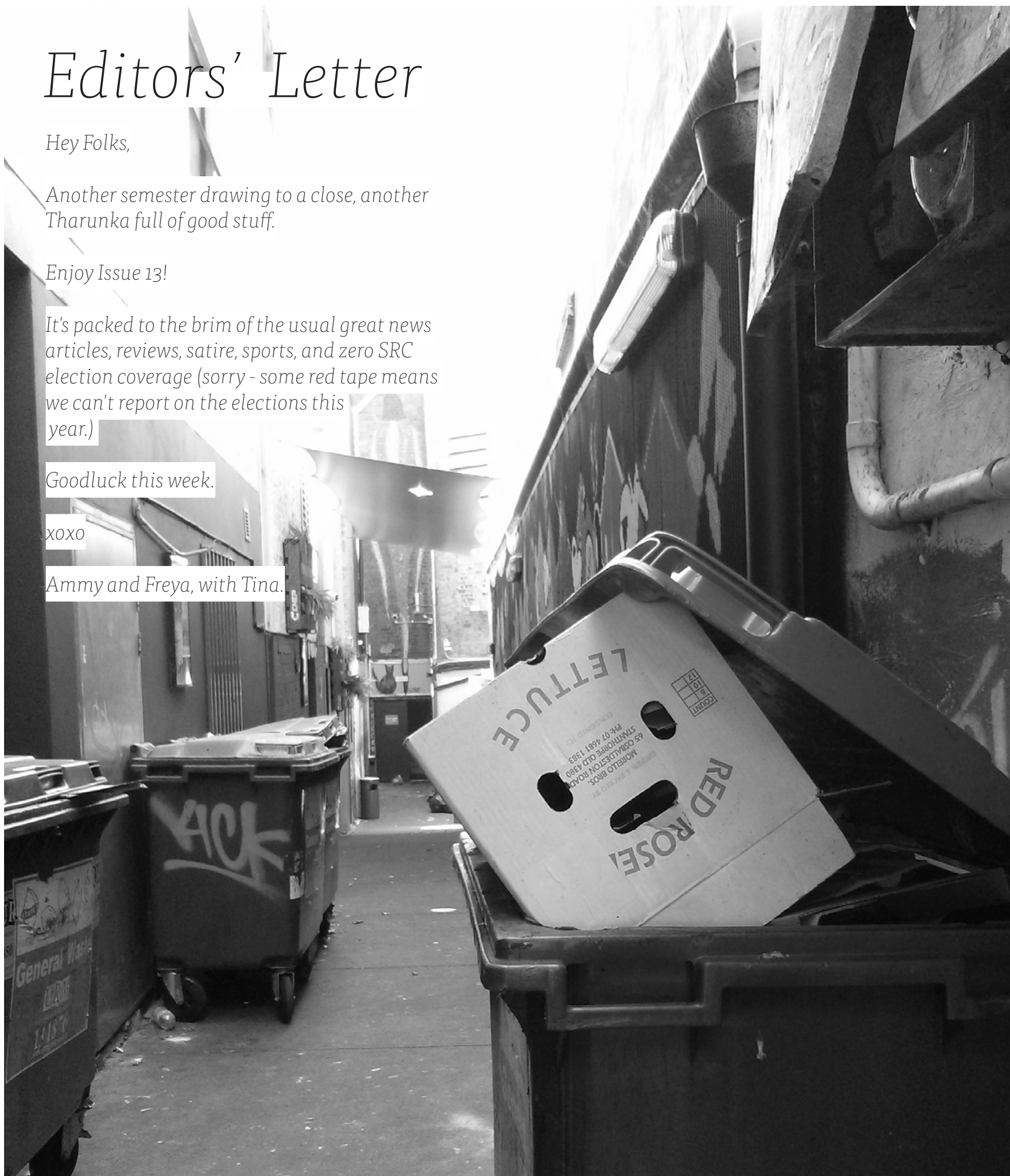
Enjoy Issue 13!

It's packed to the brim of the usual great news articles, reviews, satire, sports, and zero SRC election coverage (sorry - some red tape means we can't report on the elections this year.)

Goodluck this week.

xoxo

Ammy and Freya, with Tina.



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Tharunka acknowledges the Be-degal and Gadigal people, the traditional custodians of the land on which the University stands.

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team, unless expressly stated. Arc accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any of the opinions or information contained in this issue of Tharunka. Any complaints should be made in writing to the Marketing & Publications Coordinator.

Short List

What happens in caucus, stays in caucus... except in Labor Left

Who is leaking unredacted minutes from UNSW Labor Left Students' (LLS) caucus meetings to their traditional rivals over in UNSW Labor Right, a.k.a. Student Unity?

Airtight secrecy surrounding internal caucus operations has worked for centuries to sustain the existence of political caucuses, and until recently was adhered to strictly by Labor Left at UNSW. However, the new status quo has seen the Left open the once-hermetically sealed floodgates to leak confidential caucus information to the Right, in a move that could well compromise the standing of several members of the Left.

As a Labor Right source amusedly put it, a leak such as this would have been impossible as little as a year ago.

We'd love to tell you who the leak is, but thanks to electoral regulations prohibiting us from naming SRC candidates in the lead-up to the election, we'd have to censor it.

However, for any other factions interested in leaking names and details of their caucus meetings, hit Tharunka up with an email or carrier pigeon. Because the times, they are a-changin'.

Morrison and Egan elected as undergraduate reps on the Academic Board

Tom Morrison and Cara Egan have been elected into the student positions of the UNSW Academic Board. Morrison is a particularly active student on campus and currently holds numerous positions of power at UNSW – serving on the Arc Board as Chair of the Nominations and Remuneration Subcommittee. Morrison has been House President of Baxter College for the past two years. He previously presided over the New South Wales Inter-Residential Council. Congratulations to both Tom and Cara.

UNSW Disability Officer Co-Option

The SRC is accepting applications for Disability Officer for the remainder of the 2014 term. This position requires applicants to be registered with SEADU. To apply, submit a CV and 100 word expression of interest to j.wilson@arc.unsw.edu.au. Applications close 31 October.

SRC International Officer steps down

The position of SRC International Officer has been vacated. This year's officer, Emily Yichen Liu, stepped down from her position as of the 30th September in order to accept a graduate position in China. Applications have now closed and we await the news of Liu's successor.

Arc Constitution change voted down at EGM

The Arc EGM was held at the Roundhouse on the 24th September. A motion from the ARC board of directors to repeal and replace the Arc Constitution was voted down.

The changes the board proposed included removing any reference of the Student Development Committee from the constitution – moving control and governance of the SDC from a student elected position to being directly governed by the board. A sub-committee would be responsible for maintaining and fostering this service.

The motion to increase diversity on board, specifically Affirmative Action to increase the number of women elected to the board was tied into this motion and was voted down with it, much to the dismay of attendees who moved to separate it from the procession. Some students on campus expressed their disappointment on social media that a number of diverse changes were proposed in the one motion.

Calendar

Tuesday 14 October:

Volunteer Expo + SRC BBQ

Main Library Walkway from 11am to 2pm

Been thinking about giving back? Keen to get experience with some of the best volunteer programs out? Unsure where to start? Then stop in on your way to a study sesh for all the info you could want as well as a barbeque to keep you going!

Anti-Poverty Week Trivia Night

Beer Garden, Roundhouse at 5pm

Think you've got the know how on social justice and poverty? Get a team together and join this year's Anti-Poverty Week Trivia Night!

Wednesday 15th October:

UNSW Feminist Free Talk #5 - Emily Chandler

The Squarehouse, Room 206 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm

Feminist Free Talks meets fortnightly to learn about and discuss feminist issues. Facilitated by PhD students, this week's talk is their second last and will be run by Emily Chandler. Her talk will look at representations of girlhood and gender in animation and children's media, particularly that of Disney's *Recess*. Cupcakes, snacks and drinks are always provided, just bring your interest and critical-thinking cap. For full details check the Facebook site (www.facebook.com/UNSWFFT)

Bake Sale for Tigger's Honeypot Centre

Main Library Walkway from 10am to 1pm

Support on campus child care by buying some baked goods!

Thursday 16th October

"Eat Local, Feed Global" Pizza stall

Main Library Walkway from 11am to 3pm

Run by Oxfam UNSW, this event combines social justice and delicious pizza - what more could you want?

VGen Workshop on Child Labour

Matthews Building, Room 309 at 1pm

VGen UNSW are holding a Q&A session on Child Labour. The session will include an informative introduction to the present issue of Child Labour, some intriguing documentaries from World Vision Bangladesh and, of course, a talk from Shabira Nupur!

UNSOc Anti-Poverty Model UN

Old Main Building, Room 229 at 6:30pm

Explore the fun side of diplomacy and international relations by checking out UNSoc's Anti-Poverty Model UN. If you're a fan of public speaking and critical thinking on social issues, this not one to be missed!

Friday 17th October:

International Anti-Poverty day film screening

Catch the screening of Oaktree's documentary 'Within Our Reach' which tells the stories of individuals and communities fighting to see the end of poverty. With screenings happening across Australia to celebrate Anti-Poverty day, this is the chance to get in amongst the action!



Agony Ibis

Dear Agony Ibis,

I'm really looking forward to this year's student elections, but am hard pressed to find any information on the tickets bar what they've been releasing on their own Facebook pages - what's the deal with the lack of coverage in your pages? I expected better of you.

Yours,

Out Of The Loop

Dear Out Of The Loop,

[REDACTED]

Best,

Agony Ibis

Margo Kingston talks citizen journalism at UNSW



By Shannen Carnemolla

Former Fairfax employee Margo Kingston says collaboration should be “empowering” in journalism at a media conference held at the University of New South Wales on September 18.

Kingston, who ran Australia's first

mainstream political blog at the *Sydney Morning Herald*, spoke of the “enormous” power that businesses and politics have over journalists.

“Our dominant media voices are very, very intimidating, they have no ethical values and people are afraid to speak against them,” she said.

“They set the agenda every day. If they

choose not to run something, nothing happens. If they choose to go hard on something, that becomes a story.

“So the big business media and big politics, they have enormous power over the journo.”

The University of Queensland graduate said she terminated her contract with the *Sydney Morning Herald* in search of accountability, fairness and genuine democratic behaviour.

“Collaboration between mainstream media journalists and citizen journalists and citizens can empower us as people, even against the organisations that the journalists work for,” she said.

Kingston, who has worked as a solicitor, took a seven-year hiatus from journalism before returning to the industry as a “complete accident” in 2012.

She said watching then Opposition Leader Tony Abbott call former Prime Minister Julia Gillard a “criminal” over the AWU slush fund was a motivating factor.

“Abbott had gone outside Parliament and said that Gillard was a criminal and she went well okay, prove it,” said Kingston.

“He went on and at the end he said it was a question of character and Gillard was unfit to be Prime Minister and something in my brain fused.”

“So I went on Twitter and I said, ‘Unlike Gillard, Abbott has a case to answer regarding his slush fund,’ referring to the one he financed against Pauline Hanson.

“I decided to write an article, but the ABC wouldn’t publish it. Independent Australia published it, and I went to bed.

“The next day I had hundreds of followers...I was absolutely enthralled at this thing called Twitter...and I just fell in love with it.”

Her subsequent project, crowdfunded website No Fibs, was created “for people who are sick to death of the pathetic sham that our democracy is today.”

Attributing this partially to a lack of journalistic ethics enforcement, No Fibs is bound by the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance Journalists’ Code of Ethics.

“The job of journalism is to bring the concern of the people to the powerful, and hold the powerful accountable on behalf of the people.

“When I was in the mainstream media, I’d come to realise that the future of professional journalism was a collaboration between professional journalists and citizens.

“One of the things I hope that No Fibs can do is give citizen journalists a start,” she said.

Scots vote to stay in the Union

By Matthew Baker

@matthewjbaker07

Scottish hopes of independence were crushed on September 19 as Scots resoundingly voted “No” on separation from Westminster government. With a voter turnout of around 85 per cent, the “No” vote won 55 per cent to 45 per cent. Only four of the 32 Scottish regions voted in favour of independence: Dundee, Glasgow, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire.

The vote marks the culmination of a concerted campaign by the SNP to establish an independent Scotland through majority-vote referendum, which was kick-started with the Scottish Independence Referendum (Franchise) Act 2013. A majority “Yes” vote would have led to abandonment of the 1707 Act of Union between Scotland and England.

In an official response to the referendum result, Queen Elizabeth II, who remained noticeably quiet during the debate, called on those throughout the

United Kingdom to respect the result and to work constructively for the future of Scotland

The defeat catalysed the resignation of Scottish First Minister and SNP leader Alex Salmond following the result, with Nicola Sturgeon likely to be his replacement.

“For me as leader my time is nearly over but for Scotland the campaign continues and the dream will never die,” said Mr Salmond after the results were tallied.

Mr Salmond has recognised that the vote was a once-in-a-generation opportunity to produce an independent Scotland, but he has indicated means other than referenda may achieve this goal in the future.

On September 22, Mr Salmond told *The Independent*: “[W]hen you have a situation where the majority of a country up to the age of 55 is already voting for independence then I think the writing’s on the wall for Westminster.”

According to Mr Salmond, the only thing that is left for debate is the “time-scale and method” with respect to how

independence is achieved.

However, the No camp would certainly disagree with Mr Salmond’s prognosis, particularly given the larger than expected victory.

“We have chosen unity over division and positive change rather than needless separation. Today is a momentous result for Scotland and also for the UK as a whole,” said Alistair Darling, leader of the No’s Better Together campaign.

Key to the success of the Better Together campaign was its control of the economic debate, particularly following assertions by George Osborne that the pound sterling would not be shared if Scotland became independent.

Another sticking point became debate over whether Mr Salmond’s vision for Scotland as a neo Scandinavian-style outpost was realistic. Whilst North Sea oil and gas reserves remain substantial, the No campaign was able to plant spores of doubt in the minds of voters as to whether these reserves could sustain such a profound change in political, social and economic identity.

Despite the calls of optimism from

some in the Yes camp, Westminster may still deliver many of the measures pro-independence campaigners have asked for. Leaders from each of the three major parties vowed new laws devolving powers from Westminster will be introduced by the end of March.

The result will continue to pose wider questions over governance in the UK as well. Labour potentially has a lot to lose, particularly as David Cameron considers the idea of English votes for English laws. Of the 59 MPs from Scotland, 40 are Labour. Excluding those representatives from decisions affecting only England could dilute Labour’s power considerably.

Scotland’s referendum has also sparked some debate in Australia over independence. The 1999 referendum on this issue, which was closer than the recent Scottish result, lost largely due to a divided republican campaign that saw many supporters for a republic reject the model proposed.



Macquarie university takes students to court in union bust

Matthew Bugden

@matthewpbugden

Seven members from the executive of the Macquarie University Postgraduate Representative Association (MURPA) appeared at the Supreme Court of New South Wales on September 3 to defend themselves against their University.

Macquarie University asked the New South Wales Supreme Court to wind up MURPA, in which the seven defendants are heavily involved.

It is also seeking over \$500,000 in back-student membership fees given to the organisation under the Pre-Howard Compulsory Student Unionism regime.

The dispute between Macquarie University and MURPA has been ongoing since 2012, when Deputy Vice-Chancellor Deidre Anderson first accused the body of failing to disclose its finances to the University and demanding a return of all funds.

In a message to staff and students, Anderson said:

"During recent years MUPRA has provided limited postgraduate services and has in fact sought, and obtained, funds from the University in order to do so. The University only become aware last year that MUPRA held significant cash reserves provided to them prior to 2007 for postgraduate student services."

After a motion of no confidence by the Vice-Chancellor, the University moved to freeze MUPRA's bank accounts.

"We believed good progress was being made, with both sides considering these ideas in good faith. However MUPRA's recent election (of sorts) and announcements by their new President suggest they have no genuine commitment to-

ward working honestly and openly with the University toward a resolution."

The Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA), the peak body for postgraduate student associations, has lent its support to the students.

CAPA President Meghan Hopper disputes the claim that the funds were mis-managed.

"It [MUPRA] is very financially viable," Hopper said.

Ms Hopper admits that a portion of the funds MURPA received from the University was invested rather than directly passed on to students. Indeed, she argues that some of the money being demanded by the University was not given by the University but was in fact earned "through frugal investment".

She argues that the funds were redirected in anticipation of declining membership rates in the wake of the Howard government's introduction of voluntary student unionism in 2006.

"It recognised when voluntary student unionism came in that it would need money so it saved money and invested and got interest. They put it aside for a rainy day, and then that day came," Hopper said.

MURPA is by no means unique in this regard. Following the Howard reforms, student organisations nationwide retained funds so that future students would not find themselves entirely without representation in ongoing negotiations with the university over funding cuts.

In her statement, Ms Hopper expressed disbelief that Macquarie University could recall its funds in good conscience.

"If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes I could not believe that any University could provide funds to a student association without a service level agreement

and then, several years later, say 'actually, we're not satisfied with the fact that you saved some of that money to protect against diminished funding in later years, we're going to order you to give it all back now'," Ms Hopper said.

The action has undeniable political overtones, obscured though it is by the legalistic framing of the issues in question.

In political terms, the action represents nothing less than a coup de grâce on postgraduate student unionism at Macquarie, which intends to replace the union with a student advisory body that answers to the chancellor and operates without an electoral mandate.

"The University is of the view that the interests of postgraduate students are better represented by the University's own initiatives and management as a result of the new student representative framework now in place," the University said in its deposition statement.

While the Student Advisory Committee does include postgraduate student members, the claim that student interests are better represented by the Student Advisory Board (SAB) than by MURPA is flatly contradicted by an internal report conducted by independent expert Philip Pogson FAICD ACIS at the request of the University in June this year.

The report finds that the new Student Advisory Board does not adequately represent student interests or consult student representatives on policy matters.

"To some SAB members and even staff, the loss of direct student control remains a significant philosophical and even operational impediment to student engagement in the management of the University," the report said.

Because the association is not an incorporated body, it is possible that the "Macquarie Seven" will be held personal-

ly liable for their involvement in MURPA.

The threat of having costs ordered against you would be enough to change most people's tunes – this is perhaps even truer of cash-strapped postgraduates than it is of undergraduates. It is difficult, therefore, not to see the civil action as a clear threat of major financial consequences if the dispute isn't settled privately, on terms that the University finds suitable.

Ms Hopper warns that if the Court finds in favour of Macquarie, such heavy-handed tactics may be emulated by Group of Eight universities in their attempts to break up their own campus organisations.

"If a court accepts that it is appropriate for a university to simply replace a union with an 'advisory body' chaired by a person hand-picked by the university and directly responsible to the chancellor, that will be a tragic step in the history of student unionism in Australia and will send a very dangerous message about independent representation and advocacy," Ms Hopper said.

Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon shares the view that Macquarie's actions, if held valid in Court, set a "dangerous precedent".

"It is important for those of us who support independent, vibrant, democratic student organisations to stand up against attacks like this, otherwise they may start becoming a common occurrence," Senator Rhiannon told parliament.

In August, Senator Rhiannon called on Macquarie University to drop its legal action and remove the freeze on MUPRA's accounts.

The matter has been adjourned for a further directions hearing on October 8.

Image: Richard Taylor via Flickr

“I’m not racist, but...”

Crystal Moran reports from the inner west as far left and right activists collide

Story and Photos by @manlycarrots

In late July, I heard through radical (both in the political and ‘80s sense of the word) left people that there would be not one, but two anti-fascist actions in Sydney’s inner west.

The first was a counter-rally against members of the Party for Freedom, an unregistered nationalist group who were protesting the “Happy Ramadan” posters at Marrickville Woolworths. The second was against a public forum at the Australia First Party (AFP) headquarters in Tempe. Calling their forum “End the Ethnic Cleansing of Australians from our Education Institutions”, the AFP had distributed flyers in Chippendale telling international students that they are unwelcome in this country.

The footnote was exciting:

The first is quite safe, but I would caution you when attending the second – it has the potential to be dangerous – and suggest that you wear a scarf or a provided Pauline Hanson mask... Leave [your ID] at home and bring your cards in your underwear or bra. You do NOT want neo-Nazis to know who you are.

Holy shit. I want to go to there.

I arrive at the first action; it’s bleak, almost raining, but there is an anticipatory tension in the air. Woolworths has brought in extra security for the day, and uniformed police exchange glances with some not-so-undercover cops. Anti-fascist activists are in their cars or mill around on the pavement, waiting. Dressed in dark hoodies or studded leather with sunglasses and bandanas, there are around sixty of them; already intimidating in their own right but made even more so when the expected group of 70 anti-Islam protesters turn out to be just eight.

It turns out attending on Facebook means just as much to racists as it does to everyone else.

The – what’s the collective noun for a tiny group of racists? A klan? An anachronism? Maybe a bolt? – of party members hold signs equating Islam to animal cruelty, gang rape and welfare fraud. One woman is decked out in that classic uniform of patriots and obnoxious wankers everywhere: the Australian flag as cape. The two groups collide in a shouting match and shoving breaks out, before being quickly broken up by police. It is all over in minutes.

The anti-Islam protesters quickly flee, leaving the anti-fascists without any fascists to counter-protest. Somewhat naturally, this collection of mostly white strangers rocking bandanas and masks confuses some local residents arriving to do their shopping and expecting a bunch of racists. After affirming their position to said locals, they head off to the second rally.

A lone polo-shirted man stands on the footpath.

While claiming not to be a member of the Party for Freedom, he seems to sympathise.

“A lot of people are identifying with nationalism. It’s normal. It’s normal for you as a person to protect yourself and your interests. It’s normal for me as a nationalist to protect my community called Australia. I’d hate to think that you’d be out one day, and you’re dead, through Islamic terrorism.”

He proceeds to tell me his theories of life, the universe, and everything else. It’s enlightening. According to Bill*, non-European immigration caused the recent exodus of Holden and Ford, and multiculturalism can’t possibly work, as evidenced by the time his friend once held a lift open for an Indian man.

“The guy didn’t even say thank you! And my friend said, ‘I felt like smashing that guy in the face’. It’s a cultural thing. Those people in the First and Second World War, they risked their lives so those people could come here and have a better life. And now with all the Islamic violence, they are probably wondering why they did that.”

Soon, he confides that he is a supporter of the party, and proceeds to phone the chairman up to give further comment.

While we wait, we engage in the following exchange, which I suspect may have been Bill testing out his Fox News audition material.

Bill: They estimate one-quarter of the world’s Islamic population are extremists.

Me: A quarter? That’s hundreds of millions of people.

Bill: Exactly, exactly.

Me: Who’s they?

Bill: It doesn’t matter.

Me: It does matter, because “they” is crazy people.

Bill: But how do you deal with it?

Me: You don’t, because that’s insane. That is an insane statistic.

Bill: Do a bit of research, do a bit of research. It may be embellished...

Me: A couple of hundred million people?!

Bill: At the end of the day, it only takes two.

The party chairman, Nicholas Hunter Folkes, quickly parks across the street. Given his politics and previous stint as an administrator of the Fuck Off We’re Full Facebook page, I am expecting a hostile character with a vocabulary limited to invective. Instead, I meet a polite man; outwardly nervous as he seemingly kept time by looking over his shoulder. He is soon joined by an older lady, Elaine*, with concerned eyes and a warm smile.

They describe their objections to Woolworths celebrating Ramadan, in particular their perception of Islam as anti-women and inherently violent, and they suggest that it is not compatible with the Australian way of life. Elaine also expresses distress that halal certification of popular foods sends money to the building of mosques and the financing of jihad.

“I don’t know why Woolworths is celebrating an ideology that is worse than Nazism,” Nick says.

He explains that numbers were down due to violence from the anti-fascists, and he laments that his cause has been narrowly viewed.

“We’re not happy with Woolworths supporting Ramadan, but the leftists and the Islamists...all they carry on about is that we’re racists.”

“They assaulted us. They pushed us and everything. The left think that everybody’s got a right to exercise their free speech, unless they disagree with them,” he says.

In a blog post, Mr Folkes later said that counter-protesters “carried weapons that included knives and bedposts”. Police on the scene, however, said that no weapons were seized.

They talk some more, and I soon notice a theme.

“Islam isn’t a religion of peace. It’s terrifying that otherwise educated people believe that it is,” says Elaine.

“It’s scary,” says Bill, about Chinese millionaires purchasing property portfolios in capital cities.

“It’s a scary thing. I hope more Aussies wake up to it before it’s too late,” says Nick, about the possibility of secular and Sharia law operating simultaneously in Australia.

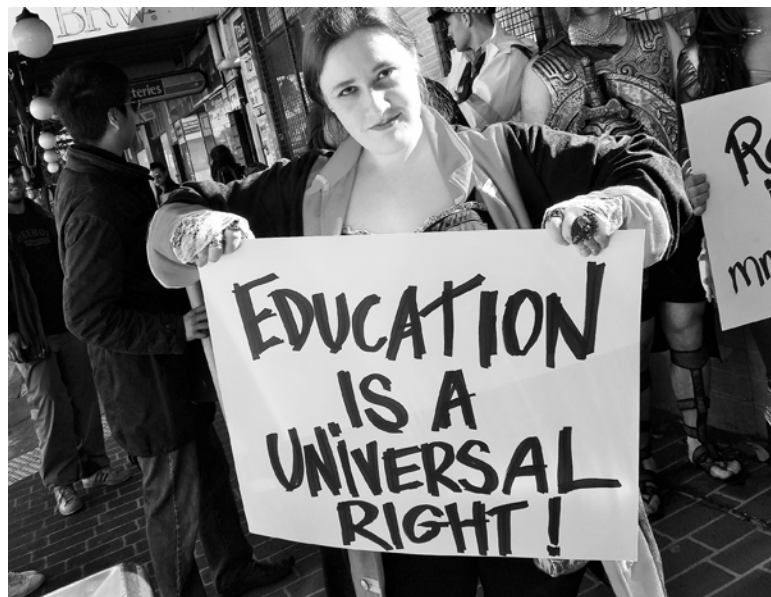
I say I have to get to the next rally. A man in a camouflage jacket who joined us moments before asks if he can come along.

On the one hand, this stranger is probably some kind of nationalist white supremacist. On the other hand, I am white, so I’m probably safe enough, right? (I am definitely aware of my privilege here.)

Along the walk to Tempe, I learn that my new friend is a nurse from Wollongong. He was once left-leaning, but he “re-examined his views” and now “understands where the nationalists are coming from”.

“Mostly I just like casually observing Antifa [anti-fascists]. They’re violent thugs and hypocrites,” he says.

Half an hour later, I’ve lost him in the second rally. To recap, it’s outside an anti-international students forum held at the headquarters of the Australia First Party. I assume neo-Nazi groups meet in basements and the dark corners of the Internet, so their flagged, main road shopfront feels incongruous. How can an ideol-



ogy that I believe to be so archaic and out of place in twenty-first century Australia be so publically present? Maybe Bill was right; maybe this hardcore nationalism and anti-multiculturalism is more “normal” than I first thought.

A protester on the scene is quick to offer a contrary response.

“The [Australia First Party] are spreading racist propaganda, but they are a hateful minority. We’re all here to advocate for and support overseas students, and I think most normal, reasonable Australians would agree with us,” she says.

“Us” is a mixed group of organised anti-fascists (Antifa), anarchists, Socialist Alternative and Greens members, and self-professed “apolitical type[s]” who just want to denounce the racism that appeared in their mailboxes. Some shout chants of “Smash the fascists” and “Die, Nazi, Die” through a megaphone; others, seemingly uncomfortable with the violent overtones, silently hold placards and banners. Relative to Marrickville, the banners are bigger, the music is louder, and there are batteries scattered across the pavement. That last one is a bit odd, even for today.

There’s also lot more police at this one; I’ve already counted 20. It becomes clear that unlike the Woolworths protest, the cops are anticipating trouble. It’s not so surprising given the history of the Australia First Party and its leadership. The NSW chairman, and speaker at the forum, Jim Saleam, is a former leader of National Action, another far-right nationalist group. While at the helm, he assisted in the attempted murder of an anti-Apartheid activist; a crime for which he was convicted and did time. While describing National Action and the Australia First Party as neo-Nazi groups

may be an argument of semantics, their policy agenda is one of clear isolationism, protectionism and anti-multiculturalism.

After a failed attempt to enter the forum, I chat to a local resident. He says that as the anti-fascists arrived, Australia First members threw batteries and rocks at him and the protesters (...explains those batteries). It makes me wonder though – they were all different brands and sizes of batteries. How did their last meeting go down?

(Imaginary) Jim Saleam: Now everyone, don’t forget, we have our public forum next week, so don’t forget to bring your old batteries with you. It’s a good opportunity to change your remote controls and fire alarms – safety first and all that!

I join some other journos down a side alley to take some better photos. The police close in quickly as we’ve been followed by the anti-fascists, and my nationalist camouflage friend from earlier. I watch as he chats to one of the studded leather brigade, hoping that he doesn’t do something stupid like say, “Hi there Mr Anti-nationalist, I’m a nationalist”.

While I will never know exactly what was said, dear reader, you can assume it was something to that effect. You can assume that because suddenly there’s a shout of “Nazi scum!” and nationalist boy is taking punches. He tries to defend himself, and more Antifa people run in.

Me (in my head): Shit, shit, shit. I’m a journalist – I should be taking photos! No, someone’s being beaten up – I should help him! No, he’s a bit racist – you shouldn’t get bashed to help some racist stranger! No, he’s a fucking human being! And it’s your fucking fault that he’s here in the first place.

I run in to pull an anti-fascist away, and I see the police hurry over.

Me (again in my head): Oh thank God. The police are coming; everything will be all rig-HOLY SHIT; THE POLICE ARE HITTING EVERYONE! HOLY SHIT; THAT BATON IS LIKE 12 INCHES FROM MY HEAD!

Me (very out loud, with hands raised to the side of my head): I’m just the press!

The cop pushes me into a wall, and others tackle the Antifa instigator to the ground. He’s promptly arrested and taken to Newtown Police Station. The nationalist guy already has the start of a black eye and his lip is bleeding. He picks himself up, gives the remaining Antifa people an emotional spray about using violence to get their point across, and he walks off.

I hope he’s okay.

The rest of the afternoon happens without event. The chants continue, though a little less enthusiastically than before. The angry socialist metal continues, though quieter now that the police are bored of it. The Australia First people never come out of the bunker, and the anti-fascists slowly disperse.

As it winds down, I speak to prominent UNSW student activist, Anna Fowler.

“I’m glad I was here to protest the fascists. As someone who is on the far-left, I find it unconscionable that people can be protesting [against] international students,” she says.

“International students are a vital part of our society, and everyone deserves to be safe, and free from racism.”

*Some names have been changed.

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore

Amidst the news of another death in detention, medicine student Ananya Chakravorty explores the ethical issues surrounding medical practitioners' treatment of asylum seekers

In this country, we try not to imprison children. Australian prisons are run according to a set of guiding principles, which stipulate that except in very specific circumstances, it is unacceptable for children under the age of 18 to be incarcerated.

This same set of principles requires all prisoners, regardless of their legal situation, to receive health care equivalent to that of rest of the country. To most people, this is both reasonable and palatable. People in prison have been found guilty of committing a crime, and they are being punished for it. They should not be denied access to decent health care.

In New South Wales, we also go to lengths to eliminate conflicts of interest when it comes to prisoner health. The Department of Correctional Services is in charge of running the prisons, while Justice Health NSW is responsible for medical care.

In other words, we believe that all Australian citizens deserve access to the same quality of medical care, regardless of whether they have committed a crime and regardless of its magnitude.

This is because adequate and timely health care is a fundamental human right.

In early September, a man named Hamid Kehazaei died of septic shock after a cut to his leg. He was 24 years old and he lived, in a manner of speaking, in the Manus Island detention centre. Immigration Minister Scott Morrison assured us that he had received "outstanding" care. This outstanding care commenced after he suffered a small cut to his foot, continued as he developed cellulitis and was ignored for weeks at the detention centre, and came to a head as life support was withdrawn after being declared brain dead two weeks later.

The second casualty of offshore detention this year, Kehazaei's case represented the dramatic culmination of 18 months of allegations concerning appalling and criminally negligent health care practices. In November last year, 15 doctors working at the Christmas Island detention centre wrote a 92-page "letter of concern" to their employer, International Health and Medical Services (IHMS).

IHMS is a private, for-profit health service provider. It is contracted by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) to

provide health care to detainees "at an Australian standard". However, evidence given in August at the Australian Human Rights Commission inquiry into Children in Detention show the standard of care is far lower.

The stories range from ludicrous to horrifically cruel. A three-year-old girl with epilepsy had her medication destroyed on arrival and went on to have multiple seizures. Medications requested by doctors are repeatedly withheld or not available. Patients queue for up to three hours four times a day as the standard method of dispensing medication. Expired medications have been administered. There is almost no antenatal care. Children are self-harming by banging their head against walls and ingesting poisons. People are referred to by boat numbers instead of their names. They sometimes have to walk through raw sewage. The list goes on.

Dr Peter Young was the director of mental health for IHMS until July this year – the chief psychiatrist responsible for asylum seekers in detention. He believes these practices equate to torture: "If we take the definition of torture to be the deliberate harming of people in order to coerce them into a desired outcome, I think it does fulfil that definition."

In May, Young presented figures relating to the prevalence of mental health issues in offshore detention to the Royal College of Australian and New Zealand Psychiatrists. A third of all those in detention had significant mental health issues. Overall, 40 per cent were extremely or severely depressed, and 40 per cent were extremely or severely anxious. A large number of children demonstrated self-harm, regression and despair. Oddly enough, the DIBP refused to accept Young's figures and ordered him to remove all figures from future reporting.

And so, for doctors and other medical professionals, what remains is a complex ethical dilemma. Doctors who work in detention centres are employed by IHMS, which has obligations to both the DIBP and its patients. While repeatedly denied by IHMS, the conflict of interest is obvious and real. The directives made by the DIBP to IHMS directly go against the interests of the patients. Moreover, no third party can absolve doctors from their duty of care to patients. They are personally bound by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency code of conduct.

Dr John-Paul Sanggaran was one of the Christmas Island doctors who collaborated

on the 92-page report to IHMS. Speaking at the UNSW Public Health, Human Rights and Asylum Seeker Detention Symposium, he described a "culture of secrecy" preventing "good people from raising their voices", and his personal fear of repercussions.

In September, Dr Sanggaran coauthored an article in the Medical Journal of Australia, calling for the medical community to boycott detention centres. He, along with Melbourne neonatologist Dr Grant Ferguson and UNSW bioethicist Dr Bridget Haire have begun a compelling debate, writing "the question should be asked: is working within immigration detention an ethically tenable prospect for Australian doctors and other health professionals?"

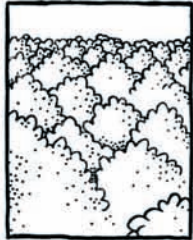
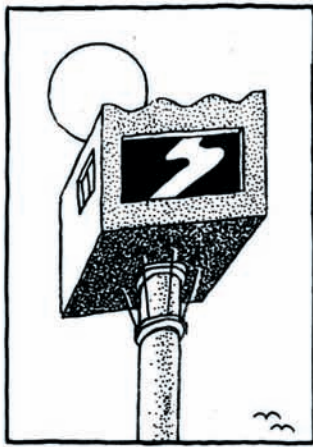
If doctors choose to work for IHMS, their ability to effectively advocate for their patients is severely impaired. Moreover, by simply working there, they become complicit to the extent that their presence allows the government to nominally point to the provision of health care.

In correspondence to me, Dr Haire summed up the issue succinctly: "If the government is going to detain people in remote locations, it must be able to provide for them humanely, and yet the evidence is that they can't - or won't - do this."

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and 200 prominent doctors, lawyers and academics from the "J'Accuse" group have already publicly condemned the treatment of asylum seekers. The Australian Medical Association and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists are notable exceptions.

It is the duty of every doctor and medical student to advocate for their patients. The UNSW Medical Society and the Australian Medical Students' Association have yet to issue their own public statements. I hope this will change soon.

Australian Human Rights Commission president Professor Gillian Triggs likened offshore detention centres to prisons. The fact is, they are much worse. In Australia, we do not keep children and families in prison. The path to prison is guarded by an independent judicial process. Prisoners' sentences are not indefinite. And they are provided with food, water, shelter and adequate medical care.

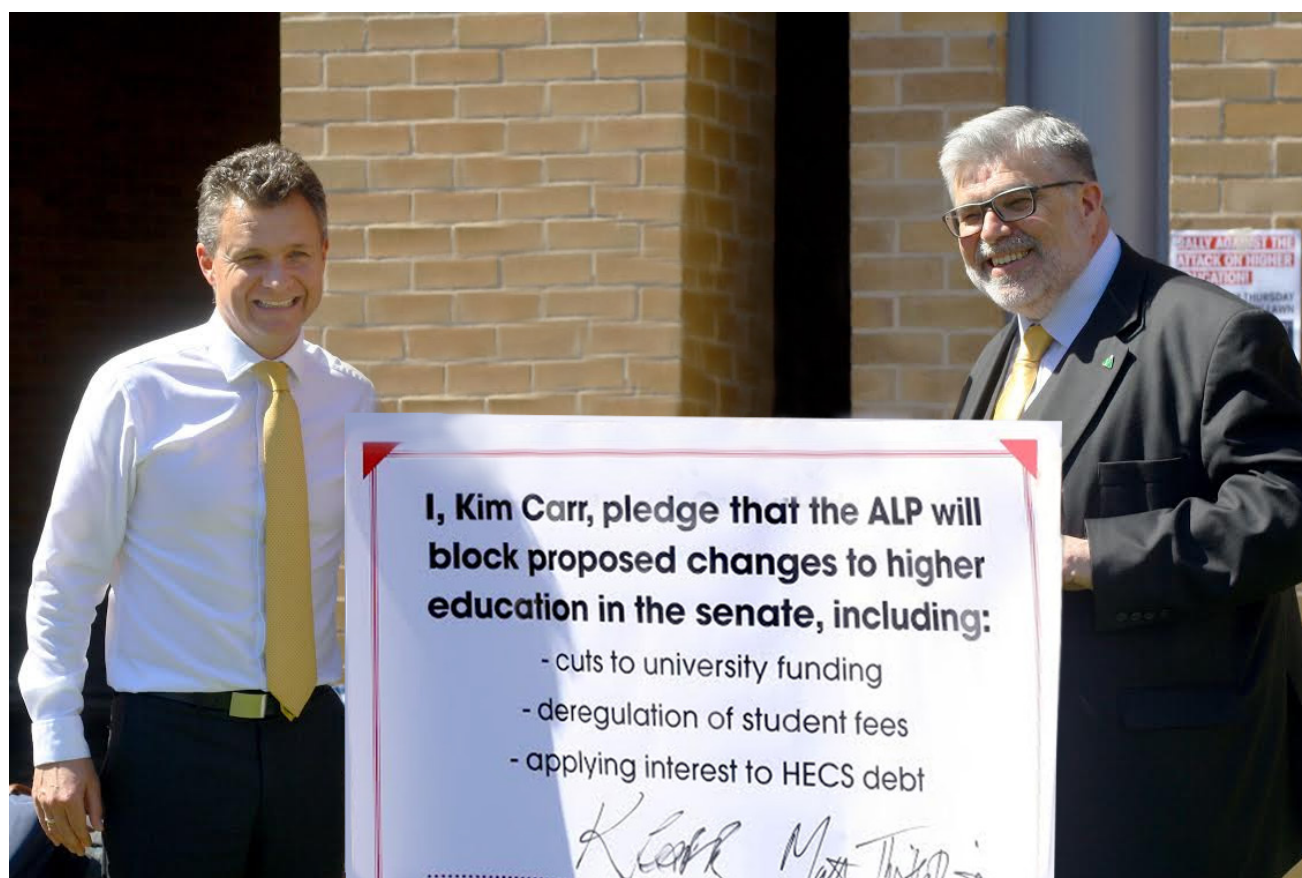


They stiffened & changed under its glare.

Their necks bristled. They kept each other in check,

kept themselves in check, & forgot any other way of being.





Petition for more democracy in the deregulation discussion

Nick Timms

A petition set up by leading members of the UNSW SRC, which aims to get the university to host an open forum on the issue of fee deregulation, is fast approaching its goal.

Joel Wilson, the SRC President, and Billy Bruffey the SRC Education Officer, decided to put together the petition as they believed that the UNSW administration had no intention of discussing the matter of higher education fee deregulation with the student body. They are currently sitting at about 700 signatures and are fast approaching their goal of 1,000.

"It is well known that Fred Hilmer, our Vice-Chancellor, has publicly supported fee deregulation and the further marketisation of higher education," Mr Wilson says.

"The Chancellor of this university, David Gonski, has also publicly backed the government's plan to deregulate university fees. I did not feel it was appropriate for the Vice-Chancellor to advocate for fee deregulation when the university had not expressed a clear view.

"I was also disappointed that the university had failed to acknowledge the students' clear opposition to deregulation over the last few months."

According to Bruffey, the decision to form the petition came after other students at Group of Eight (Go8) universities, like the University of Sydney, had forums for discussion on the issue.

"[At] Sydney University [for] instance, a significant amount of signatures compelled the University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence to host a forum in which students, staff, and alumni could have a real say on the University's stance on fee deregulation," he says.

"Our University has avoided a similar consultative process. Rather, the Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor

have both publicly called for fee deregulation without meaningful dialogue with students or staff. Vice-Chancellor Hilmer has used the AFR [Australian Financial Review] (5 May 2014) and Chancellor Gonski has used *The Australian* (2 September 2014) as avenues for pushing this regressive agenda."

Bruffey believes that UNSW needs a forum like its Go8 counterparts so the students of UNSW can have a say in whether or not fee deregulation should be supported.

"The UNSW Education Collective believes that decisions of this magnitude and social significance should not be made by university executives but [rather by] the university community," he says.

"They are changes that will irreparably and irrevocably affect education in Australia, and [they will] fundamentally alter the relationship between the federal government and future Australian students."

Mr Wilson agrees with this view.

"It is anti-democratic of the spokesperson of the university to use his position to advocate for fee deregulation when it is unclear whether it is the view of the majority of the university community," he says.

The petition, he believes, is the perfect place to find out if students would be interested in such a forum:

"It is an easily accessible method of gauging whether the students and academics in the university would like to have their say on what they think of deregulation, funding cuts, and interest rates on HECS," he says.

Bruffey sees the campaign as crucial for a number of reasons.

"Firstly, it gives students, staff and alumni the ability to have a direct say on matters that affect the future of our University and Australian society. Secondly, it highlights the disconnect between the university administration and the opinions of the people whom they

represent. Thirdly, it will prevent Christopher Pyne and Tony Abbott (and perhaps even Clive Palmer) from pointing to our University as an institution that supports (or acquiesces in) the Abbott government's higher education changes."

The campaign has attracted a number of notable politicians, who are now openly supporting the campaign. They are all UNSW alumni who are against fee deregulation.

"We are proud to have the local member for Kingsford-Smith, Matt Thistlethwaite MP, on board, as well as NSW state politicians Penny Sharpe MLC and Mehreen Faruqi MLC," Bruffey says.

"All of these diverse politicians are former UNSW students and they have been extremely vocal in their support for the campaign. Australian Shadow Minister for Higher Education, Senator Kim Carr, has also expressed his support for the UNSW campaign."

According to Mr Wilson, the campaign is also supported by the rest of the UNSW SRC and Get Up!

For now, the campaign is still aimed at getting the required 1,000 signatures. But according to Bruffey, there are further events coming up to speak out against what he sees as UNSW's students being under represented.

"The campaign team has been collecting signatures all this week. In the next few weeks we will be holding small events to gather momentum, culminating in a large stunt on the Library Lawn on 16 October, where we will host a mock forum and a 'High Tea Rally' in opposition to the silencing of student and staff voices by [the] Chancellery," he says.

After the signatures are all attained, Bruffey, who is also an undergraduate member of the University Council, plans to table to signatures at the October 20 meeting.



NOODLE HOUSE YARNS

with DAVID BAILEY-MCKAY

Loyalty to a caucus is hard to understand if you have never been dependent to a caucus before. Many people have asked me how could I participate in organisation X if I haven't liked the outcome of Y. For me, I remain loyal as I have expected and received the same loyalty before, and that I have probably obliged people into participating in contested outcomes too. So here I beg the question: to split, or not to split.

Splitting is always a last resort, either used to help raise an issue or that the end political objective can no longer be met. For example, the Democratic Labor Party (Groupers) split to raise awareness about socialism in the ALP, which it did sadly to their success. However, the groupers political objectives to establish a papal state in Victoria failed. Hence why a certain WA senator should realise their political ambition ended with Pope Pius IX.

With student and radical left politics, there are always seven factions to three members. This sees the revolving door of splits, mergers, internal collapses and so forth. 2013 was a perfect year to watch this. Grassroots signed a deal with SALT and other groups in August, only for it all to fall apart by January 2014. SLS split and now has rejoined NLS in a state similar to an adult child moving back home, yet claiming their independence.

The remainder of this column has been censored due to electoral regulations prohibiting Tharunka from reporting on SRC elections in the four weeks leading up to and including the week of elections.

In lieu of David's column, have a blobfish.

The Hirst Report: Abbott's Report Card

Abbott's Report Card ()

In light of Tony Abbott's generous self-assessment of his government, here is a leaked copy of the teacher's report that is due to be mailed home next week.

Tony Abbott D

Tony sits right up the front of class and nods as if he is paying attention. Unfortunately, his work this semester seems to indicate he's often not fully aware of what's going on. His comments in class are belligerent, reactionary and seldom grounded in any kind of factual basis. He often submits assignments without bibliographies, and his only reference for his science project was Dick Warburton, who is actually an economist. If Tony wants to see his grades improve, he will have to start doing the basics better.

Joe Hockey D

Joe's economics assignment was a puzzle. He chose not to answer the set question about inequality and income disparity but instead submitted a bizarre, rambling account of how to fix the budget. Although it was one of the grading criteria, Joe completely and seemingly deliberately ignored considering how economic indicators help create wealth throughout the whole economy and seems to consider them a good in themselves.

Christopher Pyne D-

I have requested an interview to discuss Chris's behaviour. He habitually shouts slurs from the back of the classroom and is a disruption to his classmates. His work has been of a very low quality, but he doesn't seem to register that his marks have been poor. I would like to discuss some remedial options for Chris as a matter of some urgency.

Scott Morrison D-

Scott has done no work all semester, and for his oral presentation, he stood in front of the class and refused to speak. After 15 minutes of silence, he sat down and seemed to think he had done really well. I have never seen anything like it in 30 years of teaching.

George Brandis C-

George prides himself on reading lots of books from the library, but he seems to understand very little and rarely returns them. He describes himself as a classical liberal, but his essay on increasing surveillance powers seems to display a limited knowledge of what this entails. He did very poorly in IT and has not understood that the Commonwealth Law Reports can be accessed for free online.

David Johnston D

David is very quiet and I would encourage him to become more involved in class discussions. I fear his confidence was shattered early on when he went on a bizarre rant about the ABC, which was met with stunned silence, and I regret to say, some partially muffled laughter. I hope that he regains some of this confidence and becomes a more regular contributor next semester.



Fee deregulation

Left vs. Right



Lauren McCracken

Have you dreamt of having the opportunity to owe the government over a hundred thousand dollars in debt? Are your parents giddy about the idea of remortgaging their house so you can go to university?

These are the big dreams Christopher Pyne brought with him to cabinet after the Liberals won federal government last year. What a man! What a vision! We could finally go back to an Australia where university was inaccessible to scruffy low-income earners.

If you're not up to speed on what Pyne has been up to, here's the score:

Pyne's recipe for a \$100,000 degree:

1. Prepare your voters. Get your mates Tony and Joe to over-sensationalise the amount of debt Labor left behind in order to soften up the public to massive cuts to education and welfare (but not defence though, because Tony wants a new fleet of sick fighter jets).

2. Rip out a bunch of money from universities and give it to those super expensive and poorly regulated private colleges. Then they can give it back to the government in the form of secret scholarships for the children of MPs!

3. You need to keep those universities happy though! Change the legislation so they can charge students whatever they like. Those layabouts probably have billions down the side of their collective share-house couches anyway.

4. Watch student fees rise as Vice Chancellors attempt to squeeze every cent they can from their student bodies. The University of Western Australia has already announced that they'll be setting their fees to almost double what they were before!

And there you have it! You have yourself a tertiary sector exclusive to only the wealthiest among us. Serve with a vastly under-resourced TEQSA and cuts to Australian Research Council.

Some may argue that the legislation changes are fair because universities

will have to put 20% of this extra revenue into initiatives to support disadvantaged students. These people are wrong.

Such a scheme means that regional universities, or those with a larger proportion of disadvantaged students will suffer. These universities will not be able to charge the same fees as the sandstone universities. They therefore won't have the extra revenue on hand to support students struggling to make it through university.

To make matters worse, Pyne also wants to axe the Start-Up scholarship scheme, a move that was originally proposed by Labor. Instead, the scholarships will be replaced with loans, which will mean that disadvantaged students will be leaving university with considerably more debt than their wealthier counterparts.

These changes have received considerable criticism for the way savings are being made at the expense of the most vulnerable students. The Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia said in its submission to the Senate inquiry that these changes would "further increase the cost of accessing tertiary education for rural students, increase the level of debt of our graduating students and further widen the gap in the participation rate in tertiary studies by rural students."

Equality of opportunity should be the way we judge a fair tertiary system. By no means are these changes fair. Pyne will be leading the way to bigger debts, dwindling participation and less support for disadvantaged students. These are not the actions of a forward thinking, future proofing government. It's clumsy cost cutting.



Nicholas Gerovasilis

The higher education sector is now at a critical cross-road. It must reform or risk falling behind in a highly competitive global market. The solution? The audacious agenda set out by the government in this year's budget. Only through the deregulation of fees can we unleash the full potential of our universities.

In 2012, University of NSW Vice-Chancellor Fred Hilmer outlined the imperative for deregulation. He emphasised the fact that universities had long been relying on international students to ameliorate a structural funding deficit – however, increasing international competition and the high Australian dollar have put this revenue at risk. Additionally, costs including wages are increasing at a rate that is outstripping the indexation of government funding.

But the final straw was the Gillard government's decision to remove the cap on university places. While the reform was well-intentioned, commonsense undercut the former government's claim that it could maintain existing funding levels amidst an influx of new students. And thus reality struck – \$2.8 billion was slashed from the already pressured sector. Yet, what made the cut unconscionable was the former government's lack of insight in failing to equip the sector with an alternative means of recovering this revenue.

It is against this background that the government has made the sensible decision to deregulate university fees. Such reform will allow universities to not only survive, but thrive. As Hilmer highlighted, absent reform, institutions faced substantial operating losses, condemning them to lag behind the pack in competitiveness and innovation. And ultimately, it is students, and hence the public, who lose in that event.

But what about students? Is the (attempted) burning of Chris Pyne's effigy the visceral manifestation of the conflagration of student equity that fee deregulation precipitates?

Of course not. Such claims are steeped in a fatal lack of understanding of the difference between the model proposed by the government and the American system.

The fundamental differential is the HECS-HELP system, which remains under the government's proposal. Unlike in the US, students are able to borrow the entirety of their tuition fees upfront, and they only begin paying it off when they are earning a reasonable income. The function of this mechanism is to distort the functioning of a normal price signal; students do not appreciate the price increase, given the incremental repayment method, and accordingly, it does materially bear on the decision to enter university. The truth of this is perfectly demonstrated by the example of England. Quasi-deregulatory reform there has led to significant increases in fees. Yet, as Daniel Carr (*The Guardian*, 27/5) expounds, access has continued to increase, including, notably, for low SES students – those who opponents claim will be locked out under a deregulated system.

It is imperative, therefore, that we recognise three fundamental truths in this debate. First, the university sector is in need of reform. Inertia on this point is belied by the valid concerns communicated by Hilmer, amongst others, of the financial difficulties facing institutions. Second, a high-quality university sector is a direct benefit to students, and consequently, to taxpayers. Although many opponents of deregulation fail to recognise this point, it is important to stress that extra funding will be reinvested in not only research, which offers critical public benefits, but also in education. And finally, access will not be threatened by deregulation. Not only has the government promised that one-fifth of new revenue will be hypothecated for scholarships, but, additionally, our world-class HELP system prevents changes to fees from negatively impacting on a student's decision to enter university, as England illustrates.



AMPLIFYING SILENCE

AN INTERVIEW WITH PERFORMER AND SOUND ARTIST KIT

Catherine Knight

Performing under her pseudonym “KIT”, Jenny Alaca with her 2014 project “SURVEYING” explores the liminal spaces that exist within the process of listening. Using a rewired megaphone she creates eerie and mesmerising performances in which the sound of a specific site is captured, warped and spat back out. These works expose what noise lies hidden within a space, lurking beyond human hearing. Megaphone in hand she devises movements that carve out new paths that realize physical space through sound. In the very meta, very po-mo, very worm-eating-its-own-tail fashion these works magnify the noise of listening itself, spotlighting and contorting every cough, shuffle and sigh. She is fresh off performances at Gallery 101, Free the Beats at 505 Club, COFA Sounds where she performed with Tim Brungies “Mirrors” installation, and our very own Artsweek. KIT sat down with me last week to chat about the Maker Movement, megaphones and her experiences as an emerging sound artist.

Tell us a bit about your current work with megaphones?

I’m working on a project called SURVEYING which assesses its surrounding spatial relationships through feeding back and looping, while assessing it’s own. I use reverse-amplified megaphones. This is a megaphone that has been circuit bent to record amplifiable sounds, rather than amplify recordable sounds – basically acts as a mega-microphone, picking up surrounding spatial sound from over a hundred feet away. Currently my interest with megaphones is lead by wanting to explore and realise spatial relationships, active and inactive space, phantom spaces, and revealing this through sound in results of feedback.

Why the megaphone?

At the time I was doing work with COFA Sounds

and I was interested in what happens when you force people to listen. The megaphone is an interesting piece because it isn’t an instrument (maybe a tool), you can use it for protests, the police use it, and punk bands have used it. On its own however, it is just a dead tool. It doesn’t do much for itself without an activator and the choice to use a megaphone probably came from its power to position authority.

I use the megaphone because I am borrowing its iconic symbolism, hacking the simple functions of the megaphone and its index.

Tell me a little bit about your beginnings as an art maker? Were you always drawn to sound and/or performance?

I think I was always drawn to using and misusing the presentation of sound. I’ve come to combine my obsession with technological extensions of the body, with sound, with performance, with sculpture.

Pia Van Geldar got me thinking about practice-based research; at the same time I was shown light onto what circuit bending is. Marrying my infatuation with the machine with the hacking of technology brought out new interests in the fetish. “If you can’t open it, you don’t own it” as MAKE Magazine tells us. We are surrounded by dispensable technology and a lot of it. What is all this wealthy garb? How can we reclaim our consumer technology?

Where did the persona of KIT come from and what do you feel is it’s role in your process and works?

KIT is this idea of self-sufficiency; a lot of what I do, (if not all) is through building my own tools, my own stage and so I like this idea of building my own persona also. This idea that I’m no longer Jay as we know her, but KIT, just as this is no longer a megaphone as we know it etc. The name in itself is its own instrumentation that I take on and I luggage along with all my other bits and pieces. I just hacked my own identity. You cre-

ate personas and labels, your given name however is chosen for you. This is the whole argument right here, by re-examining what modern tools are chosen for our equipment, and reclaiming ownership by making anew.

Could you talk a little bit about your the beginnings of collaborations on this project incorporating a further visual dimension?

I’m currently working with COFA Alumni and artist Josh Harle we’ve started to work on extending this project into realms of motion mapping. We met after a talk on my project at DorkBot Syd, where he was interested in my exploration with spatial relationships. Using Processing and Bluetooth sensors, my slightest movements are picked up and mapped on a screen. My data body kept in a “laggy” visualisation of transforming, being and not being.

Where do you see this project going?

To be honest I have no idea! Maybe at the moment the future of the work can see itself playing with motion sensors but even still, I didn’t see that coming. I don’t think I’ve yet reached the peak of it’s potential, which makes it most exciting of course. There will always be so much more I can do with it, but there’s only many form it will allow itself to take. I think I’m going to continue to experiment with the megaphone until I find it unnecessary it experiment further. This act of finding an ingredient and experimenting with projects it to its wits end is what makes making most exciting for me.

You can check out more of KIT’s work via her Facebook and Soundcloud:

facebook.com/makersandlagers

soundcloud.com/makersandlagers



Opposite: Performance with Tim Bruniges' 'Mirrors' Installation at UNSW Art and Design.

This page: Photography by George Popov - KIT Performing at the Artsweek 'Performance Art Night' at UNSW Art and Design with visualisations by Josh Harle





Irfaan, my brother

icy airs pierce my skin as the doors of the international airport's waiting lounge slid open. Nervously, I took another sip of the piping hot coffee that I had bought to keep myself occupied rather than to warm myself. My chills were not resulting from the mercury dropping weather condition but rather from the panicky uneasiness of meeting 'him' after nearly 10 years. Yes I had not seen Irfaan ever since I had left homeland. All this time living in Australia, I have been reading articles on the "truth" of war in Afghanistan. Online articles that distinctly brought the horrors of war and numerous stories on the cruel and harsh living conditions that have transformed war torn Afghans into ruffians. Many young men have been reportedly involved in criminal activities and have brought anarchy within the small areas they walk in without the fear of being shot. I would often wonder if, Irfaan has been affected by inhumane violence and has lost touch with his humane self. I have spent years, months, week, days, and hours of my life searching for Irfaan. I contacted charities that ran the orphanages and eventually was able to find him. He was in hospital, recovering from a surgery. He has lost a leg, after he had stepped on a mine. He sounded different, more like a man rather than the boy that I had been separated from. There was so much that I wanted to say to him but he had spoken so little. I told him that we will be together soon and he had stayed silent even then, only the heavy sound of his breath penetrated the silence.

Since then my nights have been spent tossing and turning, wandering the memory lanes. Every night I have journeyed into the past times that we two had spent together; running in the wide open spaces, flying kites and constantly scheming to catch a stray chicken that we would take home, for the mouth-watering dinner Ammi would cook for us. And then, everything changed. Initially we were happy with the change as we did not have to go to school anymore but when Abba painted the house windows and told us to wear a turban we did not like it. All hell broke loose when Irfaan and I were banned from flying kites. Soon the shrill sound of wailing shells became a regular routine of our gloomy life. We became so habitual to death that when we heard the bullets and screams we both no longer hid under the bed. I would sit holding hands with Irfaan and wait for Talibs to leave and then would go to the house where we would join in the wailing for the dead. There were times when I wanted to break rules but Irfaan always ensured that nothing like that would ensue. Ammi always used to say that I was the restless one and Irfaan was the one who was steady and settled even though he was only 5 minutes elder to me. I would laugh her off. Little did I know then, that he would fulfil his duty as the elder one after we were orphaned during one of Talib's fury on our village.

Ammi and Abbu's absence broke me and I floundered in grief. I would have died if Irfaan had not cared for me. He would run to the missionary truck and snatch food for the two of us. Sometimes he could get only one packet and he would feed it to me. Together we travelled, hiding from Talibs who would have made us a part of them. We would travel at night and during the day hid behind the rubble of the bombed homes, huddled together, my hands holding Irfaan's sweaty hands. Then the unfortunate day arrived, when we got separated. Irfaan went away to get food and he never came back. I waited for two days and then moved on. I eventually reached an orphanage and was chosen to be sent to Australia on refugee visa.

An animated shriek rise and a young girl rush towards an oncoming grinning woman who is forcefully pushing a trolley chock-full of suitcases. I look at the information board, Irfaan's flight has landed, and soon he will be here. I wonder if he will have a smile on his face, or has he actually lost all his emotion?

9 years is a long time. I stand here among beaming faces of people who are excited to meet their loved ones and I try to match their fervour but my apprehension prevails and any excitement that I had start to dwindle away. What will I say when I will meet Irfaan? Will he be hostile at the loss of his leg?

The board broadcast that the passengers were at custom clearance. I feel the sweat beads cover my forehead and upper lip. The heater must have been turned up. I want to sit; it's a shame that there are not any chairs vacant. Another wave of people arrives. I gulp and gaze and every time I see a trolley in sight my heart lurches. My hands tremble with unease. Soon the wave thins to a trickle of one or two people.

Where is Irfaan? I conjectured.

What if he had changed his mind? What if something has happened to him? What if he did not want to see me? Panic grips me; I forget my concern and desperately want to see Irfaan. Just then I feel a light hand on my shoulder. I turn and see the air hostess and next to her is a feeble and frail man sitting in a wheelchair. My eyes meet his and everything dissolves, tears blur my vision.

'Irfaan my brother' I sob and fall down on my knees squeezing him securely, feeling the warmth of his body and his heart beating against mine. Nothing has changed. Nothing will ever change.

GoPads for GoNads hits Australian stores just in time for Christmas

Micahela Vaughan @mvaughan101

"Keep those crown jewels sparkling!!"

Aussie blokes everywhere will be excited to hear that CleanXXX is finally bringing GoPads for GoNads to Australian shores in December 2014. The visionary company (the folks that invented "Hygiene Vagenie") foresaw that such an announcement would cause quite a stir in the fertile market Down Under. CEO Brian Bauble confessed in an exclusive interview that "Australian consumers have quite aggressively demanded shipment of our products since their release in the US at the beginning of the year". Not surprisingly, the unsolicited sale of GoPads for GoNads online have yielded up to \$AU100 for items which have a RRP of only \$AU5.

For the uninitiated, GoPads for GoNads are essentially a moist, scented cotton cloth specifically tailored for men to use on their genitalia. The problem of pungent ball sacks has baffled civilisation since the beginning of time, and only now has just been resolved. Bauble even joked that he "couldn't believe" how our ancestors survived without them.

Medical experts agree that the product was essential in order to maintain healthy, supple balls. Les Deferens, medical science lecturer at UNSW, said that "good hygiene starts with cleansing, wiping and repetition. It's unfathomable that it has taken so long for something like GoPads for GoNads to come into existence". Adding further with a blush, Deferens went on to say, "Frankly, I'm totally nuts about the product and nuts about my husband's fresh nuts!"

UNSW student and first-grade footballer Ian Balzac also endorsed the product, commenting, "I went travelling around the US at the start of the year and caught on to GoPads and haven't looked back!" A self-confessed football fanatic, Balzac always struggled with the embarrassment of sweaty balls during and after sports training. "The invent of such a cosmetic item, brought to my attention there was a solution to a problem that I was vaguely aware that I had. Now I can be open about my sweat and deal with it in a safe way," he said.

GoPads for GoNads are expected to be one of the biggest Christmas gift sellers this year. Order early online now to avoid disappointment on CleanXXX's website, and for more information regarding the product.

Vote [1] Micharla Porn for Lawlsoc Empress of the UNiVerse

Greetings, my dear fellow lawl students.

My name is Micharla Porn, and I am humbled, and honoured, and very graciously running for Lawlsoc Empress of the UNiVerse.

I am a fourth-year Arts (Honours)/Lawl student and would like to run for Empress of the UNiVerse as I have blossomed and thrived at lawl and would now like to give back to the community. I am passionate about lawl and enthusiastic about the wealth of opportunities that may unfold in such a society. I would bring a plethora of authenticity and an array of commitment to such a position at Lawlsoc.

I seek your votes, dear classmates, because I am perceptive and have the best ideas. I stand for all the students and believe that I will change the lives of every lawl student in 2015. I am here for literally the 2500-plus lawl students at UNSW – even the ones that never come to lectures. (I know that seems like a lot of people but I do have a knack with faces.) I envision a Lawlsoc that is inclusive and accessible to all members.

I aim to foster many opportunities and capacities, as well as experiences. In this role of Empress, I hope to see growth and sustained excellence, as well as bringing a unique dynamism

to Lawlsoc. I thoroughly look forward to responsibilities and never shy away from engagement.

In this capacity of Empress, I hope to draw on my life experiences to bring multiple insights to Lawlsoc. Ever since I was in first year, I have been acquiring a varied skill set that would equip me for the challenges ahead, both academically and beyond. Lawlsoc is not just about scholarship but also about friendship and welfare. These crucial key areas will be particular points of interest in my leadership, if I am to be elected by the student body. I seek to address Lawlsoc from many aspects and will do my utmost in terms of improvements. All in all, I intend to look at both the minor and major details.

I call upon you to ask any questions about my policies (coming in full shortly) and what experiences I have that would enable me to fulfil all that is required of the Empress. I'm happy to respond to your questions over on Facebook, or you can find me on Twitter: @mvaughan101.

Wishing you life, love and happiness. And remember – never stop dreaming

Mi Porn x
@mvaughan101



LAW REVUE OR 'HOW I WASTED 3 HOURS OF MY LIFE'

By Lucia Watson

On the 11th of September this month I found myself in a place I vowed never to go in my entire university career: a faculty revue.

The Law Revue this year was an attempt at political satire at the expense of the Abbott government and Australia in general, with a few law jokes chucked in. It began with a promising dance number and a loosely related Hobbit themed introduction; the first hour of the review was what I expected. It was relatively funny and, as I'm sure many at UNSW would, I appreciated the unapologetic slating of the Abbott government. But that's as far as it goes. After the first hour the skits became banal and uninspired, the high point being a skit about lost socks where the students had dressed up as socks. Much of the skits reminded me of high school theatre sports. I suppose it was naïve of me to expect more than that, but I had high hopes for the Law faculty and their sense of humor. It really didn't help that there was pretty much no sound set up, so only the first few rows of the audience could hear what was actually going on. At least they seemed like they had fun. Though it was very mediocre, it was still better than doing my readings - however I don't think I will be going to another revue again.

WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS

Film Review by Simon Anicich



Most people would agree that share house living is a bit of a mixed bag. It's an altogether rather odd situation, forced into cohabitation for a myriad of reasons, there's no other choice but to pool your resources and try to get along as best as you can in order to save some coin. More often than not, you soon discover that your housemates have an assortment of odd and rather annoying habits, like leaving disemboweled bodies all over the floor and forgetting to drape a few towels over your new couch before they suck their victims dry and spill blood everywhere. And then you have to put up with the people they bring over, like the vampire hunter who actually wants to kill you and send your soul to hell. Wait, you don't have those problems?

What We Do In The Shadows is perhaps the best depiction I've seen of share house living on film, it just so happens that the guys living in this house happen to be centuries old vampires. Styled as a mockumentary, the premise of the film sees a 'documentary' crew granted access to the home of Viago (Waititi), Vlad (Clement), Deacon (Jonathan Brugh) and the Nosferatu-like Petyr (Ben Fransham), in the lead up to the highlight of their social calendar, an annual undead ball.

What follows is a highly loose storyline that is more an excuse to set up a series of sketches depicting the troubles of being a creature of the night in contemporary New Zealand. Finding victims has never been harder when you need to be 'invited in' to nightclubs by the bouncer, and how do you find the perfect hunting outfit when you can't even see your reflection in the mirror? Fortunately for the hapless housemates, Petyr sires a new vampire in the form of Nick (Cori Gonzalez-Mauer), who is more than happy to teach his new family the ways of the modern world with the help of human mate Stu (Stu Rutherford).

There's no doubt in my mind that *What We Do In The Shadows* is one of the funniest films to be released this year, and it's sure to be cemented as a classic entry in the mockumentary genre. Waititi and Clement have clearly taken great joy in borrowing from the tropes of vampire lore, spinning them on their head in order to remarkably create an entirely fresh representation of a supernatural creature that has been done to death in recent years. Make sure you keep an eye out for other supernatural spoofs littered throughout the film as well, from witches, zombies and a pack of werewolves (or is that swearwolves) led by Clement's *Flight of the Conchords* co-star Rhys Darby.

So forget the glittery styling's of Edward Cullen and the oh so boring melodrama of the Salvatore brothers, Viago and his housemates are the new top dogs of the vampire world.



It's not easy being Green

Niko Pajarillo @NikoPajarillo

Cowboys coach Paul Green has experienced a baptism of fire in his first year at the helm.

The kick goes up, the chasers come through, and Kieran Foran knocks-on. The referee says play on and the Sea Eagles end the Cowboys' season.

Fast forward one year.

Sam Tagataese crashes to the ground on the last tackle signalling a turnover. The referee says play on and the Sharks end the Cowboys' season.

Captain Johnathan Thurston expresses his disgust after the game.

"Two years in a row now we have copped it come finals time," he tells *The Australian*.

Crying foul with claims of a conspiracy involving Sydney-biased officiating, Thurston is not happy.

"The big, powerful blokes behind the scenes down there and the media, they are crying out for something and well . . . I guess they are getting what they wished for."

Fast forward one year to last month's first semi-final.

The Cowboys again have their season on the line and are on the cusp of one of the greatest comebacks in NRL history, after coming back from a 30-0 deficit.

Surely, it couldn't happen again. Surely.

Kyle Feldt charges through the defence, offloads to Robert Lui, who puts the ball down in a call that can only be described as 50/50. The referee says knock-on and the Roosters end the Cowboys' season.

During his post-match interview with Gorden Talis, Thurston was speechless.

In a conversation that involved more tongue biting

and astonished groans than actual dialogue, Thurston managed: "I don't wanna say something stupid; I'll regret it."

Head coach Paul Green, who took over from the sacked Neil Henry this year, has now experienced first hand the cruelty of the now infamous "Cowboys Curse".

"It's going to hurt," he said.

"The tough part about it is our season's finished and it was so close.

"It'll be a really tough way to learn but it's a tough competition.

"That will burn us for a while, knowing that our season's over, [with] the old 'what might have been', but at the end of the day we weren't good enough at the start."

While the Cowboys' running battle with lady luck is a story in its own right, this writer feels the bigger picture is much more compelling.

Rather than focusing on the gameplay highlights of the matches themselves, the talking points of games increasingly today seem to focus more on evaluating the performances of referees.

The utter discontent with their performance collectively is clear to see – online from the fans, in press conferences from staff, and in the media from journalists and commentators alike.

Why this is the case is unclear, but there have been many postulations over the reason for this recent criticism.

There's the idea that the two-referee system makes for inconsistency in interpretation during games; the notion that the video referee is too involved in scrutinising every play in super slow-motion; and the popular theory adopted by NSW fans over the years – that

they're all just corrupt and being paid to favour certain sides.

But the idea that referees have simply just become terrible is highly implausible.

One could argue that the growing prominence of social media since 2008 is the cause – that referees have always made these mistakes, but social media has given the people a voice, and mistakes are now more clearly seen and scrutinised.

This writer has his own theory.

I fail to recall moments from my childhood up until recently in which match official decisions have been so closely examined and controversial.

Back then, playing to the whistle was an almost unspoken, commonsense convention rather than a moral reminder for players and coaches.

It is also interesting to note that this wrangling is a strictly NRL-exclusive debate.

Last year's World Cup in England had no such drama, with referees, coaches and players from all over the world cooperating in perfect harmony, with international rules abiding by the one-referee system.

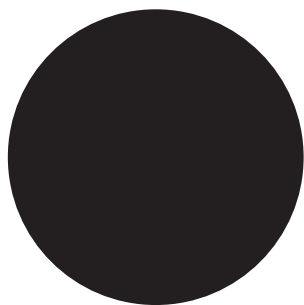
Our game, as it stands at this point in time, is perhaps too technical and should consider reverting to the old ways of the one-referee and taking the video ref and slow-motion replays out of general play adjudications.

Only then might people feel content with our game – and something needs to be done before it decides a grand final or an Origin series (I'm being funny).

But for now, our beloved game will continue to be ridiculed and labelled a farcical joke, while the real sufferers continue to hurt every week.

Until then, we've got to live with it. And to Paul Green and Johnathan Thurston, drinks are on me.

THE SRC ARE YOUR ELECTED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES — YOUR VOICE ON CAMPUS!

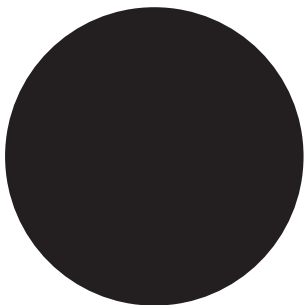


President

Joel Wilson

Welcome everyone to the second half of Semester 2! Now rest up this week and get ready for a huge Anti-Poverty Week in Week 11 (October 13 – 17). Anti-Poverty Week aims to raise awareness of poverty and the severe hardship that affects millions of Australians and billions of people around the world. The Week will be an exciting one full of events run by both the Social Justice Project and by various Arc clubs. Check out the Facebook page regularly for updates about events to be held throughout the week! Like the page and us show your support! Also visit <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/> for more information about Anti-Poverty Week initiatives around Australia

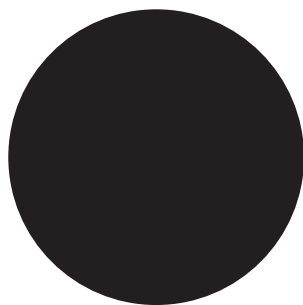
Please also get in touch or come and see me in our new office in the TKC on the Basser steps whenever you require help. My email address is srcpresident@arc.unsw.edu.au, and you can sign up to our collectives through our website and Facebook page!



Education Officer

Billy Bruffey

The Education Collective's campaign with GetUp! calling on the University to host a town hall meeting on fee deregulation is well under way! We have received massive support from alumni politicians Matt Thistlethwaite, Penny Sharpe, and Mehreen Faruqi. With hundreds of signatures already gathered, we are hosting a mock forum on October 16 called the "High Tea Rally". Come along, drink some tea, eat some scones, and protest against the elitist ideology of fee deregulation. To get more involved, email education@arc.unsw.edu.au, or join our Facebook page!



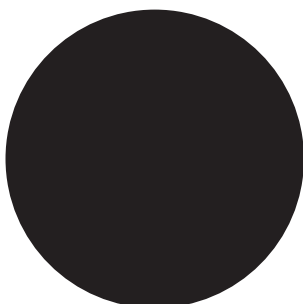
Ethno-Cultural Officer

Rachel Lobo

We have a jam-packed schedule over the next few weeks! Week 10 has seen us launch into Refugee Week, as well as the launch of our long-awaited International/Intercultural Student Lunchtimes in our autonomous space! FREE lunch IS a thing! And it comes with no strings attached if you're an International or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse student at UNSW ;) Meet new people and check out the new SRC autonomous spaces!

During Refugee Week, we'll be writing messages in a bottle to Scott Morrison, our fave UNSW alumnus, and more importantly, we'll be sending letters of solidarity to asylum seekers. We'll also be dining at the rad Parliament on King in Erskineville where we can chat to the refugees being trained in restaurant and barista skills! Come drop by the space where we'll be collecting donations or fundraising for Socks & Jocks (and other toiletries) for the Asylum Seekers Centre! Week 10 will be HUGE! So make sure you get amongst the action!

As always, drop by the space, or email r.lobo@arc.unsw.edu.au to get involved! Or check us out on Facebook!



Indigenous Officer

Rebekah Hatfield

I hope you enjoyed the first ever Indigenous and Inter-cultural Tharunka Edition that was out on shelves last fortnight.

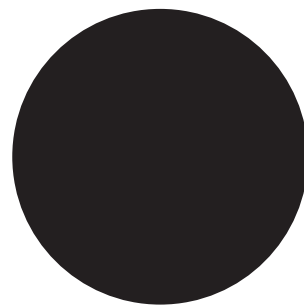
Again, we would like to thank the Tharunka team for helping us put it together.

We would also like to highlight that the Tharunka edition launch was a huge success with the Inter-cultural space overflowing with people. It was a great night all round with tasty food, entertainment and great company.

I would personally like to thank all those who contributed and all those who

could make it to the launch on the 25th.

Let's hope there are many more Indigenous and Inter-cultural Tharunka editions to come!



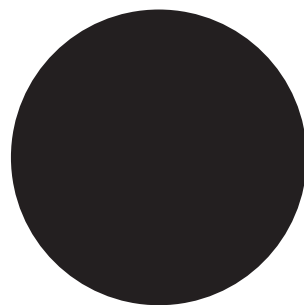
Environment Officer

Nicholas Gurieff

In Week 8, Arc @ UNSW and the SRC ran a referendum on fossil fuel divestment and a campus renewable energy target at UNSW. It was the first poll of its kind at UNSW, and thanks to the hard work of volunteers from the Environment Collective, we collected 1,300 responses from staff and students. Of those, 92 per cent supported a 100 per cent renewable energy target for campus electricity, and 78 per cent supported an end to UNSW investing in fossil fuel companies. We're proud of this result, which shows staff and students want real action on climate change. If you'd like to help ensure UNSW steps up, then drop in on our weekly Environment Collective meetings 10 am to 12 noon on Wednesdays. You can also get in contact and stay informed about our plans by visiting our website at www.srcenviro.org, or by sending an email to enviro@arc.unsw.edu.au.

they are not being treated fairly. If you are worried about your exam arrangements, get on top of it now, before it's too late.

I would encourage any student who feels as though they haven't received sufficient support, or just generally wants a chat, to get in contact with me at disabilities@arc.unsw.edu.au or reach me on 0406 627 353.



Students with disabilities

Alexandria Little

We're coming to the pointy, stressful end of semester and everyone is starting to feel the pressure. In the weeks after mid-semester break, keep an eye out on the SRC Facebook page for some events designed to help you stress less.

The Artsweek team and I put together an event celebrating disability in the arts, and it was fantastic. By the time this has gone to print, I will have had a film screening to brighten up everyone's semester.

UNSW is still failing to provide sufficient support to students with disabilities. Students should not have to file complaints on a weekly basis because



Reylene Galloway

There are special moments in the sporting world that help to remind and inspire us that anything is possible. Many athletes have overcome personal hurdles to create the greatest sporting comebacks, while sporting teams have competed at the highest international level despite the odds that are stacked against them.

So here I present to you the greatest sporting moments and comebacks that have defied all the odds and silenced sporting critics in the process.

Palestinian Soccer Team

As mentioned in recent weeks, the crisis in Palestine has continued to escalate due to Israeli airstrikes causing devastation to the Palestinian population. With the ongoing civil conflict continuing to undermine Palestinian society, the Palestinian Football Team has continued to participate in achieving their footballing dreams through friendly games and ongoing preparation for the 2015 Asia Cup. Despite the recent Gaza ceasefire, players continue to follow their passion, with Al Jazeera stating, "The team is composed of players from inside the Occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Some of them are also based overseas."

Special Mention: Iraqi Football Team

Just like the Palestinian Football Team, the Iraqi Football Team had dealt with many hardships as a result of Saddam Hussein's dictatorship. In particular, the notable use of brutality and abuse when they returned from losses in international games, *The Washington*

Post reports. The Iraqis made sporting history by qualifying for the 2004 Athens Summer Olympics, beating out tournament-favourite football sides in the United States, Cameroon, Nigeria and Brazil.

Jamaican Bobsled Team

"Nuff people say, you know they can't believe, Jamaica, we have a bobsled team."

If you were a '90s kid, you would have to remember this famous phrase from that awesome sports movie, *Cool Runnings* (1993). If you don't, well, it is true: Jamaica really did have a bobsled team.

The Jamaican Bobsled Team made an appearance at the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics. Their team consisted of Coach Howard Sailor, founder and financier George Fitch, and team members Dudley Stokes, Devon Harris and Michael White, with alternates Freddie "Reggae" Powell and Caswell Allen. ESPN.co.uk reported that "Fitch used \$92,000 (£56,000) of his own money to train, with the team going to Austria to take part in a World Cup race to meet the international Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation's (FIBT) requirements". Despite many setbacks before and during the Olympics, including their infamous crash, the Jamaican Bobsled Team created sporting history due to fact that they trained in a winter sport despite the tropical climate of their island and had qualified for the Winter Olympics. As a result, it inspired a Disney box-office smash and provided future inspiration for the two-man Jamaican bobsled team had qualified for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

Jesse Owens – American Athletic Champion

If you are a sporting history buff, you should definitely know who Jesse Owens is.

Otherwise, if you don't, Jesse Owens was a prolific African-American athlete who had created sporting history by winning four gold medals at the 1936 Ber-

lin Olympic Games from the 100 metres, long jump, 200 metres and 4x100 metre relay. His wins were more publicised because the Berlin Games were intended to be "a showcase for the Nazi ideology of Aryan racial supremacy", the History Channel reports, as German dictator Adolf Hitler wanted to flaunt the superiority of his Nazi regime to the world. Owens's win created mass controversy as Hitler refused to acknowledge his wins, with *The Guardian* stating, "Hitler, though irked, was dismissive of the triumphs of the African-Americans at the Games – of course they won golds, he told aides, because they were essentially animals, physically stronger than the 'civilised whites'. They simply needed to be banned from future competitions." Furthermore, after the Olympics, Owen was never fully appreciated as an American Olympic champion due to the racial division in the United States.

Interesting Fact: The History Channel reports that Owens wore personally crafted shoes by Adidas, which later helped launch the famous business it is known as today.

Steven Bradbury – Australian "Accidental Hero"?

Just to keep true to the Aussie spirit, the greatest Australian sporting moment would have to be Steven Bradbury's accidental win at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics.

Competing in the 1,000 metres short-track speed skating final, Bradbury remained at the back of the five-man pack. It had paid off for him as his rivals had crashed while he glided past them with style and grace. As a result, Bradbury won gold, as well as Australia's first-ever Winter Olympics gold medal.

If you need more evidence, type his name up on YouTube. You are guaranteed to laugh at everyone stacking it while he skates through arms wide open like a "Skate God".



EPL TRANSFER WINDOW: CLUB GRADES

Cameron Reddin @CameronReddin

With the transfer deadline for EPL clubs now firmly in the past, we can take a much better look at who the real winners and losers from the summer period were.

One of the more intriguing transfer periods in recent memory saw big names like Diego Costa and Angel Di Maria arrive on Premier League shores.

Middlesbrough, QPR and Sunderland were actively involved this window, as were title contenders Chelsea, Liverpool, and both Manchester teams.

Going through club-by-club, we can construct a much clearer picture of where each club sits realistically for the first half of the season, and where lost ground may have to be made up when January comes around.

Arsenal

Biggest in: Alexis Sanchez (Barcelona)

Biggest out: Bacary Sagna (Man City)

The signing of Alexis Sanchez is the only real upside for the Gunners.

With injury striking down Olivier Giroud, Arsene Wenger needed to sign another front-line striker to help the inexperienced Yaya Sanogo.

While the deadline day signing of United's Danny Welbeck provides a lifeline, the pairing doesn't strike the same fear into the hearts of defenders that say, Aguero-Jovetic or Balotelli-Sturridge would.

Window grade: Credit

Aston Villa

Biggest in: Carlos Sanchez (Elche)

Biggest out: Karim El Ahmadi (Feyenoord)

Securing an experienced defensive midfielder was a must if Villa is to escape the drop this season, and the signing of Colombian Carlos Sanchez from Elche ticks that box.

Sanchez's signing partly offsets their failure to sign United's Tom Cleverley before the deadline.

An otherwise productive window also saw Valencia pairing Philippe Senderos and Aly Cissokho arrive at Villa Park, adding much-needed experience to the line-up.

Window grade: Credit

Burnley

Biggest in: Stephen Ward (Wolverhampton Wanderers)

Biggest out: David Edgar (Birmingham City)

Burnley spent much of the transfer period doing what all recently promoted clubs do by looking for Premier League experience.

Experience is what they wanted, and it's exactly what they got, penning deals with Wolves veteran Stephen Ward, Bolton's Marvin Sordell and George Boyd from Hull.

No major outs for Burnley, although David Edgar had been a handy defender in his time at the club.

Window grade: Distinction

Chelsea

Biggest in: Cesc Fabregas (Barcelona)

Biggest out: David Luiz (Paris Saint-Germain)

Chelsea's hyperactive transfer period saw the hits far outweigh the misses.

Diego Costa wasted no time throwing his hat in the ring for the Golden Boot with four goals in his first three games, while Didier Drogba provides an elite option off the bench.

José Mourinho offloaded 30 players through loans and otherwise, more than any other manager this window. Big names Demba Ba, Frank Lampard, Samuel Eto'o and Ashley Cole headline the departures from Stamford Bridge, while Fernando Torres will ply his trade for AC Milan as part of a two-year loan.

Another defender may have added further depth, but considering the rest of the lineup, the defence may not be getting much airtime this year.

Window grade: High Distinction

Crystal Palace

Biggest in: Martin Kelly (Liverpool)

Biggest out: Kagisho Dikgacoi (Cardiff City)

The return of promotion hero Wilfried Zaha gives a much-needed boost to the club that started the season without a manager, while notorious club-hopper Fraizer Campbell provides an interesting forward option.

While Tony Pulis was largely unhappy with board support during the transfer period, the Eagles ended the window with a sturdy backline by signing Martin Kelly and Brede Hangeland.

All things considered, their position could be much worse.

Window grade: Pass

Everton

Biggest in: Samuel Eto'o (Chelsea)

Biggest out: Magaye Gueye (Millwall)

Another club to miss out on Tom Cleverley in the closing hours of the transfer window, but Roberto Martinez can be more than happy with his dealings.

Coupling the big-money deal for Romelu Lukaku with the signing of Samuel Eto'o on a free transfer presents a fearful front line for the blue end of Merseyside.

Securing Gareth Barry at the end of his loan from Man City also adds to a solid midfield.

Window grade: High Distinction

Hull City

Biggest in: Abel Hernandez (Palermo)

Biggest out: Shane Long (Southampton)

A mixed season in their return to the Premier League called for a new set of faces at KC.

Tottenham duo Jake Livermore and Michael Dawson will link up with Blackpool's Tom Ince in an upgraded side, while Uruguayan striker Abel Hernandez will hope to cover the losses of Shane Long and Robert Koren.

Proven performers Hatem Ben Arfa and Robert Snodgrass have been recruited for consistency if nothing else, and they could hold the key to Hull's survival come season's end.

Window grade: Distinction

Leicester City

Biggest in: Esteban Cambiasso (Internazionale)

Biggest out: Martyn Waghorn (Wigan)

Leicester's transfer window has been perhaps the most successful of any club relative to their expectations for the season.

Internazionale stalwart Esteban Cambiasso would be a comfortable fit in most top sides in the EPL even at 34. He joins Man United's Nick Powell and Brighton's Leonardo Ulloa at Leicester this season.

Leicester has retained much of their Championship squad and have strengthened their weaknesses brilliantly – anything less than survival would be a huge disappointment.

Window grade: High Distinction



Liverpool

Biggest in: Dejan Lovren (Southampton)

Biggest out: Luis Suarez (Barcelona)

While Mario Balotelli is set to be the “Batman” to Daniel Sturridge’s “Robin”, the poaching of Southampton’s “L-pack” is negotiation brilliance from Brendan Rogers. Dejan Lovren, Adam Lallana and Rickie Lambert are tactical signings that have proven their worth as a unit. Simon Mignolet’s breakout season at Anfield tipped Pepe Reina out of the squad, landing the former Liverpool keeper at German champions Bayern Munich. Finding the perfect mix may take time after several key-position buys, but there is no immediately obvious reason why this squad cannot win the Premier League this season.

Window grade: High Distinction

Manchester City

Biggest in: Eliaquim Mangala (FC Porto)

Biggest out: Jack Rodwell (Sunderland)

While the defending champions were less active in this window than those of recent years, they were in little need of change.

Bacary Sagna’s move from Arsenal tipped out City’s longest-serving player in Micah Richards, while Manuel Pellegrini cut the dead weight by moving on Joleon Lescott, Costel Pantilimon and Gareth Barry in a quieter offseason.

Forgotten winger Scott Sinclair has survived another transfer period, but failure to make waves this year will almost certainly see him dumped at the next opportunity.

Window grade: Credit

Manchester United

Biggest in: Angel Di Maria (FC Porto)

Biggest out: Nemanja Vidic (Internazionale)

Life under Louis Van Gaal has been off to a rocky start for United, and their transfer window matched that of a club confused as to where it really is.

The loss of backline trio Rio Ferdinand, Patrice Evra and Nemanja Vidic to other clubs, and Ryan Giggs’s retirement cuts almost 1,900 games worth of experience out of the United lineup.

While Falcao (on loan), Angel Di Maria and Ander Herrera are elite footballers, the underwhelming defence was largely ignored, with Daley Blind recruited as a holding midfielder and expectation heaped on 19-year-old Luke Shaw.

It’s not often that a club that signs such world-class players will be criticised the way United has, but to date, they have failed to produce anything to silence the doubters.

They scrape with a pass. Just.

Window grade: Pass

Newcastle United

Biggest in: Daryl Janmaat (Feyenoord)

Biggest out: Mathieu Debuchy (Arsenal)

A solid transfer window would have been enough to give the Toon Army reason to believe that they can push for Europe this campaign.

Remy Cabella and Siem De Jong will introduce quality up front, making losing out on Loic Remy to Chelsea a much easier pill to swallow.

However, the losses of Mathieu Debuchy and Mapou

Yanga-Mbiwa will cause problems at the back, as Newcastle has been vulnerable to even the EPL’s lesser-known strikers. For this reason alone, Alan Pardew has made less progress with this squad than on first inspection.

Window grade: Pass

Queens Park Rangers

Biggest in: Rio Ferdinand (Manchester United)

Biggest out: Loic Remy (Chelsea)

Despite missing out on Jermaine Defoe and Fabio Borini, luring Sandro from Tottenham tipped this window from respectable to genuinely good for QPR.

Red Devils’ legend Rio Ferdinand will form an experienced back pairing with Steven Caulker in a much more respectable R’s lineup than in their last Premier League outing. Jordon Mutch and Leroy Fer are also welcomed inclusions to the midfield.

Getting players off the wage bill was a must this window. Stephane M’bia, Gary O’Neil, Esteban Granero and Julio Cesar all made way, with Adel Taarabt hanging on by a thread.

Window grade: Distinction

Southampton

Biggest in: Dušan Tadi (FC Twente)

Biggest out: Dejan Lovren (Liverpool)

Some decent signings simply aren’t enough to distract from how the Premier League’s top clubs feasted on the Southampton football factory once again.

Liverpool’s signing of the “L-pack”, United’s signing of Luke Shaw, Arsenal’s capture of Calum Chambers and Internazionale’s deal for Dani Osvaldo on loan has gutted the Saints.

Shane Long brings needed experience to a club that has been on the wrong end of big-money deals for some time, and Celtic’s Fraser Forster takes the spot in goal.

Window grade: Fail

Stoke City

Biggest in: Bojan Krki (Barcelona)

Biggest out: Michael Kightly (Burnley)

A mediocre transfer window at best for the Potters. They will be hoping for a big input from Barcelona winger Bojan, who has played decent football without setting the world alight.

Phil Bardsley, Steve Sidwell and Mame Diouf all joined, while out-of-favour Matthew Etherington, Cameron Jerome and James Pennant all made way in a lackluster list change for Stoke.

Window grade: Fail

Sunderland

Biggest in: Jack Rodwell (Manchester City)

Biggest out: Craig Gardner (West Bromwich Albion)

Promising midfielder Jack Rodwell may finally have found his home at the Stadium of Light after a less-than-successful stint at Man City.

Out-of-favour goalkeeper Costel Pantilimon joins Wigan’s Jordi Gomez in the red and white this season, while Will Buckley arrives with former Brighton manager Gus Poyet.

Sunderland joined in cutting ties with several players out of the first-team picture, including Carlos Cuellar and David Moberg Karlsson.

Window grade: Distinction

Swansea City

Biggest in: Bafetimbi Gomis (Lyon)

Biggest out: Michel Vorm (Tottenham)

After turning heads by approving Michu’s loan to Napoli, Swansea have gone about shaping the team around Wilfried Bony and Jonjo Shelvey to relative effect.

Tottenham and Swansea traded well – Gylfi Sigurdsson joining the Welsh club along with Tom Carroll on loan, while gloveman Michel Vorm and defender Ben Davies made their way to White Hart Lane.

French striker Bafetimbi Gomis and discarded Arsenal keeper Lukasz Fabianski round out a surprisingly positive window for the Swans.

Window grade: Distinction

Tottenham

Biggest in: Eric Dier (Sporting Lisbon)

Biggest out: Gylfi Sigurdsson (Swansea)

Young gun Eric Dier headlines a small pool of inclusions alongside 6’5” centre-back Federico Fazio.

Departures were the main feature of Spurs’ transfer period, with Michael Dawson and Iago Falque among the exiting party. Lewis Holtby also left for Hamburg on loan.

Tottenham remain in contention for Europe without a marquee signing. In retrospect, they did not quite make the most of the window when compared to their rivals in the top half of the table.

Window grade: Credit

West Bromwich Albion

Biggest in: Joleon Lescott (Manchester City)

Biggest out: Liam Ridgewell (Portland Timbers)

The Baggies were conservative in their turnover of players this window, but signing Craig Gardner and Joleon Lescott was a step in the right direction.

Aussie Jason Davidson is already making an impact as an attacking wing-back, and club-record signing Brown Ideye may finally be the replacement for Shane Long that they desperately need.

Window grade: Pass

West Ham United

Biggest in: Alex Song (Barcelona)

Biggest out: Joe Cole (Aston Villa)

A series of mesmerising displays at the FIFA World Cup was enough to give Enner Valencia a chance in the EPL and will provide the Hammers with a creative option out wide.

Former Arsenal holding midfielder Alex Song and current Arsenal wing-back Carl Jenkinson both join on loan, while the experienced Joe Cole leaves alongside Jack Collison. Jordan Spence, who played seven games in seven years at West Ham, also leaves to MK Dons.

They got enough out of the transfer period to give supporters hope for survival but, on the face of it, not much more than that.

Window grade: Credit

Final grades

HD: Chelsea, Everton, Leicester City, Liverpool

D: Burnley, Hull City, QPR, Sunderland, Swansea

C: Arsenal, Aston Villa, Man City, Tottenham, West Ham

P: Man United, Newcastle, Crystal Palace, West Brom

F: Southampton, Stoke



In uncharted territory

Leslie Phung

Just like Roger Federer, the day Serena Williams bows out of women's tennis will be an unimaginable one – it's hard to imagine a game without Serena Williams. Her influence on modern women's tennis is often understated, with many forgetting just how much her punishing groundstrokes, venomous serve and defensive sensibilities have really conjured up new expectations for the generation of tomorrow. For a career spanning more than a decade, resting comfortably in the elite, she has now hit gold in the record books: Williams just won her eighteenth grand slam, tying Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert – fourth on the list for most grand slams in history.

She is simply the greatest player of this generation. She is a perfectionist, and the dangers have shown this season. This year has been a most painful season for the American. She failed to reach passed the fourth round of the three majors earlier this year. Williams dominated the 2013 season, so much so that she burnt out and forgot how to dominate for another long and draining year. There was a bounty of questions surrounding her contention in this year's US Open after an early exit in Wimbledon. She also suffered a bizarre virus when playing doubles with her sister. She was teased with losses against opponents that barely fazed her before. She lost to Ana Ivanovic in Australia, an opponent she used to eat for breakfast. Woefully

lacking in confidence, and the tale of age reaching unprecedented heights, was her greatness coming to an end?

But in champion-style fashion, humility gave birth to a new Williams, where she expected very little coming into this tournament. She was acutely aware of her own fragility and fallibility, and she was aware that her opponents were stepping up their games, having newfound confidence in a season where woeful doubts and a lack of confidence crept into Williams's celestial game. A few weeks shy of her thirty-third birthday, she now has 18 grand slams to her name, recently completing a hat trick in New York and still resting comfortably in the elite of tennis. She defeated fellow friend Caroline Wozniacki, 6-3, 6-3. Although the score suggested a heavily lopsided match, even the great Serena was imbued with nerves. She was unable to maintain serve twice – her serve was off rhythm – but in typical fashion, she found that extra gear to close out this match. Love or hate this woman, she does not need to prove anything anymore.

It seems like poetic justice that Williams waited this long until she captured her groundbreaking eighteenth major title – as each continent finished up its grand slam, she went home empty handed. However, the winds and tides of the men's game don't seem so poetic nor just. It is the first time since 2005 that neither Federer, Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal nor Andy Murray are featured in the finals of a major. Blows your mind doesn't it? We are in dangerous waters,

with a US Open finals that starred Kei Nishikori and Marin Cilic, who, with due credit, displayed punishing groundstrokes, grit and extraordinary defensive sensibilities to defeat two greats on semi-final day. Djokovic had a murky preparation for the US Open, suffering brutal losses early in both Toronto and Cincinnati. His legendary game, however, seemed rejuvenated in the US Open, emerging successful against a ferocious Murray in the quarter-finals, where even Murray's rocket forehands could barely dent Djokovic's defensive genius and mental strength. However, things seemed to unravel on a hot and humid semi-final day. He suffered a seemingly lopsided defeat against Nishikori – 6-4, 1-6, 7-6, 6-3. Nishikori's heart was weary and his racket was tired, but he managed to close out the Serb in under three hours, preventing the formidable counter-puncher to wear him out. On another astonishing note, Federer was arguably the favourite to take home the US Open title and his then-possible eighteenth major title. He was the runner up in Toronto, and victorious in Cincinnati, demonstrating vintage Federer, where age seemed to be of an incremental factor and really, it was more about his poised game that has been around since I was still learning how to read. However, Cilic, in their semi-final match up, demonstrated piercing forehands and bullet serves slammed down on every corner of the service box. It gave Federer very little chance to creep into the game and draw out fragilities in Cilic's game. And in uncharted territory, the US Open final

was the first time a Japanese man had made the finals, with Nishikori stunning three major seeds along the way – Djokovic in the semi-final, Stan Wawrinka in a breathtaking five-set quarter-final, and a brutal fourth-round marathon match against Milos Raonic. History is ready to be made.

The beauty of sport is built on its predictability and unpredictability. Its caprice is what drives its cultural importance to newer heights. Nearing the age of retirement, we were on the verge of counting Serena out, but lingering at the back of our minds was the recognition of her greatness and the possibility of resilience after a painful year for her and her fans. On the men's side, the dominance of this generation, featuring the same four protagonists, has lasted for almost a decade. Anything otherwise is as shocking as Lady Gaga not committing an act of attention or treacherous weirdness. This tournament has been incredible...to say the least.

Images via:

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