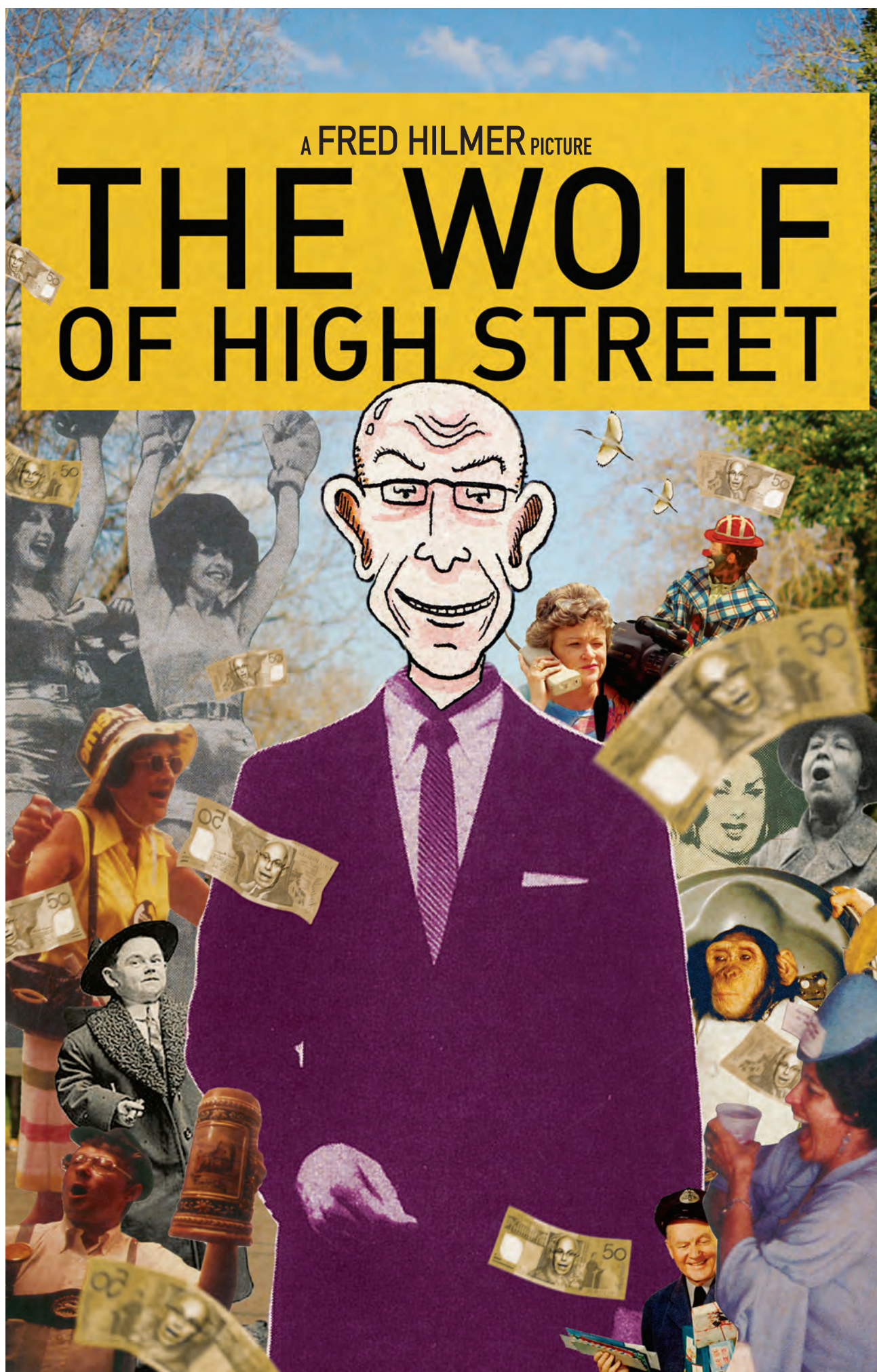


THARUNKA

University of NSW's Independent Student Newspaper



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VOLUME 6o, ISSUE 1
O-Week - Week 1

Welcome to a new year at UNSW.

The sun is out in swarming human Yellow Shirts form, free snow cones abound at O-Week (commie red flavouring is our pick of the lot), and your university is once again trying to pump you for a casual few tens of thousands of dollars.

Ah, UNSW. Some things never do change.

If you're one of the lucky many to be studying commerce, law, engineering or medicine, consider foregoing those weekends out and dropping a few twenty dollar bills in your piggy bank from now until approximately the year 2050, because UNSW is out to hook up an IV drip to your bank account. Our cover story on page 4 looks at head honcho Fred Hilmer's latest call for fee deregulation.

Crystal Moran reports from NSW Parliament on the day which saw a raft of legislation targeting alcohol-fuelled violence passed by Labor and the Liberals. Rumour has it the bills were enacted in their original form as scribbles on a paper napkin from Macca's.

Meanwhile, Nick Timms digs deeper into the exorbitant price increases for students at the new Kensington Colleges complex, while Matthew Bugden explores the likely effects of HECS privatisation and finds the policy wanting. Matthew Baker, Brigid McManus, and Caleb Burke round out our trifecta of Abbott specials, and make sure to catch Freya King, Amos Robinson, and Leigh Rigozzi in our features, creative, and comic section for your fortnightly prescription of laughs.

We've also got a Sochi Special in our brand spanking new sports section, featuring interviews by Sam Davies (and me!) with four Winter Olympians, all kickass to boot. Araz Eleyasian also talks women's cricket and wonders why nobody else does.

And maybe when you're strolling down the main walkway this week, dreading the 895 bus queue (see page 13 for visual proof of its soul-crushing length), take a moment to bow in respect to our glorious Arc overlords at the Blockhouse, whose generosity makes the words "free drinks" possible on so many of its 240+ clubs' flyer handouts.

Until next fortnight,

Ammy, with the rest of your friendly neighbourhood editors, Freya and Jake

.....

PUBLISHING DETAILS

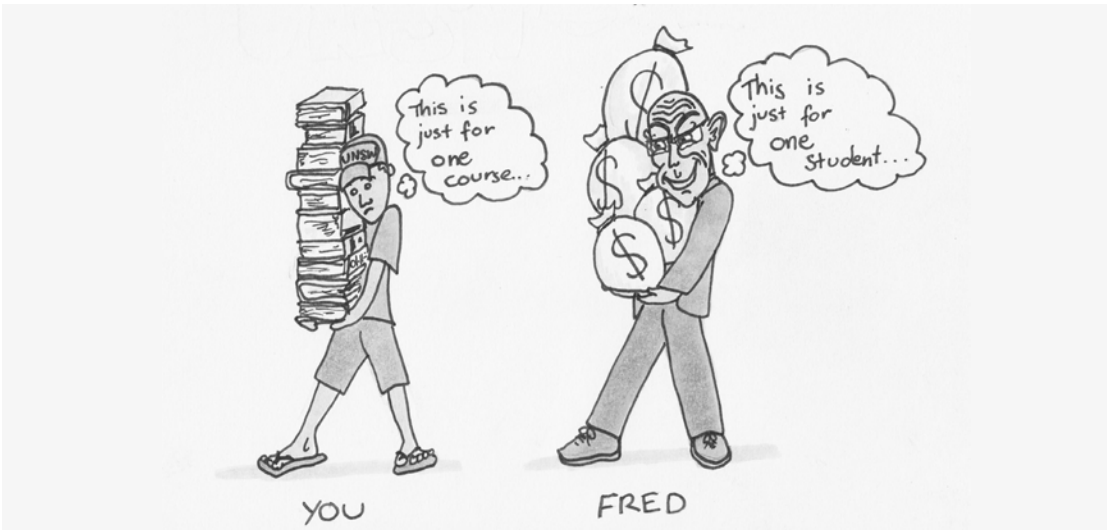
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Tharunka acknowledges the Bedegal and Gadigal people, the traditional custodians of the land on which the University stands.

Tharunka is published periodically by Arc @ UNSW. The views expressed herein are not necessarily the views of Arc, the Representative Council or the Tharunka editing 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.



Date	Events
24 th Feb /	<p>Mastodon headline gig to kick off Oweek 7:30pm, The Roundhouse Mastodon + Baroness + Gojira play the Roundhouse, a triple layering of metal to kick off O-week. Check Ticketek for availability.</p> <p>Free screening of Pompeii! 7:30pm-9:30pm, Quad Lawn Released only a few days before, watch W.S Andersons action-adventure film based on the horrific explosion of Mount Vesuvius that follows Milo (Kit Harington), a slave turned gladiator who must fight to escape certain death.</p>
25 th Feb /	<p>How to Get Money: Centrelink and Employment 101 2:30pm-3:30pm, Law Theatre G02 Learn the in's and out's of this sometimes confusing system with the helpful support services we have here on campus.</p> <p>Free Stand Up Comedy Night 7pm-9:30pm, Science Theatre Hilarious stand up comedy from Australia's best comedians - Merrick Watts to headline.</p>
26 th Feb /	<p>Liberal vs. Labor Debate 1pm, Clubs Space, Quad Room G032 A dedicated yawn as the youthful kin of the two grand old parties of the country go at it.</p> <p>Arc Student Support Tenancy Information Session 2pm-3pm, Law Theatre G02 Vital information seminar to help those becoming tenants for the first time.</p> <p>FREE GIG: Thundamentals 7pm-Late, The Roundhouse Aussie Hip Hop group hailing from the Blue Mountains take to the Roundhouse for a free O-week gig.</p>
27 th Feb /	<p>Keeping your money, license & Sanity 11pm-12pm, The Red Centre, Theatre G001 Arc Legal & Advocacy show you how to deal with problems relating to cars and driving, something they see students come into their offices regularly throughout the year. Vital for the driving student.</p> <p>'The Psychology of Dating and Social Interaction' by Dr. Lisa Williams 12pm-1pm, The Red Centre, Theatre G001 Why do we behave in certain ways with people? What influences human interaction and behaviour? Dr. Lisa Williams attempts to explain what underpins how people interact with each other.</p> <p>O-WEEK 'UV' PARTY: BLACKOUT (18+ only) 8pm-2am, The Roundhouse The annual Roundhouse O-week party returns for a night of glow sticks and fluro as the lights dim and the rave kicks in. Cost: FREE for Arc members before 7:30pm, \$10 UNSW students, \$15 general admission Tickets must be pre-purchased from unswroundhouse.com</p>
28 th Feb /	<p>'Australia's Issue with Same Sex Marriage' by Dr. Paul Kildea 12pm-1pm, Law Theatre G02 Whilst Canada, the UK and our neighbours across the Tasman have leagalise same-sex marriage, we're still back in the noughties. Dr. Paul Kildea explains why it isn't as easy for Australian lawmakers to do so. A brief Q and A will be held after.</p>
1 st Mar /	<p>Carna-Uni 9pm, The Roundhouse A Brazilian Carnival experience set to take over the Roundhouse this year for the first time. Will feature performances from Brazilian dancers, capoeira, live bands and international DJs.</p>

Short List

BITE SIZED CAMPUS NEWS

Equity Committee

The first SRC meeting saw deliberation on the creation of an Equity Committee as provisioned for in the SRC charter. The charter states that "the purpose of the Committee is to communicate plans between the various departments, to help plan cross-departmental events and also provide recommendations to the Councils as to motions and events." The Committee would comprise of the Ethnic Affairs, Indigenous, International, Queer, Students with Disabilities, Welfare and Women's Officers as well as their COFA counterparts. Further deliberation will be held at the next SRC meeting.

Creation of SER

The first meeting of the new Student Engagement & Representation Committee took place on the 10th of February after its creation last year. An internal Arc committee, it is comprised of the heads of Arc, Marketing and the various bodies that represent student interests within Arc.

Benjamin Heenan, current SER chair and Arc Board director, commented that "The Student Engagement and Representation Ad Hoc Committee (SER) brings together the heads of all our independent student bodies - SRC, PGC, SDC, COFA Council, IRC, and Tharunka. It provides these bodies a clear link to Board, while allowing a forum for discussion about current issues they face that might have universal applications across the other bodies." The committee is also to address issues relating to accountability within the organisations.

Young Liberals in turmoil

Recent ruptures have formed in the Young Liberal presence at UNSW as factions seem to be partaking in a factional war. Since the UNSW Liberal Club disbanded in 2012, the Freedom Club and Liberalism Society have sprung up to fill the void left by their predecessor, with the potential for a third club associated with the hard right Liberal faction to be inaugurated in 2014. See page 4 for more on this story.

Student Unity elects new campus convenor

Jack Power, now entering his second year, has been elected the new convenor of the Student Unity faction on campus. The faction is the student wing of the Centre Unity faction of the NSW Labor Party.

At the state level, UNSW student Dorothy Rapisardi lost out to University of Sydney SRC President Jennifer Light in a ballot for state convenor of the faction. This is the first time in the last few years that anyone at UNSW has had an opportunity at gaining the position since Amber Setchell occupied the position for six months in 2010. These events come after the loss of the Student Unity ticket 'Stand Up' at the 2013 UNSW SRC elections.

Megadeth

In more interesting news, Megadeth, one of the seminal Thrash Metal bands of the 1980s, has cancelled both its Soundwave appearance and all Australian tour dates, including its scheduled O-Week appearance at the Roundhouse. The situation escalated into a 'he said, she said' argument between festival organiser AJ Maddah and Dave Mustaine over social media. Maddah claims the fault lies with Mustaine and alleges Mustaine had pushed for the removal of Jason Newsted and his band from the tour. Mustaine denies this. Maddah has since tweeted a long apology, to which Mustaine has yet to respond as we go to print.

NOODLE HOUSE YARNS

with
DAVID BAILEY-MCKAY

"Et tu, Pink?" sent shockwaves through student political scenes last year. This saw the fall of a 14 year reign and Tweedledum and Tweedledee storm the University of Sydney's SRC to "head kick" key members of SLS. At UTS we saw NLS/Unity under "Elevate" lose to Grassroots, posing the question of whether this was due to people from the ALP campaigning for Grassroots, or due to people from the ALP not campaigning for Elevate. As a result 2014 will see no single faction dominate the Sydney student politics scene.

Now the University of Sydney gets to watch the salting of the earth and grass grow. UTS will no longer be televised. This, however, is more of the systematic split between Grassroots and Socialist Alternative over NUS and Campus politics. Lets hope this unlikely coalition of radicals, reformist and degenerates can form an effective body against Abbott.

Student politics at UNSW consist mostly of bad meals and worse meetings, and floods of blood and piss during SRC elections. This may mean so little to the average student but is of the utmost importance to stu-

dent politicians with bragging rights, politicians keenly not taking an interest, and a line on one's resume at stake.

Last year saw Voice win SRC elections for the tenth year in a row with 75% of the primary vote. Some attribute this to Voice's well run campaign, while some due to the election's timing, and others to disunity within Centre Unity. All that can be said, as someone who has campaigned for Voice for the previous 4 years is "if you come at the King, you better not miss".

And let's not forget the Liberals and their non-existent factional war. This war has waged for many a year with the various shades of regal blue bloods resulting in many casualties and clubs disaffiliated for bringing Arc into disrepute. We have recently seen the resurgence of militant religious fundamentalists both on campus and in Afghanistan. Suffice to say, at this O-week go ask Freedom Club and the Liberalism Society what occurred between two former Young Liberal Presidents in the Speakers Dining room at NSW State Parliament. Why? Because they couldn't possibly comment.

Agony Ibis



Dear Agony Ibis,
What is my life going to be like this year?
Fresher

Dear Fresher,
Not wanting to ruin the surprise, I can say this: be careful when you leave your room, experiment with free-balling, stay clear of glad wrap, don't leave your food unattended, ensure EVERYONE else is going in costume if it's a costume party (don't get duped). Be strong; next year the tables will turn.
Ibis

Dear Ibis,
I see you everywhere I go, every corner I turn you're there. All you do is pick at bins but whilst you do, you stare at me, into my soul. It's as if you know me. Know me like no one else. I feel like you want me. And you know what, I want you. Please, talk to me when you see me, don't be shy. I think I love you, do you think you love me?
Lovingly yours, hoplesslyinlovewithyou

Dear hoplesslyinlovewithyou,
No. Piss off. Leave me to my meals.
Ibis.

Dear Ibis,
I'm new on campus having just transferred from Canberra and need to find some new friends. My question is; why doesn't anyone want to be friends with me?
Sincerely, Cob Barr

Dear Mr Barr,
There aren't any plush red leather seats or American Civil War societies around, so I guess that's why you're in despair. Perhaps join the SRC, and maybe one day in the near future you can create a Foreign Affairs officer position. But don't get your hopes up too high and remember who gave you this advice.

Letters

Submit your Letters & Comments to **THARUNKA**

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t twitter.com/tharunka
f facebook.com/Tharunka
✉ Tharunka, PO Box 173, Kingsford, NSW, 2032

Dear Editors,
Martin Sharp died at the age of 71, 1st December 2013. He was one of Australia's most famous pop artists and graphic designers. His psychedelic works of the likes of Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan and Cream (just to name a few) came to symbolise the 1960s and his redesign of Luna Park in 1979 set the cultural tone for our city. Sharp's work was immensely influential worldwide and continues to be inspiration for many design and art students.

But this great Australian icon has a special place in our hearts at the University of New South Wales as he as a student had contributed to Tharunka. Sharp did something that many before him and many after him have done since and that's causing controversy for the right reasons. Most notably in the 1964 O-week edition (50 years ago this year), when Sharp's 'The Gas Lash' cartoon resulted in the prosecution of Tharunka editors for obscenity. Perhaps something obscene in itself when we consider the envelope pushing role student newspapers should have in our society.

Considering Sharp's contribution to both Australian visual art and Tharunka's proud reputation I was wondering whether Tharunka was planning to pay tribute to this iconic artist. I would truly love to see some of Sharp's contributions to Tharunka and a short tribute article to his life and career. Sure it would be a little late but I believe still a valuable look back at Tharunka's long proud history.

Perhaps a look back will inspire us to shape the future.

With fuzzy warmth,
Jeremiasz Sieczko
3rd year Bachelor of Architecture Studies

UNSW pushes to increase fees in popular courses

Ammy Singh (@ammyed)

UNSW has joined the Group of Eight (Go8) universities coalition in calling for the government to allow universities to exclusively charge full fees in popular undergraduate courses, as part of an initial move towards wider fee deregulation.

In a submission to the Abbott government's review of the demand driven funding system for public universities, led by former Liberal education minister David Kemp and economist Andrew Norton, the Go8 universities argued in favour of an opt-out system allowing universities to forego government funding for particular courses in favour of charging full fees.

Under the current demand driven model, the Federal government funds Commonwealth supported places for all domestic undergraduate students accepted into a bachelor degree course at a public university, with the exception of medicine.

In place of this, the Go8 proposal would see full fees charged to students in subjects such as law, accounting, economics and commerce, in which the government currently subsidises 16 per cent of student fees. Such a move would amount to the effective privatisation of

these courses, with the Go8 stating that the highest band of student fees could increase by 56 per cent from \$9,792 a year to \$15,250.

SRC President, Joel Wilson, told Tharunka the Go8 proposal is "disappointing" and will adversely affect students from lower socioeconomic, regional, and rural backgrounds.

"This decreased access to university means that we'll get less graduates in remote areas, when in fact what rural Australia needs is more graduates and a high skilled workforce," Wilson said.

The Go8 submission cited the threat to the quality of research programs at Go8 universities following increased student numbers since the previous Labor government uncapped university places for domestic students in an attempt to increase university education to 40 per cent of young Australians.

The number of Commonwealth supported places has risen by over 350,000 students between 2008 and 2013, although Tharunka understands that growth rates at UNSW have remained relatively stable at tops of two to three per cent per year, with the University further instituting a minimum 80 ATAR policy in 2013.

The Go8 submission follows the announcement of an "efficiency dividend" on university funding, which is projected to cut approximately \$15 million out of UN-

SW's 2014 budget alone, as part of a greater \$43 million loss of federal funding over the next four years.

Education Officer on the National Union of Students, Sarah Garnham, said any moves to increase fees will entrench socioeconomic inequality in Australia.

"Student cannot afford higher fees," Garnham said. "In 1989, when the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) was introduced, students had to pay a flat fee of \$5,400. Today, most students graduate with a debt upwards of \$20,000. This level of debt prevents working class and poor students from going to university."

Wilson agreed. "The Group of Eight universities should instead be focusing on opening up university to people from lower socioeconomic groups so that every young adult in Australia has a chance to go to university if they have the ability."

UNSW Vice-Chancellor, Professor Fred Hilmer, has previously been a vocal advocate for fee deregulation at universities. In a speech to the National Press Club and an opinion piece in the Sydney Morning Herald in 2012, Professor Hilmer argued an urgent need to deregulate fees in order to increase university revenue, suggesting that students in medicine, law, business and engineering should pay more for their "premium" degrees.

Hard right Liberal club meeting disbanded following security concerns

Ammy Singh (@ammyed)

An attempt to create a Conservative Club on February 7 was marred when the Inaugural General Meeting (IGM) was dissolved by UNSW security following Occupational Health and Safety concerns, with members of both the "soft" right and "hard" right-aligned factions of the Liberal Party levelling accusations of club stacking against each other.

These events bear resemblance to the controversial failed UNSW Liberal Clubs AGMs of 2012, which led to the club being refused re-affiliation by the Arc Student Development Committee (SDC) at the time.

The Conservative Club was established in part by hard right Liberal and candidate for Vice-President of the club, Anneliese Oldcastle, and its IGM scheduled for 7 pm on the Friday night in early February. The meeting was chaired by far right Young Liberals faction organiser Chris Rath, a University of Sydney student and former political staffer for hard right NSW MLC, Scot MacDonald.

The "hard" or religious right, colloquially known within the Liberal Party as the "Taliban", is aligned to NSW MLC, David Clarke, and has in recent years declined in prominence within the NSW Young Liberal and senior Liberal Party state executives. The "soft" right faction of the NSW Liberals is controlled by the federal MP for Mitchell, Alex Hawke.

Oldcastle told Tharunka the Conservative Club exists to promote discussion on conservative issues and "is not aligned to any political party".

However, attendees at the IGM noted that a motion to affiliate with the Australian Council of Conservative Students (ACCS), an organisation understood to be formed in 2013 by the hard right Young

Liberal faction, was accepted by the Conservative Club members.

Tharunka understands the Conservative Club meeting was initially attended by seven UNSW students who had already obtained club membership and voting rights; among them Grace Connley and known hard right Liberals Anneliese Oldcastle, Elliott Donazzan, and Sun-Yong Kim. The group was joined by over 20 soft right and moderate Liberals from UNSW and the University of Sydney, in a law library room with an approximate maximum capacity of 11 people.

Also in attendance was Christian Ellis, a staffer of the hard right Liberal MP for Castle Hill, Dominic Perrottet. Ellis is currently serving a ten year expulsion from the Liberal party after running as a Family First candidate against incumbent Berrowra MP, Phillip Ruddock, in the 2010 Federal election.

"The formation meeting of this apolitical club was stacked out by loud, aggressive Sydney University Liberals, led by Alex Dore and Dean Shachar. They were not eligible club members, and thus the meeting proceeded despite their raucous behaviour. Conspiring with Dore and Shachar was Taylor Gramoski, a former junior staffer to Minister Pru Goward and president of the [soft right-aligned] UNSW Freedom Club," one attendee said.

Dismissing this claim as "baseless conjecture", Gramoski stated that "the only conspiring in regard to the meeting was done by the organisers - to hold an IGM in the dead of night on a Friday in February, and to fly under the radar of UNSW students, as well as democratic process".

Oldcastle rejected the notion that the IGM was held at an inaccessible time as summer semester is a busy time of year at UNSW, adding that all club members were entitled to vote at the meeting.

"The period of notice for membership applications, the date and time of the IGM, and nomination period for the club executive were all within Arc [Clubs and Societies] Handbook guidelines," Oldcastle said.

Under Arc guidelines, notification of an IGM must be sent to Student Development and club members at least seven days prior to the meeting. This notice must include details of elections and nomination procedure, as per the club Constitution.

It is claimed that at the Conservative Club IGM, membership rights were denied to UNSW students in attendance who were not among the initial seven members of the club, and further alleged that access to the attendance list was restricted by the organisers of the meeting. The Chair, Chris Rath, informed attendees that membership was closed, shortly prior to the meeting being dissolved by security due to Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) regulations prohibiting the number of attendees being in excess of the maximum occupancy of the law library room.

According to a soft right-aligned, senior Young Liberal attendee, the intervention of security and library staff in asking Rath to close the meeting sparked a farcical series of events in which Rath sought to pass the Constitution and election of the executive without due process by yelling out the remaining agenda items. Rath was then escorted out of the building by security. The Young Liberal source asked not to be identified because they are not authorised to discuss the matter publicly.

Vice-President of the UNSW Freedom Club, Natarsha Terreiro, said the hard right Young Liberals "have a history of disregard for democracy, failure to adhere to Arc and SDC rules, and wreak-

ing havoc on the University", adding that multiple individuals heard Oldcastle exclaim "who cares about OH&S?" during the meeting, in an act Terreiro described as "showing contempt for standard University OH&S processes".

Oldcastle told Tharunka she "categorically denies making such a statement, or anything of a similar nature".

Expressing concern with the potential for the Conservative Club to act as a duplication of the Freedom Club, Gramoski told Tharunka he believes "the entire purpose of the club is political by nature," adding that "there are multiple avenues for political discussion on campus amongst Liberal students, namely the Freedom Club".

Oldcastle directed these concerns to the appropriate authority in Arc. "If Taylor Gramoski and the Freedom Club have concerns in relation to club duplication, they should address these to Arc," she said.

Convenor of UNSW Labor Left Students, Billy Bruffey, told Tharunka that internal opposition to the Conservative Club's formation by rival Liberal factions is inherently hypocritical. "When Freedom Club Liberals violate others' rights to freedom of assembly, I rejoice the pitiful future of conservatism," he said.

It is uncertain whether the Conservative Club's application to affiliate with Arc will be approved by the Student Development Committee, given its IGM is believed to have been disbanded before the club Constitution could be approved or its executive elected.

The full version of this article can be found on the Tharunka website.



Ink still drying on Liberals' liquor legislation

Crystal Moran

The New South Wales Parliament passed sweeping legislation changes today, including controversial mandatory minimum sentences and CBD lock outs, in response to so called "alcohol-fuelled violence".

In related news, democracy in NSW had a quick fit, before proceeding to shit all over itself.

The legislation, the Liquor Amendment Bill and Crimes and Other Legislation Amendment (Assault and Intoxication) Bill, were first seen by Parliamentarians at ten o'clock, Thursday morning; the ink still drying from what could have only been an all-nighter in Parliamentary Council. The laws bring with them an eight-year, non-parole period for the new offence of an assault causing death under the influence of drugs or alcohol. They also place new conditions on over 900 venues in the Sydney CBD area and restricts the sale of alcohol from bottle shops after 10 pm across New South Wales.

While the latter is unlikely to affect preloading purchases from the bottle shops owned by the big supermarket chains, the provision will also extend to small specialty businesses. Tharunka spoke to Nathan Besser, co-owner of popular delivery service, Jimmy Brings, who said: "Licensing legislation doesn't adequately define our unique operation; we have been caught in the crossfire and will be forced to close at 10 pm." This will see their distribution hours cut by 30 per cent, and a 50 per cent loss in revenue. They have already written to the Premier to seek an exemption.

Other controversial measures include increased penalties for offensive behaviour and language, which the Deputy Opposition Leader, Linda Burney, said would most negatively affect young and Indigenous people, as well as people suffering from mental illness or disadvantage. She said this while supporting the aforementioned changes. Notably, there is now a \$1,100 fine for disobeying a move-on order, and a \$500 fine for swearing in public.

Fuck. That. Shit.

While the Greens put forward a few Hail Mary amendments in the last minutes of the debate to try to remove these increased penalties for summary offences, they were rejected by both the government and Labor.

The process wizardry was not limited to the Greens, with Lake Macquarie MP Greg Piper (IND) attempting a classic manoeuvre that would replace all the words of the legislation with a clause for a parliamentary committee to review it instead. This too, was sadly, yet predictably, rejected.

All these changes occurred in less time than it takes me to book a domestic holiday. This is not so surprising, given that a) I get a bit lost on Expedia, and b) the Opposition announced they would be supporting the legislation even before they had seen it.

Labor were quick to take credit for the adoption of the "Newcastle solution" of lockouts and last drinks within the legislative package as a part of their "Drink Smart, Home Safe" policy. But members of the public and press gallery could only watch on in a queasy mix of horror and giggles as every single Labor member used their time to find a new way to condemn mandatory minimum sentences, before agreeing to vote for them.

"The Opposition believes that mandatory sentencing will have both unintended and adverse consequences" – The Honourable Adam Searle, MLC

"There is considerable evidence that mandatory sentencing is counterproductive and does not work. Mandatory sentencing has been tried before in New South Wales and failed...it was such an abject disaster that it was hurriedly repealed" – Mr Paul Lynch, MP

"No right-thinking person believes that mandatory sentencing is an appropriate response, particularly under these circumstances, because it produces injustice" – Mr Ron Hoenig, MP

Even if they supported every sentence of the Liquor Amendment Bill, and felt politically wedged by the mandatory minimums package, they didn't put forward a single amendment or support any amendments. Though it is normal to end up compromising on issues and voting for things you don't agree with com-

pletely, what happened today was not compromise – this was a rubber stamp.

It's not all Labor's fault though; even the Attorney-General Greg Smith is on record, per the Sydney Morning Herald, calling mandatory minimum sentences "an expensive and ineffective crime fighting tool". He added a corollary, however, saying that if community expectations did not match the sentences handed out by the judiciary, "we must have an informed debate about the issue".

And he's right – we do need an informed debate about the issue. But we didn't get one.

Instead, we were given a parliament dragged back from their summer break. We had legislation written by the Daily Telegraph and changes to normal parliamentary procedure, which the Shadow Minister for Health and Liquor Regulation, Dr Andrew McDonald, criticised, saying "debate has been effectively gagged". The government was still making changes to the bills after they'd been introduced. Protesters showed up not fully knowing what it was that they were protesting.

This is a complex issue that deserved a real debate. As the Premier stated, the relationship between alcohol and violence is "a problem that has existed here since the First Fleet arrived 226 years ago and celebrated their arrival with a drunken bacchanalia on the shores of Circular Quay".

In referencing cities like New York and Copenhagen, Greens MLC Dr Mehreen Faruqi said, "We have evidence from across the world that the provision of convenient and frequent late-night transport is a key factor in preventing violence and injury."

Labor's Penny Sharpe insightfully commented on alcohol advertising around the city – "For example, a giant bottle of vodka with the words, 'Arrive boldly'. If that is not an ad for preloading, I do not know what is."

Opposition Leader John Robertson thought businesses could be encouraged to be a larger part of the solution, with "risk-based licensing, providing hotels and bottle shops with a financial incentive to operate safe premises".

Rather than comprehensively ad-

ressing any of these issues, we had an intentionally rushed debate on legislation poorly considered. The phrase "unintended consequences" worked its way into chambers 11 times, as in "I'm pretty sure these laws are going to have unintended consequences like locking up disproportionate amounts of young and Indigenous people, but it's not like we can change the law, right?"

In an environment where we often lament at how long it takes governments to make changes already agreed upon by the public, it is shocking that NSW criminal law could undergo such a fundamental shift with such velocity. There is infrastructure in place for issues in crisis or flux that need a prompt response, but it is odd to think that a problem which has existed since the First Fleet was going to be resolved in an afternoon. As MP Alex Greenwich put it, "We need the right solution, not the right now solution."

Government is slow – at times painfully such – but this slowness is necessary; it is a reflection of health in an active democracy where everyone has a say, and everyone theoretically has an informed vote. Legislation is supposed to be built on consultation. MPs are supposed to take it to their electorates; the Legislative Council is supposed to engage with experts and interest groups. Democracies are more or less stable places precisely because we engage in protracted debates until 11 at night between these groups, rather than having dramatic overhauls in our laws overnight. And yet today, legislators passed rushed laws in the same time as you allocate to your rushed gen-ed essay.

Today should make you angry (... not "swear on the street" angry though, because it'll cost you \$500). If you vote Liberal, you should be angry because they betrayed their core principles without asking you – you're now the anti-business, big-spending party. If you vote Labor, you should be angry because the party that backs the working class is apparently the party without a spine. If you vote Green or Independent, you should be angry – your representatives worked their arses off and they still couldn't stop the big guys from taking a panic-induced dump on your democracy.

UNSW's new colleges are here, but at what cost?



Nick Timms

With the new Kensington Colleges buildings on the verge of completion at the end of last year, hundreds of incoming and returning residents were looking forward to spending 2014 in the brand new facilities. Daniel Sherratt, a second-year resident, was one of them.

However, that was before he saw the new rent price.

"My reaction to the price rise was one of shock," he says.

While the previous cost of staying in The Kensington Colleges (TKC) was \$14,645 for the year, the rent has risen by over \$3,000 – about 20 per cent of the original price – to \$17,800. Rooms with en suites cost \$19,600. The amount of weeks that residents are liable to pay for has increased as well – they must now pay for accommodation in the mid-year break, even if they don't plan to stay during that time.

Overall, this has been the cause of much complaint from residents of the three colleges that make up TKC, Basser, Philip Baxter and Goldstein.

"I would have probably stayed if the colleges were more affordable. We all thought that there would be a price rise for the en suites and maybe a little rise for normal rooms, but the difference was substantially more," Mr Sherratt says.

Mr Sherratt, who for the past two years in college relied on money from Centrelink and money that he saved during his gap year, has now moved out into a rental apartment with some friends from college. He has had to relocate from

his hometown of Port Macquarie in order to attend UNSW.

"These two incomes were stretched while at college as it was," he says. "The price increase has made it completely impossible for me to think about returning."

"Understandably there were several residents who were quite distressed," says Tom Morrison, a third-year resident and two-term president of Baxter College.

"The rise in price combined with the instability of the welfare security in Australia has meant that you can't be self supported [sic] through college, even with government assistance. You need either extended savings, parental support or some other kind of supplementation to your income."

Savannah Lloyd, a second-year Basser resident, who needs to work frequently in order to pay for her college fees, was expecting the price rise.

"I was a little shocked, but I kind of expected it with the new buildings. I didn't think it would stay the same," she says.

She will have to add more work into an already busy schedule to help cover the costs though.

"I work Friday afternoon and night, Saturday and Tuesday afternoon to pay for this. I have taken on more tutoring work to assist in paying for it and I suppose [I will] cut back socially in order to balance everything. My degree requires 5 days of dance classes a week."

However, it's not just residents who are feeling the impact of the price rise. Many students going to college rely on parental assistance, and the parents too have expressed some discomfort at the new rent prices. David and Jane* support

their son through university and pay for his college fees. As their son is from a rural area, with nobody to move in with in Sydney, college was almost the only option for him. Though their son has a casual job in Sydney, they still have to take out a loan from the bank in order to help their son go to university.

"It was a bit scary, to have an extra \$3000 a year when I'm on a small income, and still not small enough for my son to get [Y]outh [A]llowance. It basically means I have to borrow more money, and pay more off," David says.

"That means we have to tighten our belts here so that we can pay back our loan payment to the bank."

According to Isabelle Creagh, the Director of UNSW Residential Communities, the price rise is all just a part of paying for the new facilities.

"It cost a lot to build: \$110 million," says Ms Creagh.

"We've basically got a big mortgage now, so we've got to pay it off. We needed to set a period of time in which we agreed to pay it off, and that's what we've presented to the university when we asked for the funding, and that's what we've got to try and stick to now. We have benchmarked against other university colleges in Sydney, and the pricing, in terms of the package of services that it offers, it is comparable with other residential colleges in Sydney."

At the end of last year, 10 scholarships funded by donations from the Vice-Chancellor, Ms Creagh and others were announced. Each scholarship is a single payment of \$2500 and goes straight towards the recipient's rent, roughly bringing it back down to the level it was last

year. There were also two similar scholarships presented to two returning residents at the end of last year, both awards of \$2,000.

"They're designed to take the edge off the price rise, so if you do rely on Centrelink, or if you do not come from a high socioeconomic background, you've got the ability to continue to reside at college thanks to that supplementation," Mr Morrison says.

"A lot of residents presented to us and said, 'look I'd really like to come back, but I don't think I will be able to because it will be outside of my price range,' so we just had a bit of a brainstorm about how we could potentially create some financial support," Ms Creagh says.

However, the future of these scholarships is uncertain, as they were provided by one off donations last year. And with the price of rent in TKC expected to rise at a steady rate every year, according to both Mr Morrison and Ms Creagh, more residents could find themselves in a difficult position.

"It's just going to depend on where the donations are coming from...we'd need to find replacement donors every year to continue these," Ms Creagh says.

She believes that there are many places that new scholarships could come from.

"I know that there's potentially an ex Baxter [sic] resident who's looking into giving \$50 000 at the moment, another group of Baxter residents from the 60s who are getting together...there's potential for us to create many kinds of scholarships."

*Names changed.



The end of HECS as we know it

Matthew Bugden

In 2013, Education Minister Christopher Pyne announced that the wave of asset sales the Abbott government was embarking on aimed at making Australia “open for business” – would not include the \$26.3 billion of secured loans the government owns in the form of HECS debt.

If you were a student, past, present or future, this might have come as a relief. But anybody who honestly believes this is the Coalition’s last word on HECS reform is sadly mistaken.

While a formal proposal to privatise HECS in the future was only hinted at, the lack of clear direction on education reform didn’t prevent commentators from weighing in on the merits of such an initiative. ANU professor Glenn Withers, who was the founding chief executive of Universities Australia (UniAus), came out in principled support of a securitising HECS, per ABC Radio’s PM.

“It means that at time of fiscal restraint for the government, essentially the private sector would provide more money up front, conditional on the repayment of the debt down the track when the economy and the budget are in better shape,” Withers said.

For every person who criticised the Coalition on the grounds that privatising HECS would negatively impact students, there was someone from the other side of the aisle arguing that privatising an asset doesn’t necessarily mean reforms to education policy. While this is technically correct, the report by ACIL Allen Consulting for Universities Australia on the merits of HECS privatisation concluded that the sell-off would probably not be in the interest of the government’s bottom line since “it will receive an amount for the

debt which will be too low”.

Estimates put the market value of HECS debt at \$11 billion – \$16 billion – around half of its present value. The low value of the asset is due precisely to the structure of the current HECS scheme. If you’re a private investor, you’re not going to look favourably on debt that only rises according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). An artificial 0% interest rate and a repayment threshold of \$51,309 in 2013 – allowing unemployed graduates to live indefinitely without servicing their debt or alternatively, to leave the country and shirk on their loans entirely – does not appeal either. Due to these factors, the Grattan Institute estimates that a whopping \$6.2 billion of total HECS debt is “bad debt” that will never be repaid.

So if the potential pay-off of HECS is so low that it wouldn’t be in the government’s interest to sell the asset, why is privatising HECS being talked about at all? It is due almost entirely to policy. Framing the issue in this way allows the Coalition to signal its intention to cut student welfare and wind back the assistance it provides to universities—\$6 billion in the form of subsidies every year—without having to suffer the political blowback that would result from openly advocating such reforms.

Kim Carr, the former Minister for Higher Education, sees talks of privatising HECS as a clear pretext for auditing the current HECS scheme itself. Unsurprisingly, a Commission of Audit concluded that the current scheme will become increasingly unsustainable in the coming years. According to its findings, HECS debt is expected to grow to \$42 billion in four years and more in 2016–17 than in the first 20 years of the scheme’s existence.

Carr has taken particular issue with the inclusion of former Coalition minister Amanda Vanstone on the committee. Ms

Vanstone has expressed her opinion that the HECS repayment threshold should be reduced from \$51,309 – its current level – to the salary of an award rate earner. It’s a view that should, in the absence of clear policy, be taken as reflective of the attitude of the Coalition as a whole.

Ms Vanstone’s comments reflect a deep ideological disconnect between the Coalition and young Australians on matters concerning higher education, something which a statement given by The National Union of Students (NUS) to Tharunka makes perfectly clear:

“Privatising HECS debt will inevitably lead to moves, as we’ve seen in the UK, to increase fees, raise interest rates, and lower debt repayment thresholds. It would represent a step further towards a university system that only benefits the rich and that can only be accessed by the rich because it will entrench the ‘user pays’ university model which has been expanding in Australia since HECS was introduced.”

Granted, lowering the HECS repayment threshold from \$51,309 to the award rate would make the asset significantly more attractive to investors, but it would also remove the current incentive on the government’s part to actively subsidise universities. Owning student debt gives governments a direct incentive to subsidise public universities, effectively increasing the rate that students repay their HECS debt. The current repayment threshold encourages the government to create the conditions that would allow students to earn salaries in excess of \$51,309 straight out of University.

For all of the number-crunching that selling-owned government assets invites, it would be misguided to look at privatising HECS solely in terms of fiscal policy. The majority of Australians discuss the issue of student welfare in ideological terms, of entitlement and personal re-

sponsibility.

Warnings that HECS will one day have to be privatised rarefies and gives an example of what Treasurer Joe Hockey meant when he said on Feb 4 that ‘the age of entitlement is over, and the age of personal responsibility has begun’.

HECS debt privatisation fits into this narrative of entitlement perfectly. It is easy to accuse young Australians of feeling entitled, since they, and not the Boomers, grew up during what economist Ross Garnaut calls ‘the longest period of economic expansion unbroken by recession of any developed country ever’. The stereotypical Gen Y student is often portrayed as ‘entitled’, using University as a post-natal womb, learning disciplines that are arcane and generalised, and sheltering themselves from a job market they view as destructive to their Western-democratic notions of freedom and individuality.

HECS may be safe for now, but whether it will remain unmolested ultimately depends on how Australia fares in the next economic downturn. As The Drum contributor Alan Kohler writes, Australia’s lack of infrastructure no less than a looming “national emergency”, while economist Harry Dent, author of the New York Times bestselling book ‘The Great Depression Ahead’ and successful predictor of the 2008 financial crisis, has singled Australia out, saying that in the next few years, we will experience “the next Great Depression”, with property markets plunging “at least 30 per cent” with “50 per cent down the road” being “even more likely”. In the coming years, Australia’s top-heavy, mineral-export-based economy will be highly exposed to lower growth in Asia, magnifying the deficit considerably, making calls for HECS reform increasingly difficult for the Opposition to oppose.



Funny ThinkHing

Freya King

In my list of 'people who work in occupations that means I would like to date them' – comedian ranks pretty highly. This was unfortunately not the reason I grabbed a coffee and talked about love and life with stand up comic, Michael Hing.

Upon meeting Michael Hing, a 28-year-old, bespectacled, skinny, t-shirt wearing, soy-flat-white-drinking, stand-up comic, your first impression will probably be along the lines of: 'Man – that guy would suck at the Hunger Games.'

I'm shit in every game, any game in any situation you put me in I would be terrible at. Literally. Comedy is the only thing I've ever wanted to do. It's the only thing I've ever excelled at," Hing agrees. "I have been doing comedy with nothing else [no other supporting income] for 2 months now... It's pretty silly, it's an incredible privilege and people are being very supportive of me."

Hing's latest show, *Bildungsroman*, is basically an epic love story. He describes it as "a hour long show about love, adventure, growing up and realising some stuff at 28 that most other people worked out in high school."

Bildungsroman is less girl next door

falls in love with nerdy uncool guy and they live happily ever after – more awkward Ferris wheel rides and not telling someone how you feel for LITERALLY YEARS. Hing philosophises our generation's inability to express our feelings – but ability to copulate like rabbits – doesn't actually mean we are all terrible people

I think actually there are some benefits to this new kind of culture. There is less pressure, you meet people and hang out with people – you don't have to [have an end goal]. It's just like 'hey we are enjoying this and this is fun now.' That's a really tough thing to admit, because... I think there is a certain moral taboo with being ok with that. When I was in like my early twenties I would never really want to hook up with people without pursuing some sort of relationship because I would think I don't want to be frivolous, I don't want to be using people for their bodies' or whatever. Not realising that obviously other people could be just as ok with that as I am. People would say things to me being like 'oh this is fine only for tonight' or whatever, and I would be like 'oh they're just saying that.' But that's totally presumptive."

These days Hing has mellowed and expects far less from his interaction with the opposite sex. To be particular, his list of 'Qualities a girl must possess to be GF

material" has shrunk by approximately 4,998

They [Hing's ideal girlfriend qualities] are much broader now, they are: people who read and people who smile. That's basically it. Cos I think everything else can be changed," he laughs – but he isn't joking.

I think people who smile as their natural kind of, the way their face naturally falls, they're happy people... I have enough negativity from inside me, and from my cynical comedian friends that I like hanging around happy people. People who read are the best because they are constantly seeking out new ideas and new knowledge and I think that's a really admirable thing for people to do."

Hing practices what he preaches, and is also avid reader – but not necessarily in an 'I've read every penguin classic 20 times' reader

I have only recently started reading fiction, for a very long time I only read non-fiction books. Because I thought 'what's the point of storing this information in my brain, stories about this made up thing? That's pointless.' My friends were saying 'well there is a certain joy to beauty and language' – I was like 'yeah but where do you draw the line, next thing you're going to be defending poetry?' This is obviously an ironic attitude to have. I obviously don't think that poetry is an illegitimate art form. I am pretending to be a philistine for whatever reason. I just think it's funny.

Over the past decade, I have mostly been reading heavily left-leaning political books. Like Naomi Klein and Howard Zinn and Noam Chomsky – some real undergraduate bullshit going on," says Hing

It got real bad for a while, I was unsociable in my political views, a real drag to be around to be honest," Hing sheepishly admits.

It isn't hard to imagine what a younger, more naïve and idealist Hing would have been like. A little neurotic and slightly unHinged at times, Hing is still slightly brash in his opinions. Despite his self-deprecating quips at his lack of intelligence, Hing can string together a well-articulated nugget of wisdom with seemingly little thought. A lot of Hing's previous material centres around very serious conversations about race in Australia. The comedy that he presents has depth to it, as well as serving its purpose as entertainment. Hing thinks that this is why he is often labelled an "alternative comedian". Saying that people come to his show and expect to be challenged, 'It's not a walk in the park.'

I think obviously growing up in a non-white background, talking about not being white is pretty well travelled ground. From a very young age I realised that your race or background doesn't actually define you as a person at all, the only way it actually affects you is the way other people treat you. You just had a lot of people talking about 'I'm Chinese therefore I can't drive.' Those stereotypes are unhelpful and they're divisive and they're gross... I think there is a conversation that needs to happen in Australia, because Australia is much better than other places are but also much worse than a lot of other places are in terms of

racism and racial relations. We don't talk about it we deny it and you know we get defensive and yeah and I say we because I include myself in that."

THARUNKA SNOG, MARRY, AVOID: The ideological edition

Marry: If you could have dinner with anyone for the rest of your life, who would it be?

In the stakes of longevity I will say Cornell West. Cornell West I think is a genuinely thoughtful and intelligent public intellectual who has a lot of opinions that I think are morally consistent with his worldview.

Snog: Who is someone who you are obsessed with/admire, but have no rational reason to do so.

It would probably be a musician I think. I think it would be someone like Nick Cave. Who I am really into and really enjoy the music of and who I find it ever more difficult to justify my like of his music because I got into it when I was a child essentially and I am now growing out of that.

Avoid: Who are you willing to call out as someone who represents all the things you think are wrong with the world?

Scott Morrison. He [represents] a lot of things that I genuinely find disgusting. And I use those words very carefully. The way that he is obscuring his ministerial duties from public scrutiny is I think, genuinely reprehensible, first of all. . The second thing is that he is engaging with policies that are inarguably immoral which either he believes in or that makes him someone who is kind of compassionless OR alternatively – he doesn't believe it and is just bending to the whim of bigots... Throughout that he is praised by a lot of Australians, I mean I guess a lot of Australians don't know who he is – but his policies, that stop the boats sort of mentality is praised by a lot of Australians without any real thought being put into it. It's just this disgusting xenophobic view.

If you ruled the world, what's the first change you would make?

The one person one house policy, which basically prevents land barrens. This is probably the most revolutionary idea ever. So I have this idea that in Australia you should only be able to own one house per person, so it lowers investment properties, it sends real estate agents out of business and that's great because real estate agents are fucking leeches right, it makes housing more affordable and studies show that home ownership increases social stability it allows people to get out of poverty and stuff. SO yes 1p1h. – He went on to explain all the technicalities of this – including "House bots don't count as houses – but if you are building a house boat in a pool, in an enclosed body of water that you own, then that does count as a house. IF it's on open water – you're fine

Sydney Comedy Festival : MICHAEL HING - BILDUNGSROMAN AT 28 Venue: FUSEBOX AT THE FACTORY

Date/s: Wed 14 - Sat 17 May 2014
Time: 7:00 PM Run Time: 60mins



How Twitter is the answer to ending world poverty

Amie Hamling

The future of international development is online. Social media is more than its reputation – constantly refreshing your Twitter feed is no longer a time-waster if you're able to help save the world.

It is impossible to underestimate the power of a hashtag. The pound sign placed in front of important events or moments in time (#BostonMarathon, #RoyalBaby) has allowed for a global-scale, live timestamp on history. We can follow a conversation from wherever we are in the world, and can contribute and discover more information as it happens. This tiny, sideways waffle-like icon is instigating change. Viral campaigns have spread through the Twittersphere, defying geographical constraints and inventing a global consciousness on what matters most.

If more people increasingly used their privileged voice to document, share and learn alternatives to fighting poverty, there's a greater chance of reaching development goals by 2015 and working towards saving the lives of the 1.2 billion people most in need.

We can build a safer and just world, says UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Twitter is a global conversation, strengthening ties between young people all over the world. It is a virtual place to debate policies and decision-making processes determining the future of their communities.

As the 2015 deadline for the development goals inches closer, a new frame-

work is in the works for the next 15 years. It aims to focus on what the last set didn't cover; inequalities – issues youths are most passionate about – from their equal access to education, employment, health and justice to gender equality and the efforts of their nations to climate change. These are all concerns we can sum up in 140 characters or less, add to the global conversation, direct to global leaders and make change possible.

The viral conversation has begun

Twitter shares not one story, but many. In a world-first, the hashtag #2030NOW supported the Mashable live stream of the Social Good Summit, an initiative on the link between new media and world poverty, held in New York City last September. This event coincided with UN Week, sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and featured some big names – Sir Richard Branson, New Zealand's former PM Helen Clark, The Vampire Diaries's Ian Somerhalder and boy genius Jack Andraka. This event spread to more than 120 countries through meetups and the global conversation continued to inspire after its conclusion.

This was a phenomenal step in fighting poverty, though there's no short-term method. We have to look towards the future and ask ourselves, what will the world look like in 2030? Is it a better place to live in now with the power of innovative thinking and new media?

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, has a dream for the future dynamic of the world.

"If I just think 2030, the best thing I'd like to hear is a seven-year-old in Mali

say, 'Mama, I hear people used to be poor in Africa,' because this child would just never understand what poverty is. That's the world I'm dreaming about," she said, at the conference in NYC last year.

It is naive to suggest a social media site could end all the suffering in the world today. Many sceptics see Twitter as another reason to lose confidence and trust in non-governmental charities as more and more continue try and "win" supporters with their online antics. Bill Gates has addressed this in his organisation's Annual Letter – he said, people often only hear about the fraud cases in international aid and immediately see it as a waste. However, the use of technologies and social media is important in fighting corruption, and by exposing organisations and governments, "more money goes where it's supposed to".

The power is with the citizens

New media has allowed a choice for those living in poverty; no longer are they accepting the information force-fed by governments and aid agencies. As a collective, they're spitting it out and demanding something better for their communities.

If we take a look at the hashtag again, a recent Arabic campaign had more than 17 million tweets in the first two weeks of its inception with a hashtag roughly translating to: "the salary does not meet my needs". Typically a private nation, Twitter users in Saudi Arabia shared their frustrations on unemployment with images and video of the poverty. By subjecting to an open, international forum, their voices were heard further than the government they hold a strong reliance

on.

By opening up data, governments are held accountable to provide alternative solutions for the people of their nations. The World Bank is at the forefront of this movement. They opened up their data for global use, releasing 8,000 social and economic indicators for 200 countries over 50 years, said Sanjay Pradhan in a TED Global forum in June 2012.

Now, by exposing governments, there's a global competition to improve. The time is now to act.

Youth are the driving force of social change

As a young person today, my knowledge of social media is an exciting tool in fighting extreme poverty. All youth should use their online influence to disseminate their ideas, challenge governments and reach out to those in need. We can work collectively and use the current (and future) technology to our advantage to help as many people as possible; to reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life.

We are the generation with the power to change the world

It could be as simple as using Twitter to correct someone who connects poor people with the ever-emerging Africa, who uses the archaic terms First and Third World or developed and developing nations and who feels unsure about global aid. Be part of the generation to see an equal world – dispel the US vs. THEM mentality.

Next time someone tells you to stop checking Twitter, tell them you're saving the world. Join the conversation.

International Student Survival Guide 101



Faria Huq

Welcome to UNSW! You are all here with sparkles in your eyes, unshed tears from leaving your family home and hearts full of dreams that you long to achieve.

Remember the time when one of your elder family members (in my case, my dad) sat you down and gave you the grave talk of how it's going to be hard for you and that life is not a bed of roses? In case you don't remember, read the last line again, since it's all going to come true. But don't give up yet, since what's going to come next will help you during your stay.

Student Central and FM Assist

Make sure you visit these places. FM Assist will help you with travel passes, university related queries and getting your student ID card. Tip: Photos for the card are taken right there, so make sure you look your best. I'm speaking from experience since mine look like I rolled across the university lawn. Student Central knows everything about courses to take, changing courses, dropping, swapping etc. Both are located near the library lawn.

Memorise the university map

Well, don't memorise it, but at least know where everything is located. You all have the schedule by now and your class locations – take a tour so that you don't go rushing to the first day of class 15 minutes late since you were trying to find your class.

You also need to know where the library is and, importantly, the food joints. There are plenty available all throughout the campus to satisfy your taste palates.

Travel apps

Assuming all of you have your smartphones, download TripViewLite and TripGo. These two apps (free!) are very handy in getting you to your destination on time. They also list the train and bus numbers and the location of stations. Also, have your Internet charged as you will have to rely on GPS. Hail Google Maps!

And this is very important. If you're an international student, be weary of the Concession option on the tick-

eting booth. You might save a bit of money from it, but your luck might run out and you could end up in trouble with the transport police, who'll slap you with a \$200 fine for the wrong ticket. Don't mess with them.

myUNSW

Everything happens through myUNSW and your zmail (the university email service). Log into both of them every day to know what's going on and what you need to do. By now you should have your address and phone number sorted, so have all those details updated ASAP. It's mandatory to do so, so always change the details if you've changed your contact details.

Working while studying

For many of you, this might not be a requirement. But for others who are thinking of doing part-time jobs while studying, I suggest you take a breather first. For those who are on a student visa, it will be quite hard to land a decent job due to your visa status and class timings. But you will eventually get one that will appease you. However, studies at UNSW are very demanding, so you will first need to learn how to survive the workload and strategise a study formula.

Don't forget, have fun!

New South Wales is a beautiful state. Check out the beaches (Bondi, baby!), clubs and markets and you will be amazed. The best thing is to have fun while studying since you will need to learn to rest your brain.

Roundhouse is a good starting place. There's always good music, good food and good company. You will find during O-Week that there are plenty of clubs to join. There are plenty of pages on Facebook as well – from buying and selling books to clubs and societies.

You may find you have so many things to do, but just take it one day at a time and all will be fine. For any questions there is plenty of help around campus. Also, make sure that you read the latest updates on www.immi.gov.au. Since you're under tight scrutiny, it's always better to know the rules. It will be a tough ride, but make sure you hold onto your reins very tightly – you will be galloping your way to your graduation.

All the best!

An Expert's Guide to Life: How to make a muscle shirt

Dylan Chalwell

Oh yeah. It's 2014, and there's going to be some changes. The biggest? You've decided it's about time people started to show you a little respect.

How did you get here? It's not entirely clear. Maybe it was halfway through Gran Torino when Clint Eastwood condescendingly looked right down the camera at you as you scooped up another chip-load of guacamole from the jar on your belly. Or perhaps it was when someone made a disparaging remark about your athleticism as you sat in a fraying, un-foldable beach chair and brushed a single, lonely bead of sweat off your forehead as other more capable people helped your mate move their stuff into a dank student slum* in Redfern.

But let's be clear: It's not just any old respect that you're looking for. No. You're looking for the type of respect a lumberjack gets from the forest as his axe thuds-thuds-thuds into the scabby trunk of a tree. Yeah. That's what you're after.

So you go up to your wardrobe and try to pick out some clothes that will suit your new life. You rummage through a pile of jeans and shirts but find nothing acceptable. You almost settle on a Death Cab for Cutie tall-tee, but, thankfully, you realise at the last moment that it's part of the problem, not the cure. Chinos are out; slim fit is out; Ed Hardy is IN. But you have no Ed Hardy. Despondent, you collapse beneath a hubcap that you hang on your wall with fishing wire.

"I have nothing to wear," you lament. "Nothing to match my new tough girl/guy persona."

But you do. It's called a muscle shirt.

And I'm going to teach you to make one right now.**

Step 1: Find a suitable t-shirt. As a general rule, when it comes to muscle shirts, the more garish, the better. Got an old "t" that features a dragon and a unicorn making war? Yes, good. Anything featuring violence will do. You could even use that shirt you're wearing right now.

Step 2: Turn your shirt inside out. Easiest step. If you screw this one up, you don't deserve a muscle shirt.

Step 3: Locate the stitching that connects the sleeves of the shirt to the body of the shirt. Starting from the shoulder, cut the sleeve off the shirt by following the stitching. The stitching should remain on the shirt; the sleeves should be disconnected.

Step 4: If you weren't after respect, you could keep the sleeves and wear them as bizarre beanies. Give it a shot! But don't let anyone see; you're tough now. So chuck the sleeves into a bin, or burn them. Scowl a little.

Step 5: Remember how I said to turn your shirt inside out? Hit control-z. Admire.

Congratulations! You now have a muscle shirt. Now go forth unencumbered by sleeves and go bask in the type of respect only a woman/man who has made their own clothing can really enjoy. I look forward to running into you in the future.

Tune in next time as I show you how to beat my friend Max in Age of Empires II.

*It's actually a nice, well-lit room.

**Shout out to Rupert for teaching me this.

Is Operation Sovereign Borders Racist?



Ned Hirst

At the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, the Japanese delegation proposed that the League of Nations adopt a racial equality provision in its charter. The most resounding objection came from Australian Prime Minister Billy Hughes, who recognised that such a provision would have implications for the White Australia Policy. His lobbying, particularly of the British, was instrumental in ensuring that the provision was dropped.

At that point in its history, Australia was undoubtedly an institutionally racist country. It is not even possible to use the weak excuse that its position was historically acceptable, conforming to the attitudes of the day – the majority of nations present at the conference voted in favour of the Japanese proposal. From 1949, the White Australia Policy was systematically dismantled, and in 1975 the Whitlam Labor government abolished the last vestiges of race-based immigration law from Australia.

It is tempting to think that racial ploys in Australian politics ended at that moment. But in 2014, such a view cannot be sustained.

It's the week before the 2013 Federal Election and I'm walking along Coogee Bay Road. On every street light there is a poster with the beaming face of a would-be representative accompanied by a two-word slogan. The most prevalent faces are those of Michael Feneley, Liberal candidate, and Matt Thistlethwaite, Labor candidate. There is the occasional Greens poster or one for Palmer United, but the good people of Kingsford Smith are not prone to radicalism.

Vote Feneley. Better Schools. Vote Thistlethwaite. Better hospitals. Then I come across one that makes me laugh out loud: Vote Feneley. Stronger Borders. The Division of Kingsford Smith does, I agree, have pretty weak security and I would go so far as to profess my sincere ignorance as to where the borders lie. But I'm not sure the polity is advocating a wall along Southern Cross Drive to clear up the uncertainty.

But this is, of course, disingenuous. The promise that Mr Feneley is making is that he will be a member of a Liberal caucus that will crack down on "illegal" boat arrivals. The idea that this will have any practical effect on the residents of Coogee, Randwick, Maroubra, Mascot, Botany, Malabar or Kensington is, however (in my case, literally), laughable.

The only explanation for Mr Feneley's placard is that

racial politics survived beyond 1975. The Whitlam government embraced multiculturalism and this position was backed by the subsequent Fraser Liberal government. There was lingering community disquiet, however, and immigration access was gradually reduced. Paul Keating's government introduced mandatory detention for asylum seekers.

However, for all of this time, the political capital of playing politics with refugees was left largely unexploited. All it was going to take was a desperate politician with a match; the public would provide the kerosene. Enter John Winston Howard.

For Howard, Australia's golden age had been the parochial conservatism of the Menzies years. Multiculturalism was antithetical to this blissful utopia of the nuclear family and the profitable small business. In fact, his ideal world permitted no form of plurality at all. Menzies's attempts to ban the Communist Party are embarrassing for the breed of contemporary conservative politician who wishes to portray the post-war Liberal party as a master-class in traditional, common-sense, small government. It also serves as a reminder of the intolerance the benevolent guardians of this idyllic world have for troublemakers.

In 2001, when John Howard denied Tampa permission to enter Australian waters, Australia's subliminal racism was spectacularly ignited. At the Liberal Party election campaign launch, Howard shouted, "We will decide who comes to this country and the circumstances in which they come," with all the impotent fury of a geriatric shouting at children on his lawn. The whole imbroglio should have made the government look extremely silly. They started a diplomatic row with Norway and accused desperate refugees of threatening to throw their children overboard – a claim a subsequent Senate inquiry revealed the government had known was untrue.

The fight over refugees has made Australia do some outrageous things since as well. The mainland of Australia has been excised from the Migration Zone, the Malaysia solution ended in fiasco and Papua New Guinea was paid to take our asylum seekers for us, the good Pacific neighbours that they are. The only thing which seems inexcusable is allowing refugees to enter the country.

We have arrived, then, at Operation Sovereign Borders. A confusing name, because borders by their very nature are shared between two districts. Still, Scott Morrison insists sovereign borders we shall have, al-

though he refuses to say what they are or how will we get them or what is going on in their vicinity.

The question of national sovereignty is a façade. Philip Adams has written about the racial elements inherent in Australian refugee policy, and it is clear that the government's overwhelming preoccupation is ensuring the right kind of people settle in Australia. Marginal electorates demand nothing less. Impoverished refugees from war-torn countries are precisely the wrong kind of people. They take our jobs, they don't assimilate, they threaten our way of life (a nebulous concept that encompasses beaches and barbecues). This view, enshrined in our political process, is hardly less sophisticated than our racist immigration policies from 1919. Hardly less racist.

From my idle hours spent reading comments on news articles and social media, the thing that has distressed me most is that people who support these policies know they are inhumane. They know that they demonise vulnerable people. They ask: "But what are you leftist do-gooders going to do?" Leaving aside for a moment the question of what kind of society uses a propensity to do good as an invective, the point is a fair one. It is easy to criticise the government for its lack of humanity. It is hard to provide answers.

There is another way, though. The Greens are constantly consigned to the political loony bin until it is necessary for one of the major parties to use their Senate voting bloc. But their policies are worthy of consideration. The Greens recommend increasing our humanitarian intake from 20,000 to 30,000 and funding refugee processing and accommodation in Indonesia. As the Refugee Council of Australia notes, in most Southeast Asian countries, refugees are not allowed to work or own property. It is, therefore, difficult to sustain any kind of life, let alone begin a refugee claim, which is why many resort to a risky boat voyage to Australia.

It is necessary to ensure that refugees in Indonesia, and across Southeast Asia, have access to firstly, a means of staying alive, and secondly, legal and efficient refugee processing centres. Cooperation with our Asian and Pacific neighbours has not hitherto been a hallmark of Australia's immigration policies. But to continue this way is unsustainable.

Australia must be prepared to foot the bill for essential services for refugees in Asia and should commit to resettling more successful applicants. The cost of this can be mitigated by phasing out detention centres. The Refugee Council points out that very few countries impose mandatory detention. By allowing prospective refugees to work while their claims are assessed, Australia can send a message to other countries, reducing the impetus for asylum seekers to undertake treacherous ocean voyages.

The political reality of the asylum-seeker debate is that refugees face not just logistical difficulties, but ideological barriers as well. Announcing his review into education, Christopher Pyne accused the national curriculum of promoting "cultural relativism". According to the Abbott government, Australia has a clear national identity. It is "Judeo-Christian", Western and needs protecting from competing cultural interests, lest it be lost. It is essentially what New South Wales was intended to be in 1788, England in minutiae.

This wasn't true in 1788. There were Australian people here before there were any white settlers, and at no point has Australia ever been a European country. This should not be cause for embarrassment or prejudice. We're better than this.



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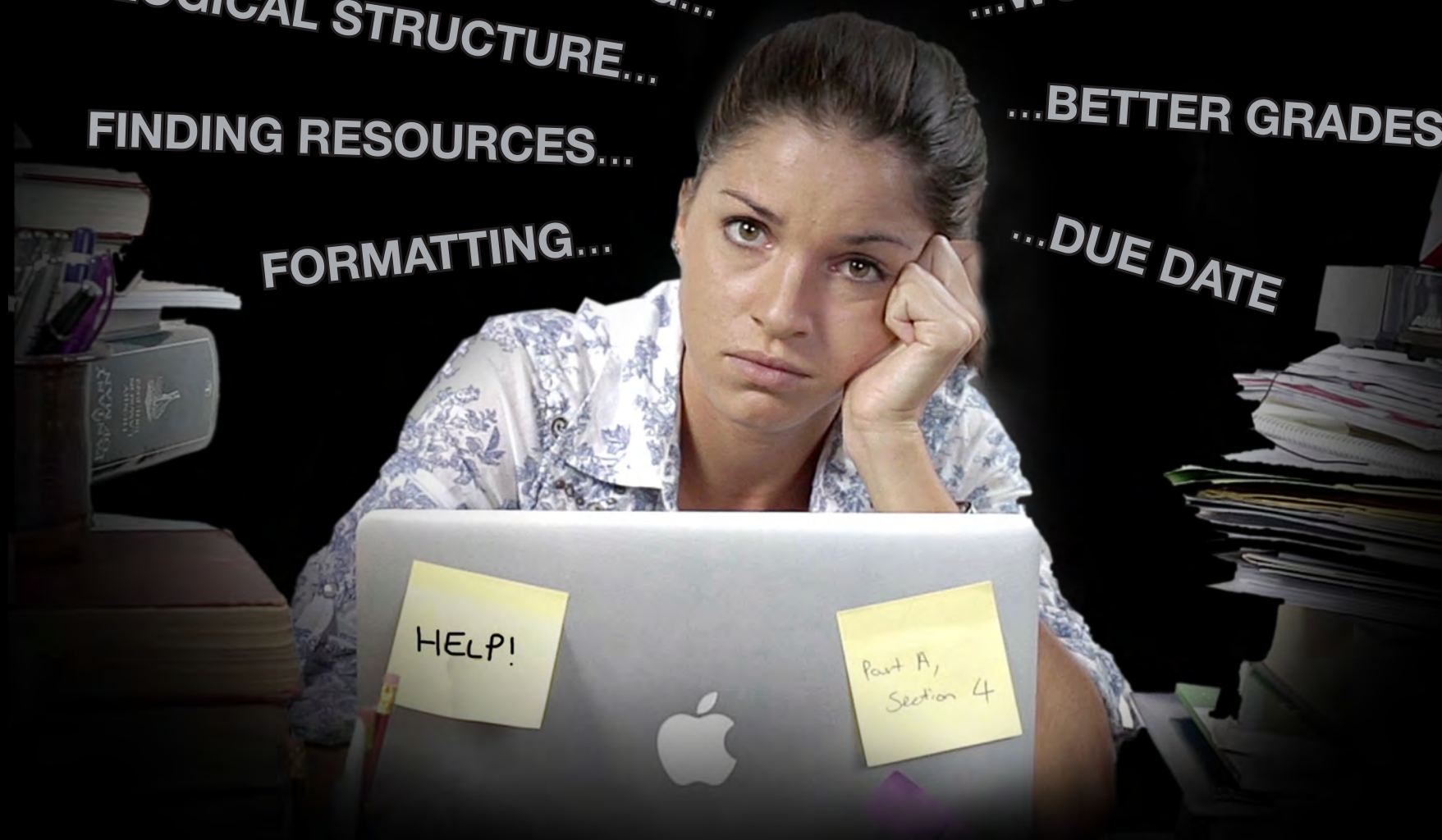
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PLACES TO AVOID AT UNSW.
PHOTOS BY TINA GIANNOULIS

1. 895 BUS QUEUE

MY NAME IS TRANSPORT NSW, KING OF KINGS:
LOOK ON MY WORKS, YE MIGHTY, AND DESPAIR!

2. BASSER STEPS

GOT BACK TO BACK TUTORIALS ON LOWER
CAMPUS AND UPPER CAMPUS? WE LOOK FORWARD
TO GIVING A EULOGY AT YOUR FUNERAL.

3. UNSW CHANCELLERY

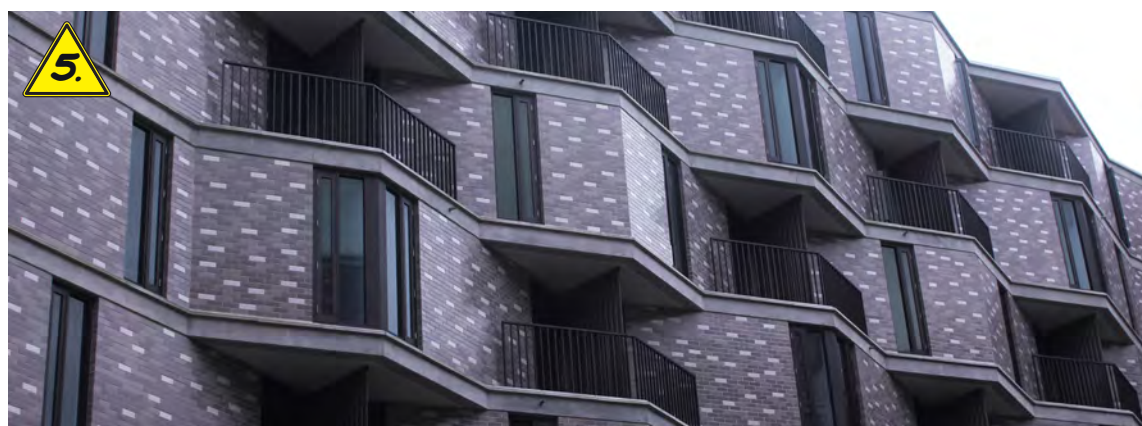
WHERE THE DECISIONS THAT AFFECT YOUR
UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE ARE MADE BY PEOPLE
WITH BUSINESS BACKGROUNDS FORTY YEARS
YOUR SENIOR. HAT TIP TO VICE CHANCELLOR
FRED HILMER, FORMER DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF
THE WESTFIELD GROUP, AND CEO OF FAIRFAX
MEDIA 1998 - 2005, IN AN ERA REFERRED TO AS
THE "LOST YEARS" AT FAIRFAX.

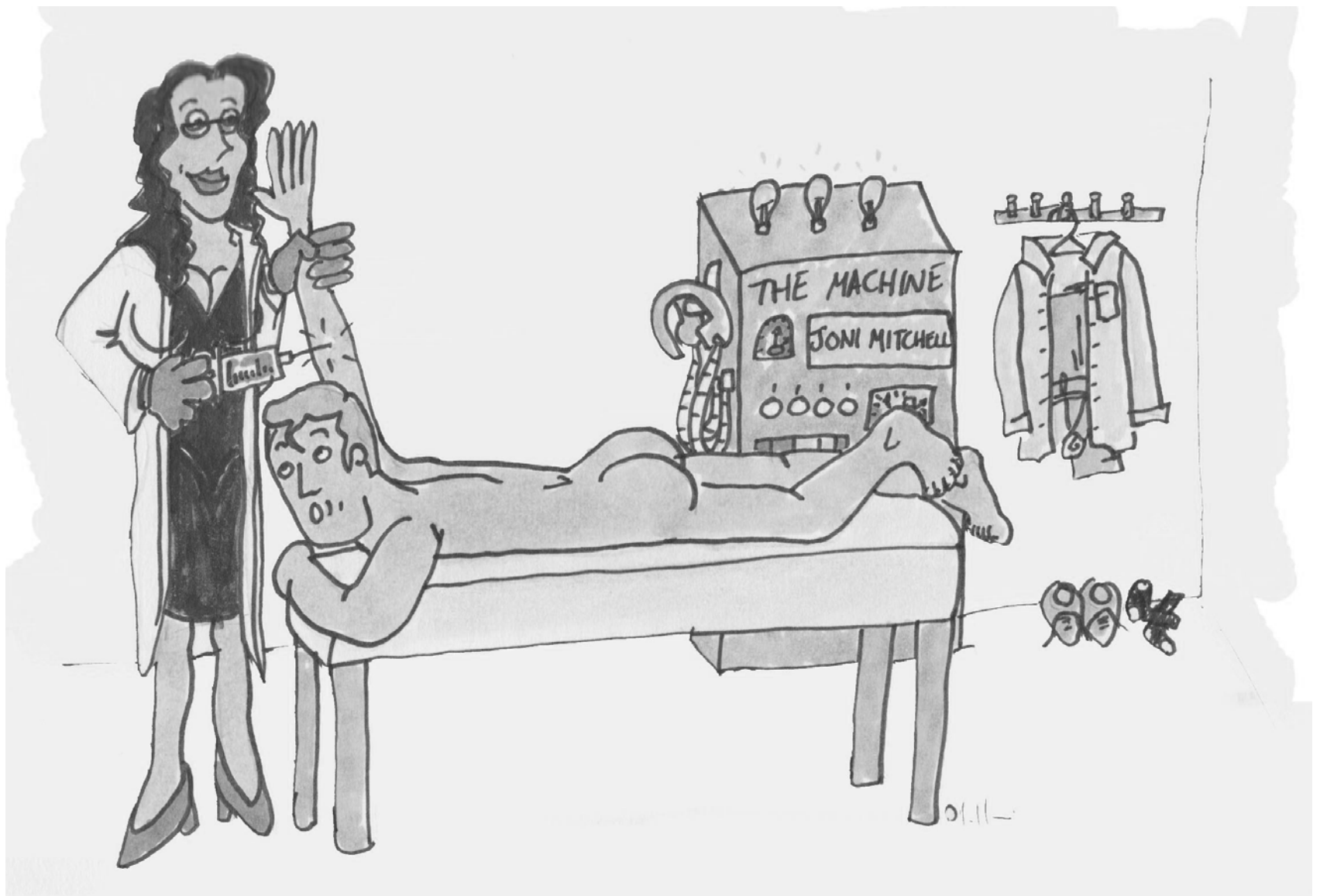
4. LAW BUILDING

"I AM A LAW STUDENT WHO LOVES THE LAW. MY
MAIN HOBBY IS DISCUSSING LAW, OF WHICH I
AM A STUDENT." - LAW STUDENTS.

5. THE KENSINGTON COLLEGES

COLLEGE KIDS. ENOUGH SAID.





Gratification, Inc

Amos Robertson

After much consternation on the bus, Frederick decided he would have sex with Fiona, his high school sweetheart. No, it would be a threesome: Fiona, himself, and a younger Joni Mitchell. His mind had been made. He hopped off the bus at Leicester Avenue and walked through the entrance of Gratification, Inc.

In the lobby, he saw a Marilyn Monroe facsimile working the reception desk. The Marilyn looked up at him and smiled at him as he walked in.

"I know you! Weren't you the first lady?"

"Yes, sir. Do you have an appointment?"

"Frederick Constance"

"Room thirteen, on the left. Go in, get undressed, lie down, and the doctor will be with you shortly" Frederick did exactly as he was told.

After a few minutes, the doctor came in. Frederick craned his neck from the bed to watch the doctor walking to the cupboard and fiddling with implements.

"So, Frederick, what are you in for? What's your fantasy?"

"Well, I'd really like to do it with Joni Mitchell."

"Uh huh."

"And someone I knew in high school."

"Right. Well, just relax, we'll take care of you."

The doctor walked over and jabbed a needle in Frederick's arm.

"Just some medicine to loosen up your brain waves. It helps the machine do its work."

Frederick had trouble keeping his eyes open, and when he blinked he found himself at home, on his lounge. Joni Mitchell was there, and Fiona too.

"Boy, the fun we'll have!" he thought.

Frederick woke up in his bed, smugly smiling to himself. It was a work day, and he was a working man, but he kept smiling. He performed his ablutions and got ready for work. After work, on the bus home, he saw Fiona. He tried to wave hello, but it was busy and she didn't see. He went home and heated up some pork mass for dinner.

The next week, he saw Fiona again at his office. What was she doing there, he asked. She looked perplexed, she's worked there for eight months, didn't he know? No, he didn't know.

It turned out that she actually lived in the same apartment block as him. Unit 309. She must have just moved in. He loitered around her doorway in the mornings, waiting for her to come out so they could go to work together, but she just ignored him. Funny how she acts so differently at work than at home, he thought.

Around five o'clock he sauntered over to her desk as she was getting ready to leave. They rode the elevator down without speaking, and walked to the bus stop together. She got on a bus into the city.

"Not going home?" he asked.

"Yes?" as she hopped on.

He hung around and waited for the bus to take him home. Fiona was already on it.

"Catch the wrong bus?"

"Excuse me?"

Pork mass for dinner. He knocked on 309 and asked if she wanted some, but she said she'd rather just be left alone.

He turned on the television. Fiona hadn't told him she was on Masterchef. Perhaps that's why she's been acting so strangely lately, he thought. The stress. And

he had offered her industrial-grade pork mass, like a schmuck!

He tried to apologise to Fiona on the bus in the morning. She had her headphones in and mustn't have heard him or seen him. He apologised again at lunch. She said that yes, she would love to have pork mass with him tonight, and where does he live? Just a few doors down, unit 305. Surely she knew that? No, she wasn't aware. Why don't they take the bus home together?

At five he couldn't find Fiona, so he just left. He'd see her later tonight. He got on the bus. Fiona was driving. He dipped his ticket and sat down. Why was Fiona driving? He stood back up.

"Why are you driving the bus?"

He couldn't make out the mumbled answer underneath the busy hum of traffic.

"Are you still coming over tonight?"

She pointed to a sign that read "Please, don't speak to the driver while the bus is in motion".

Perplexed and dejected, he got off the bus and walked up to his unit. He walked passed Fiona's unit and noticed that the door was open. He looked inside, knocked, and saw Fiona inside.

"Would you like to come over for dinner?"

No, sorry, she said, not tonight.

He went to his unit and sat down to watch television. There was a knock on the door. Perhaps Fiona had changed her mind! Such fickleness. He opened the door, and it was Fiona. She had brought a friend. A twin sister? He didn't know she had siblings. Fiona mumbled unintelligibly and walked inside. He tried to give her a hug, but was quite rudely and firmly pushed away. What was that in Fiona Two's hands? A new jacket! They helped him put it on.

Abbott stakes agenda at G20 summit

Matthew Baker

Prime Minister Tony Abbott gave a keynote speech late last month as part of the World Economic Forum's (WEF) meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

The WEF is an international not-for-profit foundation with its headquarters in Geneva. The organisation acts as a forum for leading business, political and other world leaders to discuss and debate global economic problems and issues.

As Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the WEF, noted when introducing the prime minister in Davos, it is tradition for chairs of the Group of 20 (G20) to present their objectives and agenda in Davos.

The Prime Minister's keynote address comes as Australia assumes the presidency of the G20 for 2014 before this year's Leaders Summit to be held in Brisbane on November 15 and 16.

According to Prime Minister Abbott, the "challenge everywhere is to promote sustainable private-sector growth and employment, and to avoid government-knows-best action for action's sake".

Recurring throughout the speech were words of "tax" (used 17 times in various forms), "free" (nine times) and "growth" (15 times). The use of such words indicated the emphasis placed on free market economic policy and limited government intervention – something that has been frequently advocated by the Abbott government in recent weeks.

The use of such language underscores the government's position on current hot topics domestically over

the government support for SPC Ardmona and the automotive industry. The Prime Minister's mantra for macroeconomic policy, both domestically and abroad, is "freer trade and smaller government will strengthen prosperity".

Also reverberating from the domestic debate was the PM's statement in relation to debt: "Real progress is always built on clear fundamentals; you can't spend what you haven't got."

Prime Minister Abbott's speech acknowledged some of the key problems facing the world economy, including the fact that "around the world over 300 million young people are neither working nor studying".

Other pressing issues on the Prime Minister's agenda included the "30 million more jobs" needed to restore the global economy to pre-global financial crisis (GFC) levels.

Rather than solely dwell on these issues, there is cause to be optimistic according to the PM: "[Despite the GFC,] income per person is up over 60% from last decade."

The speech was one identifiable with a fiscally-conservative prime minister: "No country has ever taxed or subsidised its way to prosperity. You don't address debt and deficit with yet more debt and deficit. And profit is not a dirty word, because success in business is something to be proud of."

Prime Minister Abbott also took time to criticise the preceding Labor government, noting that they believed the country could "spend our way to prosperity".

The speech also urged world leaders to "be missionaries for freer trade". Such comments come as the PM is

looking to follow up a recent free-trade agreement with South Korea with an Australia-Japan free-trade agreement.

There was also a clear expression of Mr Abbott's economic outlook for Australia this year with the reiteration of comments made during the 2013 election night that "Australia is under new management and once more open for business".

The speech stayed on message throughout and demonstrated the fiscal conservatism motivating government policy on a number of issues at the moment.

The first is the proposal to expand the work-for-the-dole program, which was hinted in Prime Minister Abbott's remark, "We are determined that fit working age people will work, preferably for a wage, but if not, as a condition of receiving unemployment benefits."

The second is the position that less government intervention in market activities is generally the best policy.

In light of recent government pressure to intervene in the automotive industry and SPC Ardmona, the Mr Abbott's speech in Davos reiterated the government's response to these issues, noting, "Better governance is not the same as more government."

However, a notable exception to this approach has surfaced recently with the decision for the government to provide further economic assistance to drought-stricken farmers from July 1 this year.

With several important economic decisions already made under the mantra of less government, Prime Minister Abbott's speech is a strong indication of what motivates this government's economic policy.

A Farewell to Welfare?

Brigid McManus

Last month Minister for Social Services Kevin Andrews announced a review of the Australian welfare system. He said that it was crucial to introduce widespread changes before Australia finds itself "in the situation that some of the countries in Europe are in." Clearly he doesn't mean covered in snow and full of cobblestone streets, he means an economy crumbling under the crushing weight of a population supposedly living on welfare payments. This is obviously a situation we should avoid, but then I began to wonder if more was going on than a desire to avoid IMF bailouts and international criticism.

What struck me was that our welfare system has historically been different to those of the European nations. According to figures published by the OECD, the Australian government spent 8.6% of national gross domestic product (GDP) on welfare in 2013. Given the global economic climate, this figure has been stable over the past 20 years, reaching a high of 9.1% twice under the Howard government. What is even more impressive is that this is less than the minimum most European countries spent on welfare during the same period. Since 1993, Italy and Poland have spent more than 14% of GDP, while France has spent upwards of 16%. Australia's consistently low payments suggest that our welfare system is stringently regulated, this gives little indication that we are headed for a situation similar to Europe. In fact, they make any references to Europe look a like a scare tactic.

Interestingly, Andrew's own department is developing a policy of giving married couples and couples in long term relationships \$200 vouchers for relationship counselling, a move that is seems contrary to his stated views on welfare. A one year trial with 100 000 cou-

ples is estimated to cost twenty million dollars, a sizeable sum to be spending while calling for a review of the welfare system. To me, it looks like an attempt at vote buying.

Doubting this review was justified, I began investigating what the review entails. One possible reform that Andrews has raised is the reintroduction of work-for-the-dole. This reflects Andrews' belief that 'work is the best form of welfare', a sentiment that is a little too Orwellian for my liking. It has been suggested that the scheme would require people receiving unemployment benefits to participate in unskilled work such as collecting rubbish and maintaining parks and aged care facilities.

The aim of such a scheme is to make receiving payments cumbersome, thus creating incentive to look for employment. However, a 2004 study conducted by the University of Melbourne's Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research found that the Howard government's work-for-the-dole policies were ineffective in reducing the numbers of people receiving unemployment payments. It actually reduced the time that people had to look for employment without improving their skills. While the scheme did benefit some, many reported feeling alienated from the workforce. As if this wasn't enough, they are paid less than minimum wage, compounding the social stigma.

Supporters of the scheme invoke the image of the 'dole bludger', people they allege have no plans for the future other than to live on welfare. This is reinforced by politicians and the media, who tend to refer to people receiving welfare payments as 'customers'. In reality, customers have both financial power and choice. Using this term to refer to people receiving welfare payments implies that they have chosen to be in this situation. I receive AUSTudy payments of \$250 dollars a week, roughly equal to Newstart payments. Once rent, grocer-



ies and bills are taken care of there is little left, probably not even enough to buy video games. I can't begin to imagine what it would be like to support children on such an amount. No one would choose this.

In the last 5 years the number of people receiving Newstart has risen by 131 980 (including over 80 000 single parents with children over the age of 8 who were moved to Newstart at the beginning of 2013). Interestingly, over the same period the number of people receiving the age pension has increased by 329 906. This is more than double the increase in those receiving Newstart and the biggest increase in any area of welfare payments.

Andrews insists this is not under review. True, the elderly can't help becoming old. But then again, many people who are without work don't choose their situation either. To me, it has more to do with image than money. Those on the pension are our sweet little Grandparents and nobody would want to see them lose their livelihoods, reverting to collecting rubbish in order to receive their payments.

What we are left with is a policy that demeans one of the most vulnerable groups in society, while furthering the impression that they are undeserving 'bludgers'. And while the unemployed are weeding gardens, the government is funding financial management lessons for married couples. I bet they don't do that in Europe.



Abbott vs. the ABC

Caleb Burke

On November 18 2013, the ABC and the Guardian Australia released a story revealing that, based on Edward Snowden's leaks of confidential U.S. National Security Agency documents, Australian spy agencies during 2009 had tapped Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and his wife's phones. The release of this information sparked a diplomatic rift in the relationship between Australia and Indonesia amidst the early stages of Tony Abbott's prime ministership and left members of the Coalition camp calling for reforms to the ABC.

Liberal Senator Cory Bernardi, more recently known for his controversial book that states the road to bestiality and bigamy is paved by same-sex marriage, accused the ABC on RN Breakfast of "cannibalising" the commercial media and labelling it as a "taxpayer-funded behemoth".

In a press conference, Mr Abbott soon disclosed that while "the ABC were guilty of poor judgment ... this government has no plans to change that".

On January 22 2014, the ABC aired news reports containing footage of the burnt hands of asylum seekers who claimed that they had suffered the burns when navy personnel forced them to hold onto hot pipes coming out of the boat's engine.

The navy immediately denied the allegations and the government leapt to the military's defence. "You would like the national broadcaster to have a rigorous commitment to truth and at least some basic affection for the home team," Mr Abbott told 2GB radio. He went on to say, "It dismays Australians when the national broadcaster appears to take everybody's side but our own," adding that the ABC should have given "the Australian navy and its hard-working personnel the benefit of the doubt".

The proposition that media coverage in Australia should be somehow slanted by nationalism to defend the country's reputation sits uncomfortably with the notion of the unbiased, free and fearless media that the ABC has become renowned for.

The Prime Minister has previously defended the ideals of a fair media during his time as opposition leader – when criticism of the government supported his objectives. "When politicians complain about the media, it strikes me as resembling footballers complaining about the umpire," Mr Abbott stated in 2011, adding a year later that "any government which is trying to censor political commentary is effectively trying to muzzle our democracy".

Furthermore, is this "benefit of the doubt" being given to the navy the same attitude that was adopted decades ago when young disadvantaged children made claims to police against Salvation Army officers who had sexually abused them?

Mr Abbott's outbursts arrive during the emergence of speculation that the government is contemplating the abolishment of the ABC-managed Australia Network in the May budget.

This suggestion follows Treasurer Joe Hockey's declaration of the end of the "age of entitlement", per an interview with the ABC, announcing that "the age of personal responsibility has begun". It signposts the beginning of the Abbott government's rapid removal of Labor's long-term achievements.

Amongst this rejection of business handouts, Mr Abbott has defended the Federal government's decision to fund \$16 million to the Cadbury factory in Hobart, citing on the ABC's 7.30 program that it was provided "so they could re-open their premises to tourism". After all, if I were arriving to Australia as a tourist for the first time, my essential attraction would be the Cadbury chocolate factory and certainly not the iconic Great Barrier Reef – if it survives Mr Abbott's time as prime minister, that is.

With funding to the ABC under threat, Australia faces the potential loss or damage of one of the few major unbiased media outlets. Acting Opposition Leader Tanya Plibersek defended the ABC, saying that it had scrutinised all past governments and should be welcomed for such a fearless democratic trait. "Tony Abbott's comments today show he'll blame everyone – including the media – for the promises he continues to break," she said in a comment on her Facebook page.

Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young joined the de-

bate, per an ABC report, commenting, "He's [Mr Abbott] never liked the ABC. He'll do everything he can to undermine it and that's why we need strong voices in Parliament to stand up for the public's right to an independent national broadcaster."

The ABC remains one of the few unbiased political media outlets in the country, with the most recent IBISWorld Industry Report on Newspaper Publishing in Australia unveiling that News Corp Australia – a subsidiary of Rupert Murdoch's parent company, News Corp – holds a 42.3 per cent market-share. The daily and Sunday newspapers of the company accounted for roughly two-thirds of daily newspaper sales in Australia.

In the 2013 federal election, the undeniably right-wing Murdoch engaged in a full-force anti-Rudd campaign, considered to be an intentional ploy to utilise his print assets to defend TV property such as Australian pay-TV giant Foxtel – a company in which Murdoch holds a 50 per cent stake. Labor's plan to construct a \$43 billion national broadband network was expected to unleash greater online competition for Foxtel and print newspapers.

All pretence of impartiality was relinquished when News Corp's Daily Telegraph published a front-page image of Rudd, emblazoned with the headline, "Let's Kick This Mob Out!", and another depicting him as a Nazi.

Undeniably, the ABC remains one of the few ideologically-central media sources available in Australia. Its importance in upholding a fair and robust democracy should not be affected as a result of a government upset by criticism, nor should the political opinions of the public be influenced by the biased thoughts of right-wing media moguls.

Mr Abbott's recent attacks on the ABC suggest an underlying agenda is in play; either he is merely attempting to deflect attention and criticism from important fronts such as the secrecy enveloping his battle to "stop the boats", or his critique is simply a means of justifying potential future budget cuts to the ABC. Either way, these outbursts should not be considered lightly, and for the safety of Australia's sturdy democracy, they must be witnessed as a forewarning for an upcoming assault against the people's voice – the ABC.



Lacking the resources to send along a photographer with our brave reviewers, we raided the National Archives of Norway to bring you the Sex Pistols in 1977.

Laneway Festival 2014

Live Music review by Sarah Fernandes and Kyle Redman

Laneway Festival has a reputation for being one of the best-run festivals in Australia. And, apart from the lack of shade, 2014 did not disappoint. Instead of the long queues and soggy hot chips so familiar to any Australian festival-goer, Laneway offered its punters exotic food trucks, vinyl stalls, haircuts, art installations, an abundance of facilities and a diverse lineup.

There weren't too many people to begin with, so we wandered down to the main stage to see Drenge thresh out some English grunge/post-grunge with other eager early birds. With the sun high in the sky and the brothers Eoin and Rory putting the finishing touches to their track "Fuckabout", we escaped get some much needed sunscreen.

Next up was the arresting Kirin J Callinan, who, despite his early timeslot, ended up being one of the best acts of the day. Unlike many bands, Callinan didn't just play his songs – he performed them. His eccentric wailing and flailing during "Embracism" scared some timid audience members away, but his heartfelt laments in "Landslide" and "Victoria M" really struck an emotional chord.

On stage, Autre Ne Veut brought out essences of the confusion of their record from last year. There were anxiety stilettos paired with psycho-sexual, pushing-and-pulling soul tunes, all with a football jersey and backwards baseball cap.

In contrast to Callinan and Autre Ne Veut, the fresh-faced King Krule was dull. Admittedly, he did suffer from some unfortunate sound issues, but his disinterested performance did him no favours. Even a great summer festival song like "Krokodile" fell short. Krule is impressive for his age, but he doesn't seem to be able to rise above this and just be impressive.

El-P and Killer Mike's hardcore hip-hop collaboration, Run the Jewels, really killed it. They left us with monsters in "Job Well Done" and "A Christmas Fucking Special" while everyone was gathering themselves in

the heat and adrenaline. We're sure there were quite a few vibing for Danny Brown and Earl Sweatshirt later in the day.

Frightened Rabbit, like The Shins, are part of that group of bands who seem to be able to strike a perfect balance between pop and rock. Their great stage banter was made all the more endearing with their incredible Scottish accents. Crowd favourites like "Old Old Fashioned" and "Oil Slick" went down well and even got people dancing.

Cashmere Cat dropped stuff from Luckyme labelmates Hudson Mohawke in the form of the unreleased "Chimes" and Rustie's banger "Slasherr", before finishing with his own recent single, "With Me".

Some stoner rock from Kurt Vile and The Violators was a nice shift away from the indie-pop that filled the afternoon slots. Their skilful mix of the traditional guitar-bass-drums lineup with synths and saxophones made the band musically interesting and piqued the interest of many passers-by, especially during their foot-stomping closer, "Freak Train".

Mount Kimbie were next and they vibed along with King Krule – featured on two tracks from last year's record, Cold Spring Faultless Youth. "Made to Stray" stood out at the end with vocals, percussion and synth all coming together in the early afternoon. Anticipation was lingering, with most of the crowd looking to head down to the main stage for the end of Chvrches into Lorde, but we had other plans.

Hip-hop legend Danny Brown was unique in that his performance was both incredibly awkward and lots of fun. "Smokin and Drinkin" and "Dip" had everyone singing and dancing while Brown bounced around on stage like Bugs Bunny on pills. He did, however, seem consistently unable to grasp the concept that not everybody in the audience knew every word to all of his songs. Almost every time he turned the microphone to the audience to let them sing the next part, he was met with an

obvious silence, which put a dampener on his set.

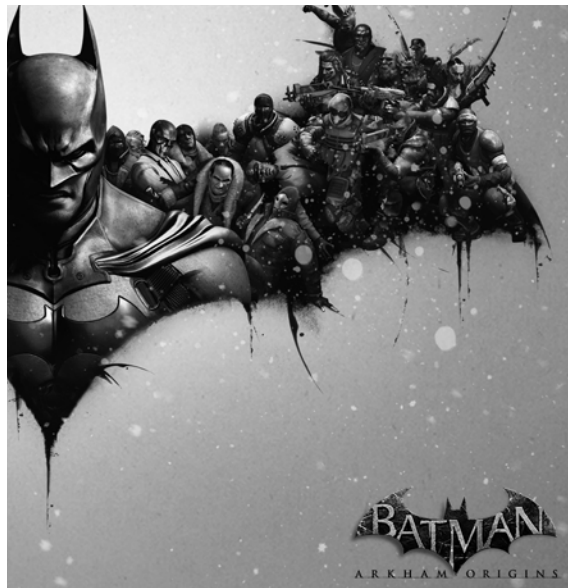
Earl Sweatshirt – famous for his involvement with the hip-hop collective, OFWGKTA – did a much better job at pleasing the crowd. When he wasn't getting the audience to sing about chicken soup or girls with freckles, the crowd were singing along anyway to his more popular tracks like "Sunday", "Chum" and "Kill".

Tracks from Savages's record *Silence Yourself* was the highlight of their set. Their post-punk revival sound was commanding as the sun went down. They slammed their way through the early evening while punk-revival jams "Hit Me" and "Husbands" had everyone bouncing around in the warm, white lighting. They closed their set off with a 10-minute version of "Fuckers", leaving us super hyped for their sideshow at the Metro.

As expected, Jamie XX pulled a huge crowd. His extremely accomplished mixing abilities were at their peak as he immersed the audience into a wave of funk, disco and dance. Watching him deftly transform his deck while (seriously) not missing a beat is a mesmerising experience. Although his stage presence lacked the banter, and therefore the connection that other acts had, his expert musicianship more than made up for it.

Four Tet completely swept us away with his show. "Kool FM", "For These Times", "&Fate" – all the big tracks recently coming out of the U.K. Bass/House scene – were there, and so was what was left of the festival. He had us humming the "hey hey hey" hook from "Kool FM" all the way to his sold-out show at Goodgod.

An unfortunate delay in Unknown Mortal Orchestra's set meant that the excellent Warpaint had to cut their set short by 20 minutes. The Californian girls channelled some truly amazing psychedelic dream rock. Their extended "Elephants" jam had the crowd cheering for more, so the girls gave a deservedly big fuck you to the 11 pm noise cut-off and continued into "Disco//Very", ending the night on a high note for all.



Batman: Arkham Origins

Game Review by Jeremy Szal

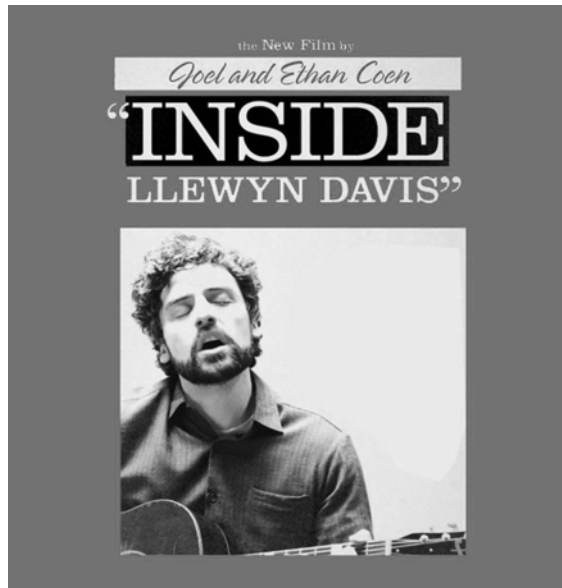
Batman: Arkham Origins takes us back to the madness of Gotham City through the eyes of the young caped crusader, hoping to capture the brilliant heights of Arkham City and establish itself as a worthy prequel to (arguably) one of the greatest adventure games this generation.

This game takes place before Arkham Asylum, before Arkham City, before Nolan's *The Dark Knight*. If you wanted to pinpoint a timeline, it would take place somewhere after *Batman Begins* and before *The Dark Knight*. Speaking of which, the two trilogies work together better than ever before – much of the lore, such as locations, foreshadowing to future events, and so on, is borrowed from Nolan's adaptations. This is before Batman has even met *The Joker*. As you can imagine, their first encounter is less than pleasant and sets up the slippery slope of insanity that both Batman and *The Joker* tumble down, locked in endless combat.

Batman is a lot more vulnerable this time around, being younger, rasher, less mature and more eager to take dangerous risks. You'll meet old foes for the first time and completely new enemies. Sadly, the story is nowhere to near as lengthy as *Arkham City* was, clocking it at around 12 hours or so at the hardest difficulty with a handful of side missions completed. There are, however, more side missions, collectibles and puzzles to solve than ever before. Unfortunately, you'll notice a lack of riddles set up by our friend Edward Nigma. He instead turns to Extortion packages to stand in for Riddler trophies (unlike in *Arkham City*, these are actually easy to collect), towers to break into and radio frequencies to destroy. There's a lot to do here, which almost makes up for the lack of a longer story.

The gameplay is exactly the same as it was in *Arkham City* – which is a good thing. If *Call of Duty* can copy and paste every year, I'm sure we'll give *Origins* a free pass. The one major addition is an unwelcome one. Once you reach a point in the game you'll get electro-shock gloves. This gadget flips off every rule in combat, ignores all armor and makes the game a cakewalk. It makes the numerous challenge rooms (that were a bitch in the previous games) easier, but in all honesty I found myself not using them just so I could give myself a little bit more of a challenge.

The transition from *Rocksteady* to *Splash Damage* hasn't been without its faults, but they've delivered a decent game nonetheless. We get a better peek behind the mask than ever before – with a healthy dash of insanity to boot. It doesn't come even close to *Arkham City*'s standards, but *Batman: Arkham Origins* is a solid game that is worth your time and money. It has multiplayer, but it sucks. A lot. Pretend it doesn't exist and enjoy the game as it is, not as a prequel.



Inside Llewyn Davis

Film Review by Lucia Watson

The Coen Brothers take us through a week in the life of Llewyn Davis and romance audiences with this tale of struggle at the beginning of the folk movement.

The seemingly tragic life of this New York folk singer is soon revealed to be, for the most part, his own making. In the course of one week Llewyn Davis manages to anger all his friends, acquire and then lose a cat, go to Chicago, return and then cop a beating, all whilst dealing with his destitution and the loss of the other half of his folk duo. Though his life seems to be going to pieces, it's hard to empathise with the character of Llewyn – he is, in essence, a total asshole.

Oscar Isaacs gives a strong performance and showcases his musical talents as the hopeless Llewyn. Carey Mulligan and Justin Timberlake accompany Isaacs as Llewyn's reluctant, yet reliable friends Jean and Jim, who are barely able to tolerate his poor life choices.

Through the course of the week Llewyn encounters many other bohemians living on the edge. Adam Driver of *Girls-fame* plays another struggling folk singer, Al Cody, who lends him a couch for the night. Honorable mentions also go to John Goodman and Garrett Hedlund – they team up as eccentric Jazz musician, Roland Turner, and his 'chauffeur', Johnny Five.

Ethan and Joel Coen have turned storytelling into a fine art with films such as *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* and *The Big Lebowski* – *Inside Llewyn Davis* is no different with its simple, yet rich storyline. The Coen Brothers have created the perfect setting for this film – the backdrop of a harsh winter on the streets of New York adds to the subdued mood and reflects Llewyn's attitude to life.

Inside Llewyn Davis holds a lot of truth. It appears the life of a struggling bohemian is not as glamorous as we're often led to believe. The folky soundtrack contains many songs performed by Oscar Isaacs and Marcus Mumford that really bring home the bittersweet nature of this film.

It seems as though musical talent was a major prerequisite for this film; it turns out many of the lead performers have beautiful singing voices. Whether Justin Timberlake will make his musical comeback as a folk singer, however, is yet to be seen.

Inside Llewyn Davis is a story of loss, struggle, self-sabotage and the desire to live a life separate from the conventions of society. The Coen Brothers have really bought this story to life with an excellent cast and a great array of characters who remain true to the life of the New York folk scene in the early 1960s. At many points of the film you're left wondering: What's the point of watching a poor musician mess up his life? Like many stories, you will find the moral is at the end.



Coke and Lava Nikon D800 and Gopro

YouTube review by Dylan Chalwell

In this remarkable short film, visionary director Lavapix traces out the inability of modern innovation, commercialisation and quote-unquote "strategic brand management" to shield us from the inexhaustible pressure, heat and momentum of our own mortality.

Two simple questions lie at the heart of the film:
How long will it take lava to destroy a can of Coca-Cola, and in what manner will this destruction be wrought?

Coca-Cola, harbinger of happiness and freedom and beauty and eternal youth, provides no protection from the unrelenting and uncaring flow of molten rock. And if Coca-Cola cannot protect us, then how can American Apparel, Sanitarium Weet-Bix, Colgate PowerFloss, or even the Cotton On Great Value for Summer Collection?

As in Jean-Paul Sartre's *Nausea*, we find that the promise of freedom offered by commonly-accepted sources of meaning, such as multinational corporations, are empty words in the face of the cold – or should I say, unbearably hot – realities of the natural world. In a nod to Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* and some of Marcel Proust's lesser-known works, after the first can is enveloped, the entire process is repeated. Not only is destruction final; it is inescapable.

Allow me to finally direct you to the title. Notice that two other products are mentioned – products used to record, to track, to catalogue. What is Lavapix's purpose here – foregrounding the means of production? It is surely to say that our brands cannot stop the lava, but merely chart its flow.

As far as a worldview goes, I confess that it is too bleak for me. As far as a film goes, it is sublime.

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



SRC President

Joel Wilson

Welcome all new and returning UNSW students to the start of a new University Year! If this is your first year at UNSW, you are bound to encounter a number of new and exciting opportunities to participate in sport, Arc's volunteering programs and clubs and societies. Your time at University is a once in a lifetime experience and you should be able to make the most of it – which is where the Student Representative Council (SRC) comes in.

The SRC is your student representative and advocacy body within Arc and the University. We are here to represent you! We seek to protect and foster the interests of students at UNSW and occupy the East Wing, Level 1 of the Blockhouse. Is there anything that could make your campus experience better? Are you having trouble with the University? We'd love to know and it's easy to get your voice heard – just send an email to srcpresident@arc.unsw.edu.au

For me making the best use of your time means being as involved in the university community as possible! I have done nothing more valuable than get involved in the SRC. The SRC is where the action is – so to get involved and engaged with student life at UNSW visit our stalls during O-Week to find out what we are up to!



General Secretary

Maja Scieszko

Twenty fourteen is looking to be one big year for the University of New South Wales and the SRC is ready to do all we can to make your uni experience one of the best. We are excited to be representing you this year and every one of your representatives has been working hard throughout the summer break to ensure that we are ready to fight for your education and your student experience. We've cleaned up our Activist Space and we're pretty excited about all the activism happenings that'll be going down in there this year. During O-Week you'll see us around running events and campaigns, giving you every opportunity to get know

us and let us know what you'd like to see happen on campus. If after all the hype of O-Week you find yourself struggling to fill your stomach without all the free goodies around, SRC will be holding free breakfasts throughout the semester and the Welfare Room located on the first floor of the blockhouse is always open and filled with cereals and quick stomach fillers so that you never have to go to class with the rumbles. Remember to pick up an SRC showbag from our O-Week stall, it's full of all the things you'll need to know about uni as well as info on how to get involved throughout the year!



Indigenous Officer

Rebekah Hatfield

Hi everyone. I hope you're excited to get involved in some of our up coming campaigns and events. The Indigenous Portfolio is very excited to be creating an Indigenous Society. The aim of this society will be to promote Indigenous culture on campus as well as facilitating discussion about issues in the "Indigenous Affairs" sector- everyone will be able to sign up at O-week, so keep an eye out! Along with this there will also be the creation of a mentoring program, which aims to reduce the rate of Indigenous student 'drop outs' by providing them with informal advice and support. Please watch this space, as there will opportunities for students to volunteer for this program. Finally, we will be running a few events throughout Reconciliation Week at the end of this semester, so again, watch this space as there will be more information closer to the date.



Education Officer

Billy Bruffey

The Education Collective has started with a bang in 2014, with the commencement of new campaigns aimed not only at safeguarded our educational rights, but also taking a positive step to improving education rights on campus.

At the meeting of the Cross-Campus Education Action Network, the UNSW Education Collective was the most prevalent education group present. We worked closely with other activists and student representatives to develop the foundation

to a promising 26 March National Day of Protest. Think DJs, brass bands, and ice-cream.

While the sound of protest drums steadily grows, we've been lobbying the university to create an Afterhours Study Space on campus, to be open ALL semester 24/7. With the university's tentative support, we're now looking at the best way to implement the SRC's proposal.

SRC Education has also been building stronger relationships with the National Tertiary Education Union, which protects the working conditions of all academic staff, so that when student or staff conditions come under attack, we can fight to defend our rights to a great University together.

Plans for o-week are now being finalised, with the highlight being a 'craft-ernoon' of painting and designing of material for the National Day of Protest pre-protest party to be held on the Globe Lawn that day.

Remember, the Ed collective meets every Thursday at 12pm at the Blockhouse Activist Space.



Women's Officer

Olga Lisinska

The women's department exists because the SRC recognises that women aren't always treated equally, whether it's because random dudes yell at you on the street, you're more afraid to speak up in class or you're worried about not being offered a job because you might get pregnant. We fight against this and make sure you're treated equally.

Remember during this O-week, it's all about IT'S YOUR CHOICE, whether it's about sex, reproductive rights, clothing or workplace. No one ever has the right to judge you or discriminate against you for being a woman, regardless of what you choose.

After O-week, we're really excited for International Women's Day. To get you into the mood, we'll be hosting a Picnic on the 6th of March from 12pm-2pm. Then on the 8th, we'll be heading into the city to take place in the International Women's Day March from Town hall to Hyde Park, with stalls and speakers happening then. After that we'll be having a film screening of The Sapphires on the 12th of March.

Throughout the last 2 months I've been cleaning out the women's room so it's as welcoming a space as possible for the new year. The Women's Room is located on the 1st floor of the Blockhouse. Come along

If you're interested in any of this, or in women's rights in general, come along to the women's stall and find out more! Or you can e-mail me at womyn@arc.unsw.edu.au



Environment Officer

Nicholas Gurieff

Welcome to new and old students! It's going to be an important year for environmental issues and the SRC has some big plans for campus initiatives, but we're going to need your help to deliver real change.

UNSW is home to world leading research on environmental issues and their solutions. Students and academics are contributing to cutting edge science, informing policy and engineering the future of renewable energy. Sadly the University itself has fallen behind in the environmental management of its operations and investments.

We're going to focus on a couple of key areas to get our uni back on track with leading our society toward a sustainable future. For energy consumption we've started the RenewUNSW initiative to develop, and advocate for, a plan where the uni will transition to a 100% renewable energy supply. We're backing that up with the Fossil Free UNSW campaign calling for UNSW to screen out the largest fossil fuel companies from endowment fund investments.

If you'd like to get involved then you can find us on the web and Facebook as the UNSW Environment Collective, and the UNSW SRC Environment Office. Also feel free to send an email to enviro@arc.unsw.edu.au with any questions or suggestions. We hold meetings every week and social events throughout the semester, and if you find yourself wanting to step-up we're offering volunteer roles and internships too. I look forward to meeting you!

Contribute to the campus discussion.

Tharunka is always looking for Opinions, Comments, Letters, Articles, Campus News Tip-offs, Illustrations, Photographs, Art works, Events for calendar + more.

Send your contributions to tharunka@arc.unsw.edu.au

PO Box 173, Kingsford, NSW, 2032

THARUNKA



Ethno-Cultural Officer

Rachel Lobo

Welcome (back) to Semester 1 everyone! The UNSW Ethno-cultural Portfolio is raring to go with our monthly Film & Book Club and our weekly collective meetings in full swing. Our collective is a safe, autonomous space for those that identify as ethnically, linguistically or culturally diverse. So take the opportunity to meet new people, chill out and get involved with all the awesome initiatives we're running this year before you're bogged down with assessments and not even free food can tempt you from physically removing your face from your textbook. Along with Arc headquarters, SRC will be moving from Level 1 of the Blockhouse to under the NEW TKC buildings where we will have our own International/Ethno-cultural Student Space (YAY!). Also, be sure to check out our interactive and easily searchable facebook fanpage for all the deets on the #EverydayRacism campaign launched during O-week along with how to sign up to the 7-Day Challenge! As always, feel free to shoot me an email at ethnic@arc.unsw.edu.au if you'd like any information, have any ideas or simply want someone to chat to.



Queer Officers

Dylan Lloyd & Cassandra Harris

Welcome back everyone! The Queer Officers have had a busy but fun summer holidays preparing for the year ahead. With O-Week just around the corner, we've been organizing our stall, a games night, movie night and a meet 'n' greet so students on campus can get to know what we're all about. We are also putting together another Zine, which is a small publication created collaboratively by the Queer Collective. You will be able to find a copy of the zine at our O-Week stall, on our website (www.unswqueer.org.au) or our facebook page. On the Saturday following O-Week we have the Mardi Gras Parade (March 1). During the break we've been working with other Queer Officers and students from USyd and UTS to put together this year's Cross-Campus Float for the parade. The theme of this year's float is "More Than Marriage". Under this theme students are given the opportunity to create costumes and props that express an issue affecting LGBTIQ people that is important to them,

any issue that have been drowned out by the government and media's attention on Marriage Equality. If you would like to join us in the parade, we will have a sign-up sheet at our O-Week stall, or you can email Dylan and Cassie at queer@arc.unsw.edu.au. We look forward to meeting all the newbies and we hope you all have a great O-Week!



International Officers' Report

The SRC International is the representative body for the wide and diverse community of international students studying at UNSW. We seek to best serve the interests and needs of international students by providing a variety of services and activities. The International Students Collective forms the backbone of the SRC International, made up of enthusiastic volunteers.

My responsibility include ensuring that all International Students understand what services are available for your need and what's going on in the Uni. If you encounter any problem, approach the school and me. We will be there to help anytime.

SRC International and UNSW International collectives never stop seeking for best services for international students at campus. Feel free to send an email to international@arc.unsw.edu.au if you have any enquires.



Students with Disabilities Officer

Alexandra Little

Welcome to 2014! I hope that you've all had a fantastic holiday break and are ready to get back into the swing of things at UNSW this year. I've spent some of my summer holidays getting ready for O-Week and preparing for the rest of the year. Throughout the year, I'll be running the Smash the Stigma campaign and will be fighting to keep Medicare free. I'm currently involved in the consultation process for the Disability Action plan for UNSW in 2014. I'm speaking on a panel of experts at the SMART START orientation for new ACCESS students. I've also had several meetings with other Disability Officers across Sydney and we've got some great events in the works including a picnic with members of our collectives. During O-Week the amazingly talented people from Wheelchair Sports NSW will

be running wheelchair basketball in the Roundhouse, so you can all have a taste of what it's like to be a wheelchair athlete. There will be blindfolded jelly eating challenges happening too – can you think of many foods trickier to eat on a warm day while wearing a blindfold than jelly? (Dis)ability Collective meetings will be on Thursdays at 2pm in the Disability and Welfare Space in the Blockhouse, and it would be great to see some new faces!



PGC Report

Welcome to UNSW!

Or Welcome back for those returning in 2014.

The Postgraduate Council is your avenue on campus to advocate for better services, access legal and welfare services at Arc and participate in great events throughout the year.

Over the past month the PGC has been expanding with nine councillor positions and the exciting new role of Women's Officer. All postgraduates are encouraged to apply and get involved with the PGC. Expressions of interest can be sent to pgc-president@arc.unsw.edu.au.

Over the past month the Postgraduate Council has been involved in ongoing negotiations with the University about how your student services and amenities funding is spent around campus as well as organising great events for the semester ahead.

Keep an eye out for the PGC stall at O-Week with our Vice President Bruno Dampney (b.dampney@arc.unsw.edu.au) or some of our PGC Social Events organised by David Forbes throughout semester (d.forbes@arc.unsw.edu.au).

Our International Officer Mahasa Hosseini has been busy getting in touch with international students to get more internationals involved with the PGC. If you're an international student looking to participate in events or are involved with a society for internationals keen to work with the PGC, feel free to contact m.hosseini@arc.unsw.edu.au.

Our Equity Officer Alex Patton will be helping out in developing University's disability action plan, if you'd like your views heard get in touch at a.patton@arc.unsw.edu.au. PGC has also been involved in setting up UNSW's first official Alcoholic's and Gambling Anonymous meetings, all students and staff are welcome.

Sam Hile, PGC Research Officer will also be continuing on with the 'Featured Researcher' project, where postgraduates can present their research as well as the PGC Supervisor Awards in 2014. Sam and Claudia Crause, PGC's Coursework Officer will also be helping to improve the student experience at UNSW by working closely with the Graduate Research School and Postgraduate Coursework Committee.

If you're keen to keep up with the Postgraduate Council, like our facebook page at [/unswpgc](https://www.facebook.com/unswpgc) or watch this space for monthly reports by our office bearers.

Welcome back for another great year at UNSW from the entire PGC Team!



COFA report

Welcome back!

COFA is still in shake down but looking more and more like home every day. We have shiny new Arc offices full of comfy couches and a Kitchen.

Its another huge year for Student representation at COFA. We are in the midst of forming a new Council and elections will be held in Week 4. We are planning an Info Day in week 2 so watch this space for a date and time if you have more questions or would like to nominate.

The new council will be responsible for improving not only student representation but engagement (such as parties and events) and support in the form of Equity officers to give advice and information about a range of issues affecting student life as well as listening to your concerns and raising them with the appropriate people.

We are offering free Toast on Friday mornings and Smoothies on Tuesday mornings and Arc will be feeding us ever second week for lunch on a Wednesday.

This year COFA Council will be in the office every day so drop by and say hullo. We would love to hear if you have any ideas for the new council or any suggestions on how to improve student life on and off campus.

Kieran, Amy Misha and Laura

SRC Collective Times
Collectives will be held in the Activist Space except where noted.

Monday

1-3pm | Women's collective
Women's room, 1st floor, Blockhouse
4-7pm | Queer Collective
Queerspace (Room 9.21), Level 9, Chemical Sciences Building

Tuesday

10-12pm | Enviro Collective
12:30-1:30pm | Intercultural Collective

Wednesday

1-3pm | Women's Collective
Women's room, 1st floor, Blockhouse

4-7pm | International Collective

Thursday

12-2pm | Education Collective
2-4pm | (Dis)ability & Welfare Collective
Disability & Welfare room, 1st floor, Blockhouse

4-6pm | Queer Collective
Queerspace (Room 9.21), Level 9, Chemical Sciences Building

MARCH 9th, 2004

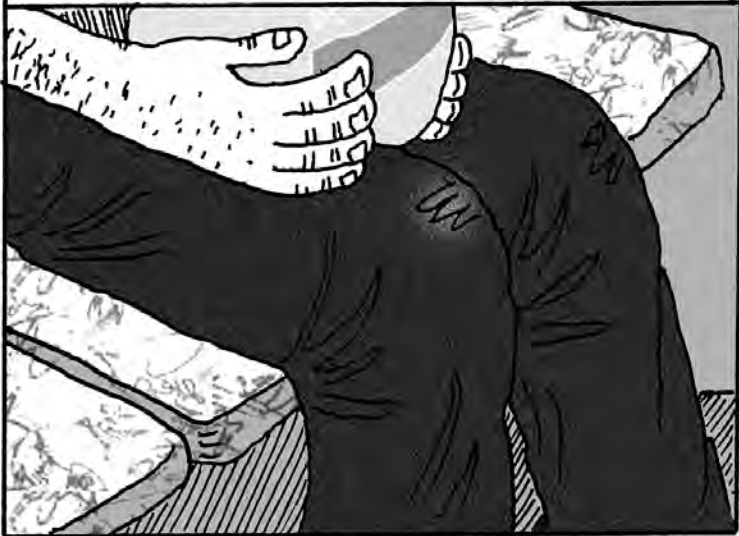
An old guy gets on the bus and sits opposite me.



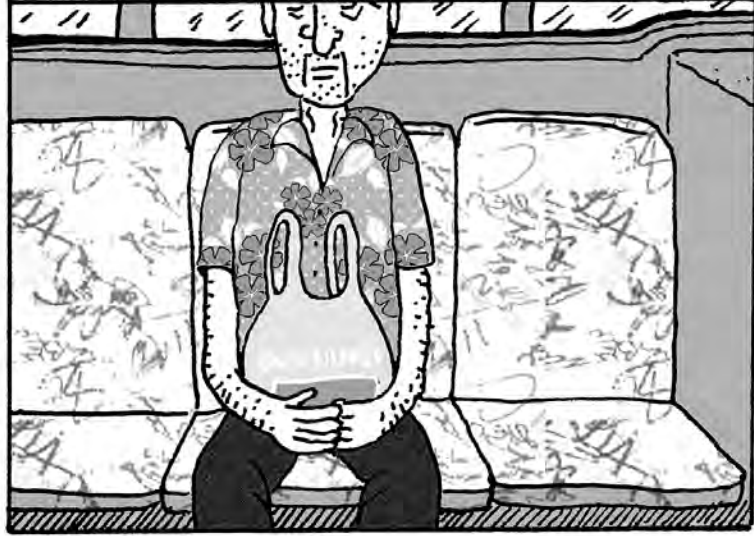
He is unshaven and wears a tacky Hawaiian shirt.



He wears black pants made of some shiny synthetic material.



In his hands he holds a plastic bag from a hardware store.



He depresses me by his similarity to everyone and everything else, myself included.



I feel a mild, general disappointment at humanity.



UNSW Winter Olympics: Meet Callum Watson

Ammy Singh (@ammyed)

In the latest series of UNSW students moonlighting as Olympians, Callum Watson talks to Ammy Singh about the travels and travails of cross country skiing, the Olympic dream, and life as a greenie.

Q: Your parents put you on skis as soon as you could walk. What has it taken for you to get to this level?

A: I can honestly say that making it to this level has been a dream of mine for more than a decade. I have spent the last 5 years so focused on this goal that a day never really passed without me thinking about it at least once. For a dream that long ago seemed so far away to finally become reality is what makes it all feel worth it.

Q: What's the toughest part of cross country skiing?

A: The toughest part of cross country skiing is definitely the aerobic demands and the level of pain you need to put yourself through to achieve good results. It hurts, but if you finish a race and know you haven't pushed yourself to the absolute max, the disappointment is far worse.

Q: The Norwegians are incredibly obsessed with cross country skiing. What's it like over there with the way they approach the sport? Have you ever caught sight of the fabled Norwegian wax buses?

A: Cross Country Skiing is Norway's Number 1 sport. Whenever I am there for training and racing, it shocks me to see just how serious everyone is about it. In the Oslo World Champs 50km, the crowd reached a record 110,000 people and this is by far the most incredible atmosphere I have ever experienced from a crowd. Their budgets are incredible – just one of their 3 waxing trucks are worth upwards of \$6 million dollars. This makes it hard to compete, but I am proud of what we are able to

achieve with the resources we have available.

Q: You currently hold the Australian record for maximum oxygen uptake (VO2 max level). How long until your VO2 max level passes Norwegian legendary cross country skier Bjorn Daehlie's record? Will you be a superhuman then?

A: That's a funny question! But I'd be lying if I said it wasn't a goal of mine. Surprisingly, each year I have continued to see big gains in my VO2 max, so I will definitely see what I can produce in the next few years as I continue to adapt my training to try and get closer to the top of the sport.

Q: Both you and your sister are incredibly talented off the slopes as well. She's a qualified vet and you're studying engineering. What made you pick engineering, and what's the biggest insight that it's given you?

A: Thanks, that's very kind! Well, I chose it because I have a passion for the environment. I have spent so much time training in the bush and National Parks, and feel it is so important to conserve these fragile environments. Problems arise in everyday life, and studying engineering has taught me a lot about good methods to best approach issues.

Q: Getting back to UNSW, you were the cross country male champion at Unigames for the last 3 years. Will you be back in 2014?

A: I will be back for 2014 and love the team atmosphere UNSW has every year at Winter Unigames. I think every year we are becoming more successful as a team and I am very keen to see what we can do this year!

Q: And lastly, a fun question we ask everyone at Tharunka: if you ruled the world, what would be the first major change you'd make?

A: I would make it impossible to destroy any unique environment in the world, no matter how much economic benefit it may have.



Strong play by Aussie Women's Cricket Team: Where's the fanfare?

Araz Eleyasian

The Australian women's cricket team put on an impressive display in the final Twenty20 match against England with another seven-wicket victory. Sharp in the field and dominant with the bat, the Southern Stars were in the driver's seat from the get-go.

Australia won the toss and began with a blistering bowling attack, spearheaded by an incredible four-wicket haul by Rene Farrell.

Despite two miscues in the field, it was a fantastic T20I debut for Nicole Bolton – she seemed to be everywhere and took key catches that dismissed top-order batters, captain Charlotte Edwards and wicket-keeper Sarah Taylor. The catch of the game surely went to the stand-in captain, Meg Lanning, who caught a cracker on the fly with her left hand to dismiss Arran Brindle in the thirteenth over.

Australia's top order then came out swinging during the run chase and easily

rolled onto victory in the nineteenth over.

Australia did well to win four out of the seven matches in the series. They lost on points in the end as England retained the Ashes by a margin of just two (10-8) after having won the lone Test match of the series, hauling in six points as a result.

While the media heavily featured the Australian men's cricket team as they utterly embarrassed the English this summer, the Southern Stars seemed to be almost non-existent in the major press.

Par for the course, though, isn't it with women's sport?

Just recently, the NFL's Super Bowl was won by the Seattle Seahawks. Media outlets praised the team for bringing home the first championship since the Seattle Supersonics' 1979 NBA title.

Funny, considering the Seattle Storm were champions in 2004 and 2010. Oh wait...what team is that? What sport do they play?

Women's basketball – now I see.

Our very own Lauren Jackson, a three-time WNBA MVP, took to Twitter, saying: "We were good enough then and we are

certainly good enough now to be acknowledged. #littlerespectplease."

Despite the WNBA being the most consistent and successful women's professional league in the world, apparently their championship titles don't mean a whole hell of a lot.

An Internet meme posted on Facebook about Ellyse Perry – Player of the Series versus England – had the tagline: "Everyone is so busy watching men [sic] cricket that no one noticed she [Perry] scored 90* on 95 balls with a strike rate of 94.73 and also got the wicket of Sarah Taylor."

Instead of a flurry of comments praising Perry's extraordinary efforts, the page was flooded with posts about how "she's [sic] plays much better when both her hands are on my bat, she really knows how to work the balls" and "must have a really long chain to reach a cricket pitch".

Another stated: "Womens [sic] sport isnt [sic] sport. Lets [sic] be honest." And not to be outdone: "Who's this hot blonde chic [sic]?! Does she take her clothes off on the net [sic] somewhere?!"

This is a two-sport athlete, who at age

of 16 made her international debut for Australia in both cricket and soccer. This is a talented individual who is studying at the University of Sydney while playing in top form for two sports, domestically and internationally.

During a short interview on Channel Nine's Cricket Show prior to the start of the Women's Ashes Series, Australian cricket legend, Michael Slater, made his appreciation of their "talents" well known as the segment cut to modelling shots of Perry and Lanning.

I sometimes wonder if women's sporting teams will ever be afforded the level of respect they deserve. Will these seemingly acceptable displays of sexism ever be fully extinguished? What's the measure of success that female athletes must achieve in order to be acknowledged on the same level as their male peers?

Sadly, it all seems to be insurmountable if unparalleled success by one of our brightest sports stars and two championships for the Storm simply aren't enough to warrant some respect and equal praise.

UNSW Winter Olympics: Meet Taylah O'Neill



Sam Davies

Ah, the Winter Olympics. Putin's triumphant pet project has come under more scrutiny than perhaps any other Games before it. Controversies have largely overshadowed any of the sport, centering on Russian laws forbidding homosexual propaganda and encompassing everything from corrupt officials to the eye-watering \$50 billion budget to the environmental impact of alleged illegal dumping of construction materials by building contractors.

Somewhere amongst this understandable media furor and political unrest, a sporting event will take place. And heading to Sochi will be 19-year-old UNSW student and Sydney-sider, Taylah O'Neill.

Having begun skiing at just two years of age, Taylah now finds herself on the brink of representing Australia at an Olympic Games for the first time. To say she is excited is a grand understatement: "The Olympics is something I have dreamed of all my life, and having it become a reality is insane! I can't wait to get to Sochi and hopefully compete to the best of my ability and do my country proud."

Taylah competes in the moguls skiing event, which, to any who haven't seen it, involves competitors hurtling down a bumpy slope as fast and tidily as possible, with knees working at seemingly unnatural speeds. As if this was not enough, Taylah and her fellow athletes have to negotiate two large jumps in which they perform tricks to impress the judges who then score each skier's run

to find a winner. It's pretty intense, and not for the faint hearted.

Taylah hopes that she can reach the finals and then target a top-10 finish in Sochi. That would be no mean feat given her age and the fact that she has only been competing internationally since 2009. But most of all, Taylah said she hopes, "To just put down runs I am happy with and go out there and do the best I can."

Although she loves to ski, Taylah does not see a long-term career for her in that field. She intends to go into PR when she finishes university. She seems, on the whole, very open-minded about her sport and life in general. This has much to do with the inspiration she finds in her hero, and Australian snowboarding legend, Torah Bright. "She is a great person to look up to, with strong beliefs and values," swooned Taylah.

Bright's own success and her "what will be, will be" outlook has influenced Taylah's own attitude at competition time, and in her wider life. "At the time of my run all that I can do is to compete at the best of my ability and hope that the results are in my favour," said Taylah.

Before leaving Taylah to her preparations for what will be the biggest event in her skiing life, it did not seem right to leave without addressing the issue that has, unfortunately, come to overshadow the entire Games. So what does Taylah think of the laws against homosexual propaganda in Russia? And what does she think about those seeking a boycott of the games?

"I have trained very hard for many years to get to where I am today," she said. "I am going to leave my opinions behind and go out there and do the best that I can". That seems the wisest move. Better leave it at that.

UNSW Winter Olympics: Meet Scott Kneller



Ammy Singh (@ammyed)

Another spotlight on a UNSW Olympic hopeful; Ammy Singh speaks to Scott Kneller about Ski Cross, Sochi and how he got there.

Q: You got to Sochi last night. How is it? We've heard a few horror stories about accommodation, but hopefully it's good?

A: Yeah, actually, it's pretty amazing. It's obviously different to Vancouver. They've built everything from scratch, it's pretty incredible what they've put together and I was here last year so to see the transformation it's quite remarkable. It's a world class event and it's pretty overwhelming and it's good to be here.

Q: You nearly didn't make it there as well with your recent broken back. How was that?

A: It's been an interesting couple of months, but it's good to be here. The last six weeks were heavy. It was just the wings of the vertebrae, they don't serve a great deal of functional purpose. It's just the fact that all the muscles connect to those veins around your back. So it's just really painful and it's quite hard to get everything firing again. Everything just shuts down due to the pain. But I got back to the Australian Institute of Sports and did rehab there for about a month, and they were quite incredible. Just so grateful for their help, all the trainers and doctors. The rehab has been quite remarkable and certainly outdone my expectation for where I am.

Q: What's been the toughest part of your recovery?

A: I haven't had setbacks, I've just been soldiering on and pushing harder every day. So in that regard it's been easy because I have been able to push it really hard every day. I was getting up at six and exercising the entire day until six at night. Just getting everything done, ticking all the boxes.

Q: Take us back to how you go into skiing; what's your story?

A: I grew up in Jindabyne, so I started skiing when I was around 3 years old with both my parents introducing me to the sport. All my friends skied so that's pretty much all we did during the winter months. I raced alpine for a couple of years and then I made the switch to ski cross when I was 18 with the Vancouver Olympics just around the corner.

Q: Ski cross is a relatively new discipline at the Olympics. Does that mean the competition just gets tougher and tougher?

A: Yeah, I think so. I was pretty experienced at the last Olympics. But I think this time round it's just so hotly contended to qualify for these games. You accumulate points over a twelve to fifteen month period. So the amount of

points you needed to qualify was the equivalent to winning a [ski cross] World Cup. There were eighty guys really going for thirty spots so it came down to the wire at the end. So it's definitely a lot more difficult than the last Olympics!

Q: You study engineering and commerce at UNSW six months a year, and train the other six months. How's that going?

A: This year I've deferred just because I've had a rough year with the lead up to the Olympics, but usually I go full time in Semester 1 and then part time in Semester 2, and on occasion I take summer subjects. It's difficult to balance the two, but I enjoy both. I'll be going into my fifth year of engineering next year. I've got two years to finish it, but I'm not too concerned. Uni life is pretty good.

Q: If you ruled the world, what would be the first major change you'd make?

A: I'm not sure what I'd change or how I'd go about it, but it's crazy to come into Russia where there's been so much negative hype about the anti-gay propaganda laws, and there's so much political drama that goes on. It's such a shame that it surrounds a sporting event that promotes healthy living and well-being and world peace. Once the Olympics starts, everyone realises what it's all about and I guess if I'd change anything it'd be bringing everyone back to what it means. It's not about everyone's political interests, it's not about everyone's individual views - it's about the collective and about working together.

Q: What are your thoughts on Belle Brockhoff and the Principle 6 movement?

A: It's such a shame that those laws were brought in, and it's pretty disgraceful. It breaches civil rights and it's quite disgusting. I think it's a nice gesture that Belle and Principle 6 crew have put together. It's making a statement without over-dramatizing it, just them showing their support.

THARUNKA • SPORT

SOCHI SPECIAL



Belle of the Board

Ammy Singh talks snowboarding, coming out of the closet on national television, and “ripping on Putin’s ass” with Belle Brockhoff, Australia’s only openly gay Winter Olympian in Sochi.

Ammy Singh (@ammyed)

Mention you’ve never seen snow to Olympian Belle Brockhoff as she wakes up in faraway Europe, and she’ll take her laptop over to her window to show you the snow-dusted surrounds of a quaint Austrian town herself.

Perhaps the most instantly recognisable member of Australia’s 56-person Winter Olympics team in Sochi, alongside 2010 gold medallist and human ray of sunshine Torah Bright, snowboarder Brockhoff is also one of the most instantly likeable. She volunteers information attentively and honestly.

“My mum came to every single race of mine until the age of 18. And she had a hard time letting go,” Brockhoff laughs. “I came out to my mum when I was 18, and to one of my best friends when I was 12. My dad literally found out through the interview I did on national TV coming out to world,” she says, referring to a 2013 interview with the ABC which went viral and saw the 21-year-old rocketed into the international spotlight.

One of the youngest – “and least experienced,” she adds – snowboarders competing in the Olympics, Brockhoff’s path to qualification came via an unexpected bronze medal at the Snowboard Cross World Cup in Montafon, Austria in 2012, an experience she counts as the best of her career to date.

“I’ve been training for over a decade, and emotionally, it’s been quite rough. There have been so many times where I wanted to quit but kept going, and so many athletes go through that. It is a challenge. It’s basically your

whole life dedicated to that one sport”. She trails off, seemingly lost in her own thoughts for a moment, before jolting back to reality with a laugh. “Now I’m just thinking about the day I retire. It’s going to be so weird.”

Luckily, Brockhoff has hopes to compete in another four Winter Olympics before that day comes, and will be joined by her mother and sister in Sochi for support. Her father will be staying behind in Australia to protest the Winter Olympics – but not for the expected reasons. There’s trouble in snow sports administration paradise, and he’s protesting internal politicking, but Brockhoff can’t say much more besides a brief expression of frustration at bungling sports administrators.

In that case, speaking of—“Politics?” she pre-empts, with a laugh.

Yes, speaking of politics. Is she afraid of any backlash from the Putin administration for her public opposition to Russia’s anti-gay propaganda laws?

“No,” Brockhoff says. She is an ambassador for Athlete Ally, a non-profit organisation that raises awareness about homophobia in sports, and a member of the Principle 6 Campaign inspired by Principle Six of the Olympic Charter, which states that “any form of discrimination with regard to a country or person on grounds of race, religion, politics, gender or otherwise is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic Movement”.

Brockhoff elaborates. “Principle 6 isn’t gay propaganda against the Russian government. It’s directed towards the IOC [International Olympic Committee]. I read something really interesting which argued that when an Olympic Games is held in a country – Russia, for example – that soil is no longer Russian soil; it’s Olympic soil. So it belongs to the whole world, not Russia.”

Widely known as the Olympian who jokingly promised to “rip on Putin’s ass” in response to Russia’s anti-gay propaganda laws, Brockhoff has also been Australia’s most vocal athlete criticising the policy – to a point.

“My stance has been changing, just a little bit. At first, I was quite sensitive about the issue and started making assumptions that Putin’s the worst person in the world. But now it’s like he might not be a bad bloke,” she jokes. “I can’t tell him to change these laws, but I’m hoping to use the Olympic platform to voice my opinion. And when I say hoping, I mean that if I don’t get a gold medal, no one’s going to care about my opinion ... The chances of more people listening is if I win a gold.”

Despite her protestations, it’s difficult not to feel that she isn’t giving herself enough credit. Already, Brockhoff has become synonymous with the Principle 6 movement in Sochi, and she readily admits to regularly being posed questions on Russia’s draconian laws by media outlets around the globe. Brockhoff eventually cedes that she’s “become somewhat of an icon in the LGBT community”.

“I won’t be getting into any sort of protest during the Games. At most, I might wear the Principle 6 gear if I don’t have any obligations with the Australian team uniform, or I’ll hold up six fingers after a race,” she says.

“I know Russia’s already come a long way already, but what I want to point out to everyone is what’s being done with the LGBT community being abused and tortured to death. There are a lot of things that are being swept under the carpet. Police are trying to cover up protesters; they’re ripping flags off them and chucking them in prison for a day. All these young gay people are committing suicide because they have no one to turn to. And that’s what this law does: it’s preventing young Russians from reaching out for support during their self-discovery while growing up.”

Brockhoff displays a maturity about the issue that she acknowledges is borne of a personal investment in it. “I’m protective of the LGBT community, and I know what it’s like to be discriminated against. I do have a big past of bullying, physically and emotionally, but that wasn’t because of my sexuality.”

She’s come to expect the usual questions in interviews, she volunteers suddenly – questions about her sexuality, whether she has a partner, and the Principle 6 campaign. Her responses have become rote and rehearsed.

Not this time, however, Brockhoff admits. “You caught me off guard. They’re all pretty bloody unique questions,” she laughs.

“I’m a really chilled out person. I don’t even know what day I’m competing for the Games. I’m just gonna rock up when it’s competition day, and say ‘okay, let’s go,’” Brockhoff says with a laugh. “And then I’ll see how it goes.”

For the record, it was on February 16, she placed eighth overall after being knocked off the track by a Canadian snowboarder, and gave a magnanimous interview to the waiting cameras right after.



Image credit: Getty Images