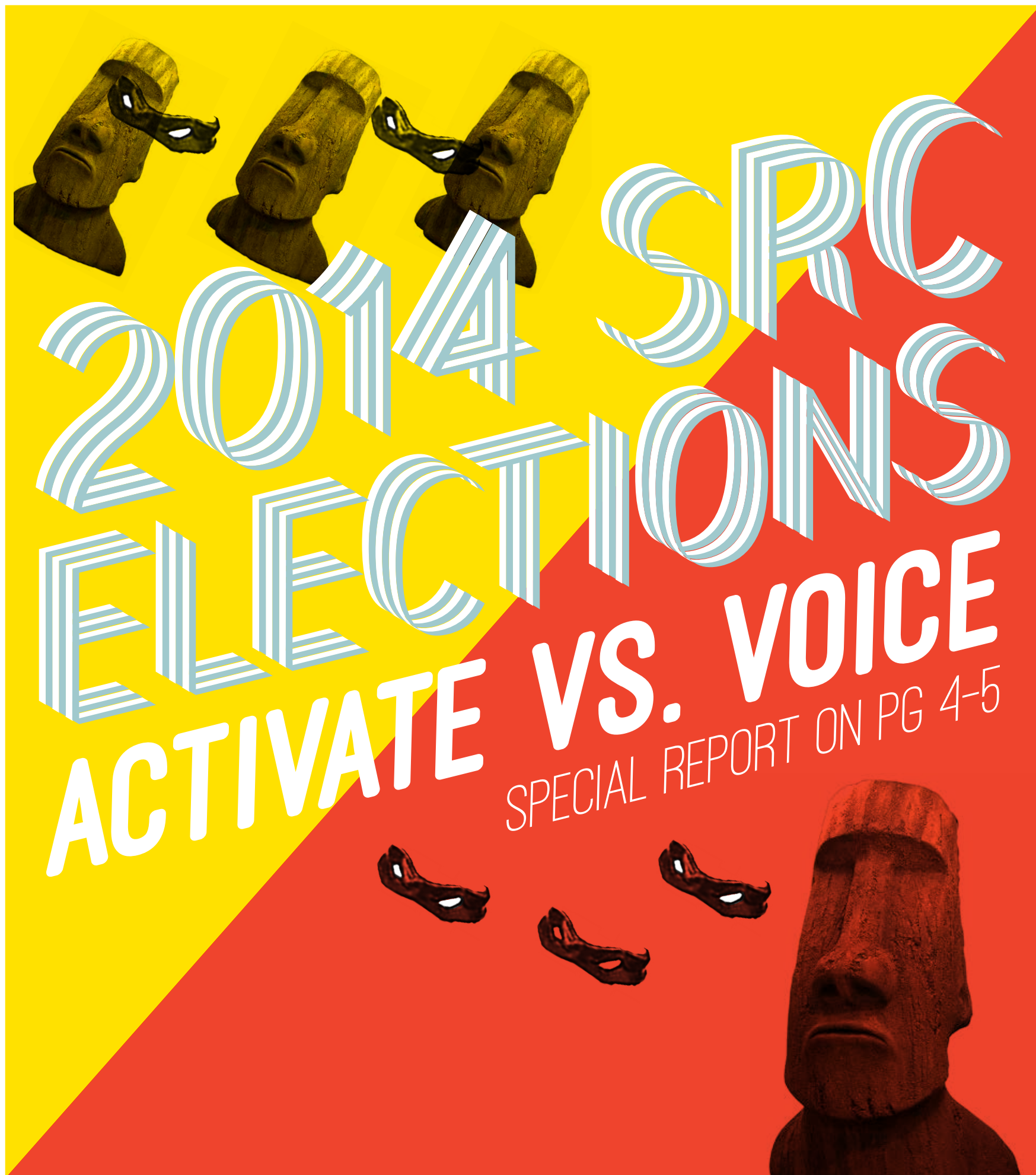


THARUNKA

University of NSW's Independent Student Newspaper



Editor's Letter

Hi Folks,

It's second semester hump time. Those weeks during week 5-6 where all the work you haven't started yet catches up to you. Where your best intentions to do better this time fail you. And man - do I feel you.

This fortnight my wheels well and truly fell off - and if it wasn't for the other excellent souls working at Tharunka you most probably wouldn't be reading this.

Luckily, you have an issue jam packed full of goodness - because somehow there are a few brilliant people who seem to be coping with the stresses and desire to "have it all" as a young twenty-something.

That's right - they are great writers AND they know what 5-7pm on a Wednesday is for.

Nick Timms is surely in trouble for reporting nice things about another University, Matt Bugden delves in the politics of MH17 and Thom Mitchell warns that Team Australia might not be something you want to be picked for first.

On a final note - second semester means one thing. Student elections. Brace yourselves, the coloured shirts are coming. We've provided a handy wrap up of the negotiations in the Short List election special, so make sure to give it a read.

My hot tip? Don't be a dick come campaign time.

These people genuinely put in bulk hours throughout the year because they actually give a shit about making something of their time at uni. Nobody likes handing out fliers, and these guys are no exception. It really isn't that hard to smile, walk with them for a while and thank them for their time.

Or just don't swear at them

kthnxbye,

Freya, with Ammy.



Agony Ibis

Dear Agony Ibis,

Since cigarette prices have increased and UNSW campus has gone smoke-free, I've decided to cut the cord and give up smoking. This is no mean feat, seeing as I've been smoking for the better part of five years and am pretty sure that 80% of my coolness comes from the buggers but when all is said and done, I know it's time to grow up and stub out. I've been trying to quit for about a month now and have one issue, apart from all the withdrawal symptoms and grumpiness, and it's that I need a new vice! Something to calm the nerves and keep the other hand busy while I scroll through Facebook - what can you suggest?

Sincerely,

Burnt Out

Dear Burnt Out,

First off, congratulations on deciding to quit! Having already worked at it for a month, I can tell you now that it only gets easier. If you ever doubt the decision, just remember all the perks of not smoking: the lack of lingering, stale smoke smell that has been keeping potential tutorial-buddies at bay, how much better The Whitehouse's offerings will taste, the ease with which you'll climb the Basser steps, the list goes on!

Now, to replace that vice. Here are some suggestions:

Chew gum. No, go further than that! Become that person that ALWAYS has gum! When some old school tutor asks you if you have enough for the rest of the class, shout YES and throw spear-minty freshness at your classmates.

For every three cigarettes you don't smoke, buy yourself a cup of coffee - it'll cost the same, plus you'll be wide awake.

Instead of just scrolling through Facebook, engage with Facebook. When you want a cigarette, take a selfie instead. As you get less and less grumpy through the quitting period, you'll look happier and happier, garnering more and more likes. At the end of the journey, turn the selfies into a time lapse video. Put it on YouTube, go viral, ???, \$\$\$!

Every time you crave a cigarette, just shove a copy of Tharunka into a stranger's hands. This will keep your hands busy and... more strangers will be reading Tharunka. We're all winners.

Sincerely,

Agony Ibis

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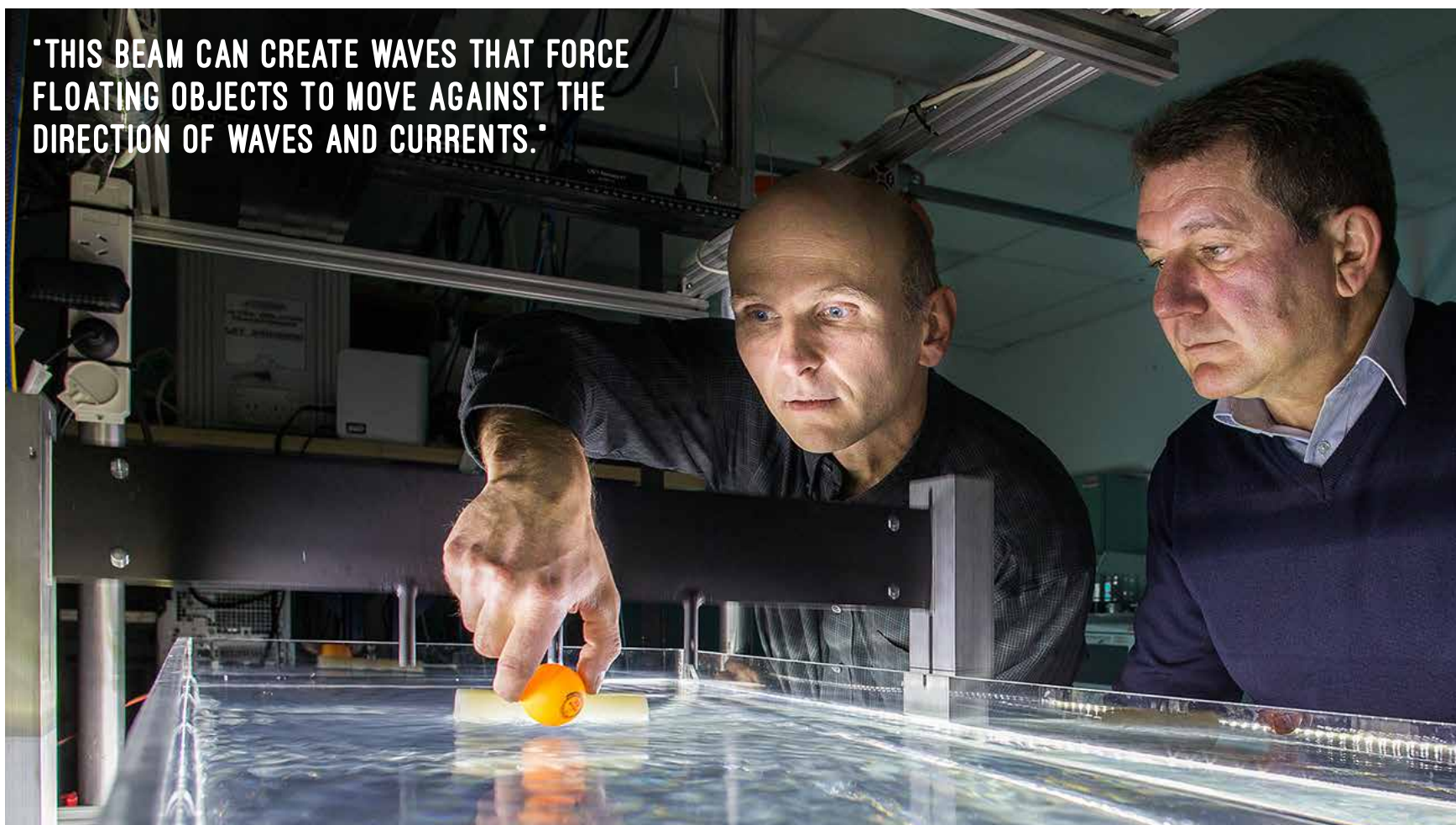
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'THIS BEAM CAN CREATE WAVES THAT FORCE FLOATING OBJECTS TO MOVE AGAINST THE DIRECTION OF WAVES AND CURRENTS.'

ANU discovery could mean cleaner solution to oil spills

By Nick Timms

A new method of generating waves, developed by scientists at the Australian National University, could mean a more effective way to clean up oil spills in the future.

In a radical new technique, led by Dr Horst Punzmann from the Research School of Physics and Engineering, scientists have created a tractor beam on water. This beam can create waves that force floating objects to move against the direction of waves and currents.

Like a tractor beam from a B-grade science fiction movie, the new technique gives scientists a way of controlling things that are adrift in water from afar. Using advanced particle tracking tools, the team realised that waves generate currents on the surface of the water.

"We found that above a certain height, these complex three-dimensional waves generate flow patterns on the surface of the water," says Professor Michael Shats, one of the leading scientists on the team.

"The tractor beam is just one of the patterns; they can be inward flows, outward flows or vortices."

"If you increase the wave height, and amplitude... and in these conditions, when you put an object on the surface, the flow that is generated by those waves goes in the opposite direction of the object that is floating on the surface," Dr Punzmann says.

"We can now generate a variety of different flow patterns."

While the experiments were undertaken on a ping pong ball in a wave tank, the results of the experiment could be great news for the future of the ocean environment. Oil spills, according to Dr Punzmann, could po-

tentially be contained and easily cleaned up using the tractor beam.

"So if you know how to generate flow on the surface of a fluid, you can...stop the spread of that fluid, or you can push particles in another direction," Dr Punzmann says.

"If you have an oil spill for example, if you picture that [the] oil is floating on the surface, and you can push it in a certain direction, you can actually collect it at a certain point. If you can effectively generate surface flows, you can also clean it up."

Oil spills, when they happen, are a devastating phenomenon that wreaks havoc on the marine environment. According to a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) report, 14 species surveyed four years after the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico are still suffering the effects of the pollution.

"The science is telling us that the impacts of this are far from over," says Doug Inkley, a senior scientist at the NWF (ABC, 4/9).

"Based on other oil spills, the impacts are likely to last for years, if not decades."

Though not as big a scale as the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, oil spills are still a frequent and highly damaging occurrence. Reuters reported in August that an oil pipeline spill in the northern Mexican state of Nuevo Leon has contaminated a river and will take months to clean up.

Oil spills can also cause a great deal of harm to more than just the local fauna. In 2009, the Montana oil platform off the coast of Western Australia is spilling millions of litres of oil at the estimated rate of 400 - 2000 barrels a day. Five years on from that, Greg Phelps, a Darwin-based lawyer, called for a full-scale scientific in-

vestigation after villagers from East Timor approached him with sores and rashes that began appearing after the oil spill, according to the ABC.

"We saw people who had skin conditions come from out of the crowd to show us the rashes on their arms and on their neck. Other people reported deaths in that village," he told the ABC.

The disastrous effects of oil spills in the ocean are not cleaned up easily, and a new method to contain the oil could save the lives of people and animals. Though Dr Punzmann does believe in the potential of this new technique for cleaning up oil spills, its mainstream use is still a while away.

"This is just the first proof of principle; the discovery of this physical nature. But to really demonstrate that, we would need to experiment in a large open water or pool environment. So we will need to scale up our experiment," he says.

"We would need a much larger wavelength, height of waves, and stronger flows. Here in Canberra we don't have an ocean gravity wave facility. We will need to collaborate with gravity wave facilities. There's one in Tasmania, there's plenty of them around the world, and to try to do this, we will need special equipment to bring to those ocean gravity wave facilities."

Dr Punzmann also believes that the beam can have much wider scientific impacts in addition to its possible assistance with cleaning up oil spills. It could help explain many things about the nature of the ocean, such as how rips at the beach work.

"Flow generation is of fundamental importance in many aspects of science," he says.

Image: Dr Horst Punzmann (left) and Professor Michael Shats test their wave-generated tractor beam. Photo by Stuart Hay.

Short List

THE 2014 SRC ELECTION EDITION

2014 ARC SRC SCHEDULE OF NOMINATIONS

POSITION	TICKET	CANDIDATE	
		Surname	Given
President of the SRC	Voice	Sieczko	Maja
President of the SRC	Activate	Bruffey	Billy
General Secretary	Activate	Johnston	Sophie
General Secretary	Voice	Watkins	Georgia
Education Officer	Voice	Lloyd	Dylan
Education Officer	Activate	Egan	Cara
Women's Officer	Voice	El Sayed	Cindy
Women's Officer	Activate	McCrea-Steele	Eloise
International Students' Officer	Voice	Lee	Austin
International Students' Officer	Activate	Zhu	Yifei
Environment Officer	Activate	Sherwood	Beatrice
Environment Officer	Voice	Knight	Kalina
Students With Disabilities Officer		Lobo	Rachel
Welfare Officer	Voice	Hatfield	Rebekah
Welfare Officer	Activate	Armson-Graham	Siobhan
Ethnic Affairs Officer	Voice	De Silva	Sonala
Ethnic Affairs Officer	Activate	Murdocca	Michael
Councillor - Undergraduate A	Voice	Lowth	Aaron
Councillor - Undergraduate A	Voice	Ferrier	Charlotte
Councillor - Undergraduate A	Voice	D'Souza	Sabella
Councillor - Undergraduate A	Voice	Briggs	Owen
Councillor - Undergraduate A	Voice	Beale	Josh
Councillor - Undergraduate A	Voice	Subramaniam	Nandan
Councillor - Undergraduate A	Activate	Zhou	Tina
Councillor - Undergraduate A	Activate	Bartolo	Edward
Councillor - Undergraduate A	Activate	Daly	Jordan
Councillor - Undergraduate A	Activate	Jovanovska	Katerina
Councillor - Undergraduate A	Activate	Aharon	Yaakov
Councillor - Undergraduate A	Activate	Wilson	Nick
Councillor - Undergraduate B	Voice	Dawkins	Rebecca
Councillor - Undergraduate B	Voice	Capell-Hattam	Isabelle
Councillor - Undergraduate B	Voice	Kang	Yilin
Councillor - Undergraduate B	Voice	Roy	Anju
Councillor - Undergraduate B	Voice	Kaur	Harleen
Councillor - Undergraduate B	Voice	Eek	Wilhelm
Councillor - Undergraduate B	Activate	Drake	Hamish
Councillor - Undergraduate B	Activate	Saadi	Amna
Councillor - Undergraduate B	Activate	Basu	Ashna
Councillor - Undergraduate B	Activate	Donaldson	Emma
Councillor - Undergraduate B	Activate	Zhang	Colin
Councillor - Undergraduate B	Activate	Wilkinson	Adam
Tharunka Editors	Voice	Fernandes	Sarah
Tharunka Editors	Voice	Giannoulis	Tina
Tharunka Editors	Voice	Prasad	Laksha
Tharunka Editors	Activate	Byron	Brendan
Tharunka Editors	Activate	Hirst	Ned
Tharunka Editors	Activate	Wallace	Lauren
NUS Delegates	Voice	Sieczko	Maja
NUS Delegates	Voice	Lawrence	Gabriel
NUS Delegates	Voice	Fowler	Anna
NUS Delegates	Voice	Brownlie	Gene
NUS Delegates	Voice	Walsh	Hayden
NUS Delegates	Voice	Lloyd	Dylan
NUS Delegates	Voice	Lowth	Aaron
NUS Delegates	Activate	Lisinska	Olga
NUS Delegates	Activate	Silk	Andrew
NUS Delegates	Activate	Glud	Jake
NUS Delegates	Activate	Johnston	Sophie
NUS Delegates	Activate	Cama	Bridget
NUS Delegates	Activate	Armson-Graham	Siobhan
NUS Delegates	Activate	Wilson	Mitch
NUS Delegates		Egan	Cara

The year 2014 promises to be a momentous one for Student Representative Council (SRC) elections on campus. Dominated though they are by small campus political and activist groupings, at least a few thousand students vote every year in an election which grants its victors control of almost \$300,000 in student funds for the purpose of running the SRC.

Every UNSW student contributes to the salaries and expenses of SRC Office Bearers and National Union of Students (NUS) delegates through the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF), often by slogging through multiple retail or hospitality jobs while studying full time. Every UNSW student is affected by the quality of the SRC that is elected, with each Council possessing the ability to make a tangible difference to student advocacy, education quality, welfare, safety, environmental practices, university life outside of the classroom, and inclusivity of women, people of colour, queer students, and students with disabilities.

In short, these elections matter. UNSW students have a right to set a high standard for anyone seeking to take a neat pay packet of student money without proving their credentials first. For those who choose to vote in this year's election, we have one piece of advice: engage in the democratic process. Grill the candidates on the campaign trail, compare the differences in policies and achievements, and perhaps most importantly, assess the commitment of candidates to getting the job done.

This year's SRC nominations have seen a seismic shift in traditional alliances, guaranteeing one outcome: this will be a tightly contested and hard fought election. Within this broader battle, each vote will carry great power. If there's one thing students can easily do to make their university experience as rich and engaging as possible, it's using that very power to shape their SRC.

So when Week 12 rolls around and a flurry of coloured shirts appear on Main Walkway, get out there and vote.

What's in a Voice: the end of an era?

If this year will be remembered for anything pertaining to the ephemeral transactions of student politics at UNSW, it is surely the end of an era of broad left cooperation that was the Voice ticket.

As the incumbent ticket on the SRC for the past 10 years, Voice has for the greater part of this period been comprised of a broad left grouping of independent, Greens and Labor Left candi-

dates fronting up against Labor Right tickets under varying names, including Fresh and more recently Stand Up. Voice has consistently succeeded in these yearly tussles, though not without a scare or two, as in the 2012 SRC election which saw Stand Up run away with 45% of the vote and a dehydrated first year in a panda costume.

Following a tumultuous period of negotiations for the 2014 election, however, the political landscape of UNSW looks markedly different. The Voice ticket, still decked out in red, is now comprised of a loose coalition of progressive Independents, Grassroots (Greens), and Socialist Alternative candidates, the last of whom are present solely on the NUS ticket without seeking to contest any SRC positions.

Notable among this coalition, a number of seasoned activists on the SRC and its collectives have banded to form the organised UNSW Independents, who described themselves to *Tharunka* as "a group of non-politically aligned progressive students who care about fighting for students' rights both on and off campus. Without a political party to answer to, we're able to make students' rights our number one priority. We are here to ensure that issues that affect students are on the agenda, and to push for change that ensures that everybody has access to the highest quality of education and the best university experience possible."

After walking away from a deal with the Independents in favour of Labor Right/Student Unity, Labor Left have taken out the majority of positions on a newly formed Labor Activate ticket. While a popular name for tickets in student elections around the country, Activate is particularly notable for being the SRC ticket National Labor Students (NLS) ran under at the University of Sydney in 2013—a faction UNSW Labor Left Students (LLS) split from earlier in 2013.

Tharunka understands that the possibility of gaining a greater number of positions in the deal proposed by Unity was the determining factor in the Left's decision to split from the traditional broad left Voice arrangement.

Activate Presidential candidate and UNSW Labor Left Students convenor, Billy Bruffey, told *Tharunka* that Labor Left had signed with Labor Right because "our group realised that our candidates were better suited running on a different ticket, in which our members could make the best contribution that suited our ideology and vision for UNSW. We were unable to reach agreement with other groups about the best candidates and the best agreement to suit all parties."

A statement from the UNSW Independents, conveyed by Voice Presi-

WHAT'S IN A VOICE?

dential candidate, Maja Sieczko, said, “the UNSW Independents came to the conclusion that our ideologies were no longer compatible with those of the Labor groups present on campus. Students’ equity and education was no longer an agenda point for them and we were unable to reach agreement over candidates. Labor Left Students were more interested in activating their careers over fighting for the wellbeing of students and ensuring a diversity of people were representing the voices of students on our campus.”

The fouling of relations within the UNSW broad left draws to a close a period of unprecedented successful cooperation between left groups in campus elections, with the effects of this split and renewed Labor coalition likely to be far-reaching. The outcome of the SRC election will undeniably shift the balance of power on Arc Board, though whether this shift is towards Labor or non-politically aligned candidates remains to be seen.

By way of coda, the last words of Voice heavyweights following victory in the 2013 SRC election pertained to the almost mythical, omnipotent status the Voice ticket had gained in its supporters’ eyes.

Said one Voice veteran, “I’ve come to realise UNSW is something else in its politics. USyd and UTS are all about the ladder climbers and the staffer-hacks. What we’ve got here is something far better for the common good of students. There’s a reason we always do so well. Everyone can feel good knowing this; that we’re cut from a very different cloth. Congrats to all.”

Following protestations as to the virtues of “comrades on other campuses”, leaders of the team—from Labor Left to the Greens—appeared to settle in agreement with the words of another Voice veteran: “There is an undeniable difference between the way student politics is done at UNSW versus pretty much every other campus in NSW and pretty much every campus in Australia, except maybe Adelaide.

“For about a decade now, our team has managed to unite the different strands of progressive student tendencies into a formidable force that is excellent at campaigning, activism and advocacy. It’s no mean feat to achieve what we have, time and time again. And that’s despite the fact that many members of our ticket are in different political parties and in different factions of those parties.

“The culture of student politics at Sydney Uni, for example, is very different, largely due to some of the personalities involved. Most of the factions have treated the SRC as nothing but a vehicle for their own political ambition – including left factions.

“There have been attempts to convert UNSW to something more like that. We’ve resisted it, and stayed united. That’s helped us be one of the strongest student groups around.

“At UTS this year [2013], there was a lot of solidarity on the Grassroots ticket. Pretty much all the progressive students (minus NLS) in Sydney fought against Unity and NLS and won. At Sydney, the opposite happened; the left fragmented and the Right won.

“It’s not easy to do what we do. It takes a lot of humility and a focus on achieving real change, not just a short term ambition to CV stack.”

And there endeth the grand narrative of broad left unity in Voice. No doubt Student Unity will drink to that.

To borrow from the late, great Aldous Huxley, “that men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons of history.”

Disclaimer: The 2014 editors of Tharunka were elected on the Voice ticket, which was at the time a Labor Left, independents, and Greens grouping. All current editors of Tharunka are not members of any political party.

SRC Students with Disabilities Officer

While much of the election will be

fought on terse grounds, the Students with Disabilities Officer contest has been settled with the close of nominations. Current SRC Ethnocultural Officer, Rachel Lobo, has nominated uncontested for the position, and will serve on the 2015 SRC.

Did you hear about the post-grad elections?

Fear not, because we’ve got you covered. Postgraduate Council elections this year have proven as undramatic as usual, with current PGC Office Bearers Alex Patton and Janai Tabernor nominating uncontested for the positions of President and Vice-President respectively. Both are members of the Labor Party though not formally aligned with student factions on campus, with Tabernor belonging to the Centre Unity/Labor Right faction of the party though not their Student Unity youth counterparts.

Governing Macquarie

Seven Macquarie University postgraduate students elected to represent their peers have been served with instructions to appear at the NSW Supreme Court on September 3, 2014 to defend themselves against Macquarie University. The University is seeking to forcibly wind up the Macquarie University Postgraduate Representative Association (MUPRA), appoint a liquidator, distribute the net assets of MUPRA – which sit at approximately \$500,000 – to Macquarie University, and allow Macquarie University to be awarded costs.

In other, unrelated news, several Vice-Chancellors around the country just pricked their ears up and cried out, “Donna! Fetch me the budget papers.”

Young Libs discover world’s first functioning time machine

In the least surprising news to come out of the Young Liberals since the charming beratement of Germaine Greer for being a “lying fucking cum-guzzling

slut... and a union member”, the NSW Young Liberal Council last month voted down a motion to support same sex marriage. The motion, which was eventually defeated by 79-73 votes, was supported by current NSW Young Liberal President, James Wallace, a member of the moderate faction of the party.

Tharunka understands the meeting was attended by an unprecedented number of members of the hard right, religious wing of the party, nicknamed the ‘Taliban’, who forced the motion to be decided by splitting the room, after an earlier attempt to declare the motion carried after a show of hands was contested.

Goodbye to all that NUS?

Mere months after the results of a \$30,000 audit into an organisational restructure of the National Union of Students (NUS) have rolled in, the organisation looks to have money troubles on their mind again. Tharunka understands NUS President, Deanna Taylor, has been seeking help from insolvency lawyers in Melbourne. Closer to home, the NSW Student Unity caucus has floated the idea of merging NUS with the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA), which is currently faring better in the income flow department.

At times like this, NUS can perhaps only hope to pray to the audit Gods for the invisible hand to brush their problems away.

USyd Senate Style

It seems one of the perks of the job for University of Sydney Senate Fellows is egregious expenditure on boardrooms to supply Fellows with the most lavish of surroundings. At a recent meeting of 27 members at the USyd Senate Retreat, the University is likely to have heaped in the realm of \$2,700 on a booking for a single meeting at the H.C. Coombs Centre. But for such prime real estate a mere two minute walk from the Prime Minister’s Kirribilli residence, how could anyone fault the poor chaps?



Image: Dominique Faget/AFP via Getty Images

THE SARAJEVO MOMENT THAT WASN'T: Understanding MK17

Matthew Bugden

In the aftermath of the Malaysia Airlines 17 (MH17) crash there was a lot of talk about the event being a potential 'Sarajevo moment', referring to the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the event that kicked off WWI.

With preparations already underway to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War, it is tempting to draw parallels between the geopolitical climate of 1914 and of the present.

Cherry-picking historical analogies (the Ukraine as a 'Sarajevo moment', Japan accusing the US of 'appeasing' China) might seem like bad history. Nonetheless, such comparisons have been drawn by senior officials within the US and Japanese governments, and should not be taken lightly.

The prospect of two global wars commencing exactly one hundred years apart has a neatness and elegance that for many would be sufficient in itself to reject such predictions outright.

The concept of geopolitical 'flash-points' are arguably more useful today than they were a century ago. The extreme degree of economic interdependence and the advent of the 'market state' mean that rising tensions in Ukraine, the Middle East, and the East China Sea, can and would have bearing on each other.

Between the currently unfolding Ukraine crisis, the combined naval and air drills now being routinely undertaken by the US, Russia, Japan and China, there is no shortage of potential flash-points for conflict.

The conventional line is that another major war is inconceivable because of the nuclear option and the virtual certainty of mutually-assured destruction—the old Cold War rationale for guaranteed perpetual peace. Moreover, with the unprecedented interconnectedness of global capital markets, war is universally considered more trouble than it's worth.

But despite these conventional arguments in favour of the long peace thesis, MH17 and the 2014 Ukrainian Revolution must be considered symptoms of

a broader, possibly even global conflict unfolding, rather than as unrelated freak occurrences.

For example, it is difficult to deny that the MH17 tragedy has been unashamedly exploited by the US to foment Russophobia, both domestically and throughout Western Europe.

It was only with MH17 that Brussels agreed to impose serious sanctions on Russia, something it had hitherto ruled out, and for good reason: since the tier three 'red alert' capital sanctions were imposed, Russia has placed a "full embargo" on food imports from the West.

The EU is Russia's largest trading partner by far with the EU accounting for 52.3% of all foreign Russian trade in 2008.

The EU is currently negotiating emergency measures to compensate European farmers \$167.5 million for the fruits and vegetables currently in harvest season that will rot due to the embargo.

The EU's motivation in adopting a policy that is inconsistent with its immediate trade interests can only be explained structurally.

On 15 July, the BRICS countries announced plans to establish a joint development bank with an initial equal commitment of \$10 billion.

With this announcement, the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) a plucky new political and economic union that together makes up 40% of the world population, is all but certain to become a major international player.

Talks about establishing a BRICS development bank that would serve a similar function as the World Bank and the IMF in giving emergency loans to countries facing sovereign debt default have been underway for at least two years.

The announcement of a BRICS development bank is the clearest indication yet that BRICS nations are getting ready to make a co-ordinated push to challenge the US dollar and with it the architecture of the financial and monetary system as it has existed since the end of the First World War.

It is the Anglo-American monetary

system that has allowed the US has managed to retain an enormous degree of relative power in the world system even amid structural economic decline.

"This is why the World Bank is so valued by the US government and Wall Street: because it is instrumental to expanding the sphere of western capitalism, a role not dissimilar to that which colonialism once played for Europe", argues Jason Hickel of the London School of Economics.

The Crimean crisis represents a desperate attempt on the part of the US to delay (at least for as long as possible) the maturation of BRICS as a rival international monetary system, kicking the can of good faith negotiation for structural rapprochement further down the road.

It is because of the IMF dictated status quo that the US government has been able to borrow over \$17 Trillion and have such a heavy-handed role in world affairs for so long.

The BRICS bank is set to be headquartered in Shanghai, with China the unofficial leader of the monetary alliance. It is China that the world is looking to now for the next major development in international politics. By agreeing to temporarily maintain the status quo, China has accumulated \$26 trillion, the largest debt level in history. It's debt is estimated to be at 251 per cent of GDP, which is more than Japan's ratio before the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997 and greater than that of the United States before the 2007-8 Global Financial Crisis.

Once a stable BRICS currency is established, backed by significant quantities of reserves, the US fear is that China will allow it's private sector capital instruments to default, which in turn would see the global economy undergo a much awaited, most likely catastrophic, market correction.

Indeed, the Kremlin seems to be anticipating such a correction. The Financial Times reports that an advisor to Putin, when asked about the Yukos ruling, a \$50 billion international court ruling against Russia, said "There is a war coming in Europe. Do you really think this matters?"

Image via Herald Sun, source unknown



The Shifting Borders of Team Australia

by Thom Mitchel

The Coalition is grooming politics in preparation for their counter-terrorism package, and we should all be worried for our civil liberties. Muslims in particular have cause for concern, as the situation in Syria and Iraq produces a climate of fear similar to that which followed 9/11.

"Everyone has got to be on Team Australia," Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on August 25 after meeting with concerned Muslim leaders.

"Everyone has got to put this country, its interests, its values and its people first, and you don't migrate to this country unless you want to join our team," he told 2GB radio.

This rhetoric is characteristic of the national-security debate. It is of the same ilk as the "moderate" prefix which is so often attached to Muslims, as though a large proportion are extremists. It positions Muslim Australians as the objects of terror, and non-Muslims as the subjects. It ignores the fact that citizenship is the prerequisite to being on "Team Australia". It is not through agreeing with the policy the prime minister happens to be spruiking at the time.

If the government's first budget can be taken to represent its values, then Abbott's "Team Australia" is well out of step with a great many citizens, but there's a danger that fear of terrorism could obscure good judgement.

“We have to be very cautious about feeding irrational fears of Islam and Muslims in a way that reifies the message that this group is trying to propagate [about the West],”

The Coalition's second tranche of counter-terrorism laws will make it illegal to travel to designated areas of “terrorist activity” without a “valid reason”. They will reverse the onus of proof, requiring people who've travelled to such areas to prove they are not terrorists. The criteria for the granting of control orders and search warrants for people suspected of supporting terrorism will also be loosened, and ASIO's investigative powers in telecommunications will be bolstered with allowances for the collection of metadata and a weakening of the warrant system.

With the legislation yet to be tabled in parliament, it's too early to make definitive judgements. However, the Abbott government, which prides itself on being a continuation of the Howard years, may well repeat Howard's knee-jerk reaction to 9/11.

By 2011, over 50 new statutes had been passed at the federal level alone, many within a year of the September 11 attacks. As the hysteria surrounding the 9/11 attacks abated, the laws were gradually softened. However, at various times, counter-terrorism legislation has provided for the detention and questioning of Australian citizens *not suspected of any crime* by ASIO for up to a week; the banning of organisations by executive decision; restrictions on freedom of speech through new sedition offences and broader censorship rules; detention without charge or trial for up to 14 days; and warrantless searches of private property by police.

The case of Dr Muhamed Haneef shows how such draconian laws can play out. Haneef was arrested in connection with a failed London bomb plot. He had bought a one-way ticket home to see his sick wife and newborn child. Haneef was held for 12 days before being charged. The charge was unsustainable due to the very weak evidence supporting it and was quickly dropped. However, the immigration minister cancelled his visa – a decision found to be unlawful on review – and Haneef was taken into immigration detention. Haneef suffered guilt by association and was arbitrarily and indefinitely detained. The power transferred to the executive by counter-terrorism laws, and the potential for its abuse became clear.

By way of a more general example, 2002 saw ASIO conducting heavy-handed raids

that resulted in the children of innocent families having guns pointed at them in their homes. The associated media frenzy saw hijab-wearing women being spat on in the streets of Sydney.

In spite of such rashes of political and public tension, the domestic terrorist threat level hasn't changed since 9/11.

Recently, the rise of ISIS has provided visceral examples of terrorist barbarity, recalling and inflaming Australia's fear of terrorism. “Team Australia” must unite against terrorism, Abbott has said. With this in mind, he has ditched the proposed changes to the Racial Discrimination Act, which was deeply unpopular with culturally diverse communities in marginal Liberal seats, because they threatened “national unity”.

Abbott cites ASIO's requests for greater powers to support his counter-terrorism package. His urgency, though, is too late if genuine. ASIO has warned of the domestic threat posed by Australians returning from overseas sectarian conflicts in its last six annual reports. In the 2010/11 report, ASIO noted, “the opening of any new jihadist front could attract would-be combatants,” which is exactly what has happened.

But the response needs to be proportionate; civil liberties are what differentiate liberal democracies from oppressive regimes like the Islamic State.

ISIS has re-focused public attention on terrorism, and media generated by Australians fighting in Syria and Iraq, amplified by the mainstream media, has localised the issue. The image of Sydney man Khaled Sharrouf's young son blithely holding the severed head of a Syrian soldier is perhaps the best example. The idea of a maniac like Khaled Sharrouf returning to a neighbourhood near you is pretty horrifying.

The image “has seared itself into the consciousness”, Abbott said. Politics wants you to look closely at that image, but not too closely, as *The Guardian's* Katharine Murphy points out. Abbott wants “Team Australia” to draw a connection between that image and the imminent counter-terrorism package. “That picture is not actually a symbol, or argument, or a fable. It's a specific moment in time,” Murphy observes. It deserves something more than an emotional reaction devoid of context.

Murphy also points out that it was under this government that Sharrouf left the

country using his brother's passport. No additional powers were necessary to prevent Sharrouf, a convicted terrorist and person of interest, from leaving the country on a fake passport.

Similarly, Abbott's response to the killing of American journalist James Foley was a commitment to “redouble our vigilance” on national security. The killer was a British citizen. “It just goes to show,” Abbott said. “It could happen in countries like Australia.” To be fair, that murder was committed in ISIS-controlled territory. What it goes to show is that Brits or Australians – not just Syrians or Iraqis – are capable of awful, ideologically driven murder, which is hardly news.

Returning jihadists do pose a significant threat, but the actual numbers are tiny. ASIO estimates that there's 60 Australians fighting in the conflicts in the Middle East, and another 100 involved in a network of support. This would represent 0.00033592 per cent of Australia's Muslim population. So while the threat is real, it should be met with a measured and dynamic response. This response should have been debated when ASIO started warning about the threat, not when the political climate was favourable to draconian legislation.

This might prove difficult now that images of kids holding severed heads are reverberating online. Such media output is designed to prevent a thoughtful and proportionate response.

In 2012, I interviewed Marcus O'Donnell; the then co-convenor of journalism at the University of Wollongong went as far as to say that “terrorism is only possible because of the media”, and attacks like 9/11 are “primarily a media event”.

“ISIS is a movement very much driven by – or supported by – foreign fighters, and therefore very much driven by the need to recruit young men around the world to their cause,” Greg Barton of Monash University noted in *The Conversation*.

“We have to be very cautious about feeding irrational fears of Islam and Muslims in a way that reifies the message that this group is trying to propagate [about the West],” he said.

Everyone does need to be on “Team Australia”. The policy response to returning jihadists should not be a knee-jerk reaction, driven by the Liberal's long “war on terror”.



UNSW releases confidential data of law students

By Matthew Baker

From Wednesday, August 20 until the afternoon of Friday, August 22, the confidential information of UNSW Law students was released to public access and was available on online databases such as Google. The error exposed non-financial personal information, which in some instances included phone numbers, email addresses and academic details.

According to an email sent to students in the UNSW Law School, which apologised for any inconvenience that may have resulted, the misconfiguration occurred due to an error in the process of uploading some student forms.

Many law students expressed frustration at the revelation of this error, bemused at how such a fundamental mistake could have been able to occur and remain unfixed for several days.

Katherine Buchan, an undergraduate law student, told Tharunka, "I am shocked that such a serious error has been made and that it was not discovered and remedied sooner."

More concerning for students was the degree and scope of the "misconfiguration" that enabled such personal information to be accessed on public forums.

"Personal details such as my home address, my

email, my mobile phone number, my student number, my complete resume...and my full transcript were made publicly available," Ms Buchan told Tharunka.

As the email sent to law students following the breach notes, a small proportion of that information available online was accessed before the information was able to be removed.

The problem also affected some in the Juris Doctor program, with one student (who asked to remain anonymous) telling Tharunka, "I don't understand how such a simple input error can cause such a massive outbreak [in leaked information]." The student also told Tharunka that he hoped other safeguards would be there in the future to prevent such instances from reoccurring.

UNSW Law has since removed public access to the information and has detailed via email who students should speak to if they have any further inquiries.

Students whose data has been accessed will be contacted via email during the first week in September to notify them of the issue. This email will provide details and information for students to make a formal privacy complaint if they wish to do so.

THOUGHTCATALOG'S SELECTION CRITERIA FOR PUBLICATION

Ritchie Whyte-Mayel

Editor-in-Chief

1. In keeping with the thematic theme thread which links together our "articles" in a sea of creative genius and innovation, make sure each "article" includes redundancy, repetition and at least three mixed metaphors. (Memo: stop writing "articles" in quotation marks as if they weren't real articles).
2. Even if the "article" does not naturally suit the list format, break it.
3. Up however awkwardly.
4. As we are experiencing a relative dearth in articles about individualism, finding yourself and doing what you want regardless of what "they" think, include more. Illustrate this with a photo of an attractive female 20-something running on the beach, not caring what "they" think (albeit in a minutely styled and timed photoshoot).
5. Each "writer" must be a 20-something. (Memo: stop that)
6. Preferably from a white suburban middle-class background.
7. Preferably also with a history in internet activism (see #selfiesfor-cancer and #KONY2012 etc.).
8. Make sure each writer also has behind them some horrific instance of trauma, the pathos from which fuels their abovementioned creative genius. Even if they write things like "11 Selfie Angles Which Make You Look Even Hotter".
9. Make exceedingly that even articles with vaguely evocative or marginally original titles dispel the reader of such illusions upon their reading.
10. Preference "articles" written in second person.
11. Actually, only allow "articles" written in second person.

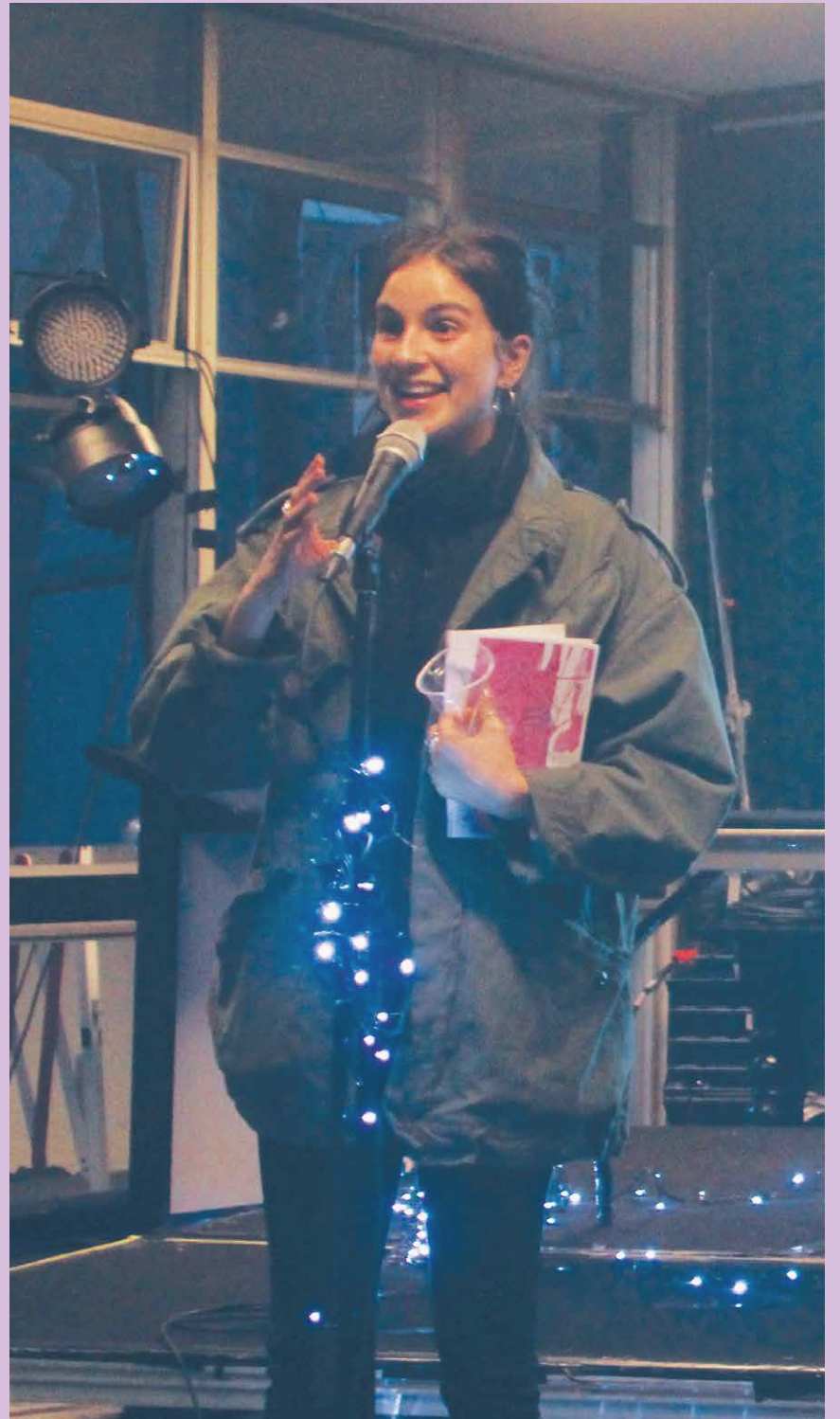
(Memo: Make sure to forward this to the editor at EliteDaily. He will find it useful. Surely it is a "he".)

This goes out to all my editing staff. I love y'all. Stay real.



**ACTUALLY BY
DIVYA VENKATARAMAN**

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~ 2014 ~

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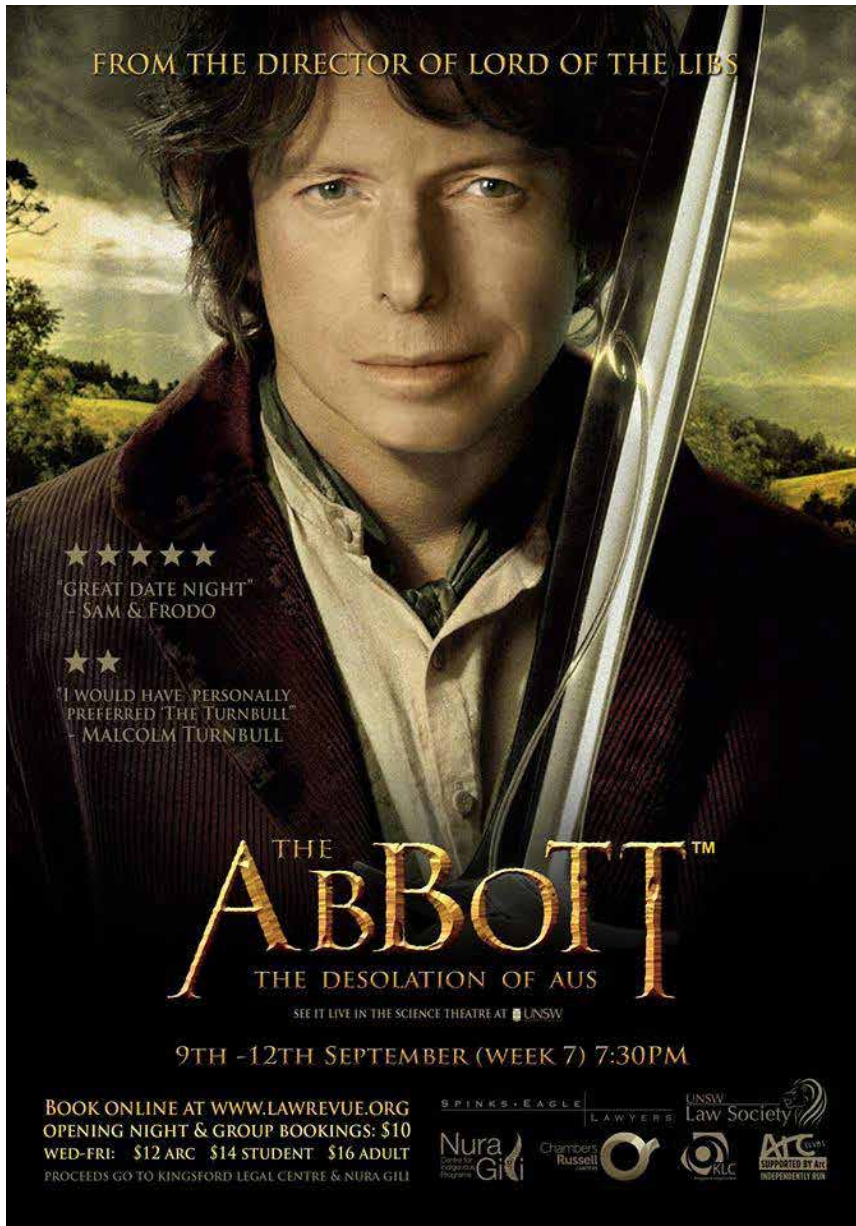
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FUNNYMAN CLINTON CHAN READY TO TACKLE UNI DRAMA'S BIGGEST TASK



Chan credits British comedian and actor Rowan Atkinson as a major source of inspiration. Atkinson's performances in *Mr. Bean* and at Oxford University stand out for Chan ahead of his own gig as frontman of the biggest production on campus.

"When I was a kid I would just walk around the house, go to school and do stupid things like *Mr. Bean*," Chan said, with a grin.

"I would do things and people were just like 'what are you doing?'. In a way, I've always wanted to be that kind of stupid character."

Not taking everyday happenings too seriously is the best kind of humour according to Chan, making comedy a perfect fit.

"I think with comedy it's easier to step into. I've never been a very serious person growing up and my grades kind of say that too," he joked.

No stranger to being on stage, Chan believes that preparation for the Law Revue is among his most difficult dramatic challenges.

In keeping with traditional revue structure, his singing, dancing and acting will all be put to the test across the two-and-a-bit-hour show.

"I have the one main role, I'm in a cappella, the choral group and I also do the opening dance," he said.

"I used to [perform in] a rock band at Newington [College], I did that two or three times, and a musical where I danced a bit as well. But not anything as

big as this," he added.

Chan also played a small role in helping refine the skits, ten of which were written by the cast.

"I would try and reinterpret certain roles and suggest them to the directors...I do get to suggest stuff, but whether they take it up is up to them."

Unlike the Arts or Med Revues which slowly develop over long periods, the Law Revue is pieced together from first auditions to opening night in just two months.

Cast members rehearse between four to five hours per weeknight, and up to 11 - 12 hours on Saturdays.

"The rehearsal process is probably the most fun. Because after all, the performance is only four nights and then you're finished," Chan said.

Nevertheless, the success of the production hinges on the intense work ethic of its cast, most of all Chan, who often finds himself in constant thought about the show.

"It's a weird kind of feeling to be working on it, really, 24 hours a day. It is hard on the mind," he said.

"But...I'm a very energetic person and I've been able to cope with the workload."

He looks forward to putting his hard work into action on opening night.

The 2014 UNSW Law Revue will be showing 9 - 12 September at the Science Theatre.

Cameron Reddin

(@CameronReddin)

One of Australian drama's fastest rising stars, Clinton Chan, is preparing to embrace the spotlight as he leads the 2014 UNSW Law Revue in September.

Just a few sleeps out from opening night, Chan is taking a "no-fuss" attitude to his role, despite the initial surprise of his selection as the main character.

"I've never actually been in a production where I've had a leading role. This is my first real stint as the main guy in the spotlight," Chan said.

Even more impressive is the fact that Chan is a first-year, non-law student leading a cast made up predominantly of

students from the Law faculty.

The directors broke the news to him after he had just finished a weekend of auditioning for a spot as a cast member.

"While they were watching everyone and casting for the skits they were also watching for the main character," Chan said.

"I didn't actually know until they told me, it was gob-smacking."

Chan had kept the secret close to his chest for a while, telling only a few close friends about his achievement.

He laughed at the idea of having his face plastered around campus as advertising roars into gear.

"The character that I'm playing is on the poster and it's only his face...we've all done photoshoots, but they spent extra long with me so my face is on all the posters," he said.

"I'm playing a well-known figure that people will expect to be lampooned."

"I'm playing a well-known figure that people will expect to be lampooned."



Art in the making: Photographer Jared Leibowitz focuses his lens during a gig.

Photograph by Adam Scarf

Young Artist Has Life in Focus

Clinton Chan

His photographic works often picture the piercing-studded singers of alternative bands rather than landscapes or flowers, yet at 18, live music photographer Jared Leibowitz already considers himself an artist.

"I do consider myself an artist, live music isn't really an art form, but I try making it an art form," Jared explains. "I'm still trying to capture the fine human elements of the performer."

Jared started professional photography a little over 12 months ago and has already photographed for international festivals like Soundwave, Bluesfest, Future Music, and Warp Tour, and more. He has also rubbed shoulders with artists like Pharrell Williams, Kendrick Lamar and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, as well as bands such as A Day to Remember, Green Day, and Avenged Sevenfold.

"I've been taking photos from a young age; my dad gave me a camera, well actually, I kind of stole it from him, and then I really just started from there. It's always been within me and I've brought it out as I've grown older," Jared explains.

Jared began photography as a backyard hobby, uploading photos to his blog to express himself and his creativity – worlds away from the mosh pits he works in today. Friends and other photography bloggers came to appreciate his work, and eventually, a friend asked Jared to shoot for an exclusive gig.

"Honestly, I'd never thought about do-

ing band photography so I was like 'yeah sure' and that's how I got started," says Jared.

"Someone saw those photos and asked me along to another gig and it took off from there. People really liked my photography."

Since starting his photography blog, Jared has not only brought his career to new heights, he now respects photography as more than a career – photography is something that he feels an intense emotional connection with.

"Photography is an escape, I just lose myself in it. When I was taking photos at Bluesfest, I just got lost taking photos. It was awesome. Photography is never a chore; it's... self-expression."

This seems like something of a cliché remark from an artist, but it is this dedication that has helped Jared's blog gain widespread popularity and contributed to a fast rise in the industry.

"I can't really describe the feeling I get when I take photos. Pure happiness is the only word to describe it."

Though Jared is not a poet, he is confident that he has enough artistic skill to be able to compose meaningful photographs. Jared also believes that his own ability and portfolio proves photography really is an art form.

"People say 'oh you're just pressing a shutter button', but it's more than that; it's composing the image; it's choosing the right moment. Art isn't just putting a paintbrush to a canvas."

Unlike other forms of photography, Jared knows that live music photography

is highly competitive; multiple cameras will capture the same moments in similar styles, creating a great deal of sub-par photography. For Jared, however, it is not difficult for him to rise above the pack.

"With fine music photography, so many people capture the exact same moment. But art is different. What I do is try to compose the work differently... it's a completely different angle."

According to Jared, photography isn't simply a case of opening the shutter, it's also capturing the moment in a way that expresses the moment's uniqueness and levels of emotion.

"I capture moments, moments that happen in hundredths of a second. I keep the unique memories and I share them."

Jared's latest project, aside from live music, is proof of this. He is using photography to emotionally connect with his Jewish heritage. Through a fine art portrait series on Holocaust survivors, Jared wants to capture the memories of survivors in photography.

"What we have now is the last generation of survivors, they're dying out. More and more people, especially young people, seem to think the Holocaust is propaganda because they don't know [about the history] and because there are few survivors left. So photography is also about keeping the emotions."

Through projects like this, Jared – like any good artist – looks to the future and sees his own photography as a constant learning process.

"I never find something that I have learnt a thousand times over."



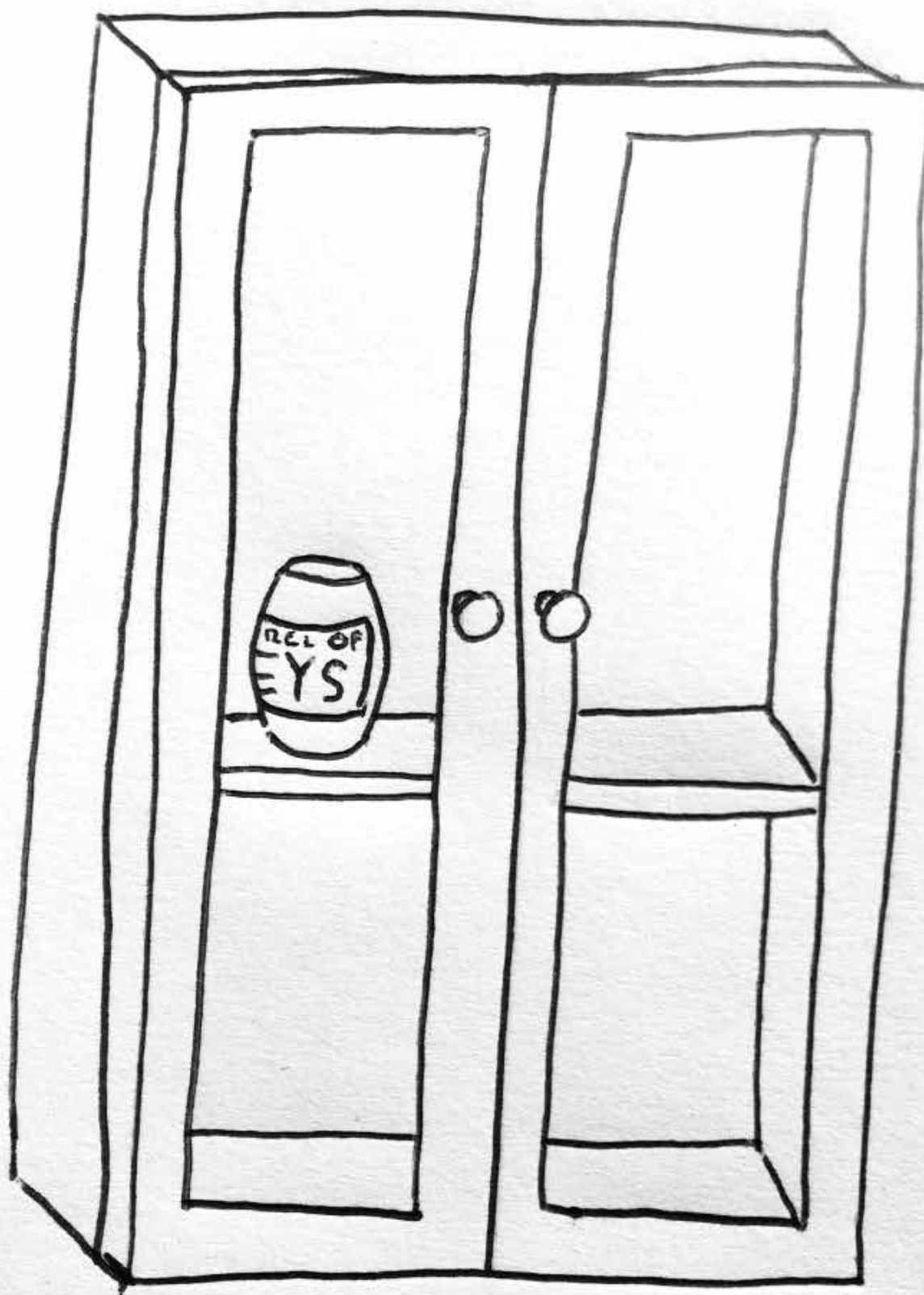
The Hirst Report: The Sydney Morning Herald

The *Sydney Morning Herald's* Mike Carlton resigned after being disciplined by the paper, ostensibly for abusing readers on Twitter. After his opinion piece criticising the military operations of the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) was published, Carlton was the victim of verbal abuse far more than he abused, but from the perspective of the paper, this was irrelevant. How legitimate it is for the paper to discipline him for comments made on his personal Twitter account is an interesting question – certainly the distinction between private and professional lives is becoming increasingly nebulous. Whether the disciplinary action taken was warranted or not, however, was clearly not the most pressing issue under the circumstances. Why is it impossible to criticise the IDF for sending bombs into Gaza, indiscriminately killing innocent civilians, without being forced to endure the kind of extreme attacks Carlton was subjected to? Why does questioning Israeli military tactics make you an anti-Semite? Surely we need to allow this discussion to operate in a more sophisticated way.

The problem is that critics of Israel seem to legitimise these complaints by continuing to raise the issue of religion. The cartoon accompanying Carlton's article, which depicted a hook-nosed Jew seated on a couch with the Star of David engraved, was extremely offensive and unnecessary. The *Sydney Morning Herald* rightly apologised, and in its apology correctly identified the source of the offensiveness: the conflation of statehood and religion. It is impossible to extract Judaism from Israel; Judaism is at the very heart of the country – its *raison d'être*. That doesn't mean that the IDF can be legitimately challenged

on the grounds of its Jewishness – if it is behaving in a way that is unacceptable by international standards, then that has nothing to do with whether it is Jewish or not, indeed nothing to do with whether it is Israeli or not. For this reason, comments like Carlton's expressing surprise that the attacks on Gaza could be carried out by "a people with a proud liberal tradition of scholarship and culture, who hold the Warsaw Ghetto and the six million dead of the Holocaust at the centre of their race memory" are counter-productive. It's the wrong question to ask how these attacks could be committed by Jews; we should be asking how they could be committed by anyone.

It would be folly to absolve Hamas of its crimes, but clearly it does not pose an existential threat to Israel because of the Iron Dome system. As Carlton noted in his column, Israel's response has lacked any proportion. It wasn't a column about siding with Hamas instead of Israel. Rather, he mourned the loss of innocent life in Gaza. If Australian political discourse cannot even have that conversation, then clearly there is a lot of work to do before it, and the rest of the West, can approach the issue of Israel with anything like a level head. Unfortunately, the way the situation has unfolded for Mike Carlton will make other journalists far more reticent to consider the conflict from a Palestinian, or even a neutral, point of view. Even the staunchest defenders of Israel must be forced to concede that this is not an acceptable state of affairs. In a liberal democracy, an argument shouldn't be won by forcing the other side into silence.



TONY ABBOTT'S CABINET.

'LP1' BY FKA TWIG



Album Review by Kyle Redman

Tahliah Barnett's seriously considered image, FKA twigs, has graced the covers of *Dazed*, *I-D* and *The Fader*, featured in viral music videos, and generated considerable internet hype, drawing primarily from her second EP, *EP2*. If you've heard Barnett before, then you know what you're in for with this debut full-length, suitably titled *LP1*. If you haven't, it's futuristic pop stripped back: raw, swelling and rich. Pop is something Tahliah has grown through, starting her career as a backup dancer in music videos for acts such as Jessie J. You get a sense of this on the track "Video Girl", Barnett's least complex point on the album. The chorus rings straightforwardly: "Is she the girl that's from the video? / You lie and you lie and you lie." The real truth is that this is who she is, the person under the album. This isn't the peppiest, instantaneous or fun pop album of the year, but this LP showcases a much more coherent FKA twigs than we've seen in the past.

Sonically, the influences stem from all areas of R&B heritage. You'll feel Beyoncé, The Weeknd and Ciara, while it also significant draws from early trip-hop acts like Portishead and Tricky. Though there are production features throughout the album, twigs claims that nothing was written without her presence. Arca, Devonté Hynes, Clams Casino and Emile Haynie all feature, and you can tell this album hasn't been ruined by a marketing division or a committee. The beats are produced to a nine. They're wondrous, imaginative, quirky and vulnerable. It's apparent that this is a singular vision – intelligent,

accessible, emotive pop music.

Barnett's lyricism isn't top notch. Let's not beat around the bush here. Couplets like "If the flame gets blown out and you shine / I will know that you cannot be mine" come off rough around the edges. Yet, true to any successful, forward-thinking work, there is an anchoring core of convention, and throughout the course of the album, all experimentation will depart from this point. For *LP1*, twigs' flawless vocal melodies are exactly this. Album highlight "Two Weeks" showcases the best of both the album's lyricism and vocal melodies. Abel Tesfaye could only dream of the other-worldly sexual depravity in lines like "Higher than a motherfucker", "I can fuck you better than her". The object of this imperative sentence might as well be us, "Motherfucker, get your mouth open, you know you're mine", her rapt listeners.

The previous two EPs could have indicated that this album would come completely out of left field, a peek into future pop and R&B kingdom. When you first sit down to this album, though, it sounds familiar. Not just because this sonic direction is in vogue, but because everything is emotionally gripping. The strength of this album lies in its duality of familiar and experimental hip hop. Detuned synthesizers swell in and out, and awkward bass grumbles complement sparse percussive rolls. The album is weakened with some okay moments in poor lyrics or sparse tracks, but these are few and far between. FKA twigs has come out with a record far, far ahead. The production is dense, layered and dynamic, yet the whole album comes off gentle, creative and artful. Brilliant.

PALO ALTO

Film Review by Simon Anicich

US film critic David Ehrlich called Gia Coppola's directorial debut *Palo Alto* "one of the best movies ever made about high school life in America". It is a beautifully shot film yes, mesmerising even, and it had been high on my must-see list for 2014. It is painful to say, then, that I respectfully disagree with Ehrlich's review. Coppola is indeed a star on the rise – as a member of one of Hollywood's greatest families, film directing is basically in her blood. However, there are so many ideas running through this film – some of them great, some of them not so much – that it almost implodes into itself, weighed down by ambitions of grandeur and an inability to decide just exactly what message it is trying to get across to its audience.

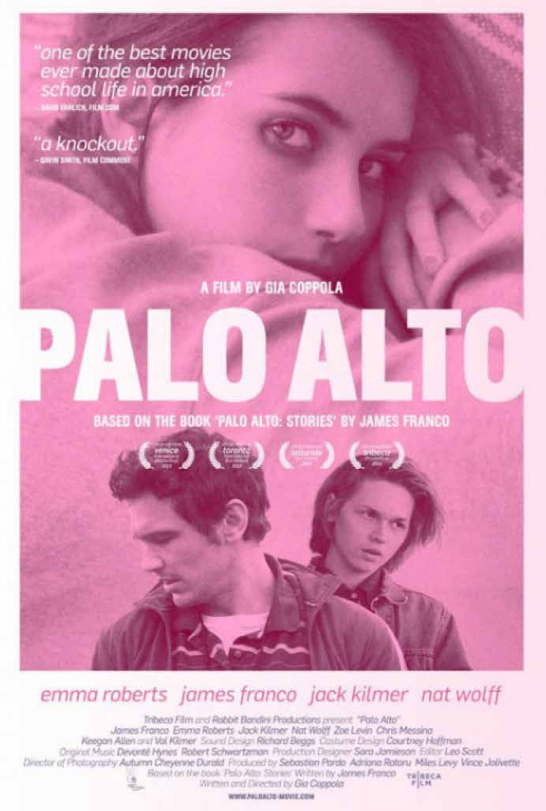
Perhaps the main problem lies with the film's source material, a book of short stories of the same name by actor/director/writer James Franco. The book received mixed reviews upon its release, with Mary McNamara of the *Los Angeles Times* famously writing that Franco's literary debut was "the work of an ambitious young man who clearly loves to read, who has a good eye for detail but who has spent way too much time on style and virtually none on substance".

Sadly, this has translated across to the film adaptation. Largely focusing on the follies of would-be lovers April (Emma Roberts) and Teddy (Jack Kilmer), the

film follows the teens through a series of stuff-ups and will they/won't they moments. Along the way, they are hampered by all the usual roadblocks of a modern teen romance, or so *Palo Alto* would like us to believe. Paedophile soccer coaches, paedophile parents of their best friends, and the destructive personality of said best friend Fred (Nat Wolff) – who in one of the film's most bizarre and offensive moments, seemingly allows his off-screen mates to gang rape his girlfriend (Zoe Levin). But apparently it's okay – everyone keeps reminding the viewer that she is a "slut" anyway, and it's all done over a super cool arty montage that the hipsters will just die for.

What is really disappointing is that there are so many elements that should be working in the film's favour, but for me at least, they just fail to gel. Even a soundtrack by Devonté Hynes, one of my favourite musicians of the last decade (seriously, check him out), just feels stilted and out of place in many of the scenes. Admittedly, the musical score is nothing short of amazing, but every time one of Hynes's songs chimed in, I couldn't help but think it would be much better served as a stand-alone release.

As I stated earlier, this is a beautiful-looking film, and I have great confidence that Gia Coppola will transform herself into a real force to be reckoned with in years to come. Let's just hope that next time she tells a story with an equal measure of style and substance.



THE HUNDRED-FOOT JOURNEY



Film Review by Srestha Mazumder

With a bright burst of colour, a dash of humour and a sprinkle of romance to complete the dish, Lasse Hallstrom brings us *The Hundred-Foot Journey*. A mix of India's bold and intense flavours with France's delicate touch, *The Hundred-Foot Journey* is sure to bring a smile to viewers who are lovers of food and a bit of light entertainment.

The story starts off in the heart of bustling Mumbai, where a young boy is bestowed with an ultimate culinary gift. Following a tragedy in his family, the Kaddams begin travelling Europe, where fate pulls them to a small country town in France called Lumiere. An abandoned estate is for sale, which the family decide to purchase and turn into an Indian restaurant. The run-down estate, however, just happens to be opposite a Michelin Star-winning restaurant. The owner of the fine restaurant, Madame Mallory (Helen Mirren), is known in the small town for her stubborn, witty and

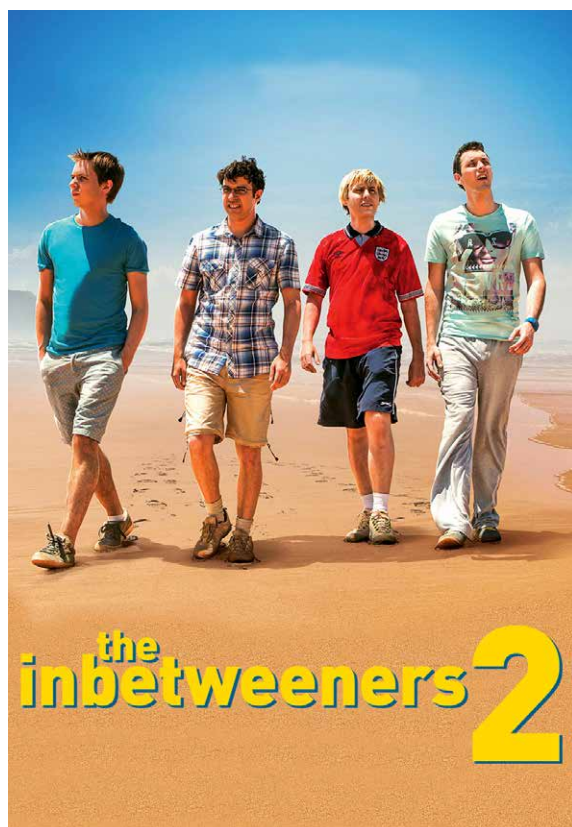
somewhat snobby attitude. Madame Mallory assumes that the "restaurant" will be a fast food joint and descends onto the battlefield, ready to strike out at the Kaddam family. But the determined Papa Kaddam (Om Puri) is nothing less when it comes to playing the game "fair".

The movie mainly revolves around one specific boy, Hassan Kaddam, played by the extremely handsome Manish Dayal. Opposite him is the stunning French actress/model Charlotte Le Bon, who plays the role of Marguerite. Thankfully, both these rather unfamiliar stars captured and projected their roles beautifully. What starts off as a light acquaintance blossoms into something more – there is jealousy, anger and frustration as they both claw to have their name amongst the elite chefs in France.

The film truly does capture the real essence of France. The film discloses another aspect of the culinary nation other than the countless vintage coffee shops with everyone enjoying chocolate croissants. It is no secret that the French aren't as accepting of im-

migrants as other nations, and the film makes a point of that from the beginning. Hassan encounters his fair share of racial slurs and verbal backlashing, but that doesn't stop him from making his mark on Lumiere.

If you're looking for a film filled with plot twists and the unexpected, don't bother with this one. Having read the book, the film does no justice to the amount of depth and grasp the book has on its reader. The film was let down by its predictable nature. On top of that, the weak French accents of some of the actors were distracting. That said, the movie does have its highlights, which shouldn't go unmentioned. The humour within the interplay between the characters wasn't forced, but rather genuinely funny. The film is great if you want to relax for a while and enjoy a bit of light entertainment, but besides the comic dialogue and the beautifully sculpted star cast, it's rather bland. The critics are going crazy over it in the media, mainly because Oprah and Steven Spielberg helped direct what is an internationally best-selling novel. Other than that, the movie is nothing out of the familiar East meets West plot line.



Film review by Jeremy Szal

England's most infamous foursome are back, ready to unleash deliciously dark humour, dirty jokes and hilarious shenanigans on anyone unfortunate enough to cross their paths.

I attended the red carpet event for this film and met all the actors, writers and producers. Other than telling us that Australia was indeed as messed up as they expected, we were told to hold onto our seats for one hell of a good ride. And boy, was it good.

Tired of getting kicked back into the gutter in dreary England, Will, Neil and Simon head down to Australia to join Jay – now known under the prestigious moniker of "DJ Big Penis" – living the dream as he works his way through Australia's entire female population. Of course, this is Jay we're talking about. Anyone familiar with *The Inbetweeners Movie* will know that this is just a big hoax and that Jay is actually living in the garden of his perverted uncle. What follows is a rip-roaring adventure as the four get into the most ridiculous situations, making Australia look like the darkest hell hole on the planet.

The jokes are often witty and fabulously dark, although in some cases it feels genuinely scripted and out of place. Regardless, almost every joke stretches the limit of what and who can be made fun of in the most

absurd way possible – and it's brilliant. No one and nothing is off limits to the scrutiny and piss-taking of the dirty Brits. All political correctness is thrown well and truly out the window and burned alive at the cost of humour, and you can't help but laughing guiltily at the sheer ridiculousness of it. Despite some off-colour scenes that are crude for the sake of shock value, almost every joke is tasteful and executed astoundingly.

Will really has his time to shine in this film, particularly with a campfire scene of cruel humour, and an absolutely side-splitting event at a waterpark. The entire audience was in an uproar at this scene, and I'm not ashamed to say that tears streamed out of my eyes as I gasped for a breath, only to laugh again. I don't know when the last time was that I had such a good laugh at the cinema. Maybe it was during the first *Inbetweeners* film back in 2011.

A fair warning: Those who possess thin skin, or are easily offended, need to avoid this film. It targets nearly every single possible demographic, minority and group for the sake of humour. Nothing is too crude, crass or cruel for these guys. And you know what? I love them for it. Call me whatever you want, but this is comedy at its finest. I'm sick to death of half-arsed, needlessly raunchy American stoner comedies. This film isn't afraid to unleash a tidal wave of pure, British dark humour upon all its viewers.

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SRC President

Joel Wilson

Nominations for the Student Representative Council elections have closed and I would like to thank all the students who have nominated. It is great to see so many students who are passionate about contributing to the student community at UNSW. I'm confident that the next SRC will effectively represent and campaign for student interests within the University, to Government, as well as the community at large. This includes fighting hard to ensure that students get the world-class education promised to them and that they have access to all the support services available.

Now on Tuesday September 9 (Week 7) from 10am-4pm the SRC and Arc are holding a 'Block Party' to let students check out our new offices and spaces! There will be loads of department-specific events for SRC members and also activities to let students know more about the SRC and what we do. There will be games and other interesting events in our spaces and our new rooms so come check them out!

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



General Secretary

Maja Sieczko

The semester is in full swing and we're all getting a little overwhelmed as that pile of readings we've been avoiding keeps growing. In Wweek 7, instead of locking yourself in the library, climb the Basser steps just halfway and join us at the Arc Block Party in our new offices. As assessment period starts looming, remember that Arc and the SRC have a calculator borrowing scheme for all you sleep deprived and forgetful individuals out there. Stay up to date with all of the SRC's campaigns and events by liking

our Facebook page and get involved by coming along to one of our many collectives each week!



Education Officer

Billy Bruffey

The biggest National Day of Action ever was held on August 20, which saw thousands of students march through the Sydney CBD – and UNSW was leading the charge. The Palmer United Party, Labor and the Greens have joined forces to block Abbott and Pyne's assault on students. Without our campaigns, this would not have been possible. Now UNSW students need to unite to force our Council to back away from deregulation, interest rates on HECS-HELP and funding cuts to universities. We are taking a forward step and demanding a better education for all students. To get involved in the campaign, email education@arc.unsw.edu.au, or visit our Facebook page.



Queer Officers

Dylan Lloyd & Cassandra Harris

We hope you enjoyed Queer Tharunka as much as we all loved making it! If you missed our Launch Lunch/didn't pick up a copy, you can find the digital version on the UNSW Queer Collective Facebook page (shameless plugging ftw).

We've been working hard preparing for the Marriage Equality rally on 16 August ('cause the government have such a hard time figuring out how not to be assholes), as well as Queer Week, which is a WHOLE WEEK of queer events, workshops, parties, free food, and networking. Queer Week will be held in Week 6 (1-5 September), and we're still looking out for more workshops and event ideas -- if you wanna help out, send us an email at queer@arc.unsw.edu.au

In other news, the SRC unanimously voted to request UNSW and Arc implement gender-neutral bathrooms on all premises. The Collective has also kick-started a brand new campaign to end

discrimination around bathroom use to complement our successful We All Need to Pee campaign. Send us an email to learn about how to get more involved or to send us through any of your own event/campaign ideas!



Ethno-Cultural Officer

Rachel Lobo

Hey UNSW, we have a big remainder of Semester coming up! On Saturday the 6th of September we have the Women of Colour High Tea from 11AM-2PM! Scrummy food and delightful company! On Tuesday the 9th of September, as a part of Arc's Block Party, the SRC Ethno-cultural Department will be hosting a number of fun and fantastic activities - so come and join the festivities and celebrate the launch of our new autonomous space with the International Students collective! It will also be the first time we run a Critical Race Discussion Group - starting with the basics of 'Race 101 & Privilege'.

Following on from that, in Week 8 the Women of Colour Collective will be hosting a Critical Race Discussion Group on Sexualised Racism during Women's Week. In Week 9, just before the mid-semester break, the launch of our very own Tharunka issue and End Colonial Mentality Campaign (it's finally here!) with the Indigenous Society will be a great lead-in to our series of Anti-Racism Workshops hosted during the break. For more details on the above and Refugee Week check out the autonomous UNSW Intercultural Facebook group, drop by our new space, check the SRC Facebook Page or email r.lobo@arc.unsw.edu.au!



Indigenous Officer

Rebekah Hatfield

This month Indigenous Society members have been working hard to prepare the first ever combined Indigenous and Ethno-cultural Tharunka Edition. Copies of this issue will be out on week 9, so make sure you grab a copy! We've

also been planning some great events such as the Cultural Day trip to the Blue Mountains and student run celebration in honour of Nura Gili having its 10th birthday. There's lots of stuff happening in the next couple of weeks so make sure you get involved and like always we our members meetings every 2nd Thursday at 12pm at Nura Gili. Hope to see you all there!



Environment Officer

Nicholas Gurieff

People around the world are gearing up for real action on climate change. We're taking on vested interests, short-sighted politicians and corporate dinosaurs because collectively we've had enough. We will no longer accept lies and misinformation, we will act with or without help from those in power. That includes our community here at UNSW. If you'd like to be part of the transformation then drop in on our weekly Environment Collective meetings 10am to 12pm on Wednesdays. You can also get in contact and stay informed about our plans by visiting our website at www.srcenviro.org or sending an email to enviro@arc.unsw.edu.au



Women's Officer

Olga Lisinska

So women's week is in week 8 and I don't know about you but I'm excited! Equal Pay Day is on the Tuesday and we've got plenty of gold coins for all of you, so you can see how much you could be getting paid. We're also having a period party on the Wednesday to celebrate everything that is great about periods. There will be tampon piñatas (both in the shape of tampons and with tampons inside them) lots of snacks cakes and such). Everyone is welcome so come along and join us!

The reason we're having a period party is because pads and tampons still have GST charged on them. If you think Tampons and Pads are not a luxury and we need to axe the tax, sign our petition

at our stall on Library Lawn. Or online.



International Officer

Emily Yichen Liu

WELCOME BACK TO THE WHOLE BRAND NEW SEMESTER! This is the first shot of SRC International for Semester 2. We sincerely hope that you all enjoy staying in International Students Collectives in the last term.

What is SRC international?

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.

Our focus is improving international students's concerns in various ways, such as immigration policy changes, language training (i.e. IELTS), career opportunities, accommodation, legal issues (travel concession campaign), on- and off-campus safety, culture integration and so on.

Upcoming exciting events:

Are you guys ready for some of the biggest and most exciting events of the year on campus? The SRC International student office will be holding all sorts of fabulous events throughout the year, which includes an IELTS workshop, International food night market (only in Sem 2), a migration seminar and more! Stay updated with our email, or simply like our Facebook page to get more information.

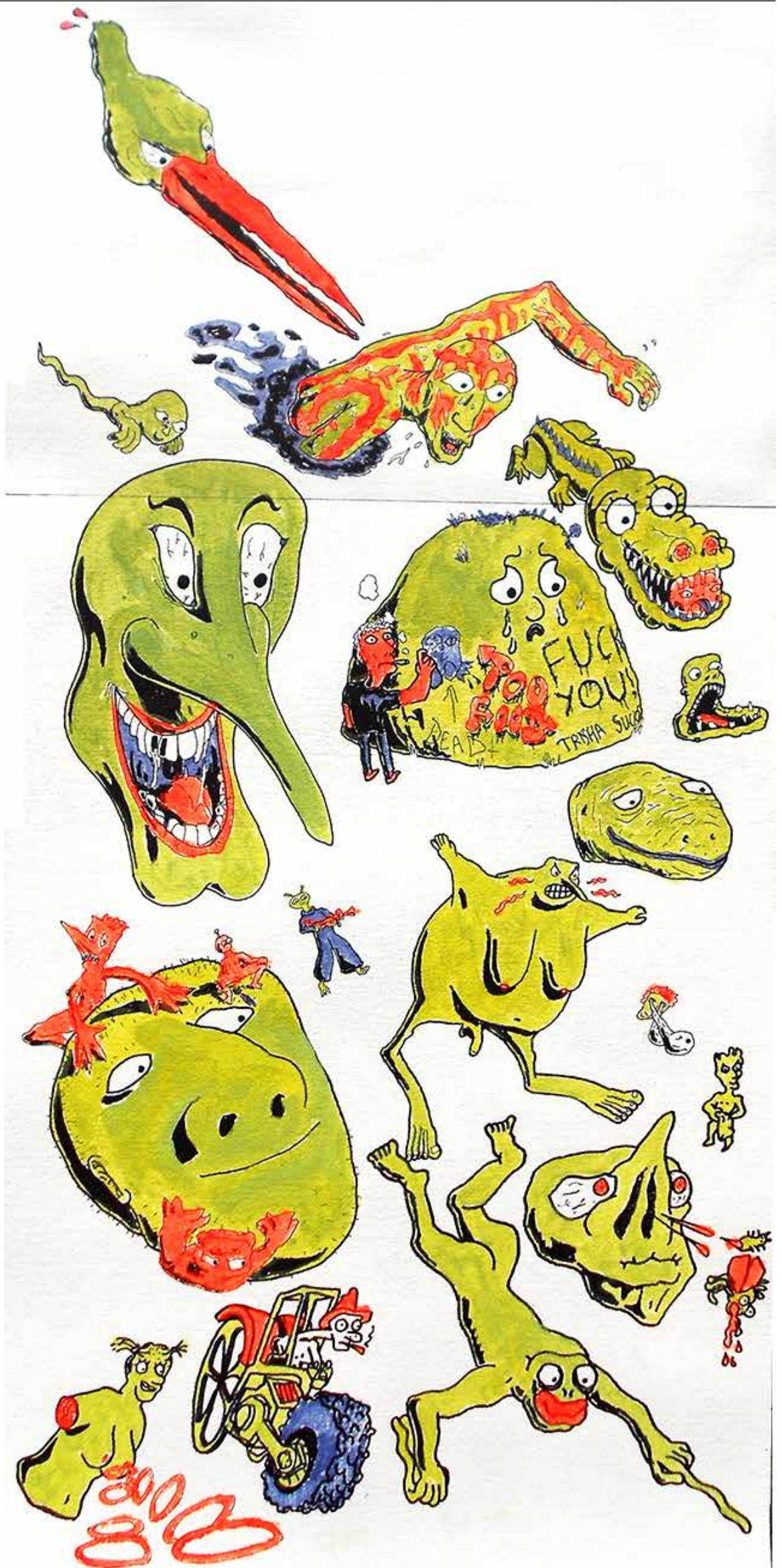
UNSW International Students's Collective - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/unsw.isc/>

If you are also interested in education, environment, women, indigenous students, ethnic affairs and so on, please feel free to check out other SRC departments. Detailed information can be found on the UNSW international student representative's Facebook page- UNSW Student Representative Council - <https://www.facebook.com/unsw.council?fref=ts>

Web page for benefits of Arc - <http://arc.unsw.edu.au/benefits>

How to join the Arc - <https://members.arc.unsw.edu.au/join/>

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events!





Art by Daniel Lethlean Higson



CHAMPIONS AND CHARITY

Leslie Phung

There is much to say about great athletes. They are formidable and relentless warriors on the field, but their stride outside the court is a reflection of their ambassadorship of the sport. Great athletes are not only athletes – they represent their sport. The world in August has demonstrated the underlying reasons for our admiration and reverence for athletes. The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, an attempt to raise awareness for developing a cure for Lou Gehrig's Disease, has sprinted through every social media platform. Newsfeeds have been flooded with celebrities, altruistic citizens and children promoting this philanthropic cause. Every possible ambassador from every sport partook in this challenge, including Michael Jordan, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, LeBron James and even David Beckham.

Of course, their effort with their ambassadorship is just as important as their craft and talent. Tennis shows no signs of slowing down with the US Open officially starting in Flushing Meadows, New York. Novak Djokovic is the top seed, followed by Roger Federer taking the second seed. For the Serb, his victory in Wimbledon has marked another achievement in the history books, but his preparation for the US Open has been questionable at best. Woefully lacking in form, Djokovic suffered early exits in both Toronto and Cincinnati, thus drawing questions on his ability to contend in New York. In a similar vein, ominous signs loom for Nadal, as the Spaniard officially withdrew from the US Open due to a wrist injury. For critics and pundits alike, this is no surprise, given the immense brutality and stress his baseline game involves, coupled with the unfortunate tale of age. Alas, the Spanish juggernaut will suffer a blow to his ranking as he will fail

to defend the title he won last year by defeating Djokovic in four sets. In contrast, fans of the Swiss masterpiece bear promising news as Roger Federer goes into the US Open with a tornado of confidence. He made the finals in Toronto and won the Western and Southern Open title in Cincinnati for a record sixth time. He flies into New York as, arguably, the favourite to lift the US Open trophy, given his recent form.

The women's circuit, on the other hand, is in colourful chaos. Serena Williams remains as the top seed for two years in a row. This year has been cruel to the legend – Williams has failed to pass the fourth round in any of the major grand slam events. She has been brutalised by opponents who have never threatened her in the past. Yet, we should reword the common expression "a man on a mission", because no doubt, Serena Williams is proving her dominance and insatiable desire to defend this US Open title in attempt to rack up 18 slams to her name, tying two other legends of the game – Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert. She defended her Bank of the West title for a third time, though she did suffer a heart-wrenching loss to her sister Venus in Montreal, losing in three sets. However, her resilience pushed her to win the Western and Southern Open title for the first time in her illustrious career. She walks into Flushing Meadows as the favourite, despite her publicised struggles this season. Although consistency is clearly absent on the women's side, undeniably, there are formidable contenders that threaten Serena's bid for history. Simona Halep, the rising star of the tour, sits comfortably as the second seed. Her consistency and uniform ball striking has impressed pundits and critics alike. Reigning Australian Open champion

Li Na, initially the third seed, officially withdrew from the US Open, sidelined by a knee injury. Petra Kvitova comes in as the reigning Wimbledon champion, where she essentially slaughtered rising Canadian star Eugenie Bouchard in the finals. When in form, Kvitova is nearly impossible to defeat, but she faces an uncertain future in terms of this grand slam because she often crumbles under pressure. The Russian beauty, and 2014's French Open champion, Maria Sharapova comes into the US Open as a fearsome contender. But her season post-Roland Garros has been shaky at best, having suffered early exits in both Wimbledon and the American hard courts.

When speaking of the significance of image and ambassadorship for athletes, divergence of this perceived image is no doubt inevitable. For a man dearly loved all around the world, there has been rising speculation as to Cristiano Ronaldo's conduct after Real Madrid's intense Spanish Super Cup match against Atletico Madrid, which they lost 1-0. In the final minute of the match, Ronaldo appeared to have punched Atletico defender Diego Godin in the head on a corner kick. On a more positive note, at the time of writing, Angel Di Maria's deal with Manchester United is scheduled to be finalised in late August. United has not made any official comments, but Fox Sports has reported that the fee between the Red Devils and Real Madrid will eclipse the British record of 50 million pounds that Chelsea forked out in 2011 for Liverpool's Fernando Torres. Having already bid farewell to his Madrid team-mates, the future of Di Maria seems bright.

In the meantime, see you readers in two weeks, where the summer of sports will come to an end, and the breeze of autumn will take over.



Image via Getty Images

WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN BLUE AND GOLD

Niko Pajarillo | @NikoPajarillo

"Among the worst teams in NRL history" the experts called them.

The laughing stock of the competition and material inspiration for countless banal memes and tawdry one-liners.

Complete with record-breaking losing margins, 10-game losing streaks, poor recruitment efforts, board infighting, three sacked coaches and two talent cleanouts – the Parramatta Eels' record since their impressive 2009 underdog story has been nothing short of appalling.

After their Hayne-inspired grand-final finish five years ago, the Eels followed up with an underwhelming 12th dead last again in 2013.

"You'd have to go back to (the now defunct Western Suburbs Magpies) in the late 1990s to remember a team this bad," Paul Crawley wrote in the Daily Telegraph in July last year.

If you had told this writer then that 12 months on, the Eels would be serious contenders for a finals spot with their captain set to win his second career Dally M medal, I would have likened your skull to the Cronulla Sharks trophy room.

And yet, here we are.

Fast forward one year and Parramatta are sitting just inside the top eight with two games to go until the finals against the lowly Canberra and Newcastle.

And if, dear reader, as you read this, the Eels are flying high and finals bound then it goes without saying that this season marks one of the most remarkable sporting revival stories in recent memo-

ry.

If not, and the 'blue-and-golds' have narrowly missed out on a spot due to their fledging for-and-against, while I'd be hesitant to label the season a success (for the same reason I refuse to hail the Socceroos' recent World Cup campaign with similar praise), 2014 still represents an incredibly meritorious and admirable effort and one that will be remembered for years to come.

With all considered, something must be said of the extraordinary work that new head coach and former caretaker Brad Arthur has done at the club, especially considering the mammoth task he took on at the start of the year.

Upon his return to the west, the club was in shambles.

His predecessor had jumped ship, the newly-appointed CEO resigned, the toxicity of the board of directors was hindering the club's progress and the playing group was low on morale with a pitiful win rate of 20.83 per cent.

But co-captain Tim Mannah says his new coach's no-nonsense style of tutelage allowed the team to improve and was a refreshing departure from the philosophies of mentors place finish in 2010, ran second last in 2011, dead last in 2012 and "From the first day of pre-season ... (Brad) made it really clear that (he wasn't) going to try to build a five-year plan or try and build a team that would be successful over the next three or four years," Mannah told Triple M NRL.

"He wanted to come in and be a top eight side from the get-go.

"He said we were capable of doing it and a lot of the boys bought into it.

They're starting to believe it now and starting to see the fruits of their actions."

Yet, while Arthur's guidance has undoubtedly worked wonders, the young men taking the field every weekend are certainly due for some credit as well.

It has been well documented that a major cog in the Parramatta juggernaut is their superstar fullback and captain, Jarryd Hayne, without whom the Eels would not be as far up as they are.

Fresh from a World Cup triumph with the Kangaroos in England, the Cabramatta product shone in NSW's successful State of Origin campaign as well as starring in his every performance in the blue and gold.

So incredible Hayne's heroics have been that the 26-year-old is poised to win the coveted Dally M medal for the NRL's 'Best and Fairest', an award he last won five years ago.

"He's matured and grown a lot with his leadership and his training and his commitment ... putting his club first and his teammates first," Arthur told Triple M NRL of his fullback.

When quizzed about his spectacular form, Hayne has always been quick to deflect praise to his team mates, and Arthur echoes these sentiments.

"He's doing his job and it's off the back of what the other boys are creating for him and if they don't create that time and space for him he doesn't come up with those tries."

And it's true.

Despite a wealth of inexperience and a mounting injury list, Parramatta's crop of young talent breaking through along with intelligent buys have breathed life

into the proud club.

Semi Radradra, the former kava farmer from Fiji who has topped this season's try-scorers Manu Ma'u, the former gang member and jailbird who has transformed into a clean, hard hitting forward; Nathan Peats, who was playing so well he almost dethroned Robbie Farah from his Blues hooker position; and forwards like Junior Paulo, Pauli Pauli and David Gower who have terrorised oppositions with the sheer size of their shadows.

So while this Parramatta squad has a lot of learning, improvement and experience yet to achieve, it is somewhat humbling to think of their lowly starting point.

A bunch of unlikely heroes, an unexpected rejuvenation not seen since Kevin Moore's Bulldogs, a true underdog story.

Following the players on social media, it gets pretty obvious that they feel the same way.

It's their fresh-faced excitement after victories, their awkward acceptance of praise during interviews, and the continual #StartedFromTheBottom hashtags on players' Instagram posts that prove their humble beginnings make their success all the more sweet.

