



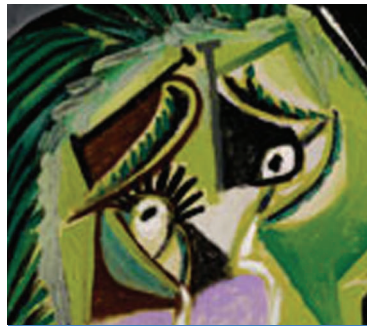
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# Woroni

The Australian National University Student Newspaper | 1948 - 2008

28 February - 12 March 2008

## Not all stormy weather for School of Music

Charles Prestidge-King

News Editor

Bradley Kunda

Music Correspondent

The School of Music is running \$1.5 million over budget as a result of under enrolment and staffing costs. The ANU is working closely with the School of Music to determine a resolution, which may include restructuring the school and fractionally appointing staff

Among the reasons for the decline in enrolment is the School's current orchestral model. The model requires that every section of a symphony orchestra be represented by the staff and their departments – an increasingly difficult task. "[This] orchestral model causes the problem...because...you've got to keep this span [of instruments]", says ANU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Chubb. "Students don't want to study classical instruments anymore in the same numbers they used to, [which is] pretty well a national and even a worldwide



Scaffolding covers Llewellyn Hall, damaged after last year's hailstorm Charles Prestidge-King

phenomenon". Further, the cost of paying staff to maintain this situation is unsustainable. "[Staff] were appointed at a very senior level: senior lecturer level...that situation has never been

changed, so with an escalation of staffing costs, that has absolutely just blown a huge hole in the budget", says Head of School Professor John Luxton. "Staffing costs...committed all the budget"

Estimated costs for 2008 include \$4.05 million in staff salaries and \$1.05 million in operational expenses, yet the School generates an income of only approximately \$3.7 million.

The ANU is currently in the process of administering private interviews between School of Music staff and Human Resources to generate a resolution in line with staff expectations and needs. "It was a question of what they could do to help themselves too because we can't do everything for them, just as we don't do it for physics and history", says Professor Chubb. On the cards is the notion of abandoning the orchestral model and appointing staff on a fractional basis. "One of the things that will have to be discussed is more flexibility of appointment, said Luxton. "This one-to-one teaching is incredibly expensive." According to Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) Professor Mandy Thomas, the factors that will be taken into account extend beyond just student load. "There are other factors... looking at [each staff member's] overall contribution to the University, so they often teach not just their instruments but, for example, they take classes...with small ensembles, or they are also making performances... so all

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## McKew visits ANU: basks in immense popularity

Robert Wiblin

Editor

Despite the short notice that the angel of Bennelong would be descending from on high, the word blew across campus as fast as blooming fluff and the ANU Refectory quickly packed

out expecting an entertaining night filled with powerful and once-powerful politicians. Tony Abbott opened with the most straight talking speech cum standup comedy routine of the night. He began by saying that university was as much about values and ideals as getting a job then accepted the symbolic value of the apology but derided wel-

farism as doing as much harm today as the paternalism of the past. He said a lack of hope and constructive work were more damaging to indigenous communities than a pure lack of government funding.

In reply to Woroni's request for the reason the Coalition's imposed special laws regarding drugs and behaviour on Indig-

enous Australians above those imposed on everyone else he stated that varied social situations could demand different legal solutions, then pointed out the acute lack of police in Indigenous communities. A lack of government funding, perhaps? It must be something of a liberation for a man like Abbott to be

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# God Save The Queen

Special Editorial

During 'Politics in the Pub' last week, Prime Ministerial wannabe (and dedicated *Woroni* reader) Tony Abbott remembered a *Woroni* edition from 1987 (pictured) that pledged its loyalty to the Queen and printed her portrait. He threw down the gauntlet to us to do it again, and now we are:

*Woroni, the student newspaper of the Australian National University, does solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that it will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Her heirs and successors according to law.*

However, before the monarchists among you get too excited, it should be noted that we take the Oath of Affirmation in the spirit of sincere respect for the rule of law and our Constitution, which provides that the Queen is our lawful head of state: our loyalty to Her Majesty does not detract from the view of this newspaper that a plebiscite and referendum on the question of an Australian republic should be

on the agenda for the new Rudd Labor government.

*Woroni* believes, as any sensible person should, that the idea of a birthright to the respect of a nation, title, castles, palaces, innumerable hectares of land, and the capacity to bestow social privilege is patently ridiculous. In our humble opinion, the Queen and her family are only useful for the circulation of gossip magazines, the British tourist industry and tongue-in-cheek editorials.

Australia has inherited many great things from Britain, including scones, parliamentary democracy, the common law, independent courts, an irreverent attitude to power, tea with milk, and English – but monarchy cannot be properly included in that list. There is no sense of urgency, but it is the inevitable and correct thing to do. No Cromwellian beheading is required, but a vote would certainly be nice.

If the best the monarchists can come up with is 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' then it's time we fixed them, and replaced our portraits of the Queen with a democratically elected Australian citizen of distinction and merit.

To the Queen! ... for now.



## State of the Association: Send Money

Jamila Rizvi  
ANUSA President

Wow! I'm only a couple of months into this job and already there is so much to report on; I could fill an edition with what your reps have achieved this year. However, I've only got limited space, so instead I just want to go over the issue which will be taking up most of my time over the next two weeks – student unionism.

To begin with, a quick history lesson for new students: the ANU Students' Association and its equivalents around the country used to be funded by the 'General Services Fee'. This was a compulsory levy, which students paid at the commencement of each university year. The way in which the money was spent was decided by the elected students of the SRC and went to fund a range of university services.

In late 2005 the Howard Government introduced a Bill which would effectively make this fee voluntary (aka voluntary student unionism or 'VSU'). Students at the ANU and other universities campaigned strongly against these new laws. Why complain,

you might ask. Why would students be against legislation, which would save them a few hundred dollars each year? Because that fee paid for a whole lot of services, infrastructure and events which wouldn't necessarily exist otherwise. It's kind of a similar argument to why we pay taxes. If taxes were voluntary, hardly anyone would pay them but at the same time we all

**“The Minister for Youth has now made a public commitment to fund student services adequately in the upcoming budget”**

understand the benefits which come from having universal access to public schools, hospitals, roads, parks and other necessities that our taxes pay for.

An argument was made by the then Minister for Education, Brendan Nelson that a single mum who is studying nursing part-time shouldn't have to subsidise the abseiling club. Well sure but why should the childless, eighteen-year student who

abseils have to subsidise that single mum's childcare? The answer is that when we all pay a small amount, the totality of that money can fund a whole range of services; some of which you might use and some which you might not.

The result of the VSU legislation was that student associations around the country lost almost 100% of their income stream

have halved since the introduction of VSU.

So why am I bringing this up when it happened more than two years ago? We have a new government! And thankfully it's a government who are committed to reinstating student services on campus and enshrining student representation within university structures. I have met with the Minister for Youth, Kate Ellis multiple times and she has now made a public commitment to fund student services adequately in the upcoming budget.

ANUSA will be making a submission to the government inquiry into the effect of VSU on campuses. We will also be making our case as to what needs to be better funded and what services are 'essential' to every university campus. If you're interested in helping out with the submission or have comments to add – please drop by the office.

The ANUSA Combined Representative Council (CRC) will be considering the issue at its first meeting for the year on Monday 3 March. Meetings are open to all ANU undergraduate students and we'd really welcome your input.



# Not all stormy weather for School of Music

From page 1 of that is going to be taken into account." Additional measures to counter under enrolment include greater engagement with secondary schools in the ACT, "so, for example [teachers] could give masterclasses for the top performance students in music," says Professor Thomas. "What's being discussed at the moment is a very negative kind of, well, 'we'll cut this and we'll cut this...but you can actually also look at infrastructure...things like Llewellyn Hall...advancing the graduate diploma angle to bring more students in," says Professor Luxton. Previous consultations with the Canberra

Institute of Technology have also brought to light additional possibilities in recruiting students "to cross-subsidize the classical school." It seems that both the ANU and the School of Music agree that a broad range of factors will be taken into account in determining staff fractional appointments.

Writing personally, Head of Guitar Tim Kain recognises the reality of the situation. "Whilst I feel very deeply for those who may suffer as a result of the changes (and I will in one way or other be one of them!)...the School has needed a restructuring of the kind now in progress

for some time. If it is done well the School could ultimately be in a stronger position...without the massive and ever increasing salary burden that has stymied us.... There is no point in...fruitlessly demanding things be artistically rather than economically determined when it's very clear this isn't going to happen...but from beneath the rubble I do see a potentially exciting way forward if we collectively cultivate thinking that's useful and act accordingly."

Concerns remain regarding how the School's potential restructuring could affect the Canberra music scene. "I hope

we can come up with a solution that will minimize any peripheral damage to organisations like the Canberra Symphony Orchestra...but they're all on the table there as far as this is concerned," says Professor Luxton. In most cities, a full time orchestra mutually sustains a school's capacity to teach small enrollment instruments. The problem is unique in Canberra, however, because as Professor Thomas states, "most of the people that teach those small enrolment instruments at [for example] the Sydney Conservatorium...are full time musicians in the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and they just teach

casually at the Sydney Conservatorium. We can't do that it Canberra."

Llewellyn Hall remains damaged after last year's storm, but the School is attempting to refurbish its infrastructure with a vision to make the best of a difficult situation. In Professor Luxton's words, "at the moment this is an incredibly flexible situation. The University has been very strong and very committed in saying we want a School of Music. There's never, ever been a hint that the Vice-Chancellor wants to chop the Music School out of the University. But.... there is no easy answer to this."

# Exposed: Exclusive Secret 'Sisterhood'

Woroni blows the lid on the university's newest and most exclusive secret society

Tully Fletcher  
Editor

Early last week the steady trickle of leaks to *Woroni* had begun, and by Wednesday the secret was well and truly out: the university officially has an American-style secret society exclusively for (it is alleged) attractive and/or important female students.

Founded by ANUSA Environment Officer Sarah Yani Vann-Sander and friend Nikki Hogan, the ANU 'Sisterhood' has been instituted as the female equivalent of DARTS, the male-only Drinking and Rugby Touring Society now known to the Sisterhood as the 'Brotherhood'.

According to their secret Facebook Group, the Sisterhood counts among its members Union Board Director Emma Joy-Smith (Vice-President - Administration), Ursula Hall President Jess Bartik (Vice-President - Finance) and former ANUSA President Claudia Newman-Martin (Vice-President - Education). Other office holders include Nikki Hogan (Vice-President - Public Relations), Monique Zen (Sisterhood Chair), Nici Sweaney (Scholarship Chair) and Martha Piper (Brotherhood Chair).

*Woroni* understands that Claudia Newman-Martin renounced her membership last year, and that Bruce Hall President Laura Wynne was invited, but has recently withdrawn. Another notable decliner was current ANUSA President Jamila Rizvi, who confirmed to *Woroni* that she was invited but said that "it's just not my thing". The Sisterhood have subsequently denied ever inviting



Sisterhood President Sarah Vann-Sander (left) leads the 'Sistas' away from the glare of publicity

the ANUSA President to join.

The motto of the invite-only Sisterhood is *Gaudium, Decorus, Animus, Sanctimonia* and attributes that a 'true Sista' is required to embody include: joy, delight, happiness, beauty, grace, charm,

with gold sashes, following an exclusive house party with the DARTS boys earlier in the evening. *Woroni* photographers were at Toga in force, and the Sisterhood couldn't escape our notice despite being hurried away

reiterated by Vann-Sander and Hogan when interviewed.

The Sisterhood also attended the DARTS-organised alcohol-fuelled Fantasy Island event last Thursday, wearing shirts with the words 'Everyone's Fantasy is a Sista'. But Vann-Sander said that "it is [a] completely unjustified [view] that the purpose of this group is to pick up DARTS boys - most of the girls are in successful and established long-term relationships." One Fantasy Island attendee told *Woroni* that the Sisterhood 'didn't go down too well anyway'.

Dave Wright, President of DARTS, said that although DARTS is supportive of the Sisterhood and what they're doing, "being labelled 'the brotherhood' is a bit of a stretch." Like Burgmann and John XXIII residents, the Sisterhood was offered discounted tickets to Fantasy Island

**"We want to be easily recognised as all being part of the same group, but not identically matching (as to leave some individuality)"**

propriety, courage, vivacity, bravery, will, spirit, soul, character, intellect, consciousness, purity, charity, virtue, sanctity and sacredness.

But despite their values, the Sisterhood attended the infamous Burgmann Toga Party wearing matching satin togas

by Vann-Sander as soon as the photo above was taken. *Woroni* also understands that the 'Sistas' were told earlier in the evening that the newspaper was making inquiries, and were instructed to tell journalists that the society was 'just a group of girls with common interests,' a line that was

and *Woroni* can reveal that the following was sent to the Sisterhood by Wright:

"Now very quietly, to ensure that we get the right sort of demographics and people we want at Fantasy we might be able to hook the sorority girls up with some cheap tix, say \$50 as opposed to the full \$60..."

Wright denied that this was a call-out for good-looking people and explained that DARTS "just wanted to have people who have a pre-established reputation for having fun without agendas - people who just want a good day in the sun."

Prior to the Toga Party and Fantasy Island, Vann-Sander wrote the following to the Sistas:

"Hey sexy ladies!!! ... in traditional sista fashion - we want to make a very subtle but definite impression at every party we attend. SO ... costumes! We want to be easily recognised as all being part of the same group, but not identically matching (as to leave some individuality)."

A senior university staff member commented last week that "if they want a sorority culture they should go on exchange to the States", though Vann-Sander and Hogan have stressed that the Sisterhood is not intended to be a sorority. ANUSA Women's Officer Sarah Sloan told *Woroni* that while she was unaware of the exact details of the Sisterhood, "any organisation that is exclusive and sworn in secrecy is immature and inappropriate".

The Sisterhood has been vigorously searching for the sources of the leaks to *Woroni*, and members have been pressuring the Editors to prevent the publication of this article.



# No plan to take over Union building says Uni

Tully Fletcher  
Editor

Despite persistent rumours to the contrary, the University has denied that plans are afoot to take over the management of the ANU Union building.

The issue of how the leases of private operators (such as Degree café) are managed came to the fore late last year when students reacted angrily to the news that the Union had decided not to renew the lease for the popular Acton Supermarket.

Citing a looming post-VSU deficit Chris Steel, the Labor Right affiliated Chair of the Union Board, argued at the time that the Union was likely to collapse without serious action. A new Union-run supermarket is to be set up on the current site of the newsagency and many critics of the supermarket closure claim that the Union is attempting to reduce price competition with Union-run outlets.

But even with the controversy surrounding the Acton Supermarket lease, the university sees little reason to take over

the management of the building. Bart Meehan, Associate Director, Business and Site Services, Facilities and Services, told *Woroni* that while a review is being conducted and no decision has yet been made, change is unlikely to occur.

Mr Meehan said that the university was “looking at the relationship between the university and the union in relation to the physical asset” and that there was a question as to whether the Union should be placed within the university’s management structure. But this was only one of a number of options being considered.

“My gut feeling is that there probably isn’t going to be any substantial change.” He said. “We’re looking at our general operations over all and we just need to have a look at how that operation [the Union] functions. Would it be better, in an operational sense, functioning as part of the university? And if it isn’t part of the university, what can we do to ensure that the building is managed well?”

Mr Meehan said that “the only advantage for the university in potentially being the leaseholder

[would be] the advantages that may flow to the broader community”. The possibility of a salary-sacrificing program for the lunch meals of university staff members was apparently one of the ideas on the table in the event of a university takeover.

*Woroni* contacted Rod Thomas - the General Manager of the Union - for comment but Mr Thomas was unaware of the scope of the review.

“It’s the first I’ve heard of it – they were looking at maintenance issues. I can’t pass any comment because I’m not aware of it. They have been talking to myself and Union board members about the responsibilities for the maintenance of the building.”

Mr Meehan said that in the event of the university taking over management of the leases, all income from the leases would continue to be given to the Union.

Under a special arrangement, the ANU Union pays nothing for the use of the Union building, which continues to be owned by the university. However under the arrangement the Union must pay for the maintenance of the building and any renovations.

## University struggling to deal with accommodation demand

David McGill  
Halls and Colleges

In a desperate bid to free up rooms in time for Semester One, the University has offered returning on-campus residents cash incentives to sign twelve month leases on properties in a number of suburbs. Assuming they were all filled, these properties would provide the university with an extra 30 rooms. At the same time, Bruce Hall has for the first time placed a number of new residents in American-style twin-share rooms. Returning students are concerned that if this policy is seen to be a successful method of dealing with excess demand many more residents could be forced into shared rooms.

*Woroni* has also learnt that a small number of first year stu-

dents are being housed at the Rex Hotel on Northbourne Avenue, living in standard hotel rooms at a reduced price for semester one. In order to keep costs down, Rex Hotel residents will have to cross the street to Fenner Hall for most amenities including; washing, cooking and internet access. Further restrictions on decorating the rooms mean that the Rex could well be an unfriendly and difficult environment for students new to Canberra and the University. Concerns remain that these schemes will not ease the squeeze on campus residences in the long term. The Rex Hotel is simply too expensive for the university to afford to subsidize all year round and the bunk rooms look likely to place extra strain on halls already struggling to cope with tight budgets and long-delayed maintenance and capital works.

## John XXIII President Expelled

The President of John XXIII College (who spoke to *Woroni* on condition of anonymity) has been expelled for a breach of probation.

The President returned to Daley Road in an intoxicated state and entered Burgmann instead

of John’s. A Burgmann resident subsequently complained about his behaviour. The former President thanked his friends for their support, and said that he regrets his actions “and the fact that it’s been detrimental to John’s - it’s not a reflection on John’s.”

# ANUSA Executive moves to reform Education Collective, again

Maïy Azize  
ANUSA Reporter

The new ANUSA executive has proposed controversial amendments to the ANUSA constitution that would see the Education Officer become a member of the executive team. In addition to the Education Officer’s existing duties, she would also share some of the Vice President’s workload and implement a support structure for the Faculty Representatives.

The amendments will put the Education Officer position itself in control of higher education campaigns rather than a collective of ordinary students. The Education Collective would then be replaced by an Education Committee, comprised of volunteers, to be chaired by the officer. The abolition of the Collective is at the heart of the controversy, as many fear this will take away the capacity of ordinary students to direct higher education campaigns.

According to ANUSA President, Jamila Rizvi, the changes

would bring ANUSA in line with other University Student Associations and Education Officers, most of whom hold executive positions. Rizvi also contends that the amendments would create unanimity and make campaigns more effective.

The current Education Officer, Anya Aidman, agrees the changes will deliver a more effective Student’s Association and increase the impact of ANUSA’s campaigns. “We aim to create a unified voice to deliver more effective and relevant campaigns.” Aidman adds that the changes would assign the officer additional responsibilities make it a more active role. “The changes would require me to implement a reporting structure for the Faculty Representatives and engage in increased liaison with various levels of government.”

Matt Byrne, a General Representative last year and Labor Left Co-Convenor, criticises the proposal because it restricts the involvement of ordinary students. “The Education Collective gives one of the few opportunities for unelected students not only to be

involved, but to shape the strategic direction of higher education campaigns on campus” said Byrne. “The proposed committee doesn’t offer students the same opportunity.”

Aidman sees the proposed committee as “a team of committed student volunteers to assist with campaigns. The committee would be open to anybody interested in higher education issues.” She sees the current level of con-

## “We aim to create a unified voice”

trol given to the Collective as worrisome. “Under the current arrangements, I can be bound by the Collective to adopt a position that I don’t agree with. I can be censured by the collective if they don’t like my approach. I can be directed by the Collective to run campaigns or events using ANUSA money that ANUSA itself is uncomfortable with. That doesn’t seem fair given that I was elected by students to use my judgement” said Aidman.

The controversy was sparked over the summer, when President

Jamila Rizvi and General Secretary Mark Smyth circulated their proposal in early January. Immediate past ANUSA President Claudia Newman-Martin proposed similar changes following a clash between the Student Representative Council and the Education Collective. The dispute surrounded the collective’s plans to hold a National Day of Action called ‘Make Howard History.’ That proposal was voted down

due to the unpopularity of the abolition of the collective.

Jamila Rizvi hopes the early circulation of the proposed amendments will stop them from meeting a similar fate to those put forward last year. “We circulated these proposals early to promote debate and discussion. I’m open to the possibility of amending them.”

Immediate-past Education Officer Ben Lyons believes the changes are unnecessary because ANUSA could still assert itself in campaigns if it chose to. “The

Education Officer can be censured by the SRC, CRC and by General Meetings. They can be removed by General Meetings. The Education Department’s budget can be blocked. There are plenty of avenues for ANUSA to exert control over the Education Department.”

“If elected members of ANUSA care to they are also able to attend collective meetings and have their say there. Only four elected members cared to do so last year and only one did so consistently and regularly. If that’s how much (the elected representatives) care about higher education campaigns, I would hate to see how little would get done without the Collective.” Lyons doesn’t see the committee as an adequate replacement of the Collective. “Why be involved if all you are is a glorified volunteer with no input into the direction of campaigns?”

Matt Byrne characterises the proposed changes as worse than those put forward last year, and many believe that last year’s campaign to defend the Collective will be revived.



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## EDITORIAL

## Accommodation Crisis

Two alarming new developments occurred over the break while most students were enjoying their summer holidays and paying scant attention. *Woroni* was there though, and we didn't miss the fact that University Accommodation Services (UAS) threw a \$3,000 bribe at Hall residents willing to move into ANU-run rental accommodation: a \$500 cancellation fee waiver and \$2,500 cheque were offered for Hall residents who were happy make room for first years.

And nor did we miss the addition of twin sharing in some rooms at one Daley Road Hall. The demand for on-campus accommodation may be understandably high, and *Woroni* acknowledges the pressure that UAS is under, but what sort of precedent does American-style 'dorm' living set for our Halls of Residence in the coming years? We have little confidence that this experiment will work in the long-term, or that potential friendships will survive a first-

year experience at such close quarters. We also worry that this regrettable arrangement may be repeated and expanded in coming years.

The worst part about this sorry affair, however, is that ANU is potentially over-charging for the suburban rental accommodation it has on offer. Further, by moving in on the local rental market it has actually operated to exclude ANU students who had been looking for accommodation on their own: *Woroni* has learnt of at least one group of students who were turned away when the university made an offer the landlord couldn't refuse.

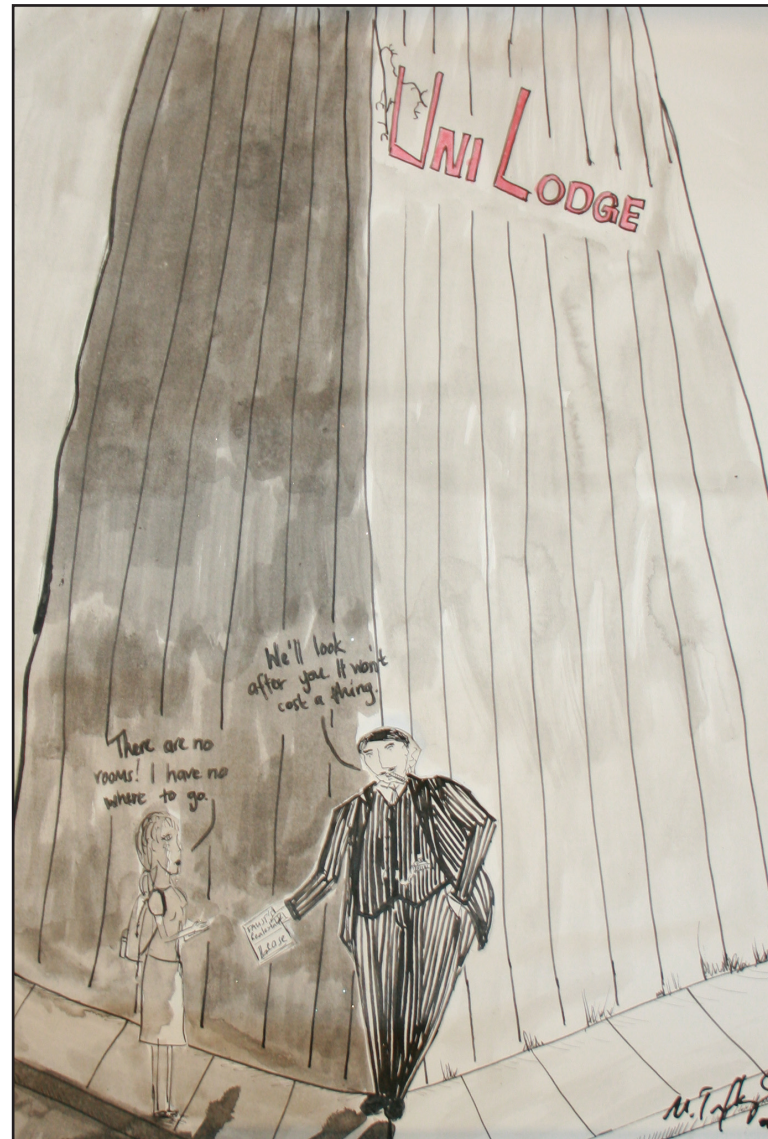
Without a doubt, we are in an accommodation crisis. But incentives to push students out of Halls and cramming more than one student into a room are not the solutions. And neither are university-supported corporate projects like UniLodge, which contribute nothing to the academic or social life of the university community and provide

little service the ANU students it milks for profit.

*Woroni* believes that the university should build another large Hall of Residence on campus, complete with Head, Dean, Sub-Deans, Senior Residents, and a Residents' Association. As Deputy Registrar Dr Neil Rodgers said when he addressed the Residential Leadership Dinner just two weeks ago, "the university experience is about more than just 'heads on beds'". Are we a university of independent and enriching academic communities, or overpriced and underserved monoliths like UniLodge?

If the university needs new undergraduate accommodation, it should begin plans to build a new Hall. It may be expensive, but the waiting lists for Halls and Colleges this year demonstrate that the demand is there. If students are to accrue HECS and pay \$30,000-\$70,000 each for accommodation over the course of their degrees, they deserve better than this.

Sick of editorials? Write *Woroni* a letter!  
woroni@anu.edu.au



## Who's Right? Some clarifications

Several elected representatives approached *Woroni* to express concern at their factional classification in the 'Who's Who' in the O-Week Special Edition. Bar some complaint about our classification of Timothy Caddey (who insists on his independence, although some regard him as La-

bor Left) the complaints were from members of the Labor Students Club unhappy with being labelled 'Labor Right'. These students included Jess Lee, Sarah Vann-Sander, Kate Ottrey and Andrew Brickhil, all of whom are Labor Students Club members but have chosen to remain out-

side of the factional system.

*Woroni* sincerely apologises to those students for offence caused. However, we stand by our classification. The Labor Students Club has, in the time that the Editors have been at this university been colloquially called 'Labor Right' by almost all informed

students. It is controlled by the ALP's right-wing Unity Faction, and most of its major figures are also Unity members. Whilst *Woroni* respects the principles of those Club members who have declined to join the faction formally, we will continue to refer to the Labor Students Club and its

members as 'Labor Right' until the unlikely event of a reconciliation with the Left Labor Club.

*Woroni* would also like to apologise to ANUSA General Representative Timothy Caddey (not Tim Caddy) for misspelling his name in the *Who's Who*.

## Making amends

David Butler  
Columnist

The morning of February 13th was grey and cold, and still damp from the previous night's rain. After finally breaking through gridlocked traffic, I parked illegally to make it in time for the Australian government's apology to the stolen generations on the lawns of Parliament House, figuring that any infringement officer who wrote me a ticket today would be a bum. My lanky mate Brendan eased his long bones out of the cramped passenger seat, and we trudged through the wet grass toward the big screen TV. We found a position near the front and to the side. The crowd were respectfully quiet, as if it were ANZAC day. No raucous laughter, no megaphoned

dissent, just a few thousand people quietly massed on a lawn on a cold, grey morning.

The whole 'sorry' gesture, so long withheld, seemed to arrive suddenly. There were elections, then there were holidays, and then, almost out of nowhere, the new government was making the long awaited apology. I went because I'm studying political science and thought it would be important. Also, I had nothing else on. I hadn't followed the ins and outs of indigenous affairs closely at all, though I thought the apology was necessary and overdue. Nobody seemed to know what to expect or what to feel. Front and centre to the TV was a large Aboriginal contingent who'd been there since dawn. Behind them were all sorts of people: people in corporate clothes with swipe

cards around their necks; some alternative beatnik types; a few private school girls; journos; mums with young kids. Nobody really talking, just facing the huge TV and waiting. Ray Martin, guardian of Carols by Candlelight, was a few meters in front of us. Maybe he couldn't get into the Great Hall having left Channel 9, or maybe he just wanted to be with the people.

Before long Rudd's giant moon face was making an eloquent, genuine, and- at one point- self-congratulatory apology. It was received with silence, though small trickles of applause began to emerge towards the end as the crowd became more confident that this wasn't some cheap stunt. And then it was done, and the significance of the new era we'd just entered as a nation began to dawn

on me. I was filled with hope and proud to be Australian. Looking around at the faces in the crowd and the relieved smiles, I think others did too. Ray Martin ran his fingers through his big hair and laughed with the woman next to him,

Then Brendan Nelson began his reply. When groups of Aboriginal people started to turn and quietly walk away I began to listen closely to his words. The sense of euphoria following the Prime Minister's speech quickly dissipated into anger. Vocal outcries erupted from the crowd as he spoke of brutal murders and gang rapes. Up went a cry of "turn your backs," and I did so. It felt innately right, and most of the crowd did it as well.

After a couple of minutes of my first public political stance,

I became plagued by self doubt. Wasn't this a democracy after all? Why am I turning my back on someone who is expressing a different view? Can I turn back around? "I'm terrible at this," I thought. This isn't the 60's or Vietnam. These days we don't have to take a public stance on anything and be defined by it. I'm used to philosophising on issues over a muffin and newspaper.

I looked at my friend Brendan next to me. He'd only turned side on, partially resisting the peer pressure. He would tell me later that he'd made eye contact with a few other people who hadn't turned their backs, as if to say "we can at least listen to the guy."

I told him of my self doubt, about my clumsy political debut. He consoled me by saying "Don't worry. Ray turned his back too."



# Dispatches from the front lines of inequality

**Laura Davern**  
ANUSA Women's Department

I will admit, rather ashamedly, that I have not always felt overtly passionate about the plight of womankind. In fact, until recently, I had managed to remain blissfully unaware of the vast inequalities that still exist between men and women. As a rather sheltered child, I was oblivious to the sexist female stereotype deeply entrenched in the seemingly innocent and thoroughly enjoyable works of Enid Blyton. My childhood games usually consisted of the girls mending garments in the village, whilst the boys fought off the invading giants. I never questioned my role in these childhood adventures. During high school, according to my teachers, the world was my oyster in regards to academic achievement and it never occurred to me that being a female would inhibit my chances in any way. And it did not.

It was not until recently, when I ventured overseas for a two month backpacking stint through South Africa and Asia

that I was exposed to a fresh and chilling perspective to being female in today's world. Thanks to an incompetent travel agent, my friend and I had several two day stints in the Middle East, left to our own devices whilst waiting for connecting flights. After a 15 hour flight, ridiculously tired and disorientated, I will never forget my first insight into being a female in a society which firmly dictates the inferior status of females: the worried expression on the face of an ex-pat airline ground operations manager as he reassured us before leaving us at customs to not worry, for as long as we kept a low profile, we should pass as flight attendants.

It was in a series of backpacking hostels in Asia where I was introduced to the young alpha male backpackers mostly swimming in Daddy's pound sterling, and rudely educated as to why packs of young men venture to SE-Asia every year. These drunken louts assured me that Thai girls were the cheapest. Stories of various conquests were swapped. Some boasted of acquiring the services of 14 year old prostitutes. Without success, I would drunkenly try

to explain the macabre origins of the sex trade: the trafficking and consequent slavery of thousands of women in SE-Asia. I imagine even the most indifferent female at this point would suddenly feel an intense yearning for a form of leper colony establishment in the icy plains of Siberia to which these morons, whose holiday is the exploitation of the destitute, could be stored until further notice and perhaps sterilised.

## "...these morons, whose holiday is the exploitation of the destitute..."

It was in South Africa where I was exposed to the terrible plight of women in a country marred by violent crime, extreme poverty, widespread inequality and a horrific AIDs epidemic. Soon after arrival in Johannesburg, my friend and I were advised that if we were to find ourselves in a situation where rape was imminent, we were to tell our captors that we were HIV positive. After narrowly avoiding such a situation outside Jo'burg International, the reality faced by South African women of all co-

lours became clear. According to the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, young females in South Africa are four times more likely to be infected with AIDs than their male counterparts.

And it is every O-Week that I continue to witness the sinister side of the 'boy club' culture prevalent amongst male students. Every O-Week a significant number of second and third year boys prey on vulnerable

and often drunk first year girls. Stories of these various inebriated conquests do the rounds of college dorms and next year's O-Week shenanigans are eagerly awaited. Such a culture discourages young female students from seeking counsel as O-Week incidents are too often dismissed as part of college life. This must change. Sexual assault is not part of college life.

The reason for my rant is because International Women's Day is fast approaching. And now I have a new-found appre-

ciation for a day designed to promote awareness of the continuing struggle faced by women all over the world. It is a celebration of the positive change achieved by our predecessors that continues to be achieved by our peers. It is a day to inspire change. The theme for 2008 is 'Shaping Progress' and what better way to ensure that progress is achieved than to gather together and discuss issues affecting women at the ANU, around Australia and abroad. The ANU Women's Department will host an array of activities on the 8th of March to commemorate International Women's Day including a student get-together over free coffee to discuss women's issues on campus. The annual Pamela Doonan lecture will also be held in the Coombs Lecture Theatre at 8pm and all are welcome to attend to hear two highly acclaimed female figures, Marian Sawer and Roslyn Dundas, talk about the history of the women's movement and the future for feminism. Refreshments will be provided and a gold coin donation would be greatly appreciated. See you all there!

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# Our man in The Lodge

**Woroni acknowledges the ascension of Kevin Rudd, ANU class of 1981.**

**Tom Stayner**  
Politics

When Kevin Michael Rudd was swept to power on November 24 last year, the dreams of our multitude of political aspirants took on a new vitality. Not only was Rudd elected Australia's 26th Prime Minister, but he also became the first to have attended the Australian National University. Indeed, Rudd's ANU career and subsequent trajectory is one dreamt of by many: an outstanding academic performance at uni, straight into a job with the Department of Foreign Affairs, followed a seamless transition into politics and a steady rise all the way to the top.

With the hangovers from O-Week still clearing, it may be tempting for current students to imagine Kevin Rudd's ANU years as at least a little exuberant. Unfortunately, from someone who once behaved "like a gentleman" at a strip club – even while too drunk to remember – it may not be surprising that sensational stories from Rudd's student days appear nonexistent. As Rudd himself told 60 Minutes last year, "I was a bit of a swot [at university], let's not pretend that I wasn't". Largely keeping his head down, Rudd's ANU career set a foundation for his future success – by the time he graduated in 1981, he had joined the Labor Party, secured a job in the Department of Foreign Affairs, and was engaged to be married.

Rudd arrived at the ANU in 1976 after a gap year, and enrolled in an Asian Studies degree. His interest in China had come from childhood reading and Gough Whitlam: Rudd has said he was "transfixed" by Whitlam's visit to the country in 1972, prompting him to write to the Prime Minis-

ter: "Dear Mr Whitlam ... I want to become an Australian diplomat. What should I do?". Gough advised the fifteen-year-old to go to university and study a foreign language, and Rudd took this to heart, eventually turning down a place in Arts/Law at the University of Queensland in favour of the ANU. (Incidentally, Whitlam became the first National Fellow here in 1981, making him the first Prime Minister to be affiliated with the ANU – if we're being pedantic.)

Rudd began his time at the ANU at Burgmann College, which had in the preceding years been home to both Peter Garrett and Nick Minchin, his future colleagues on both sides of politics. Maxine Lacey, now the ANU's Equity and Diversity Officer, was there at the same time as Rudd. She says that Burgmann had people "from all walks of life" and was "definitely the social college". However, stories of toga-party hook-ups just won't be found: Rudd met his future wife Therese Rein at breakfast on the first day of O-Week. He remembers her "marvellously snotty" comment, "You know, I think you're the first Kevin I've ever met". Rudd was from country Queensland, Rein from a Melbourne private school, but after arguing for 18

**"It may not be surprising that sensational stories from Rudd's student days appear nonexistent"**

months, they formed a strong relationship and are now married with three kids.

Rudd and Rein's Christianity played a large part in their student lives. Burgmann's combined café and chapel (informally, the "Chafe") was opened in 2006,



and at its opening Rudd spoke of his early, unsuccessful attempts to get a chapel going during his time there. As another of Rudd's

contemporaries from Burgmann told the Sydney Morning Herald last year, he was "a very public Christian with an evangelical flavour".

Outside of college, Rudd and Rein also participated in the Evangelical Union, one of the

Christian groups on campus at the time. Of the several groups operating, the main ones were the Student Christian Movement, which still exists today, and the Evangelical Union, whose current incarnation is known as FOCUS. John Ball, now with the National Council of Churches, was involved in the Christian movement during Rudd's ANU years. He explains that, of the two, the Evangelical Union was "more evangelical, considerably larger and more conservative". The group met every Friday night with a speaker and prayers, and it was here that Rudd first came across the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian whose "muscular Christi-

anity" would later influence his political philosophy. Apart from Christian pursuits, Rudd concentrated on his studies. As part of his degree, Rudd studied Mandarin, as well as Chinese history, culture and aesthetics, and excelled in it all. His lecturers remember him as an exceptional student. Pierre Ryckmans, who was Rudd's main Mandarin teacher, says that as a young man "he already had more maturity, thoughtfulness and poise than most of his peers". After taking a year off in 1979 to live in Taiwan, he wrote his honours thesis on Wei Jingsheng, a Chinese dissident of the time, and received First Class honours.

Interestingly, Rudd was not involved with student politics during his years at ANU. John Goss, who was part of the Christian movement with Rudd, says he was "mostly involved in study, church and Evangelical Union". He also worked some part-time jobs, including gardening and cleaning houses. One house he cleaned belonged to the heavy-weight of the Canberra press gallery, Laurie Oakes, who doesn't remember him.

In fact, among those who crossed paths with Rudd in his years at ANU, there are more than a few who don't remember the studious young man. But perhaps Rudd will have another chance at making his mark: these days we take for granted the Menzies and Chifley libraries, named after former Prime Ministers. While it's still early days for PM Rudd, who knows – his status as one of our graduates might increase his chances of becoming part of the ANU landscape. Perhaps a Rudd Quiet Prayer and Study Hall, or a Rudd Combined Institute for Political Science and Robotics, might not sound so ridiculous to future generations on campus.

## McKew visits ANU - basks in immense popularity

**Continued from page 1.**

in opposition – able to unleash his brash self in pure form, interspersed with sincerely felt jokes about his own personal reputation and fall from power.

Joe Hockey spoke at length about the value of having a go and fighting for what you believe in. As hard as he tried to motivate the crowd, I could only remember that his party had dropped its support for AWA's earlier that day.

A lack of direct conflict made the middle of the event lull, but nobody was leaving. The night would always belong to final speaker Maxine McKew, who received sustained applause simply for walking into the room during Abbott's speech and was mobbed by lefties and righties alike. McKew delivered an inspirational piece of rhetoric about the personal satisfaction and growth one can gain by becoming a teacher, especially in de-

prived and rural areas. It's rhetoric she's going to need given that it's her job to find the thousands of teachers necessary to fulfil Labor's plans for preschool and indigenous education. As she put it when speaking of her Benelong campaign, "under 25's gave big time for me." Judging by her reception at ANU, her slaying of Howard has made her into an idol of Obamanian proportions and they will most likely continue to do so.



Joe Hockey MP joins the drinking class (after some cajoling)



# 'Sorry' is just the beginning

An interview with Rosie Southwood about the future of reconciliation.

Annabelle Craft  
Woroni Reporter

The February 13th apology by the Rudd Government to the Stolen Generations has opened a Pandora's Box of debate. Media and academics alike continue to question what our next steps should be and how they are to be practically implemented. Rudd's focus on specific goals relating to such areas as health and housing are, in his words, going to be based on "tailored, local approaches to achieve commonly-agreed national objectives." The practical implication of these goals, however, will surely test the Rudd Government's actual commitment to reconciliation between Australia's indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.

ANU alumnus Rosie Southwood is a Projects Officer for a leading NGO in indigenous issues called Reconciliation Australia (RA). She agreed to an interview with Woroni to discuss what led to her career in indigenous affairs and how Rudd's apology has changed the face of reconciliation.

After graduating with First Class Honours in Indigenous Development at ANU, Miss Southwood began working for RA, a peak national body focused on the task of building reconciliation. Like many Australians, Southwood used to know very little about indigenous issues. While studying for her undergraduate arts degree at the University of Sydney, she took the opportunity to take part in a two week school holiday program

at an Indigenous community in Dubbo. Having always had an interest in social justice, she was shocked to discover that these issues were so prevalent within our own indigenous population. After involvement in grass-root youth groups such as Reconciliation ACTION (NSW) and Reconciliation ACT (ACT), involvement in RA seemed a natural progression for Southwood to a more nationally focused organisation. The recent apology, Southwood believes, has highlighted the role of RA in indigenous issues today.

RA has welcomed the apology from the Rudd Government, with Ms Southwood referring to the apology as "something so basic that needed to occur before we could move forward, [it] signals a genuine commitment by the new Government to reconciliation." Southwood talks of the incredible experience of being with members of the Stolen Generation at the time of the apology and seeing the sense of validation and relief the apology brought for them. When asked about the negative reaction by some of the crowds watching Brendan Nelson's response, Ms Southwood noted that the reaction from within the House of Representatives (where she was sitting) did not involve a turning of backs. Instead, she talks of the overwhelming sense of grace and understanding from the members of the Stolen Generation, and noted that the "people who were most affected accepted the Coalition's apology in the spirit of the day and with immense grace." The story of Nana Nungala Fejo used by Rudd to highlight the suffering and resilience of the Stolen Genera-



Indigenous children watch the apology in Redfern Wikimedia

tion made the apology intensely personal. When asked about how important telling these individual stories of the Stolen Generation are, Southwood replies "I am constantly humbled by the grace and generosity of the Stolen Generation to share these intensely personal stories to the broader Australian public who may need convincing about the pertinence of saying sorry."

Despite supporting Rudd's apology, RA are very aware that this is the first step, and one that must be, as Southwood puts it, "the end of one chapter and the start of a new beginning." So what next? The controversial Northern Territory intervention, implemented under the Howard Government and supported by the current administration, is one response that continues to be hotly debated. Although RA welcomes anything designed to protect children, Southwood notes that further consultation with Aboriginal communities will lead to more sustainable change and stronger support from indigenous people. Having conducted extensive research

into indigenous government, Southwood believes RA can offer significant insight into what may work in these communities. To fulfill Rudd's practical promises to improve indigenous life expectancy and the wellbeing of children, support from the indigenous communities themselves is essential. Since the new government has taken power there have already been some positive steps towards seeking this support. Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin began a consultation process before the apology on February 13th, and has promised that this process will continue. The National Welcome to Country ceremony performed at the opening ceremony of proceedings for Parliament on Tuesday, 12th February was, Southwood says, a symbolic inclusion of an indigenous presence at a federal level.

Touching on the issue of compensation, RA has suggested to the government that a compensation fund should be set up despite Rudd's insistence to the contrary. John Howard's fear that an apology to the Stolen Genera-

tion would lead to mass litigation is unfounded, states Southwood: "Experience with the States [Governments, who have already apologised] has shown that despite such fears, there has been no overwhelming rush by people seeking exorbitant compensation." A tribunal would allow for a less costly and traumatic process for those seeking redress than court proceedings. We will have to wait and see whether the Rudd Government implements this suggestion from RA.

Despite the unwillingness of Rudd to consider compensation, his speech referred a bipartisan-ship on indigenous issues that is unprecedented in Australian politics. His notion of a "war cabinet" that will help the politicians move beyond what he calls their "infantile bickering" and transcend the partisan divide surely signals a much longed for reassessment of indigenous affairs. When asked where such an organisation as RA sees themselves in this new approach, she responded that they will have the task of monitoring the promises and policies that have been so boldly laid out by the Rudd Government. At the same time, RA will continue its efforts to educate people about the significance of aboriginal culture and the reasons why reconciliation must remain a priority.

Perhaps, in light of what Rosie Southwood has said, reconciliation should be seen as not so much a linear path with a definite end, but a process of healing that requires both practical and symbolic action. If nothing else, the Sorry Day has re-opened dialogue and drawn attention to the issues at hand.



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# Our comparative advantage in defence

An ANU Masters candidate suggests how Australia can play to its strengths

2nd Lt. Douglas Abdiel  
United States Marine Corps

Adam Smith, the first economist, has many lessons to teach Australia about defence. In his book *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* Smith explains the principle of comparative advantage. If each actor does what it is best at and trades the products of its labor, then the result will be better for all actors concerned. Pol Pot learned this lesson in the Cambodian Genocide, as did Mao Zedong in his "Great Leap Forward." These two leaders forced intellectuals into labor jobs (or executed them) and placed laborers in jobs for which they were unqualified. The result was catastrophic for the economies of both countries. The same principle holds true for Australia. Defence policy should reflect Australia's proficiencies, not try to make the country something that it is not. Before deciding where Australian defence policy should go we must examine who, what, and where we are and what we can contribute to the defence of our own continent.

Australia's key defence proficiencies are our people, our good connections, and our isolated geography. Australia is a well-educated post-industrial country, with high literacy and competency in the maths and sciences. Our comparatively small population does not hold our country back from being a global trader in information technology, and advanced research. Australia's competitive advantage comes from our people.

Australia is well-connected. The alliances with the United States and the United Kingdom are key to the defence of our continent. Our trade in defence material has allowed us to spend much less on our research and development than we would otherwise need to.

Geographically, Australia is well positioned. We are far removed from any potential threats, separated by a large sea-air gap. Our continent is large and difficult to traverse. The distances between our major cities on every approach route are nearly insurmountable without using easily defensible roads or the ocean.

Our defence priorities are, to some extent, dictated by our geographic locale. As the 2000 Defence White Paper notes, our

goals are (in this order): defending the homeland, securing the immediate neighborhood, promoting stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia, supporting stability in wider Asia, and supporting the UN worldwide. These strategic interests should drive operational capabilities that Australia develops.

Currently, Australia is not exploiting its strengths in education, geography and alliances and avoiding its weaknesses in low population. Instead, it is basing its defence strategy around a few large, logistics-heavy weapons systems that will not contribute significantly to the defence of Australia or its allies. We are making ourselves like the professors forced to work in the fields in Cambodia, and we will pay a similarly high cost to our national security unless significant reform is made.

Australia will never be able to field a large conventional maneuver army; we are simply too small a nation. We should reduce the number of infantry battalions from six to four, saving us \$750 million/year. There would be little appreciable difference in the minds of our allies between our current six battalions and four when the smallest branch of the US military- the US Marine Corps- has 36, and the US Army is almost three times larger than that.

We should also cancel our new frontline Abrams tanks. This will directly save us \$600 million. This 68-tonne machine is much more difficult to supply, move and repair than it is worth. The logistics required to run this behemoth are astronomical. Many of our other assets will be employed to protect these supply lines any time these tanks are used outside of a coalition. It is like the "Paris Gun" that the Germans built in WWI which lobbed shells from 120km to attack Paris; it was so expensive that it actually helped the French win the war. The Abrams has forced us to develop a heavy air and sea lift capability that we never needed, and cannot exploit effectively.

Once the Abrams is cancelled we can also cancel the C-17, a large cargo plane, for which operating costs run at \$55 million a year. The ex-US Navy amphibious ships (Landing Helicopter Docks, or LHDs) will become likewise unnecessary; this will save us \$2.4 billion. The C-17 can carry four times the cargo of our current plane, the C-130J; however, if we lose just one fully

loaded plane, it will cost our defence dearly. Our current landing craft are small, but they can still exploit the sea as "maneuver space" in the defence of the continent, particularly with air and sea cover. The cancellation of these large amphibious ships will further reduce any fear of invasion by our neighbors. It would be better to have smaller planes, and smaller ships which we can

rines to destroy the enemy from above and below. Australian submarines and aircraft are out of the reach of all but the most well-trained and well-organized militaries. What Australia lacks in size it can make up for with its technological savvy.

With over \$9.75 billion being saved on these projects combined, the ADF could double its submarine fleet and its air power

## "Australia should not attempt to make the ADF a lumbering oaf"

afford to lose, rather than to put all off our eggs in a few, large, expensive baskets.

The Air-Warfare Destroyers (AWD) are ideal at protecting LHDs from air attack, but the cancellation of the LHDs will make the AWD redundant. The ANZAC-class frigate will have nearly the same deterrent value to any malcontents in our region, and additional Joint-Strike Fighters and submarines will provide more protection than the AWD ever could from airborne and subsurface threats.

Instead of an impossible competition against a large land-based enemy, Australia can use Joint Strike Fighters and subma-

assets (to 200 Joint Strike Fighters, and more airborne early warning and control assets as well as air-to-air refueling). This will cost \$10.7 billion. Australia's small, yet technologically-inclined population, its isolated geography, and alliances mean that this switch will play to Australia's strengths and make it suited to defend itself, the region, and the globe.

These changes would allow us to better support Asia, and no country could feel legitimately threatened by invasion. In a joint operation, Australia could provide capabilities that are currently out of reach for nearly every country in the region except

Singapore. In homeland defence, any invasion force would be nearly incapable of sustaining itself in the vast stretches between major cities where our new lightweight, mobile army could use the sea and air as maneuver space to harass the enemy's supply lines.

There are, of course, drawbacks to these changes. The recent stabilization missions in Timor Leste, Bougainville, and the Solomon Islands would be detrimentally affected. However, these operations have never been the core mission of the ADF, and the capability to perform these operations would not be entirely lost.

While the ability to intervene by putting soldiers on the ground in southeast and wider Asia would be diminished, our submarines would still provide a powerful unknown to hostile countries. The potential to meaningfully impact any conflict with six battalions and an additional armored regiment would be slight.

Australia must recognize what it is: well-educated, well-connected, and well-positioned. These strengths are what the defence force should be built around; it should not attempt to make the ADF a lumbering oaf.



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## SPORT AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

### Notice Of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the ANU Sport and Recreation Association will be conducted:

**On:** Tuesday 8 April 2008

**Venue:** ANU NORTH OVAL PAVILION

1st Floor

North Oval Sports Facility

(north-eastern) Corner of Barry Drive & McCaughey Streets Turner

**Time:** 6.00pm

The Closing date for Items of Business to be submitted to the ANUSRA Office is 14 full days prior to the AGM, this year being COB Monday 24 March 2008.

Enquiries: 6125 8380



# My genome - left or right?

**We all know families that share politics. Is it just upbringing or something more?**

**Amelia Joy Thompson**  
Research

It's election time again in the United States. Super Tuesday has been and gone, commentators are arguing and every poll increases the tension further. Amid the rush, however, political scientists and psychologists are seeking to determine what drives us to vote liberal or conservative – and why we can be so stubborn about it.

It's certainly true that some political views are unshakeable. Pick any emotive issue and think of people with opposing opinions arguing about it: they spend plenty of time arguing that they are correct, but rarely convince the opposition. We also talk off-handedly of inheriting our beliefs from those who helped shape them, whether parents, religious leaders or teachers. But is this due to brainwashing or biology? As it turns out, biology may be more important than we think, and several recent studies support the hypothesis that our

genes may largely determine our political leanings.

However, it's also true that Kevin07 and Make Howard History genes have not been discovered, and probably never will be. Evolution is an extremely gradual process, so it does not make sense to have genes determining our views on issues that are comparatively short-lived. It is far more likely that our collection of personality traits is linked to our genetic inheritance, and that these traits may in turn shape our political views.

In 2005, for instance, John Alford, a political scientist, and colleagues published a paper analysing the political opinions of identical and fraternal twins, including a database of 30,000 twins from Virginia and the database of a smaller Australian study. The results were startling. Identical twins were more likely than fraternal twins to give the same responses to a set of political questions, and this was the case for every question on the test. Since identical twins have the same genes and fraternal

twins share only half of theirs, this analysis certainly demonstrates a correlation between genetic inheritance and our political opinions.

So much for DNA – but is

**“Identical twins were more likely than fraternal twins to give the same responses to a set of political questions”**

there really any correlation between political views and personality traits? A 2003 survey by John Jost, a psychologist, and colleagues provides comprehensive support for this idea. Jost used 88 research samples involving 22,818 individuals, with studies carried out in a variety of countries including Australia. Some traits are more obviously political than others: egalitarianism, for instance, is usually connected with the left. More intriguingly though, conservatives were more likely than liberals to have neat and organised living spaces! In general, Jost found that conservatives tended to score higher on

measures of dogmatism, intolerance of ambiguity and need for order. Liberals, in contrast, were usually open to new experiences and change. Jost concluded that the differences between left and

right can – and should – be explained in terms of our underlying psychological makeup, which may be the crucial link between DNA and our political stances.

There is certainly evidence suggesting that personality traits are heritable. Jost's conclusions, for instance, were consistent with the big five model of personality used by many psychologists. According to this model, personality has five main dimensions: conscientiousness, openness, extroversion, agreeableness and neuroticism. Although the model isn't universally accepted, several studies indicate that the big five traits at least are moderately her-

itable, with around 30 per cent to half of all variation in scores measured for these traits traced to genetic differences. More importantly, two of the big five are closely associated with political inclination: liberals are likely to have significantly higher openness scores than conservatives, while the conservatives may score slightly higher on items relating to conscientiousness. In short, psychologists and political scientists agree with what we've always known: liberals tend to like change and conservatives tend to resist it.

If the scientists' findings are sound what does this mean for political debate? Perhaps all that energy spent trying to persuade the opposition of our ideas is a waste of time. Should we bother with debate at all? Rejecting dialogue because of the influence of genes is in my view not only incorrect but harmful. Policies and public opinion do alter over time and without vigorous debate there would likely be little positive change – but that could just be my liberal genotype talking.

# Killing with Compassion

**What sort of person would leave the sick to die in hospital? A kind one perhaps.**

**Katja Grace**  
Health

How much of the public's healthcare would you pay for if you ran the government? Unless you are without compassion or very economically conservative, your answer is unlikely to be 'none'. You might want to reconsider that, because the only randomised health insurance experiment ever done says most of this spending could be scrapped and it would hardly hurt a bit.

Between 1974 and 1982 the RAND Health Insurance Experiment gave differing levels of healthcare subsidy to 7700 Americans from every income level and measured how much healthcare they chose to use, for what, how much it cost, and what effect it had on the health of these human guinea pigs.

You won't be surprised that those who had to pay more for their healthcare used less. What may surprise you is that this had, according to a range of indicators, little impact on their health. People in the free healthcare group used over 40 per cent more outpatient medical

services than those in the group which received only a 5 per cent subsidy, but with a few isolated exceptions were no healthier.

The usual fear of letting government use market forces to determine healthcare is that this will kill the poor, but RAND found that on average the poor suffered no more than the general population. The poor were only helped by subsidies in a few types of care, such as dentistry.

Why didn't the almost un-

**“Healthcare you wouldn't pay for yourself is, on average, completely useless”**

subsidised poor suffer more? They were probably more likely to meet the income dependent cap on health spending and so receive free care eventually. But serious health problems are very high priority, and other forms of consumption are not much fun if you're sick or dead. For those with any income at all, what would be inequality in health is presumably transferred to inequality in other spending. While the rich might just sell a few shares to

finance medical treatment, the poor might have to sell their car and feed their children less. The question then becomes whether it's moral to leave the sick and poor with less money to spend on things other than their health. A simpler and less condescending solution would be to just increase welfare payments.

Cheap healthcare for all is often justified by the idea that people will forgo beneficial healthcare if it costs too much. This

experiment rebuts that argument in two ways. Firstly, healthcare you wouldn't buy with your own money is not only bad value, but on average quite useless. Secondly, the extra procedures those on the expensive plans didn't use seemed exactly as effective as the procedures they kept. This suggests patients or doctors choose medical procedures arbitrarily and greatly reduce the effectiveness of the service.

A striking feature of the idea

of radically cutting health insurance spending is its outstanding political unfeasibility. To many it's not a less effective mechanism, but is actually unthinkable. This raises suspicions of the reasons for our abhorrence. Images of the poor dying for lack of medical treatment are much more vivid than images of economic models. This makes it hard to believe that the overall result of denying healthcare is nothing. Health spending is one of those things like aeroplane crashes and shark lunches where we suddenly get disproportionately protective of our lives. Would you pay higher taxes to be forced to eat more healthy food and exercise often? This would probably be far more effective at improving our health than all of our hospitals, but letting people eat convenient dinners doesn't have the same sense of a moral emergency.

And do you squirm talking about human lives in dollar terms? According to the psychologist Phillip Tetlock, calculated tradeoffs of 'sacred' values like human life are popularly considered immoral. A willingness to weigh up the merits of trading off friends for any reason

demonstrates that you are too 'rational' to be a loyal member of society. This is a big problem when limited resources must be distributed and thinking about where to make sacrifices would improve overall welfare. Saving people in hospitals is a moral imperative that we want to exclude from calculation. Unfortunately we could divert spending to that area indefinitely. Meanwhile, factors that seem to have a real effect on health, such as diet and lifestyle, are ignored because they fall within the private non-ethical domain. Profligate spending on healthcare is seen as positive proof that the government loves us and should be supported, even if we are no better off for it. Perhaps more funding for evolutionary psychology would help us all be aware of our biases and better judge our level of support for healthcare.

The experiment may be misleading in some way but it is negligent to ignore it because of its abhorrent conclusion. Isaac Asimov said, 'never let your sense of morals prevent you from doing what is right'. Are our morals hindering us from thinking about what's right?



# The Art of Theft



Emily Birks

Art Correspondent

If films such as *The Thomas Crown Affair*, *Entrapment* or *Ocean's Twelve* are anything to go by, art theft is a glamorous profession rather than a serious crime. In reality, it's a rather foolish thing to do

Thieves may take an artwork for a number of reasons. For one, it may be stolen 'to order', by a collector or admirer, or to sell on the black market. It may also be stolen for the insurance pay out, or held for a ransom. There are factors in the heists, however, that thieves often fail to take into account. Because the stolen artworks are usually highly recognisable and therefore impossible to display, it is tough selling them on the black market. In the case of insurance fraud, an insider will steal the work, demand a ransom, be paid and then quietly return the work after the insurance has been claimed. Experts

point to insurance cases where little information is offered later as to how the work was returned or who committed the crime.

In Zurich on February 10, four works by Van Gogh, Monet, Degas and Cézanne were stolen from a private museum. It does not appear the thieves were particularly educated, as they left behind the most valuable works in the museum and stole the four paintings from one wall. It is thought that they didn't consider the weight or dimension of the works either, which were encased in glass, as several witnesses noticed the art sticking out the back of the getaway car. Only one week later, on February 18th, police found two of the works in an abandoned car in car park of a Zurich mental hospital. They were found in perfect condition and at the time of writing, the search continues for the other two, more valuable, paintings.

According to Interpol, European countries such as France, Poland and Germany have the highest rate of thefts. However, Australia is not immune to art theft. Perhaps the highest profile theft was that of Picasso's *Weeping Woman*, stolen from the National Gallery of Victoria in 1986. A group calling themselves the Australian Cultural Terrorists stole the painting in order to demand more funding for the arts.

Picasso, *Weeping Woman*, 1937, oil on canvas

The work was discovered in a train station locker a fortnight later. The thieves have never been caught. In June 2007, a 17th century painting titled *Cavalier*, thought to be a self portrait by Dutch artist Frans van Mieris was stolen from the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney. Because the work was relatively small (the size of an A3 page), it is

thought the thief was able to hide the work under a loose garment. However, with over 6000 visitors that day, no camera surveillance in the room and no alarms on the painting, the task of identification became close to impossible, and the Rocks police are still searching for both the thief and the work itself. A rare work by a little proclaimed artist, it seems

an odd thing to steal when considering the other, better known works that the AGNSW holds.

The good news is, works are occasionally recovered or returned. Last December, 96 New Zealand war medals, including nine Victoria Crosses, were stolen from Waikato Army Museum. Lord Ashcroft, who holds the largest collection of Victoria Crosses and offered part of the reward money for the medals' return, commented that unlike stolen art, there is no black market for medals. The medals, though not technically an art object, hold cultural and historical significance and much like stolen art, have the same limitations for their distribution after the crime. It seems the thieves realised this, as on the 16th of February all of the medals were returned. What angers so many New Zealanders is that the lawyer who found the thieves may give them part of the NZ\$300,000 reward. He is also claiming lawyer-client confidentiality, meaning he cannot reveal the identities of the thieves.

The recent recoveries in Zurich and New Zealand are good odds for a recovery rate that Interpol predicts at only 10%, and their ranking of art theft at number three after trafficking of drugs and arms indicates that art heists will continue to occur as long as there is demand.

## Can ANU be bothered with culture?

Cathy Haines  
Culture

I've become used to the look of pity appearing after my answer to that inevitable question during O-Week introductions; "What do you study?" As if Arts were my default option.

I suspect that most of the students who were enrolled at what was (until its recent closure) The Centre for New Media Arts, or any of those currently studying at the School of Music (which is undergoing serious review) are also motivated by something other than sufferance.

I do not intend to launch into a caustic tirade of self-defence. What I, your newly appointed, ever-concerned culture correspondent, would like to know is this; are ANU students really interested in culture? Or only the 'culture' of beer drinking and Mooseheads? If so, I suggest that you stop reading right now. Arts degrees are the formal study of

cultural pursuits. So forgive me for thinking that the deterioration of interest in studying the Arts implies a deterioration of interest in culture.

How many of you have seen a show at the ANU Arts Centre (the little known establishment behind the Gods; home to the Drama Department, two theatres, \$5 student tickets and

**How many of you have seen a show at the ANU Arts Centre, or watched a recital at the School of Music, or been to the National Gallery?**

some of the most interesting personalities on campus), or watched a recital at the School of Music, or been to the National Gallery? How many of you pick up a piece of literature on a daily basis? Perhaps you think it's enough that you flick through *Panorama* on the weekend and occasionally listen to Triple J or see something at Dendy. No

wonder you're not prepared to admit that there might be some real value in an Arts degree.

I hope I'm biting the bit. But all recent indications from the restructuring of the ANU point to the contrary. How long is it before the School of Art, or the Arts Centre, is made redundant? Last year a Queensland university actually closed an entire Hu-

manities faculty. This semester at ANU there is only one pure English literature course on offer, and no one seems particularly surprised. It's as if all the Arts students out there have been expecting it. Are we that complacent about our degrees that we do not value them? Imagine the outrage if ANU were to inform Law students that their degree

would be no longer offered. Not that I mean to take a stab at Law students (on the contrary - they at least have some pride). I just want to point out that there is an imbalance between the perceived importance of Law degrees, or those with similar status, and the humble cultural courses that the universities were founded upon.

We now find that our degree choices determine changes to the universities we attend. Vocational qualification has always been the advantage of courses like Law or Medicine, but recently even Arts degrees, with the increased interest in International Relations post-9/11, have seen more vocationally-based enrolments. Maybe universities have become so obsessed with financial viability that they have begun to ignore the non-money making subjects that are nevertheless the key to intellectual development, and perfectly sensible career paths. It's not a phenomenon restricted to the Faculty of Arts; Science students are also upset that there is increasingly less money for

pure research with no possible commercial application. Unless a discipline can be properly marketed, and its importance easily understood, it becomes marginalised.

I can't help but feel that most students, and their fixation on job security and status, are no longer interested in supporting cultural subjects anymore. Are degrees becoming a means to an end, instead of an end in themselves? Is anyone actually interested in the disciplines they are studying and thinking about? As Arts students, it's our responsibility to ask these things as we have been taught how to actively question our world.

I don't feel that anyone needs an airtight reason for recommending the Arts, although there are hundreds. I just suggest you make a little pilgrimage this week and figure it out for yourself. I bet you'll walk away from the painting, play, concert, film or book a bigger and better person - the kind of person I'd want to meet next O-week.



# Canberra Still Rocks (Sorry, Melbourne!)



**Bradley Kunda**  
Music Correspondent

*Me and the Grownups, The Andi and George Band, Mr. Fibby*  
**Transit Bar, Civic**  
Thursday 21 February

It was a strange delight to hear upon entering the familiar Transit Bar Mr. Fibby's unusual cover of *The Cat Empire's* 'The Wine Song', played on guitar, cello and

violin. This surprisingly dextrous band was an absolute delight, and their trio of music-makers were high-class and excelled in extracting a multitude of astonishing sounds from their instruments. The band covered a curious blend of polka and electro-interpretative folk (whatever that means). However, it is somewhat inaccurate to call *Mr. Fibby* a trio, for indeed it is a quartet. That is, if you can count as a fourth member a drunk-looking interpretive dancer in a funny hat who waves his arms about and earnestly attempts a very poor French (I think?) accent in a colourfully poetic representation of something barely comprehensible. However, this rambling sailor, who may be known to some as M.C Hadley at The Phoenix, did bring a smile to my

face, and I conclude that Canberra's talented *Mr. Fibby* is the ideal band for anyone who wants to pretend they're somewhere, or someone, else.

It may be no surprise that the Transit Bar immediately packed

**"It is no exaggeration to say that this band must be the hottest band in Canberra at the moment"**

full of people when *The Andi and George Band* began to play. This group really has it all; exciting songs, skilled musicians and an awesome stage presence; George must be the happiest person on stage, ever, Andi's voice has no bounds and Lina Andonovska is ravishing as flautist and deserves all of the hyper-enthusi-

astic cheer she gets in response to her solos. It is no exaggeration to say that this band must be the hottest band in Canberra at the moment. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for visiting Melbourne band, *Me and the*

vocals and too-loud guitar. For these reasons, they would be just an ordinary band if it weren't for the inappropriate remarks made by the singer and violinist during the gig, requesting quiet from the audience so that people who were trying to listen could hear. This was certainly not the way to win the hearts of a Canberra audience who had just been thrilled by a great local band, and so the crowd aptly responded with increased chatter. *Me and the Grownups* may be an appropriate musical addition to a late night concert-style club, but certainly not for a crowd of energetic Canberrans at the Transit Bar.

*Bradley Kunda is the recipient of the ANU 2007 Erika Haas Award for the most outstanding performance instrumentalist of any year*

## Film: *The Kite Runner* and *Jumper*

**Lyndsay Dean**  
Film Critic

Since the ridiculously overblown War on Terror has yet to come to an end, it appears that the new chic theme in Hollywood is the destructiveness of the enduring Middle Eastern crises. While it's yet to be seen if the war-loving American attitude can be changed, this Afghan-American adaptation manages to add human fuel to raging political disgrace.

*The Kite Runner*, based on Khaled Hosseini's bestselling novel, is a haunting first-hand insight into life and war-caused devastation in Afghanistan between 1970 and 2000. Beginning in (pre-Russian invasion) Kabul, it follows the life of Amir (Zekeria Ebrahimi, played as an adult by Khalid Abdalla), the son of a wealthy Afghan benefactor,

whose closest friend is his Hazara servant, Hassan (Khan Mahmidzada). After winning a kite flying contest to earn his father's love, the weak Amir witnesses a brutal racial attack on Hassan which alters their lives forever. Baba and Amir flee after the Russian invasion, yet Amir ultimately returns to his forsaken country in an attempt to redeem himself.

While Marc Forster's (Monster's Ball, Finding Neverland) film is a faithful adaptation with some spectacular scenery and brilliant acting by non-professional child actors, it nevertheless loses much of the book's heart in translation. The brilliance of Hosseini's novel is its faithfulness to the dynamics of human relationships, a complexity that is lost somewhat on film. You never really feel the sterility of Amir's relationship with his father and therefore you never understand just how desperately lonely Amir is. There is no real sympathy for Amir because you

never fully appreciate why Amir is as spineless as he is.

Much of the film is focused on Amir and Baba's seemingly happy life in America and so we miss the development of Amir's festering guilt. Forster doesn't let us feel his burden or make us privy to his memories of betrayal, therefore we cannot hope to understand his bitterness and trepidation of returning to Afghanistan.

While *The Kite Runner* has so many universal components, Forster fails to solidify them into a dynamic and poignant whole. We care for the characters because we know we should, not because we're compelled to.

Based on Steven Gould's novel, *Jumper* seems to tick all the boxes: boy with ability to jump instantaneously through time, boy makes fortune, boy finally gets childhood sweetheart yet learns that his gift is not unique, boy finds himself in the middle of a centuries-old war between

Jumpers and Paladins (the ever-present hunters), boy teams up with fellow Jumper to kill Paladins. Cue major showdown.

On paper Doug Liman's latest film is overflowing with the promise of becoming one of 2008's biggest sci-fi action films, and yet manages to fall disappointingly short. Instead of blowing your mind with the best time/space tricks since *The Matrix*, *Jumper* is plagued by poor scripting and lacklustre acting, leaving you feeling that this film just blew its chance of greatness.

When we discover the painful childhood of the main character, David (Hayden Christensen) we should be delighted at the liberty his powers afford him but one can't help but be distracted by the arrogance Christensen exudes on screen. Instead of a liberated hero, free from the banality of a dead-end life, David comes across as a conceited brat willing to use his gift for self-centred purposes. He's hardly the empa-

thetic hero we've been waiting for, and Millie is nothing but annoyingly deluded. The only character with the hard-core edge necessary to pull off a film of this magnitude is Griffin (Jamie Bell), the self declared hunter of Paladins. Griffin has the motivation and drive that David lacks and in a film marred by Christensen's trademark wooden acting, Bell delivers dialogue with a conviction that steals the show.

*Jumper* promises to be great... and then it isn't. If the film fell off its reel and burned down the cinema with 30 minutes to go you could possibly walk away going "yeah, that wasn't too bad." While the special effects are first rate the plot is flawed and 'climax' atrocious. The film sets everything up for a showdown between Jumpers and Paladins, but then fizzles out with a whimper. There may be a sequel brewing but, damn it, finish what you start before asking us to return for more.

## Film: *There Will Be Blood*

**Jonathan Fisher**  
Film Critic

Paul Thomas Anderson's sprawling epic *There Will Be Blood* is not concerned with being entertaining, 'user-friendly' or being in favour of good or evil. It works on its own terms. For instance, the film opens with a fifteen-minute, dialogue-free sequence of a group of men digging for oil. It culminates in an accident

within the oil-well – a beam falls from its mooring and hits one of two brothers, killing him. The uncompromising nature of the film is made clear: one man lives, the other dies. One wins, one loses.

The survivor is Daniel Plainview (played by Daniel Day-Lewis), and the movie follows his career as an oil prospector, as well as his relationship with his adopted son H.W. and his associates. He and his son attempt to buy out an oil-rich farm belonging to the Sunday family, whose

eldest son Eli (Paul Dano) is a devout Christian. He becomes the county's flamboyant pastor, whose relationship with Plainview is the most exciting aspect of the film. Anderson presents Plainview initially as a reasonably 'good' man whose slow descent into madness and spite hampers his desire to redeem himself by attempting to join Eli Sunday's church.

The film is based loosely upon Upton Sinclair's 1929 book *Oil!*, whose commentary on the significance of the American battle

between capitalism and religion will always be relevant.

*There Will Be Blood* is not one of the best films of the year, although I can understand why many disagree; it tells a simple story in a unique, hard-edged and uncompromised way. Also, Paul Thomas Anderson has undeniable talent and should be applauded for his ambition. But the film has its flaws – Jonny Greenwood's soundtrack, for instance, has its moments of brilliance, but calls attention to itself when it should be accompanying

the visuals rather than dominating them. And Dano struggles to match the intensity of Day-Lewis and seems to act in his shadow throughout the film.

Finally, it is too long. While the last half hour is morbidly funny and affecting, it did not answer the question of who, and why, Daniel Plainview is. Where did this force of nature come from, and how did he come to be? Perhaps my lingering questions will be answered in a prequel, titled 'Before There Was Blood'.



# The O-Week for our generation



Robert Wiblin  
Editor

*On tenterhooks waiting to know how Woroni judged O-Week? This is how.*

**Tip of the Hat**  
Woroni would like to congratulate the ANUSA Social Team for a highly successful O-Week. Hundreds of first years brandishing fluoro tight-pants and glow-sticks jumped at the chance to

unintentionally rub up against one another on their first Uni night out. A large crowd enjoyed the edgy comedy of Wil Anderson, who dealt with the tough issues of the day (necrophilia and Vanstone's love of Vanilla slice) while giving us enough energy to come off-stage looking like he had just run IB on meth. Despite the fact that few really knew how to put on a toga properly, or rather because of it, the Toga Party was a feast for the senses (nonetheless, we offers the dressing suggestion below for future toga events). *Woroni* hopes that the novel 'make-out pavilion' will continue to be erected in future years and that Burgmann's flora wasn't wholly killed off by urine. Sponsorship has ensured that O-Week has more than paid for itself, so keep up the great

work Sham, Jo and Tom!  
**Wag of the Finger**  
Regrettably the ANU Bar may have damaged relations with the Students' Association, a very regular customer, by unreasonably demanding that sponsor venues on the O-Week banner be blacked out at the ANU Ball. Overzealous security guards also ejected O-Week organiser Sham Sara as he attempted to take the banner away as the event, and week, were wrapping up. Another was ejected for sculling beer. With charisma like this, you can see why they would be paranoid about students seeing the names of other Canberra venues. If these giant security guards get ants in their pants over a healthy dose of uni debauchery maybe they should go flex their muscles outside high school proms.



An incorrectly worn toga looks plebian, so heed this wise advice Marija Taflaga



Rambo romans



A sassy student strikes a pose

## Photos!

All the O-Week photos taken by Woroni staff are available online on the *Woroni* Facebook group.



ANU students buy Canberra out of flourescent clothing



The incredible lightness of being at the ANU Ball



O-Week mastermind Sham looks relieved that it's nearly over



Definitely not laurel wreaths



# Talk of the Townie

**Bad: Civic only has one great festival. Worse: You just missed it.**

**Matt Teran**  
**Token Townie**

*Dear god. Wait. Is it today? No. It can't be. Yes. Yes it is. Oh the joy! Okay breathe. Ah, sweet mystery of life, at last I've found thee!*

These are my thoughts as I pierce one last over-priced item with a security tag, do away with my surly 'retail face', and stumble out of the incandescent playpen that is the Canberra Centre Mall to, oh yes, *The 2008 National Multicultural Festival Food and Dance Spectacular*.

The entire festival goes for a month or so, but for just one weekend Garema Place and the length of City Walk become a worldly fatty's paradise. In the past I have feasted upon empanadas, butter chicken, Bratwurst, paella, curries of various descents, and possibly the greatest, most delectable meal I have encountered – Dutch Pancakes. These petite, pale medallions of joy are served smothered in chocolate sauce and struggling under the weight of a mountain of whipped cream, the sight of which would make the lactose intolerant let out just a little bit of nervous wee. If there is one

conclusion we can draw from this selection of global foods it is that people in all cultures share a sincere love of one thing – the deep fryer.

I am oft described as a 'fat man in a skinny man's body' and in accordance with description I am usually in my element as I pace 190 odd food stalls in search of the perfect lunch. But this time it's different. As I politely shoulder my way through the crowd, assessing which country to commit to and which queue to join, I begin to find this culinary round-the-world ticket, well, overwhelming. If I choose one stall, what if the queue doesn't move fast enough and I am late getting back to work?; what culinary joy will I miss out on if I commit to one, without considering all others?; do I stand by my preliminary decisions that group the stalls into categories of 'no', 'maybe' and 'will come back to?'; and how will I ever forgive myself and live a full and content life if I, by chance, choose a meal that is unsatisfactory, despite the plethora of choice I am presented with?

If 2009 serves you up the opportunity to experience this food festival for yourself, please do not

make my mistake in over-ruminating on your choice of multicultural cuisine. Just go with the first food stall you come across, even if it is the perpetually dull Australian themed one. Or, if you must, limit your international perusing to a very specific beat of pavement. And for those of you who smirk and insist you can handle the beautiful horrors of this particular Canberra weekend, I say, good luck. Just don't blame me when you return to work with a rumbling stomach, a frazzled outlook on life and a renewed awareness that you really do have issues.

## Perfect timetabling

Now, I wish to bring your attention to another sequence of choices in which it does pay to have your pedantic pants on – the configuration of your uni timetable. With a little bit of managed dramatics, you may even emerge with the most coveted configuration – three straight days of uni, Monday to Wednesday, each with a break for lunch, all clash free, nestled alongside a four day weekend in which to earn the moolah or be still like a vegetable. So, here are my tips to getting the timetable you desire and deserve.

Firstly, build your dream timetable on the net knowing only the general subject area of each course. Then, and only then, should you look at the description of the courses themselves. Now it comes down to cost-benefit decision – for example, am I willing to endure a semester of HIST2077 *The Complete History of Statistical Research Methods and the Lives of those who Enjoy Them* in order to finish at 4pm on Wednesday and not return until 10am Monday the next week?

Secondly, avoid at all costs courses with exams. In doing so, you can be sure that the start of the exam period is actually the start of your holidays, consequently making you the envy of family, friends, housemates and the like. Simple? Yes. Genius? You betcha.

Thirdly, tutorials. If signup is conducted online, I suggest checking the tutorial registration page each time you check Facebook or enter a new, ever so witty status. The frequency of your hits pretty much guarantees that you will be online when your lecturer enables enrolment, thereby giving you the pick of tutorial sessions. If, at the end of the first class, your lecturer simply an-

## Retraction and Apology

*Woroni* retracts statements about the course 'Money, Power, War' made in the article in the O-Week Special Edition titled 'ANU student culture: do we have one?' and sincerely apologises to the teachers and students of that course for any hurt the statement may have caused.

nounces the location of tutorial signup sheets, consider this your starting gun. I don't want you just walking with vigour to the location of these A4 gems; I want you running, taking two stairs at a time, sprinting through union court and blurring the trees lining University Avenue. Upon your arrival you can calmly add your name to the appropriate list, then walk away just as an erratic gathering descends upon the pin board, pens at the ready, mobile phones in hand to text so and so about a session time, brandishing freshly printed draft timetables and blocking the corridor with their lack of commitment.

On all of this, trust me. For I am your townie. And I love you.

## ANUSA Meeting Dates

3 March	Combined Representative Council
11 March	Student Representative Council
12 March	Faculty Representative Council

All meetings begin at 6:00pm in the Council Rooms at the Student Facilities Building, Union Court. All students welcome.



The Retro Run Andrew Flint

## SEXUAL HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING ACT



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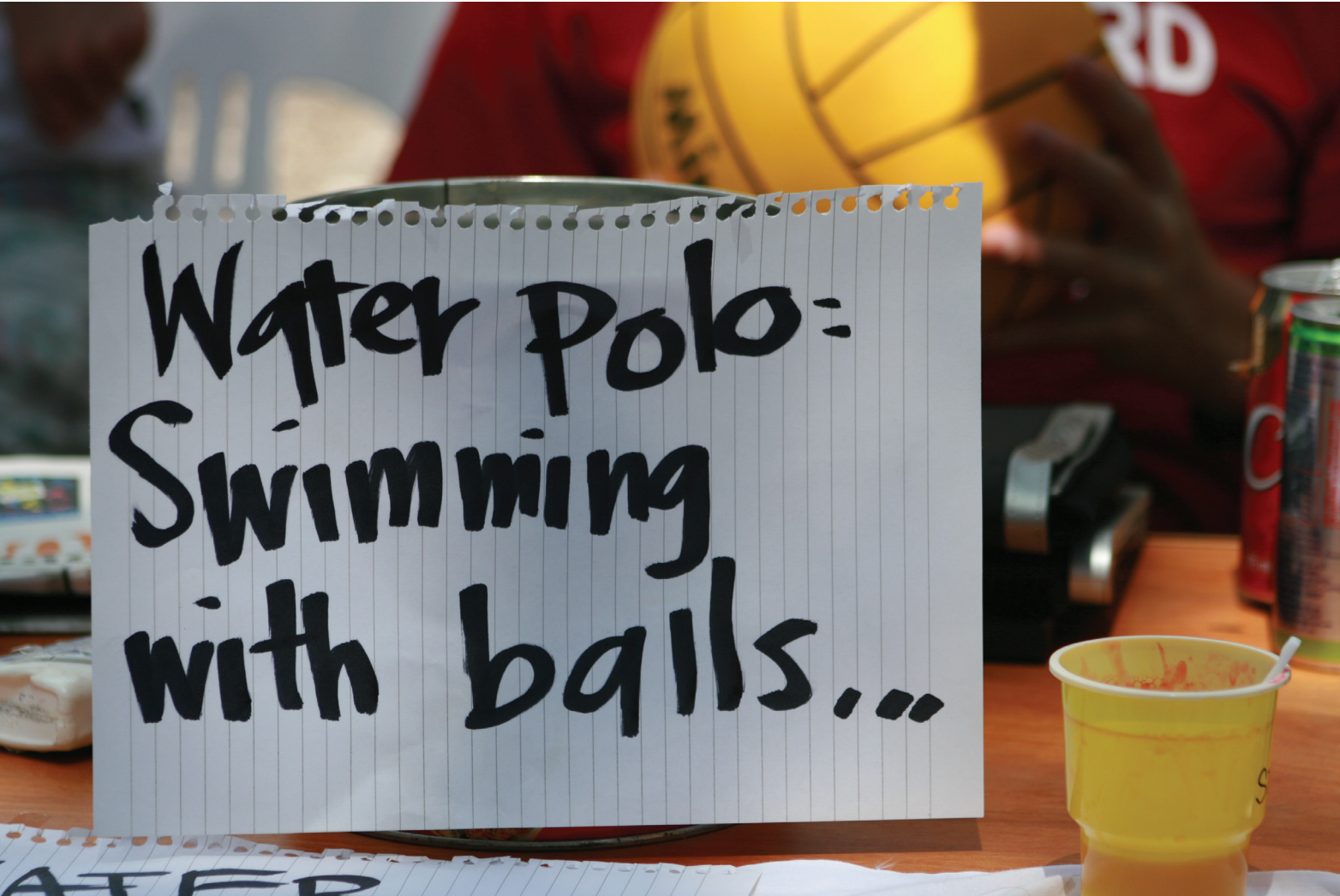
1/28 University Ave, Canberra  
Phone 6247 3077 / SMS 0400 770 999

[www.shfpact.org.au](http://www.shfpact.org.au)



# Players seek towel boy

ANU's latest sports club takes the plunge



The ANU Water Polo team demands to be taken seriously Diwa Hopkins

Alex Davies  
Water Polo Guru

This week marks the grand beginning of the first year of ANU Dragons Water Polo. After years of unofficial play, ANU now has a water polo club playing with the Dragons, one of Canberra's longest standing clubs.

Because it is in infancy, many people don't know what to expect from the sport and the club. This year, ANU Water Polo is striving to provide the best atmosphere for new players to compete in a fun water sport. There are grades for all levels, from the old hands to the rookies who have never seen a game before. It's a great opportunity for enjoying an energetic sport with a relaxed club atmosphere.

But how do we convince you to play and dismiss the common view that water polo is one of the most brutal sports know to man, where any notion of rules or sportsmanship are thrown to the wind as players dive into the pool?

For a start we're not Eastern European.

**European Domination**

Water polo was born in England at the end of the 19th Century, and was originally billed as 'rugby on water'. The Eastern

Block countries were quick to assert supremacy and their players continue to dominate the sport and achieve great fame to this day.

These countries have always played a very "heavy" form of water polo, a style that is much more physical and involves less intervention by the referees. International players have been aware of this for a long time, as the different refereeing style makes a huge difference to how the game functions. However, to the casual sports lover this may go unnoticed.

The first strong perceptions of water polo in Australia were formed at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics in a semi-final between Russia and the then world champions, Hungary. These teams combined incredible skill and fitness with a brutal, unforgiving style of play, drawing huge crowds.

The Melbourne Games had been proceeding with the political backdrop of a revolt against the soviet puppet government in Hungary. During the previous month there had been a full uprising in swing and the Hungarian team had been evacuated from training in Hungary and taken directly to Melbourne.

The players only realised the full extent of the uprising once they got to Melbourne. On ar-

## Basic Rules of Water Polo

1. You can't touch the bottom of the pool, unless you are a goalie.
2. You can only touch the ball with one hand at a time, unless you are a goalie.
3. The game is played in 4 5-minute quarters, but with a bench of 7 reserves so that players can be easily rested.
4. If you shoot and miss the goals entirely, you must buy the team a case of beer.

rival the teams were informed of the retaliation strike of Soviet infantry and tanks. The Hungarians were not happy and hell hath no fury like a team of Eastern European water polo players who have just had their country invaded. What ensued was the most brutal game in the history of water polo, which had to be called off 1 minute before the end to prevent uncontrollable rioting by the crowds. Hungary defeated the USSR in this infamous 'Blood in the Water' 4-0.

**Relaxed and Comfortable**

I use this piece of history of water polo to describe precisely what Australian water polo isn't like. A long tradition of sportsmanship and relaxed attitudes have resulted in Australian teams that can rise to meet interna-

tional standards yet still meet for a social game and enjoy the cool embrace of the swimming pool in the midst of blazing summer heat.

So if my little story has still given you second thoughts about playing, remember that:

We play a much "lighter", friendlier game in Australia. We have beautiful weather and facilities for water polo and assuming ANU doesn't annex UC this year (Ian Chubb assures me this will not be the case), there will be nothing to incite undue violence.

**Join Us!**

If you are considering joining or are interested in finding out more about the club you can contact us at [anu.w.polo@gmail.com](mailto:anu.w.polo@gmail.com) or on mobile 0400 791 368.

## Good fencers make good neighbours

John Birrell  
Sports Editor

With a membership comprised of past national champions and commonwealth gold medallists it is hardly surprising that the ANU Fencing Club has in recent times been one of the most successful of all ANU sporting associations. Despite being the club of choice for elite fencers in the Canberra area in both foil and epee divisions ANUFC welcomes novices, providing a great deal of coaching and assistance to those just starting out. President Iain Bain assures me that the club has recently invested in brand new equipment specifically for beginners so that potential members will not be deterred by the icky prospect of trading sweat as well as jabs with their fellow fencers.

The Club has a healthy competition calendar in the ACT and NSW and hosts numerous competitions throughout the year as part of the ACT state circuit. ANUFC also send members to the National Championships and will be sending a team to the Australian Uni Games later this year. ANUFC is currently back to back ACT club champion and boasts the men's foil and epee champion and the women's epee champion.

For anyone interested in joining the ANU Fencing Club training times are 7-9.30pm Tuesdays and 12-3.30pm on Sundays in the New Hall of the Sport and Recreation Association. Three beginner courses are run throughout the year by qualified coaches at a cost of \$75 for ANU students, with the first running between February 4th and April 8th on Tuesdays between 7 and 9pm. The second and third beginner programmes will be offered between 29th April and 3rd June and between 29th July and September 2nd respectively. Membership can be purchased at the SRA for \$65 for ANU students and includes the provision of all equipment. Checkout [www.anufencing.org.au](http://www.anufencing.org.au) for more information.

*ANU sports results begin next issue.*