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5 June – 30 July 2008

BBQ democracy heats up

Student politicians ready themselves for another round of student elections. Sauce with that?



Tully Fletcher
Editor

For former Prime Minister John Howard, the most important political issue was the 'barbeque stopper'. For ANU student politics, an important issue or campaign is characterised by the sound of BBQs *starting*. It doesn't matter which cause, which group or which election, the gathering of people and the pushing of agendas at our University is almost entirely conducted over the sound of sizzling sausages.

Now the BBQs will be afire again, as the student establishment manoeuvres itself into another set of tickets for the annual Union and Student Association

(ANUSA) elections.

Second year student Sham Sara — the current ANUSA Social Officer and Vice-President of the ANU Labor Club — has declared his hand early and has confirmed that he will run for the office of ANUSA President, while fourth year Michael Galluzzo (known to many students for his involvement in ANU ReconciliACT) will convene an opposing ticket for the ANUSA Executive and Student Representative Council. Galluzzo has not yet announced a presidential candidate.

Both Sara and Galluzzo have claimed the prized mantle of 'independent' for their tickets though questions have been raised about the independence of Sara's ticket. A Labor Party member (of the right-wing Unity faction) and former Kevin Rudd intern, Sara told *Woroni* that his ticket will be entirely independent of the Labor Party or the ANU Labor Club, though he confirmed that Labor Club President Chris Steel will convene his ticket and Labor Club members

may assist with the campaign. Current ANUSA President and former Labor staffer Jamila Rizvi has endorsed him and said that Sara "would be an excellent candidate".

Rizvi was elected with financial backing from the Labor Party, and in 2006 Rizvi orchestrated the election of Claudia Newman-Martin, the non-aligned 2007 President, with Labor Party money and resources. Later regretting the Labor association, Newman-Martin was to successfully push for new electoral disclosure requirements to ensure that ANUSA tickets revealed their funding and expenditure.

Then Labor Club President Josh Gordon-Carr and Rizvi attempted to end the ANUSA 2007 Ordinary General Meeting at which the requirements were proposed by staging a Labor Club walkout and calling quorum after using their numbers to vote down the idea. Newman-Martin managed to bring back enough students in restore quorum and pass the amendments, so creating this year's new position of ANUSA



General Secretary Mark Smyth (L) and Sham Sara (C) cook snags

Probity Officer.

But despite the Labor Club's previous opposition, Sara has embraced the new disclosure requirements and told *Woroni* that he'll "be running a completely independent ticket, with no finan-

cial or other assistance from any political organisation." Sara has also promised that the majority of candidates on his ticket will have no association with the Labor Club or the Labor Party.

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Peppercorn's breasts draw ire of law lecturers



Charles Prestidge-King
News Editor

The magazine of the Law Students' Society (LSS), *Peppercorn*, has drawn criticism after breasts

were depicted on the cover of its latest edition, which focuses on legal issues facing women. The cover (right) features an unnamed model's chest and was designed to draw attention to the magazine and, in the words of Editors Ben Pynt and Chelsea Mullavey, "bring up some issues." The cover certainly drew attention, though not of a desired kind: complaints, both formal and otherwise, were lodged by senior law academics Professor Pene Mathew and Don Anton after early distribution of

the magazine.

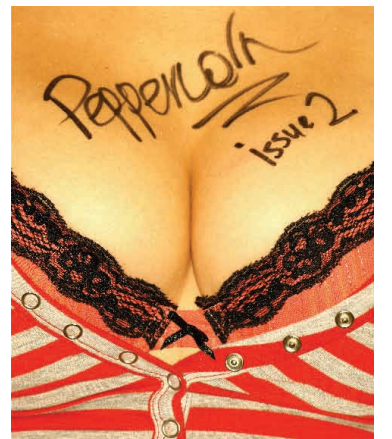
Released late on the morning of Tuesday 20th May, about half of the 600 copies printed were hand-distributed around the College of Law. LSS President Matt Sherman was contacted by midday with complaints from staff, and distribution halted shortly thereafter. By that afternoon, a mass email had been sent out to College of Law staff; a "formal complaint" regarding the perceived sexism of the cover image. Particular issue was taken

with distribution of the magazine during a human rights lecture, at which a number of distinguished guest lecturers were present.

An official response was penned by the Editors on the same day. The LSS, which agreed to the chosen cover image and content at an ordinary meeting, responded shortly thereafter. In total, some 500 copies were circulated before distribution ceased that afternoon.

The edition contains articles

Continued Page 2



The offending cover



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BBQ democracy heats up

From Page 1

Before Newman-Martin's election, completely independent tickets dominated ANUSA elections for most of the prior decade.

Justifying his ticket's claim to independence, Galluzzo told *Woroni* that "while political parties and affiliations are an integral part of the political life of our nation it is our belief that these affiliations should not influence and dominate the Students Association ... the members of our ticket have only agreed to run with our ticket as a result of our independent stance."

Both tickets are currently keeping their cards close to their chests and refusing to reveal their proposed candidates. However ANUSA General Repre-

sentative Kacey Lam and Asian Studies Faculty Representative Hiroshi 'Yoda' Tamayo Del Solar will be running with Galluzzo's independent ticket.

More speculation surrounds Sara's ticket, with current John XXIII College President Janet Mills and Burgmann College President Michael Jones rumoured to have been approached as possible candidates. While refusing to be drawn on those rumours, Sara confirmed that 2008 O-Week Co-Director and current Law Students' Society Vice-President Tom Galvin would run on his ticket. On the other positions, Sara said that "it's just not decided yet."

Neither ticket would be drawn on policy or any key issues they would run on either, with Sara

and Galluzzo leaving that for their candidates to decide closer to the election. At this stage, both have made the decision to campaign for office, but are not prepared to commit themselves to how they might exercise the single undergraduate University Council vote, or the direction they might take the Association.

The ANU Liberal Club and the ANU Labor Left Club are also preparing for election season, though *Woroni* understands that Executive tickets will not be run. Neither club would respond to questions at this time, but both appear to be readying themselves for a tilt at seats on the Student Representative Council. The Liberal Club is also understood to be preparing to campaign for seats on the ANU Union Board,

currently dominated by the ANU Labor Club.

Whatever the final composition of the tickets, and whatever the outcome, ANU students can be certain of at least a few things next term: ubiquitous posters, thousands of leaflets in lecture theatres, colourful t-shirts, relentless pestering and hundreds of free sausages, freshly cooked by aspiring student politicians.

The Editors of Woroni are also elected ANUSA office-holders. Tully Fletcher ran for Education Officer on the 2006 Diversify ticket.

Woroni will provide coverage of the upcoming elections in the next two editions and online at www.woroni.com.au

Peppercorn's breasts draw ire of law lecturers

From Page 1

on honour killings, sex trafficking, affirmative action, and prostitution, among others. Based on the issue's focus, the Editors justified their decision to use the breasts as "a drawcard" that would increase circulation and heighten awareness of the issues covered within the magazine itself. In the Editors' response to the complaints, the articles included are mentioned as "focused on addressing some of the inequalities directed towards women in the world", and that "[w]e feel that this more than compensates for any perceived wrongs." The Editors also claim that the cover was justified when

placed in context. "Most images are confronting out of context", added Mullavey.

The manner in which the complaints were put forward was a cause for concern amongst the LSS. Little communication, allegedly, was directed specifically towards the Editors, and the first major complaint was put forward in a mass email, which was sent to College of Law staff as well as to the Vice-Chancellor. The decision-making processes of both the LSS and *Peppercorn* were also questioned, and there was mention of contacting LSS sponsors regarding the matter.

Peppercorn is responsible to

the Law Students' Society and law students generally, but does not consider itself to be answerable to College of Law staff. The magazine itself, the Editors claim, is not aimed at law lecturers, but at 18-25 year old students: yet it's clear from this incident that *Peppercorn* reaches a wider and more diverse audience than the Editors might have otherwise thought. In response to the complaints, the LSS tendered an official apology to Professor Mathew, with Sherman himself expressing "his personal regret" towards those whom the cover offended.

The situation remains very much unresolved, and whether

or not the cover is offensive, the issues raised extend well outside the bounds of the law building. The College of Law itself maintains as yet no official position, and *Woroni's* invitation for comment was declined by Head of School Stephen Bottomley, citing the "many issues that have been raised, [that] I am in the midst of seeking to resolve." Unfortunately, due to time constraints, the law academics in question couldn't comment this issue, but their position will be sketched in more detail next issue.

Peppercorn, for its part, isn't shying away from further controversy: fittingly, its next issue covers censorship.

Law students fight to maintain status quo

The Law Students Society tackles proposed changes to word counting in assignments (again).

.....
Scott Walker
Reporter
.....

The proposal before the College of Law Undergraduate Studies Committee to introduce a system of page counts for law courses is proving to be contentious.

ANU College of Law Sub-Dean, Dr Jean-Pierre Fonteyne, is leading the push to introduce an "all-inclusive" word count policy which would replace the existing "text only and footnotes excluded" approach. If accepted, the proposal would see undergraduate assessment for Bachelor of Laws (LLB) courses calculated according to the number of pages rather than the number of words in a piece.

Dr Fonteyne first raised the idea of modifying the word count

policy last year while the College was introducing the Juris Doctor (JD) program which allows students to combine undergraduate and postgraduate coursework. Amidst tensions about the effect of the JD on the LLB, this proposal was shelved, until now.

For many years, the LSS has been opposed to the idea of inclusive word counts or page counts for undergraduate assessment. According to LSS President Matt Sherman, "A key part of the consultation regarding the introduction of the JD was that the JD would not affect the LLB."

Sherman sees the current proposal before USC as conflicting with assurances made to students about the JD during its introduction. "It was stated that a 'parity of esteem' was sought between the JD and LLB and that LLB

standards would be protected."

The proposal was debated inconclusively at the last meeting of the Undergraduate Studies Committee on Wednesday 21 May. Even though the future of the proposal remains uncertain, the College has agreed to notify students of the proposal by email and seek student opinion. LSS Education Vice-President, Patrick Mayoh, commented that this small concession "outlines the way for widespread consultation before a final decision is made. It is a small win for students – the status quo will remain in place for semester two courses."

The College of Law supports the proposal on a number of grounds including increased flexibility in regards to presentation of assessment; simplification; and creating consistency

across undergraduate and non-undergraduate courses.

LSS opposition to the proposal focuses on its neglects of the academic needs of undergraduate students and point out the status quo has been in force for as long as it has for a reason. "We do not think this proposal encourages healthy academic practice in terms of its affect on an undergraduate student's ability to write a quality piece and reference appropriately," argued Mr Mayoh.

The proposal's apparent inconsistency with assurances given in respect to the JD, which is one catalyst for the proposal, is another point of contention for Mayoh and Sherman. "This proposal should not come as a surprise to law students," said Sherman.

Helmet-less cyclists cop it

Federal Police target cyclists without helmets, as patrols increase on the University grounds.

Tom Stayner
Reporter

The Australian Federal Police have once again been active on the ANU campus, recently targeting cyclists without helmets.

On the morning of May 21, a patrol car was seen pursuing offending cyclists, sometimes with its siren and flashing lights. Will Jenkins, a first year student, was one of the cyclists stopped. "I was riding past the Security building, and the copper pulled out very sharply and put on his siren," Jenkins said. "He pointed at me and started shouting for me to pull over". When Jenkins didn't have any identification, the "irritated" officer escorted him to the Security building to check his ID.

Despite telling him that he had committed three infringements – riding without a helmet, not stopping when told to, and 'scooting' his bike back along the road after being stopped – no fine was issued. The fine for riding without a helmet is \$51. Jenkins says the officer "seemed new", and was "a bit on edge... there were points where he was shouting at me".

Earlier this year, police on bicycles were regularly seen on campus, stopping students with-



AFP bicycle police fine ANU students without helmets on University Avenue Tully Fletcher



Students not the only law-breakers: a policeman driving on the footpath in Braddon David McGill

out helmets, even those who were walking with their bikes. A spokesperson for ACT Policing did not give figures on how many fines had been issued, although

Woroni has learned of several other students being booked. The recent presence was not part of an official crackdown or in response to a complaint, the

spokesperson said, and was part of "standard patrol duties". She would not give details on how often the AFP patrolled ANU campus, because it would "alert

people" and "encourage" them to commit traffic offences.

Despite the ANU campus falling under the *Commonwealth Lands Act*, the roads on campus, including the 'shared zone' of Union Court, are within the jurisdiction of the Australian Federal Police. ANU Security may stop people breaking the road rules, but have no powers of arrest. ANU Security told *Woroni* that they would generally stop cyclists without helmets only in unusual circumstances, such as when the cyclist seems to be of particular risk to themselves or others.

Jenkins, echoing the views of many students *Woroni* spoke to, said, "the thing I find really strange is how random it is", and that he thought the patrols were a waste of resources: "there are much better things they could do". When *Woroni* put this to the AFP, the spokesperson replied, "what would they like us to do?", adding that each patrol had a responsibility to enforce the road rules in its zone.

The City zone, which includes the ANU campus, is one of four zones, including Belconnen, Woden and Tuggeranong. Each zone recently increased its patrol units, which may explain the increased patrols at the ANU.

Woroni launches new website

The student newspaper offers new digital edition to the University community.

"Irreverence goes online" reported *The Canberra Times* last week, as the sixty year-old ANU student newspaper launched its new website at The Gods Cafe last Wednesday with students and staff and local musicians *The Andi* and *George Band*.

"The University has enjoyed the change back to a tabloid newspaper format. The positive feedback from staff and students has been overwhelming, and we're excited to be taking the next step and reproducing the newspaper online" said Tully Fletcher and Robert Wiblin, the elected Editors.

"We've transformed *Woroni* into a fully fledged student newspaper with a large team producing high quality student journalism," said Fletcher.

"The changes have been inspired by some of the great university newspapers of the world, like the *Harvard Crimson*, the *Yale Daily News* and, like those

publications, we're now taking the work of ANU students to the global audience" said Wiblin.

"In the age of Voluntary Student Unionism and declining funds for student community, the changes to *Woroni* demonstrate that students are as engaged as ever" said Fletcher.

The new website will allow readers to read each edition digitally, or download past and current editions in Adobe PDF.

Moderated comments on stories will be allowed, and readers can subscribe to email updates or RSS feeds for particular sections.

And in a boon for the University, local Canberra businesses, and other organisations marketing to students, the website carries the capacity for affordable and targeted online banner advertising.

The website has been developed by local student-owned web developer Kudasai.

Soon to be more popular than students.anu.edu.au

www.woroni.com.au

Thieves target Arts Centre

Charles Prestidge-King

A spate of thefts at the ANU Arts Centre has alarmed both staff and students.

Two months ago, new sound and video equipment worth some \$100,000 was stolen from the theatre and a recent string of petty thefts have been frustrating many associated with the theatre, including the National University Theatre Society.

Aside from the first theft, which appears to have been professional, makeup and costumes from shows have gone missing, and more recently, laptops and cameras have been taken. Teatro Vivaldi reported several cases of wine missing from their loading dock.



EDITORIAL

Woroni worth reading, if we do say so ourselves

We hope you're enjoying the new *Woroni* newspaper style so far this year. Those who don't are yet to write in and tell us – maybe they'll have time over the break.

Unfortunately the break also means we won't be bringing you another issue for nearly two months. In that time we'll keep you up to date via our website (have we mentioned the website yet?) and work on uploading a backlog of *Woroni* content.

We must unfortunately say a temporary goodbye to Cathy Haines, our Culture Correspondent, who is heading overseas and Charles Prestidge-King, our News Editor, who is taking leave. Cathy will be replaced by Sophie Duxson while Charles will be replaced by last year's *Woroni* editor Will Glasgow, who is returning from the United States.

Until semester two, stay cool, stay green and stay tuned to woroni.com.au.

Focus-group driven fuel debate is failing the nation

The pre-election spectacle of misguided political posturing is back with a vengeance – if it ever left. With petrol prices edging inevitably upwards, the Liberals have seized their first opportunity to get a genuine hit on Rudd, ripping into his pre-election insinuations that he had the superhuman power to push petrol prices down. Nelson has declared nothing but a 5c a litre cut to the petrol excise will satisfy him and, with opinion polls showing much support for the populist proposal, Labor may bend like the proverbial reed in the storm. It shouldn't.

For all of Nelson's bombast and Rudd's defensiveness, you would think the 5c cut would save the average Australian more than \$1.50 a week. But maybe we editors are being too cynical. After all, if we squirrel away that \$1.50 we could each have a Prius in just 500 years.

If the Government did want to return us \$1.50 a week, it is a mystery why it should do so

through a petrol excise cut. The excise is one of the best sources of government revenue because it makes drivers pay at least some of the hidden costs of motoring: road construction, maintenance and suburban parking; worsened human health due to car pollution and accidents; the congestion and chaos in public spaces; and finally the environmental cost of car exhaust.

While busy convincing us they're cutting the cost of petrol, can anyone in the Government even now remember their pre-election calls for a carbon 'price signal'? By promising to be everything to everyone, the Government is now stuck between a commitment to keep petrol prices as low as possible, and its own *Garnaut Climate Change Report*, which will recommend petrol prices increases based on European policies. Francis Scott Fitzgerald once wrote that "the ability to hold two conflicting ideas in the mind at the same time" was the sign of a "first-rate intelligence". While the ability to simultaneously sell two fun-

LETTERS

Law School pulls out bazookas, and goes for the jugulars

Dear *Woroni*,

Notwithstanding the fact that being a law student gives one a warrant to whinge without abandon (about difficult subject matter, readings that come in biblical quantities and having to deal with the pressures of getting a useful degree), there occasionally arises a chance for us to rejoice at our good fortune. The latest issue of *Peppercorn*, the law students' magazine, was one such instance.

The titillating journalism was first class and the quality of the publication among the breast [sic] of the myriad student magazines on campus. The rumour that several lecturers have already made nippy complaints about this issue lays bare the nigh-irredeemable cleavage between the tastes of students and those who purport to teach them.

To the editors of *Peppercorn*, well done, and forget about those boobs with the audacity to criticise you. We hope you never let knockers like them distract you from producing a publication busting with great articles.

So whose bosom was it anyway?

Regards, Adam Brereton and Edward Kus

damentally conflicting policies to the public may be a sign of a first-rate spin machine, it also exposes the government's fear that it is incapable of persuading the public of the hard truths it has to hear.

With developing countries joining the global energy economy and oil fields producing at underwhelming levels, oil will likely become more expensive still. While it is regrettable that many people have chosen or been pushed into a lifestyle that requires abundant oil, there is now no choice but to adjust or pay the going price. For the Government to suppress the price of petrol or compensate heavy users it will have to impose taxes. Instead of saving us money, it will simply be underwriting unsustainable practices with a po-

"But maybe we editors are being too cynical. After all, if we squirrel away that \$1.50 we could each have a Prius in just 500 years"

litical game of three card monté – shifting the burden of rising petrol prices from those who use petrol to those who don't.

Past governments of all colours are partly to blame for our oil addiction. Governments have invested heavily in roads and airports while rail, ports and public transport have languished. Now

Woroni.com.au comment selection

Rosie Shéba on *The Andi and George Band's* new album:

"Great article, fantastic band! But this album, everyone, is amazing! You just can't help but sing along and dance to it!"

Jake Zanoni on the cult of Kirby J:

"He's clearly a very intelligent and quite genuine human being. I often very much disagree with his judgments (*Workchoices* was way off except for about one paragraph) but he's interesting. I still like Callinan more, despite his retirement. Not to the extent that I have knowledge of the softness of his hands though."

Kieran Bennett on the proposed new hall:

"The construction of a new hall is to be encouraged, it's long overdue. But what has ANUSA been smoking when they come out with a specific recommendation involving "retrofitted shipping containers!?" Does someone own shares in a whacky shipping container retrofitting startup or something? Why not just make the case, 'you want student, student need place to stay.'"

Send your brief and editable letters to woroni@anu.edu.au or comment online.

our infrastructure, housing and car fleet are designed around cheap oil that won't persist. Every effort must be made to ensure that development regulations allow Australians to adjust by living closer together around developed public transport routes. A land tax to discourage the exorbitant use of land in cities, which increases everyone's transport costs, could help with this process. Or perhaps the federal government could use some of its infrastructure war-chest to upgrade light rail and metropolitan rail and bus services in the capital cities?

Any first year economics student could tell our politicians that price signals and their influence on supply and demand are what make our economy efficient. By proposing a form of government

price manipulation, the Liberals are selling off their reputation as wise economic managers in return for a temporary bounce in Nelson's popularity.

Rudd and Nelson can do better. Can we talk about long-term policies rather than fixate on illusory quick fixes.

Pretty please?

Abandon 'No Smoking' Banned Wagon

Smoking may be stupid – but we're not fifteen and Jon Stanhope isn't our Dad.



Robert Wiblin
Editor

I am lucky to be surrounded by freedom-loving friends – the kind who join me in mocking counterproductive drug criminalisation, Labor's fatuous internet censorship plans and overzealous breast-fearing Professors. Oddly though, many of my fellow libertine sympathisers, have enthusiastically embraced the latest intervention in private recreation from on high: the ban on smoking in pubs, clubs and restaurants.

Being a non-smoker I will gladly admit that I am better off under the ACT legislation banning smoking indoors, as presumably are most non-smokers. However, I seem to be one of few

non-smokers who feel uncomfortable manipulating others' leisure for my own convenience.

A popular but misguided justification for the ban is that smoking imposes costs on society through increased public health expenditure. If the public were actually picking up a financial tab for smokers' naughtiness then it might indeed be sensible to actively discourage the practice. Unfortunately, detailed studies of public healthcare costs have shown that if anything smokers are actually doing us a favour. Smokers die young, reducing the total cost of caring for them over their lives. They also tend to die of maladies that

retirement, so society sacrifices little tax revenue. If the logic of taxing cigarettes to pay smokers' inflated healthcare bills were sound, this research implies we should start organising cigarette subsidies.

Another popular but weak argument is that smokers in pubs and clubs unreasonably harm other patrons. Crucially, nobody is forced to drink or work in any particular establishment where smoking is permitted; anyone who does so must be well aware of the risks of second hand smoke by now. We all judge tough risks and benefits for ourselves every day – the freedom to do so is what separates adults from chil-

for a drink outweighs the irritating ambient smoke they must wade through to get to the bar, who is the ACT Legislative As-

and others for whom fresh air is a must to enjoy a tippie, there is money to be made in offering both environments. If given the

"...if we know the risks involved, well-meaning politicians should not treat us as if we are their kids and require bubble-wrap..."

sembly to second-guess their judgement? Similarly, many pubs play music loud enough to damage patrons' hearing, but if we freely enter such environments knowing the risks involved, well-meaning politicians should not treat us as if we are their kids and require bubble-wrap and earmuffs.

I am sure you can think of changes to the design of Canberra's watering holes that might make them more pleasing to your eyes. Fortunately, us not living in the USSR and all, complex décor preferences are largely met without our politicians taking on the authority to debate the aesthetics of IKEA. As there are people who crave the liberty to smoke while watching the game

freedom to determine what is permitted on their private property, the owners of Canberra's establishments would naturally form varied smoking policies in such a way as to ensure that no group went unsatisfied – smokers and non-smokers alike.

The irony is that by banning smoking indoors on private property, where anyone can choose to avoid it, the anti-tobacco lobby has driven more smokers out onto public streets, where we *can* justifiably object to having toxins blown in our faces. Alas, given the pariah status that smokers seem to be attracting, I don't hold out much hope that our supposedly liberal society will let nicotine addicts enjoy their particular poison in peace.

"Smokers die young, reducing the total cost of caring for them over their lives ... this research implies we should start organising cigarette subsidies"

kill them quite quickly, ensuring they do not require extensive and expensive treatment. Fortunately though, they still mostly die after

dren and keeps our society from becoming a sterile and conformist retirement village. If there are people who decide their desire



TEMPORARY CLOSURE
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Retrieval Service Available

During this time the flooring which was damaged by the February 2007 storm will be replaced

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The University Library thanks students and staff for their patience and support while this work is undertaken.

Vic Elliott,
Director, Scholarly Information Services and University Librarian
27 May 2008

<http://anulib.anu.edu.au>

Problem: fuel is expensive. Solution: use less of it.



Alessandro Antonello
Columnist

Beautiful political oratory is rather moribund in Australia, but I've recently found hope. Last Tuesday, Brendan Nelson let loose a tirade for the history books:

"For those of us who live in the real world, tonight, Tuesday night, in every part of the country except Western Australia there will be queues of motorists up to half a kilometre long outside petrol stations – and you know why they are there, Mr Speaker? They will be there in their 20-year-old

Mitsubishis, they will be there in their 10-year-old Commodores with three kids in the back seat and they will be there in their Taragos, with a wheelchair in the back, and five kids because tonight is the night in the cycle when you get the cheapest fuel."

A wheelchair AND five kids! Forgive me for quoting at length, but such words must be heard.

We must take oil and petrol more seriously in our daily lives. The stakes are high: if we don't reduce our use of oil, this nation's most insipid minds will keep talking at us, engaging flaccid brain cells to inflict further political, economic and intellectual pain.

Once again, movements in global economics and geopolitics are facing up against 'working families', and I'm not too sure if enough people know why oil prices are so high. Low production, instability in oil-producing regions (namely Iraq, Venezuela, even Russia), and enormous de-

mand in developing economics (China and India) have combined to increase the price of oil. Australia, not being immune to this, is therefore facing higher prices for petrol. Not only is it more expensive to fill up the car, but also more expensive to move all consumer goods, especially food.

"if we don't reduce our use of oil, this nation's most insipid minds will keep talking at us, inflicting further intellectual pain"

I hope it does not seem naive to suggest that students and staff who own cars should try not to drive them. In most respects, Canberra is an especially amenable city for cycling. If you live in Turner, O'Connor, Lyneham, Braddon, and even Ainslie, a bicycle ride into campus can be between 5 and 25 minutes. For those in the valley, or closer to Belconnen, intertown bus services have bike racks on the bus,

so you can 'Bike'n'Ride'. Car parking on campus has been at crisis point for some years or otherwise prohibitively expensive, but bike racks are free. After recent improvements, bike racks are also numerous. If you don't want to schlep around with a heavy backpack, library books or gro-

ceries, get a basket installed by the nice man at the Union bike shop.

Even Canberra's bus system, while not perfect, is an accessible and cheap way to get around the city. The new timetable out this week has tried to rectify issues of frequency, and will hopefully work better. Indeed, public transport will be fundamental in a long-term solution to our reliance on oil. Public transport has

been crumbling for years because roads were easier to build than transport services. The more we use public transport, the more it will be improved and made comprehensive.

These are all quite common sense approaches to beating our dependence on oil. However, looking at the public debate, one might be fooled into thinking that the Australian government holds all the cards. It doesn't. The Saudi King has more power than Kevin Rudd or Brendan Nelson.

Nearly everything we touch is fundamentally implicated in oil and the global oil industry. Everything must be transported. Anything made of plastic — from chairs and computers to food packaging — has a deep relationship with petroleum. We currently can't live without oil, but we can try to reduce our need for it. Once we accept this we can find better subjects to occupy the public's imagination.

Sydney Queue-jumpers' Festival

Jamie visits the Sydney Writers' Festival and finds attendees ruder and smugger than he imagined.

Jamie Freestone
Columnist

Before I get to the writers themselves, let me reveal that the Sydney Writers' Festival (SWF) is for some curious reason less a symposium of ideas and more a carnival of bad manners, poor mobile phone etiquette and queue jumping. One would expect that an event devoted to listening to writers speak on interesting topics at the postcard location of Walshs Bay in Sydney would attract the cream of the intelligentsia, the civilised of civilisation. But these bourgeois baby-boomers bring with them a puzzling lack of civility and alas pushing, cutting in line and having conversations while writers are addressing audiences are the norm. You know the kind of baby-boomer I mean; your parents may fit into this category. The women wear an array of scarves, shawls, Pashminas and garments whose function or name I cannot fathom. They often have funky frames on their glasses and their post-hot-flush bodies' core temperatures are so low that they can get away with wearing nice coats indoors. The men's hair has long since been greyed by substantial working hours paying off the Mosman home and SUV and while clothes may look appropriate for hiking they are worth more than your entire wardrobe.

In any case, the SWF brings out the worst in Australia's

wealthiest demographic. Though we may suspect that they are courteous and refined, in their mad rush to get seats to this or that event, the green tea set behave like school kids. I really want to understand why all these people bumped into me without saying sorry, asked me directions without saying thank you and jumped to the front of the queue without a wheelchair. I felt like grabbing one of them by their melanoma riddled necks and asking them what they were so annoyed about, considering their superannuation funds are bigger than some African economies.

I should move on to the actual writers, who as it happened were even more annoying. I attended Friday and Sunday of the four day festival and took in many events which looked interesting. A discussion on the future of feminism, for instance, included Australian author of *Princesses and Pornstars*, Emily McGuire. Unfortunately, her take on contemporary female sexuality was drowned out by the unhinged ramblings of Lynne Segal (I won't mention her book, she doesn't deserve it). All I can say is that if feminism looks to her for inspiration, women are doomed. This veteran of the academic-literary scene must have attended hundreds of these types of events over the last four decades, yet she failed to comprehend how a microphone actually works. Not only would she habitually bump it with her hands — which flailed

almost as randomly as her scattershot pronouncements — she would yell into the mike, deafening me at every word beginning with a labiodental consonant (look it up people). Perhaps the boomers with their aging ears failed to notice, but the three other generation-Ys in the audience must have felt as I did. She even left her phone on and ignored a request to turn it off.

Later I thought I might check out "The Future of the Liberal Party," in part to see what sort of

"This did not deter for one bit the mindless applauders in the audience who responded fawningly to her numerous faux-intellectual left-wing platitudes to do with working less, earning less, protesting more, spending less time in front of a screen, blah, blah, blah..."

audience it would attract. Waiting for this event, I was especially irritated by someone behind me talking loudly right into my ear and encroaching on my personal space. As I turned expecting to see some north-shore loudmouth, the phrase, "I am president of the John Howard fan club" boomed into my hapless eardrum. I looked and was assailed by the puritanical eyes and Dumbo-ears of one Tony Abbott. The event ended up being interesting, if only for the trading of insults between Abbott and Robert Manne. One is an opinionated ideologue with a droning voice

and a smug face and the other is cursed by being Tony Abbott.

I could not really imagine enough conservatives attending the SWF for there to be a sympathetic crowd at this particular event. Sure enough the crowd turned out to be the kind of people who yell out "shame" when they hear the phrase John Howard. I myself am not exactly president of the John Howard fan club, but interrupting a speaker by screaming out a simplistic parrochialism seems uncouth to me.

Despite the hostile crowd, I still stopped short of sympathising with Abbott, as I now had a personal animus towards him.

At the end of my tether, my final event on Sunday evening was "Imagined Futures." I was looking forward to some actual ideas and information from trends analyst Richard Watson. Imagine my surprise, then, when I found that my old friend Lynne Segal was his counterpart. She began by changing the agenda, putting off not only Watson but the mediator, Australian author Kate Crawford. She then refused to respond to a question because she could

not think of an answer and then her mobile phone actually rang while Crawford was asking another question. When she finally did muster her remaining brain cells and actually responded to the question, she managed to use the word 'but' at least ten times, contradicting herself with impunity and failing to state any kind of a case. This did not deter for one bit the mindless applauders in the audience who responded fawningly to her numerous faux-intellectual left-wing platitudes to do with working less, spending more time online, earning less, protesting more, spending less time in front of a screen, *blah, blah, blah*. The only unequivocal statements she made were false: "There are more wars now than before," "Most people in the world are getting poorer," "There is no such thing as a gene for depression."

So if you plan to attend writers' festivals expect to be the only one there without a share portfolio and the only person able to form a queue the way six year olds manage in kindergarten. I suggest you resign yourself to the sad fact that most authors unfortunately are not that insightful. Alternatively, prospective writers among you may be buoyed by the realisation that if you have a half-baked idea and can elaborate for 300 pages, you too may be able to find a spendthrift publisher willing to print your tripe and then install you at a conference of queue-jumpers and cretins.

The National Union of Students

Woroni looks at the peak representative body, and finds it riddled with intrigue.

.....
Tim Vines
Special Report

It's quiet and dim as we approach the classroom door. There are about eight of us, and we've come to meet a very important person. Knocking on the door a faint 'come in' is heard and we walk into the unlit room. Only one person is inside, a girl sitting silently on a desk. In her hand she holds several seemingly insignificant pieces of paper but those papers are the reason for her hiding out here in the Education faculty of the University of Ballarat. The papers she holds are proxy forms and she is about to split from the National Labor Students faction. Not only that, but it's Election Day, and her proxy votes are about to break the Unity faction's stranglehold over the position of General Secretary and hand the position to an Independent. We've not only come to meet her, we're here to protect her. We encircle the girl and make our way to the ballot room. It would be comical if it wasn't so nerve-wrackingly exciting. At the door to the voting room we're confronted by the then-president of the National Union of Students who attempts to guilt the girl into changing her mind one last time. We keep walking. The girl's votes are cast and Unity loses the position of General Secretary of the NUS for the first time in its history. But who knows what happens to the girl when she returns to her room for the night. She's still sleeping in her former faction's wing.

Welcome to just another day in the cut and thrust world of student politics where, to quote Stateline's Lisa Millar, 'passions run hot and experience runs low'. The NUS is the 'peak representative body' of all tertiary students in Australia, working to 'protect the rights of all students [and] organising campaigns across the country...' It is a polarising organisation, with most students divided into three camps: those who believe in it, those who want it abolished and the majority who don't know about it.

There are two chief complaints against the National Union of Students. The first is that factionalism has turned the organisation into the plaything of political aspirants creating a culture of in-fighting and corruption where the needs of University students

come second to factional victories. The second concern is that, for a lot of students, the NUS is irrelevant, ineffective and, worse even, expensive. Critics point to the introduction of full-fee paying places, the 25% increase in HECS and the introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) as proof that the Union's voice counts for little in federal politics. In general, however, students who have involved them-

though Angus suggests that the new Labor Government will be more receptive to NUS's entreaties. That the power or relevance of a national union should wax and wane with Labor's star is concerning. Much of the damage done to Universities around Australia occurred during the 12 years of the former Government with the 25% increase in HECS, VSU and the failure to increase or extend the AusStudy and

VSU supports the return of an amenities fee (possibly funded through additional HECS loans) despite its previous position demanding a return to USU. Further, the closeness between NUS and the Labor party was demonstrated when in 2005, prior to the introduction of VSU, the NUS spent \$255,307 supporting Labor in a campaign which backfired horrendously when the Coalition won control of the Senate, thus allowing it to pass VSU. At the time the NUS was criticised by then-Education Minister Brendan Nelson, with additional criticism directed against NUS from former Arts Minister George Brandis who claimed – inaccurately – that the NUS had directed student funds to the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. Anecdotal reports also suggest that some campuses received little attention from NUS until they attempted to disaffiliate. A student at the University of Queensland writes that when the Union looked to disaffiliate, the then-President of NUS, Michael Nguyen, visited to help a campaign for a rival ticket in the University's student elections.

The Factions

Factions, as best described by Big I Indy Matthew Chuk, are 'weird and complex agents'. Unity's disturbing practice of bringing along extra observers who have to 'bed hop' each night until they are given a formal position at the conference which entitles them to their own room

leads to the factions becoming 'alienat[ing] and intimidat[ing]' for outsiders. Nonetheless, even the critics of Factions acknowledge that they can provide useful 'training and networking functions' which then allow the formal bodies of NUS to focus on other matters. Certainly, with ANUSA currently run by several Unity members ANU is much more likely to receive news and developments quickly. ANUSA President Jamila is generally in 'weekly contact' with the NUS President and often hears news first through 'factional channels'. Compared to the WA Student Guilds, who have often expressed their frustration of being left out of important discussions, it may be no coincidence that these Guilds have often been run by non-Unity and non-NLS groups. Angus McFarland goes further in defending factions, arguing that factionalism balances the need for a 'diversity of views' with 'the need [for NUS] to make decisions'. However, when one faction controlled 40% of the 2007 conference votes, with the NLS controlling the second largest block, it is easy to see how some many feel that 'diversity' is not being respected. There are, no doubt, many students in Factions who are there for the greater good. Many of them run for positions with genuine interest in the welfare of students. But so long as there are Factions there will always be the scramble for factional triumphs which diminish the ability of NUS to work for students. The 2007 Welfare Officer (Unity), when questioned at the national conference over what he had actually achieved during the year, merely pointed proudly to the swollen ranks of Unity delegates, an increase he was at least in part responsible for, and declared 'that!'.

The Conference

The annual conference of the NUS reveals the best and worst of student politics. President Angus McFarland describes it as a 'drama' and one often taken out of context. However, like all dramas, it does draw media attention and the reports which follow the annual conference invariably focus on the outrages of the Australian Liberal Students Federation or the machinations of the Labor factions. Unfortunately, from my own experience, it is generally the worst elements which delegates take home to their campuses, whether it be the in-your-face attitude of the dominant factions, the ALSF

“It is a polarising organisation, with most students divided into three camps: those who believe in it, those who want it abolished and the majority who don't know about it”

selves in NUS; even those who have suffered from its worse elements, still maintain that it is an important and vital body which should be maintained.

Why do we have a National Union of Students?

The Australian National University is blessed with an engaged student population. Perhaps it's because a significant number of students come to ANU to study political science and international relations (or law), or maybe it is the high proportion of on-campus residents (between 20-35%) which leads to ANU having the distinction of one of the highest voter turn-outs for student elections. Of course, 'high' is a relative term: on average 12% of students vote in ANUSA elections each year, and the numbers are lower for the Union Board elections. So the question must be asked: if students do not feel that their own University level representatives are worth turning out to vote for, do students really need a National organisation which is even less accessible to the ordinary student?

You'll find universal support for the Union in discussion with current and former NUS delegates and office bearers. Former President of Sydney University's SRC and current NUS President Angus McFarland (NLS) argues that NUS is a vital 'national student voice'. He claims that, as most legislation affecting Universities is debated at the Federal level, there is a need for a national body to represent students in the 'policy making process'. How effective NUS can be now that its annual income has been reduced by 75% from \$1.8m to less than \$500,000 remains to be seen, al-

though Angus suggests that the new Labor Government will be more receptive to NUS's entreaties. That the power or relevance of a national union should wax and wane with Labor's star is concerning. Much of the damage done to Universities around Australia occurred during the 12 years of the former Government with the 25% increase in HECS, VSU and the failure to increase or extend the AusStudy and

“So long as there are Factions there will always be the scramble for factional triumphs which diminish the ability of NUS to work for students”

by some as hindering its objectives by either distracting it from "real" student issues or staining it to such a degree that conservative policy makers refuse to deal with it. Further, with a Labor government now in power, the close relationship between the NLS and Unity with their parent party may mean a less critical approach is taken to Federal policy. While current ACT NUS President and ANUSA Education Officer Anya Aidman argue that NUS is 'there to keep the government honest', NUS quickly changed its stance on VSU after Labor's change of heart in 2007. NUS's submission to the Government inquiry on

is a memorable example. The very gentle lunchtime proselytising of the Socialist Alternative is another. For those sitting outside the dominant factions of the NLS and Labor Unity the power and discipline the factional leaders command is impressive. In one telling moment the then-President Rose Jackson (NLS) commanded her faction to all vote yes on a motion by simply calling 'Up NOLS!'. Unfortunately the NOLS faction no longer existed, but the NLS delegates knew what to do anyway. The fact that Rose was the Chair for the conference (a neutral position) counted for little. This power

members singing ‘God Save the Queen’ over the top of a Aboriginal Elder’s welcome to country or parading down the corridors singing ‘we’re racist, we’re sexist, we’re homophobic’, as they did at the 2006 Conference. More concerning is the lack of institutional transparency, with the NUS often failing to fulfil basic legal requirements such as presenting a full-year’s audited report. It is the lack of accountability on display at the Conference which concerns most delegates and, when the major factions seek to perpetuate such problems by maintaining one-for-one ‘sweet-heart’ deals even outgoing Presidents are forced to admit that ‘often in NUS we’ve had people elected not because they’re good candidates but because they’re from the right group.’

The Future of NUS

With VSU stripping some student organisations of 90% of their funds the costs of affiliation – originally \$5 per full-time student – can be a prohibitive indulgence. That the NUS ‘accreditation committee’ now provides generous fee waivers for some campuses (including the ANU) is a positive step, although there have been serious concerns of factionally driven gerrymandering. Further, with the NUS constitution requiring a campus referendum, with at least a 5% student turn-out to disaffiliate, the ANU looks likely to remain within the union for some time to come. No delegate or officeholder spoken with believed that

a new body could be created to replace the NUS in the current climate, even if that were a desired goal. Matthew Chuk points out that the set-up costs would be ‘prohibitive’ and ‘no campus ha[s] spare money these days’. There are other elements within the NUS which have not been discussed in depth, the Education, Environment, Sexuality and Welfare departments each co-ordinate with their campus counterparts around the Nation and do appear to provide relevant services to students. Finally, the burden to ensure that the NUS remains relevant and is focused on student objectives rests with each of us who turns out to vote in student elections later this year. For too long the NUS ballot has been seen as less important than our own Student Association, but if we want quality national representation, the first step is to vote for quality delegates.

In 2004, Tim ran on a joint-Labor ticket at ANU; in 2006 he ran for President of ANUSA and NUS delegate on an Independent ticket and was elected as delegate to the NUS conference where he ‘sat’ with the big I Indies. He is currently working for a Union.

For this article *Woroni* spoke to: Matt Byrne (GL, ANU), Jamila Rizvi (Unity, ANU), Anya Aidman (Unity, ANU), Angus McFarland (NLS, USyd), Enrico Burgio (I, UWA) and Matthew Chuk (I, UWA)

Judean People’s Front or People’s Front of Judea? Groups and sub-groups within NUS

NLS: The National Labor Students are the dominant group with NUS. The current President of NUS, Angus McFarland, is from the NLS faction, as have the last three presidents. The NLS formed after the unification of the Australian Labor Students and the National Organisation of Labor Students. In general, they are centrist or left-leaning but often work with Labor Unity to secure the position of President through a long-standing ‘sweet-heart’ deal. The NLS do not have any noticeable presence on ANU campus.

Unity (U): Officially, ‘Labor Unity’. Unity is the second major group within NUS and at the 2007 conference commanded 40% of the floor votes in its own right. With the exception of 2006, a Unity member has always held the position of General Secretary as part of the NLS/Unity ‘sweet-heart’ deal. Labor Unity students are often referred to as Labor Right on the ANU campus and indeed their political beliefs range from centre-right to right. ANU Unity members are considered by other factions to be some of the more progressive members of Unity.

Grassroots Left (GL): A broad coalition of non-aligned Labor and left-leaning students. This group is commonly referred to as ‘Labor Left’ within ANU student politics. At a national level, however the title of ‘Labor Left’ is claimed by the NLS.

Socialist Alternative (SA): The ‘SA’, not to be confused with Resistance (although this is common), the Socialist Alternative form a small but dedicated constituent within NUS. They are most active at the National Conference in seeking the position of Education Officer and in recruiting members. Often lampooned by the Unity and NLS faction they still endeavour to broaden the policy objectives of NUS to include wider issues of equity and social responsibility.

Big ‘I’ Indies (I): Independents who work together. Confused? So are most delegates who, despite considering themselves independent, are co-opted in this faction at Conference. Independents are generally pro-union but often carry less ideological baggage than the other ‘political’ factions. While the overwhelming majority of big I Indies are left-leaning (many are Labor party members) they believe that political views should generally play no part in the running of the Union. Big I Indies are free to vote how they wish but group together to counter to large majorities of the NLS and Unity during the election period. They are often represented on the National Executive and Administrative committees within the NUS. ANU’s ‘Independents’ fall into this category.

Little ‘i’ indies (i): True independents, it is difficult to say what their political leanings and affiliations are. They are courted by all factions during Conference whenever slim majorities exist, but otherwise are generally marginalised.

ALSF: The Australian Liberal Students Federation. Probably the most controversial participants in the annual conference. A separate organisation to the Australian Young Liberals (who distance themselves from the ALSF) their actions are often criticised by the press and fellow delegates. In recent years, members of the ALSF have interrupted an Aboriginal Elder’s traditional welcome by singing ‘God Save the Queen’ and have been removed from conference for bad behaviour.

A Modest Proposal for Kevin

Elizabeth Beaton
Pamphleteer

It has given me great pleasure to see that our good Prime Minister, Mr Rudd, stays firm in his pursuit of a conservative Christian agenda. It seems to me the only appropriate course of action in a fervently religious country such as ours, where the Christian faith plays a widespread role in the guidance of our youth and is upheld with reverence as our sole religion.

In particular I am thinking of the government’s admirable stance on gay marriage. All persons of intelligence must be aware that the right to marry is determined by one’s sexual preference alone. Some of the left-leaning elite have been putting about the idea that it has more to do with a couple’s ability to love, trust and respect each other. I am sure Mr Rudd will stand with me

when I say that such claims are nonsense, and that “equal rights” simply cannot apply to everyone equally.

We must be vigilant to prevent gay marriage because homosexual parenting would raise all kinds of terrible problems. We know that they are incapable of responsibility – one need only think of figures like Justice Kirby and Senator Brown to prove the point. There is also the safety of children to consider. As we know, gays are highly dangerous around children; we have this from reliable authorities such as the Westboro Baptist Church. By comparison straight parents are a safe bet – only 90% of child molesters are heterosexual.

No, Mr Rudd is right to prevent gays from enjoying the basic human right of marriage. My only fear is that he does not go far enough. He says marriage is broken, but he does not suggest a way to fix it. For this reason I have come up with a short proposal which the government may

adopt – and which the Liberals will certainly have no objection to.

I propose that each homosexual be separated from the others of their breed and implanted in the household of a married heterosexual couple (preferably a working family, of course). There they will observe heterosexual family life and closely study

“Each day they will repeat phrases such as ‘Adam and Eve not Adam and Steve’ ... as Mr Rudd’s speeches demonstrate, repetition will eventually brainwash most Australians”

heterosexual affection, including observing the mechanics of heterosexual sex. Each day they will repeat certain phrases such as “Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve” – for as Mr Rudd’s speeches testify, repetition will eventually brainwash the major-

ity of Australians.

Of course, to have homosexuals simply idling in our houses would be a waste, so I propose that we employ them in the service of the family to which they are assigned. Mr Rudd has given a lower social status to homosexuals, so it stands to reason that they should serve their heterosexual superiors. They may

complete all manner of household chores: cooking, cleaning, and gardening. While Mr Rudd believes their minds may be unsuitable for family life, I am sure he will concede that their hands may be put to good use.

There is only one problem

with my proposal that I can foresee, and it is a problem I am sure Mr Rudd will have encountered before: that is, the great nuisance of how to identify a homosexual. It may be necessary to assign some kind of mark or symbol to homosexuals, to ensure they do not attempt to evade their task. Hesitant though I am to suggest anything which smacks of cruelty, if we were to permanently brand each homosexual with the letters “UM” denoting that they are Unsuitable for Marriage, it would suffice.

Those who wail and rail against my proposal would do well to attend to Mr Rudd’s view that marriage is the coupling of one breeding animal to another. Likewise, the ability to parent is defined by one’s sexuality; let no madman suggest it should be based on maturity, kindness, discipline and fairness. In time I hope all citizens of our society, even second class citizens such as homosexuals, will come to recognise this.



I'll write this tomorrow...

Avoiding life in the last minute lane.



Joy Thompson
Research

The temperature is falling, lectures are coming to an end, exams are timetabled, and everything is due. It's the busiest time of semester one, but it's not so much the excess study that produces the black rings under students' eyes. Rather it's the frantic scramble to get that essay finished at 4am the day it's due, or a cram session hoping to digest 12 weeks of lecture notes. That's right, the sleepless nights and stress-filled days are all the result of that evil thing we call procrastination.

It seems this time of year sees students leaving their assignments until the last minute and delaying study. I for one am guilty of setting my alarm with good intentions to rise early and spend the morning with my books, with the real outcome being that I promptly switch it off

in order to sleep until ten.

Of course, procrastination isn't limited to academia. If we think of it as allowing instant gratification to take over from our long-term goals, then procrastination is everywhere: when we blow our salary in a spending spree without saving any of it, or when we eat chocolate now and promise to start dieting later (I should add that chocolate can be an extremely effective "study" tool). Procrastination does, however, turn up more often in student conversations. It's even been immortalised in a comic strip about graduate school, *Piled Higher and Deeper* (PhD).

So why does the scourge of procrastination spread most quickly when it does the most damage? And more importantly, what can we do about it to stop ourselves becoming nervous wrecks? Informal experiments by Dan Ariely, a behavioural economist at MIT, provide some clues, especially since the subjects were three classes of unwitting students.

In the book *Predictably Irrational*, Ariely describes what happened when each class was given a different set of deadlines.

In all the courses, the students were required to hand in three essays, which would count towards most of their grade. In one class, there were three deadlines set in stone: the fourth, eighth and twelfth weeks. The second class had no deadlines at all during semester; instead, all three papers were due on the very last day. The third class was allowed to hand in their papers at any

"...students forced to regularly hand in work came out on top..."

time before the end of semester. These students were allowed to choose three deadline dates, but any essays submitted late would still be penalised.

For students from the third group, handing all three papers on the last day would minimise the chances of losing marks. That seems to be the most rational option, but most of the students instead chose to space the essays over the entire semester. This suggests that they realised procrastination could be a problem, and were forcing themselves to start work earlier.

The results became more in-

teresting when the grades for the papers were returned. The students who had total freedom over the semester and one deadline at the end received the worst marks, while those who had no choice at all and were forced to hand in work regularly came out on top. The students who were allowed to determine their own deadlines came somewhere in the middle.

Ariely drew several conclusions from his work. First, that some of the students procrastinated (surprise, surprise). Secondly, that strict deadlines imposed from above was the best way to increase their productivity. Most importantly, though, the students' grades increased when they were simply allowed to pre-commit to a set of due dates – but why did selecting their own deadlines increase their marks less than sticking to an independently determined set?

Ariely thinks that this occurs because not everyone fully understands their tendency to pro-

crastinate, or because they underestimate it. When he looked at the deadlines set by students who scored the worst marks in the third group, he found that they either didn't space the deadlines much, or handed everything in at the last minute. The marks they received were sufficiently low to drag down the rest of the class.

Ariely's results should be of interest to students everywhere. Most Australian National University undergraduate courses admittedly scatter deadlines for assignments throughout the semester, which helps. But what about longer reports? These could be due in instalments: hand in the literature review several weeks early, for instance. This would certainly ease the woes of students with large research projects, who often have to produce a twenty-page long magnum opus immediately after exams.

There will always be some who are born crammers and need that rush of adrenalin to be most productive. In the meantime, the ANU could always plant a new type of tree that 'fluffs' in time for first semester exams.

Money might buy happiness after all

New research forces a rethink of disconnect between wealth and happiness.



Katja Grace
Health

Until recently academics could pretty safely declare that money didn't bring anyone happiness, except depraved status seekers relishing the biggest everything in their neighbourhood. Toiling for a life of material success at the expense of living in the moment was just a symptom of the materialistic fantasy brought on by our consumerist system. Happiness researchers had found that many other things, like long-term marriage and religiosity, were far more correlated with pleasure than income.

The theory that enriching countries makes them no hap-

pier is the 'Easterlin Paradox', named after Richard Easterlin who first noted that countries did not report being happier as they got richer. If Easterlin is right we are all on a *hedonistic treadmill*. The more we attain the higher we set our sights, forever seeking shinier cars and higher fidelity ringtones while remaining perpetually dissatisfied.

But the Easterlin Paradox, now conventional wisdom, is under attack. Betsey Stevenson and Justin Wolfers, both economists from the University of Pennsylvania, have retested it with more recent, rigorous and varied data sets. They don't see any paradox in the picture. Wealth and happiness do seem to go hand in hand, both between countries and within them.

This review has received a lot of academic attention, as would be expected of any attempt to overturn of an idea important in many fields. Easterlin says they don't have good enough evidence. He points out that in some countries, notably the US and China, happiness hasn't grown alongside wealth over time. But then, no-

body believes income is the only factor influencing a country's happiness so it's very hard to pin down causality. It could be that other influences, such as respect for property rights or responsive government, lead to both more wealth and more happiness.

As with all happiness science, there's always the compelling critique that it's a pile of subjective

"...as with all happiness science there's the compelling critique that it's just a pile of subjective twaddle..."

twaddle. Rating people's subjective experiences relative to one another is notoriously impossible. Most people, when asked how happy they are, will say they are about 75% happy. What do they mean? This figure could be a proportion of the range of happiness they remember feeling, or feel at the time of questioning, or expect to experience over their lives. Even if we knew what they meant, how could we compare their 'happiness range' against that of other people? An individual who has spent their life in a

war zone may be much less happy than someone who grew up in affluent leisure, but rate their current happiness pretty highly. Or perhaps they adjust so much to terrible circumstances that they are actually happier than those raised for the easy life. It could also be that the range of happiness experienced by different people varies for unpredict-

ed, perhaps biological, reasons.

According to Dan Gilbert, Director of Harvard's Hedonic Psychology Laboratory, a very poor predictor of your happiness is likely to be you. After your lifetime of experience, you might think you could anticipate how you would feel in different circumstances – but you're wrong. We would probably all expect to be distraught if we failed in our careers and our families tragically died. But Gilbert says we get over such tragedies much more easily than we imagine. However our

expectations clouds our memories and when we look back we come to believe they were more horrific than they were.

Despite the problems, happiness a booming research topic. The studies have shown that if getting wealthy isn't making you merry, human relationships are helpful. Failing that, a career in engineering is good, as is political extremism. It's been suggested you will be happier if you buy experiences such as holidays, rather than things like cars and clothes. Others propose you watch TV instead of spending time on family, as the expectation that you will enjoy having children is due to its evolutionary benefit rather than any accuracy. Housework also apparently correlates nicely with happiness, along with religion, conservatism, marriage, and possibly having a strong magnet stuck against your head in the right way.

Becoming an extremist conservative stay-at-home who watches TV and ignores the kids probably won't help you if you're not into that sort of thing – but if you are, you've struck it lucky.



A gift in kind helps college kids bind



Cathy Haines
Culture

You would have to be dead or wholly insensible not to have enjoyed living in Bruce Hall over the last week. We celebrated Random Acts of Kindness – 7 days over which we each, anonymously, channel kind thoughts and actions towards the bearer of a name slipped under our door. If I smell of sentimentality, it's because the week made me remember the generosity which makes the college culture pos-

sible.

There are admiring posters and notes scattered publicly, epic stories composed and left in the Dining Hall, songs dedicated at meal times, sometimes with table-dancing routines in sailor costumes included, poetry recited, speeches made, hordes of delicacies left in front of doors, appreciation groups created on Facebook, anonymous love letters galore. People walk around smiling sheepishly at each other in case they have just walked past someone to whom they should be grateful – or from whom they secretly want gratitude. Everyone is sharing themselves with one another in a carnival of actions and the personality of the giver is as celebrated as that of the receiver.

Typical of communal living, there have been concerns. Certain gestures are criticised for being Obligatory Acts of Hol-

low Participation. People are bothered by the idea that they could give and not receive, or that others could sit smug in their rooms, accepting whatever comes their way but not caring to pass the sentiment forward. Some are sour that others can afford – intellectually, emotionally, financially – to give more generously than themselves. After all, there is an 'award' (reward) for the Most Original Act.

The theorists amongst us think kindness is never random – it's motivated. As a matter of simple logic there's no difference at all between a person who is greedy for material treasure – or even intellectual treasure – and a person who is greedy for moral treasure. About 90% of the priests in history were as acquisitive as the rest of us, basically. Kindness is the result of guilt; an atonement. And of course kindness causes us to discriminate; sometimes

you recognise a person to whom you don't ever feel you can be kind enough, while other times you resent and are offended by someone's general existence.

It would be easy after hearing such things to assume that people are scared of generosity – of being made vulnerable or indebted. But I think, more than anything else, most of us are scared of not being generous. Of not being exhausted, not having all our magic spent, of being incapable or inadequate in the face of someone else's capacities or needs. Which is why – despite all indications to the contrary – living in college ultimately helps make you a better person.

True: we are given access to more Sporting and Arts events, more lips to kiss, a proximity to Civic, extraordinarily frequent bar-nights, the chance to serve on bodies like the Common Room Committee and Bruce

Green or to become a Senior Resident or an Academic Mentor. But mostly we are conscious of having access to one another.

Imagine the Dining Hall at lunch-time. You push yourself through the crowd – that inexhaustible race of every kind, possessors of every human secret, in every face the refinement of one particular essence – I seek, I uphold, I long, I need, I want. Here we have a stage upon which to display the kind of generosity, which is only capable when your life is lived parallel to someone else's – the sort of someone else you would in no other case ever relate to – and you witness and contribute to the little changes in their moods and character. As they do to yours, even just from a distance. We are of a kind – a group of random people bound together by the generosity we see from one another. And it does occur, genuinely, every day.

21 busts

Lyndsay Dean
Film Critic



There's really very little point reviewing anything in the same fortnight as an Indiana Jones release. I mean, how can any other new release stand a chance? Especially if it's as poor quality as *21*. We should realise that the chances of Robert 'Legally Blonde' Luketic offering us more than some frothy, soulless romp are about as high as Kate Bosworth winning an Oscar. Here Luketic once again deals in highly glamorised, enjoyable fanfare that sates one's appetite about as much as a main meal of fairy floss and cotton balls.

Supposedly based on a true story, *21* charts genius MIT student Ben Campbell's (Jim Sturgess) rise from computer geek to card-counter extraordinaire. Singled-out by his math professor, Micky Rosa (Kevin Spacey), Campbell joins a small-time group of card-counters aiming to make it big in Vegas.

21 has the potential to be cool, but is let down by its unwillingness to be smart, and on the whole it just doesn't make a lot of sense. We're told by Rosa that card-counting isn't illegal, so why is everyone so anal about not getting caught? If someone's clever enough to run real-time statistical probability in their head, kudos to them I say. And secondly, we're never really privy to how you actually count cards



for there's no great urge to explain it – it's more of a rapid fire black-jack for dummies and then we're told to sit back, relax and not think too much.

But that's not where my problems with this film stop. Why do they insist on playing the same casino when a quick Google search shows that there are at least 88 different casinos in Vegas? Why do the 'spotters' wear disguises and not the 'big rollers'? And if anonymity is the key goal why establish a rapport with the table staff and/or dress like Willie Nelson? It makes no sense!

Luketic occasionally surprises us with deft camera work, and the moody lighting is so ridiculous it works, but the film is further let down by tacky transitions and annoyingly dominant music – any film that uses Rhianna on its soundtrack loses points immediately.

Even though it's flashy and has a more-than-able cast, *21* would be at home as an in-flight movie with a captive audience, or as a rainy Sunday flick when you know you've got nothing better to do. If Indy's the overnight rental, then *21* would be your \$1 weekly. Pay anything more and you'll feel like you've been duped.

Indy past sexual peak, but still Indy

Jonathan Fisher
Film Critic



In a way, I've been waiting for *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* all my life. There is a young boy in Steven Spielberg that I like very much. It's peculiar to think that while I've aged nineteen years since the last instalment of Indy, have gone to various levels of school and completed a thesis on violence and religion in Martin Scorsese's movies, Spielberg and George Lucas have perpetually been meditating on the ultimate young-boy fantasy that is Indiana Jones. Nineteen years is a long time to wait, and as the time has passed, so too have the expectations for what Indy 4 will be like.

The film begins in 1957 Nevada, the middle of the Cold War. The opening credits sequence immediately made me smile – a group of teenagers hot-rodding it against a military motorcade, with Elvis Presley's "Hound Dog" providing the soundtrack. There is a sense of joyful authenticity

in the opening scenes of *Crystal Skull*, and I knew that I was in a pair of safe Spielbergian hands.

This opening half hour of *Crystal Skull* is possibly the best opening to an Indiana Jones film. It has wisecracks, mystery, tension and a nice little action sequence, although the climax of that sequence gives rise to grave questions about Indy's medical future. I won't go into too much detail about the plot of *Crystal Skull*. What I will say is that it's typical Indy – mythological revelations, man-eating ants, and even an explanation for a UFO. Marion Williams, née Ravenwood (Karen Allen), is back in an Indy film for the first time since *Raiders*. Her return is appreciated, although the sexual tension between her and Indy is toned down a bit, I guess because both actors are 25 years older and their hormones have levelled out.

Harrison Ford is in fine form as Indiana Jones, and he hasn't really aged (he turned 65 during shooting) – he's just become grouchier. At any rate, he doesn't look ridiculous getting into fist-fights and wild goose chases, as some fans feared. Cate Blanchett, surprisingly, is a bit lost as Agent Spalko. The problem with

her performance isn't so much that it's all one-note, but that the one note she chooses is wrong. She plays the role with dead seriousness, not metaphorically winking at the camera once.

While I appreciated the vision and fun of *Crystal Skull*, the second half of the movie smacked of George Lucas – and I don't mean that as a compliment. The climax is a let-down, and even the big action set piece (a three-way car chase that culminates with Indy and co. plummeting down not one, not two, but three waterfalls) feels dutiful. I guess that kid had to grow up sometime, and it just feels like Spielberg has moved on from Indy. The charm of Indiana Jones is that it can happily be taken seriously by fans of his, while sceptics can enjoy it as a film with its tongue firmly in its cheek. I defy anyone to defend the penultimate special-effects laden scene of *Crystal Skull* as anything more than ludicrous. But *Crystal Skull* allows us an opportunity to resume a conversation with these characters that reminds us why we started talking to them in the first place. It might not be the best Indy, but it's still Indy, and I think that's good enough.



The Art of Procrastination

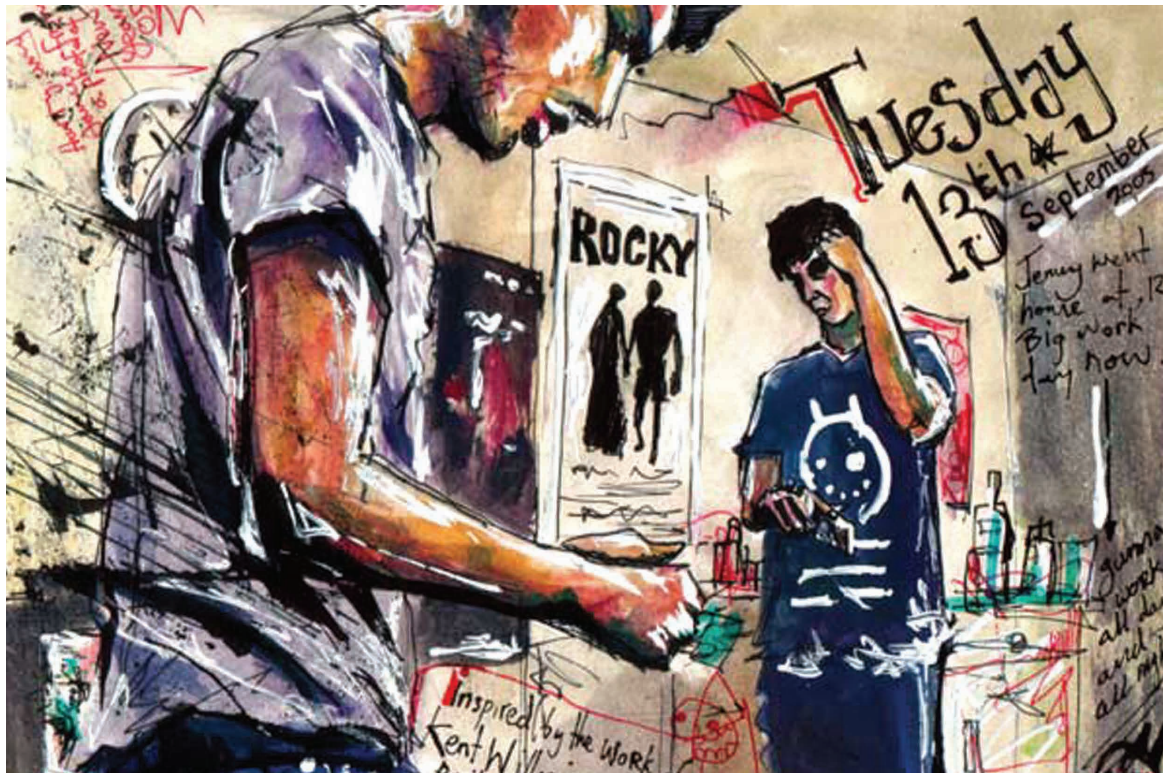


Emily Birks
Art

It took me ages to write this article. Mostly because instead of writing it, I was playing Freecell. Or on the internet, looking at online galleries, instead of going to real ones. This can mean only one thing: it's assessment time. As soon as the draft exam timetable is released, I turn into the world's BEST procrastinator. So, in honour of launching *Woroni Online*, I'm compiling a list of some of my favourite online galleries for you art loving, or just procrastinating, students out there. Happy assessment period!

www.portrait.gov.au/animated

This is the National Portrait Gallery's first online exhibition – it is entirely virtual. 'Animated' showcases the short animated portraits of 14 Australian artists. Some, like Paul Oslo Davis' 'Personal Hygiene', are humorous. Davis comments that his work is about the way his wife likes to preen, in particular, preen him. A simple, sketchy, black and white drawing of his face zooms in microscopically to focus on a



Tuesday 13th September 2005 Tom Judd (2005)

woman polishing his teeth and combing his eyebrows. Some are a little spooky, like Pia Borg's 'Architectural Self Portrait', where stop-motion animated characters are displayed and then locked away in boxes, where ghostly apparitions appear and disappear, and a mysterious figure runs through a dimly-lit hall. What is so compelling about these portraits is they indulge several of the senses. They move, they zoom in on parts of the whole image, and most are set to a soundtrack. There is scope for

noticing different elements each time you play the animation, so hit the 'play' button a few times!

www.tomjudd.co.uk

The ultimate in procrastination projects, Tom Judd is an artist and graphic designer who, at the end of 2004, took on a personal project called 'Everyday', in which he drew a page a day for a whole year! You can now view all 365 pages online as well as other projects he is working on. From Judd's website:

"...Each day I spent around 1 hour on the page, sometimes

more, sometimes less. There was never any planning or preparation, I would just go at it whenever I had a spare moment in my day...Some of the drawings are observational and some are just plain weird. Monsters and things seem to crop up a lot (robots too)...I drew whatever I wanted on that particular day..." – Tom Judd 8th NOV 2005

He must have enjoyed it, because this year he has started 'Everyday 2!'. It is a great insight into the mind and life of Judd. Part diary, part sketchbook, it is



'Personal Hygiene' digital animation Paul Oslo Davis (2007)

an inspiring alternative to the average journal or blog. This project will make you want to get out the pen, ink and markers and get drawing.

www.noise.net

Finally, Noise is an online gallery for artists under 25 which has been around for several years. Originally you'd submit your artwork to the site administrators, and if they deemed it worthy, they'd publish your art online. These days, anyone can submit their work, and what was once a gallery for Australian artists only has now gone global. There are constant, themed curations of digital art and illustration, as well as music, film and photography.

All artists who submit work will automatically be entered into the Spirit of Youth Awards (SOYA), the prizes of which include \$5,000 in cash, \$5,000 in Qantas flights and mentorships with leading personalities of the international creative community. The 2008 competition opens in June, so get creating!

Music Students Work Too



Bradley Kunda
Music

The Life of a Music Student
ANU School of Music
Exam Period

As the exam period approaches, most students buckle down with their textbooks and summaries, and listen to the hours of lectures they neglected to attend during the term. But what of the humble music student, bereft of lecture recordings (technology still has a way to go in the School of Music)? More importantly, why should the ordinary arts or law student, for instance, care about what goes on in the absurdly designed concrete labyrinth at the

far reaches of the ANU campus? This question will be answered in a moment. For now, this rather flippant editorial is designed to enlighten you of the ANU community who have either never set foot in the ACT's largest music performance venue or taken the time to relate to an admittedly unique breed of individuals for whom the practical significance of gaining a degree has next to no correlation with their field of pursuit.

For a music performance student, the middle of the year is usually the time for technical and repertoire exams – 'tech and reps' as they are fondly called – for the undergraduates, and concerto and/or recital performances for graduate and honours students. Tech and reps differ subtly between departments, but usually involve playing technical exercises and maybe one or two repertoire pieces (or perhaps orchestral excerpts) for a small panel. This is usually a good way to force students to think about

their technique. Most students who hate these exams typically enter them without actually having thought about their technique (the old and useless practice of 'we'll play this scale over and over until it gets fast' comes to the fore here). Overall, these exams are the more uncomfortable pimples in the inner ear of a music degree. Bursting them will only cause more pain. You actually have to practice.

On a more interesting note, the rest of the performance students are playing their concertos or mid-year recitals. For those who do not know, a "concerto" in its current usage denotes a performance situation where one or more soloists perform with an orchestra. Sadly, the assessable concerto performances at the School of Music are not performed with an orchestra but with piano accompaniment, even though the university has an orchestra. The reason behind the reduction of orchestral scores into tiny little pianos is purely lo-

gistical. It does not matter that, as a result, the musical product is frequently compromised. In any case, you should be aware that a concerto performance is typically one piece of music, comprising several movements, and can last as little as twenty minutes and sometimes nearly an hour. Big arrogant instruments like the piano or violin, which had their heyday in the nineteenth century, usually perform pieces in this latter time frame. Smaller, humbler instruments, like the guitar, will perhaps struggle to find a concerto lasting longer than about half an hour. This is advantageous, however, because it gives us more time at the pub.

In addition to this, some students also have recitals, which are perhaps the more familiar performance genre. I will now segue to answering my earlier question of why you in the science school, perhaps, should care. Both concerto and recital performances have something to offer the ANU community:

they are free concerts right on the campus doorstep. Often students like to publicize their performances and a detailed list of who is performing on what instrument appears right next to the Biginelli Espresso Café on Level 5 of the School of Music. Posters are also plastered around the School in the lead up to exam time. This is even more so at the end of the year. Most music students like to perform in front of an audience; this is, after all, the purpose of studying our degrees. It is perhaps ironic that a sad culture exists within the School of Music of students not attending their peer's recitals. Perhaps our counterparts in other Colleges of the University can lead the way in demonstrating how the practice of embracing local music can stem from a culturally ingrained norm rather than an inward sense of laziness and competitiveness. After all, we are not really sitting exams as much as just playing music, which is much more fun for everyone.

Eurovision “all about the music”... and mockery



Gemma Nourse
Culture Editor

If there is one thing in this world that I love, it is my pet cactus Julio. A bit further down the list, however, lies Eurovision.

It's funny though; I haven't always felt so strongly about it as to honour it in the same breath as my (some say “truly frightening”) attachment to cacti. A few years ago, I confess, I thought the Eurovision Song Contest was a pastime for only the saddest of freaks and losers of society who didn't have anything better to do on a Sunday night. Such as have root canal therapy, or be victim to Chinese water torture, for example. But ah, how things change! If only 15 year old Gemma could meet today's Gemma, who spent her Sunday the 25th of May tuned into SBS. If only the Gemma of yesteryear could feel the same highs, the same lows, the joy and the sorrow of the new Gemma as she shouted “GO Bosnia and Herzegovina!” in a room full of other enthusiasts. If I had this chance to talk to old Gemma, I would smugly say: “Who's cool now, huh? You, the angsty girl with the pretty boyfriend and lots of spare time to do whatever you want, or me! The girl whose week's highlight was playing ‘Spot The Key Change’ in some of the worst songs I've ever heard!” Ha!

And boy, were there some bad songs. I don't think I've ever been as confused in my life as when I witnessed Spain's entry this year. Thank you, ‘Rodolfo’ Chikilicuarte, for coming into my world and then swiftly exiting it, leaving me with an epic revelation: if I ever want to

play a huge practical joke and find the sleaziest-looking Elvis impersonator in the world for a party, a wedding, or to rock-spider my friends, I will look first to Spain.

Other countries went for the “so bad that it's good” angle, some with moderate success. Azerbaijan led this category with their profound entry entitled *Day After Day*. With the help of an operatic angel screeching into the microphone, Elnur and Samir created a reason, through the universal language of poetry and theatre, for the country and people of Azerbaijan to hold their heads high in pride. I couldn't help but feel, however, that something was lost in translation as I struggled to understand why the devil guy with the hot babes hanging off him would convert (through a well-executed costume change) to the screechy angel's side when the ladies there looked like albino versions of Macy Gray. Still, I loved it, and continue to chuckle over it day after day.

I have a feeling, however, that Germany didn't realise that they would fit into this category. They obviously felt that the world was not satisfied with just one Spice Girls reunion, so they would do the polite thing and feed the greedy masses with their own. They also obviously thought that the biggest letdown of the real *Spice Girls* was that they were too in-tune, and on the night tried their very hardest to right this wrong. They did a sterling job. Which is why it was so surprising that 40 out of 42 countries in the contest gave them zero points, prompting one German paper to ask the big question: “Why doesn't anyone like us?” We would never be able to answer that question, Germany. We wouldn't know where to start.

The true heroes of the night were, in my opinion, so good that I was embarrassed for every other country that felt they had a chance. Demonstrating to us all what would happen if *The Grates* were European and on speed, Bosnia and Herzegovina certainly

won my heart. I understood how the man felt when he popped-out of the laundry basket, and I “got it” when the lady was doing the ol' flailing-the-arms dance. And oh-em-gee, my heart skipped a beat when they turned the clothesline around and the hanging garments spelt L-O-V-E. It restored my faith in the world, and the nature of man. It's just a shame that Europe is full of philistines who don't understand good art when they see it, and voted B & H to 10th place.

But we must accept that mother Russia was the country receiving most politically-motivated bloc voting on the night, so we can't be bitter about it. Dima Bilan made his country very proud, and his people less sad that they are Russian. One Russian newspaper's headline enthusiastically declared the next day “The victory plan is working!” Slow and steady, buddy. One step at a time.

The most shocking result of the night, however, was the threatened resignation of commentator Terry Wogan – also known affectionately by some as “the guy who makes Eurovision not suck.” Wogan, who spends most of the night chuckling at the contestants and making sarcastic remarks, said that Eurovision was “no longer a music contest” because of the increasingly political voting in favour of Eastern European nations. But really, Terry, the only legacy that Eastern Europe has left behind in my generation is Linka from Captain Planet. Just give them a break. Let them have their time in the limelight at Eurovision; it's all they have.

But this all makes us wonder: what's the point of Eurovision if the voting is political and it's not about the music anymore? The point is, my friends, that it gives us a chance to all come together and make merry as we laugh at other countries far, far away. It makes us glad to be Australian; not because, unlike Russia, we won Eurovision, but rather because we're proud as fuck to not be a part of it.

‘Pick-up artists’ too clever by half

Siobhan Slocombe
Sex

In a dimly lit club, two attractive women stand at the bar ordering drinks. Two men approach and ask the usual questions, “How's your night?”, “What are you drinking,” etc. The women smirk, make some murmur of acknowledgement and proceed to get the fuck away.

On the other hand there is the type of man who spots out his target. His approach seems untraditional and even if its intention is transparent from the outset; at the very least it's nice to see a man who has the moves. Nicer still on the self esteem to feel yourself the target of those moves.

For those who enjoy the game, never fear! The seduction community grows ever-stronger. There are numerous books on the subject with such imaginative titles as *The Art of Seduction*, *The Game* and *How To Get the Man You Want*, but before I repeat the entire catalogue of Bridget Jones' personal library I'll attempt to give a little background.

Introducing ‘Mr. Sinatra’; a rather charming young player, in every sense of the word. “He knows everybody,” whispers my partner in crime as we enjoyed a cocktail out on the town, “he's the biggest player you'll ever meet.”

“It's all a matter of psychology,” he says relishing the telling of his own trade secrets. After an enlightening preamble, it came to my attention that at least three of his previous “conquests” were within a three metre radius, and I realised that there might be something to this (rather frightful) theory.

The use of behavioural psychology as a tool for getting what you want is a common tactic in all facets of life. From the earliest ages we learn how to manipulate situations in order to achieve the outcome that most serves our

interests. Usually this kind of behaviour is instinctive rather than premeditated, or at least not quite the product of dedicated study and research. As human beings we constantly ask for solid answers in areas where there really are none, the primary one being our relationships. A simple glance at headlines such as *How to Drive Him Crazy* and *What Men Want* on the cover of every lifestyle magazine is enough to show this. Recent trends have unearthed a whole new culture dedicated to learning psychological techniques and applying them to lustful conquests.

Throughout my ‘extensive research’ of this phenomenon, those I have spoken to all share a similar opinion. That being that simply knowing someone owned or read these these ‘studies of seduction’ for any reason other than a joke would be enough to turn them off completely. So the question is, when it comes to the application of science to sex, is it clever or just plain sad? Mr Sinatra says clever.

Of course we are not simply talking about random hook-ups on a Thursday night. We are talking full scale Casanova-style dangerous liaisons. This is conquest for the sake of conquest, the supreme quest for self-validation. It is the active practice of the martial art of confidence which apparently begins with four basic stages of seduction. According to Robert Greene, author of *The Art of Seduction*, these stages are as follows:

1. Separation,
2. Lead astray,
3. The precipice, and
4. Moving in for the kill.

The basic goal of this process is to keep the object of your desire in a constant dance of interest, desire and confusion until they fall helpless to your charms. One can liken the situation to a boxing match where the smaller defeats the seemingly more powerful fighter by tiring him out,

Continued page 14



Spain's surreal Rodolfo Chikilicuarte; Azerbaijan's Sirushi packs albino Macy Grays



“A genetic photo of some cocktails should work alright.”

Celebrity spotting in Canberra feat. Ms Alexandra Keating



Matt Teran
Canberra

I love celebrities. I'm not really sure why. I think it has something to do with the collector in me. I want to collect encounters with these peculiar people and place them in a display cabinet for all to see. And let it be said, Canberra is a great place for celebrity collecting. The encounters offered by our nation's capital are rare gems and when they do occur, they generally fall into one of three delightful categories – a wee inducing A-lister, a politician doing utterly hilarious everyday things, or an oh so delicious D-lister, whose awkward and gangly embodiment of stardom assures them pride of place in my legally dubious collector's cabinet.

I recently rediscovered a celebrity encounter when a rummage through the draws of my desk unearthed a birthday party invite I received 16 years ago. It features a variety of smiling animals partaking in various party activities, and the address of the party is stated as being 'The Lodge, National Circuit, Deakin'. Oh yeah, that big arse house where our nation's leader lives, I know the one. Yes, believe it or not, I was one of the thirty lucky children to attend Ms Alexandra Keating's 6th birthday party. My memories of this party are blurred – I remember playing on a great expanse of lawn, before being seated at a massive table stretching the length of a stark rectangular room, and being fed tomato soup and a chocolate sundae. (I hated tomatoes at the time and I seem to recall crying when this soup was produced). I also remember a very familiar looking man occasionally peeping out from behind his video camera to tell his daughter to look this way or blow out the candles. He was on the news a lot. Talking about stuff.

The most recent addition to my collection occurred just a few weeks ago. While doing lunch and playing grownups at *My Café* in Manuka, I noticed a sleek black SUV with tinted windows pull up just down the road and drop off two women. The first was a little pudgy, sporting

short hair, glasses, an airy cotton shirt that screamed 'alternative' and an impatient glare that screeched 'get me coffee'. The other, a hottie with a cropped bob and tight jeans, whose air of wisdom seemed incongruous with her late twenties appearance. My friend got it before I did – we had just collected k.d. lang and her sassy girlfriend, who had

wandered down from the Royal Theatre on Constitution Avenue, to satisfy that 'constant craving' – in this case, not k.d.'s soft pop hit, but the ultimate egalitarian leveller to which all must bend, caffeine.

A friend of a friend recently took me through all the celebrities he had stumbled upon while working in a hardware shop in

Notting Hill, London (and yes, you can see this shop in the Julia Roberts movie of the same name. Talk about adding insult to injury). His cabinet included fleeting retail service relationships with Lilly Allen, Orlando Bloom, Jordan and many more. I'm not gonna' lie, I was jealous. His collection was very intimidating. But I'm happy with my lot. I have

seen a few celebrities overseas and interstate, but to place them in my collection would just not be right. There's something about collecting a celebrity in Canberra that makes them special. A gem to be treasured and lovingly placed with similar acquisitions. So keep your eyes peeled people. Trust me. For I am your townie. And I loves you.

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Send your (short) events to u4303222@anu.edu.au by Thursday July 24th.

Inclusion is subject to editorial discretion

drawing project launch
TheFlatCity.com. Main Gallery, ANU School of Music @ 18:00, Fri Jun 13. \$5 tickets @ door. \$2 Beers, Food, Drawing, Merchandise, Music, Video.

the dark crystal
 The National Film and Sound Archive presents this Jim Henson classic @ 16:30, Sat Jun 14. \$9.50 or \$8 for students.

jazz project Ben Marston and others. **The Street Theatre,** University Ave @ 15:00, Sun Jun 15. \$17. <http://www.myspace.com/benmarstonband>

hip hop group
 ACT Writers Centre presents **Rapid Fire.** Gorman House, Braddon @ 18:00, Mon Jun 16. FREE, 62629191 or admin@actwriters.org.au

the goat or who is sylvia?
 Presented by Moonlight ANU Arts Centre @ 20:00, Thurs Jun 19 – Sat Jun 21. \$15/\$12 concession.

melbourne comedy festival roadshow Canberra Theatre @ 20:00 Fri Jun 13 & Sat Jun 14. Tickets on sale via ticketek.

queen's birthday
 Mon June 9

canberra writers festival
 ACT Writers Centre presents "education by day and entertainment by night." June 19 – June 24. www.actwriters.org.au

two guitars and a cello
 The Front Café, Lyneham @ 19:30 Sat June 7. **FREE**

Agony Aunt: My double degree conflicts within me!

Dear Agapanthus,

A recent (male) transfer from Arts to Arts/Engineering, I find it hard to inhabit the two conflicting academic worlds. In Engineering classes, the rooms stink with the heady mix of unwashed boys and *Lynx Africa*; the conversations are crude, and I'm beginning to lose my ability to talk to or about girls without some variant of "Man, I wanna' bone her" popping into my head. My academic career in Arts is obviously suffering as a result. How am I to maintain my sense of personal integrity?

Yours, Fading Social Competence

Dear FSC,

Firstly, can I just say, I commend your courageous interdisciplinary spirit. There are what, five of you kids? Arts and Engineering are cultural worlds apart. I say this as someone who has never technically spoken to an Engineering student. But if I ever did, I'm sure that's what I would surmise.

Fading Social Competence,

you are in a unique position to bring these two worlds together. No doubt you have already found much theoretical and practical overlap between 'History and Theory' and 'Digital Systems and Microprocessors'. Why not take these tenuous links, and forge a radically undesirable split personality from them? This will help to give your cohorts a much-needed glimpse of an exotic lifestyle filled alternately by the prospect of permanent unemployment versus the prospect of permanent ignominious celibacy. And just think – you have the best of both these worlds!

Why not pair your *K-Mart* cargo pants and ineradicable halitosis with a beret and a cardigan! A second-hand copy of *Being and Nothingness* caps off the 'confused' look, but you could also sport a natty \$9 haircut and a *Korn* T-shirt circa 1999. Hardcore, "man." You can break down stereotypes by perpetuating them! Isn't life wonderful?

Show the engineering students the green grass on the arts side of the fence by loudly

and blatantly bluffing when you have done no work whatsoever. It may feel unnatural at first, but trust me on this. For example, in an electronics tutes, if you don't know where the tone generator or amp loading is, tell your tutor it doesn't matter because Foucault said power is everywhere. When you must, inevitably, deal with sexist and otherwise unpalatable comments from the unenlightened, fix them with a cold gaze and calmly intone "I don't appreciate your comments, Dirk. Please refrain."

Meanwhile, in your arts tutes, you can break down common perceptions of Engineering students by sniggering loudly and drawing dick-and-balls on your workbook while whispering loudly to your male classmates about your female tutor. That doesn't sound so bad, does it now? And trust me, the chicks will dig it.

Love and kisses, Agapanthus.

Send your crisis to Aunt Agapanthus at woroni@anu.edu.au

'Pick-up artists' too clever by half

From page 12

keeping him constantly moving and unsure, until the time when they can throw the knockout punch. Greene refers to the target of seduction as a "victim" who must be made to "surrender." Another possible suggestion would be to describe the target of seduction as a 'person' who must be made to learn the art of saying "piss off".

I tell Sinatra this in no uncertain terms. He looks amused, "I think I may have met my match!" Yeah, he wishes.

In response to these contrived "technologies" there must be some kind of anti-seduction manual – and there is. Most people have heard of the famous follow-up to the tele-bible of dating, *Sex and the City*: the book *He's Just Not That into You*. The purpose of this is to show women that it is better to find contentment alone than to be in a dishonest relationship. While it's great to enjoy some healthy flirtation out on the town, better still is knowing that there are many people out there who still believe that relationships of any kind are much more enjoyable when founded on honesty and natural chemistry.

If we must apply written psychology to all facets of the seduction process then most useful of all would be a book that teaches us how and when to avoid the situation. Rather than wasting

time learning how to identify supposed predators, it may indeed be best to simply learn how not to put up with bullshit. This is possibly the best way to avoid being used as a conquest, and so I offer my four stage anti-bullshit guide:

Step one. If someone engages you in friendly chit chat feel free to oblige; fun is fun. If they start to act superior the only thing you can do is laugh at them because really, it's pretty funny.

Step two. If the person you are talking to starts to play hot and cold and is sending mixed signals, go and talk to someone else who isn't. Mixed signals are boring and usually have negative results.

B&G Lite?

David McGill
 Halls and Colleges

Proposed refurbishments could see Burton and Garran Hall temporarily reduced in size for up to a year. What would this mean for the mighty Redbacks and with accommodation already stretched beyond its limits where might the University send the surplus?

In a recent letter to Burton & Garran residents Head of Hall Keith Conley outlined a series of major upgrades to the four residential blocks that could begin as early as 2009. The upgrades will include roof repairs, updating the hot water system, new windows and an upgrade of the bathrooms. Given the extensive nature of the work to be carried out the Hall administration intends to close one block at a time over the course of the year. This would require B&G to reduce its student population by around 150 to approximately 317 residents. As each block is completed every resident will need to transfer to another block once during the year.

While this situation is not ideal it is obviously preferable to closing the entire hall for even a short period of time given the extreme shortage of affordable alternatives for returning residents and the high demand for accommodation from new arrivals, both domestic and international. Depending on future accommodation demand existing residents may have to be housed elsewhere, further adding to the urgency of alternative housing schemes such as the shipping container concept reported in previous issues. Reducing exist-

ing accommodation by around 150 places will also place increased pressure on the already strained 'first year guarantee.' Head of Hall Keith Conley told *Woroni* that Burton and Garran would try and maintain a balance of new and returning students within the reduced population. While Conley was unable to comment on the proposed container housing he stressed that the renovations could not possibly go ahead until alternative housing for B&G residents was up and running.

A smaller B&G population may sound like good news to other halls and colleges when it comes to the inter-hall sports and arts competitions. A reduced Redbacks contingent might give hope to the smaller Burgmann and Ursula teams, or even ease the pressure on Johns in sports like AFL and Inward Bound.

As a former RA President, this author wonders whether the traditionally strong BAG-MA committee might find the smaller budget and population a challenge. It cannot be denied that the large B&G inter-hall presence has been the strongest opposition to Johns in the Sports shield over the last few years. Will other halls or colleges be able to step up and challenge the boys in blue in the same way? Fenner's strong performance so far this year has arguably been helped by the addition of extra residents at the Rex Hotel – they could perhaps regain the Sports Shield after more than a decade on the fringe.

On a more positive note, parking will be significantly easier to find for those that remain at the hall and one would also assume that cleaner and quieter kitchens will be another bonus.

Step three. If someone who was showing interest before suddenly withdraws that interest, it usually means they are an arsehole. Don't go to them and don't wait for them to come to you,

simply move on.

Step four. The final bold move. If you are still in the game at this stage after everything that I've said, you didn't need to read this article in the first place.



B&G tear up Daley Road

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first part, with the lead jumping around between colleges. This tightly contested atmosphere continued until the 3rd runner when B&G and Johns broke from the pack. The two colleges were clear favourites, however the race for third was only just beginning. At the back Fenner, Ursies, Bruce and Burgmann were battling it out for bronze. As each new runner came through the line the positions shuffled and changed.

As the race got to the business end B&G really began to pull out to the front of the pack. The ‘red-backed’ runners wanted the trophy back and were setting a blistering pace. When the last male and female runners stepped onto Daley Road there was no doubt as to the winner would be. How-

ever Johns did not lay down, continuing to chase after B&G and maintaining a considerable distance between themselves and the rest of the pack.

The battle for third was still ragging on behind the B&G and Johns show. Up until the girls final lap Ursies had the lead and looked like scraping in for the third. However there was a massive showing from the other colleges, closing the gap and increasing the excitement. In a strong final showing Fenner was able to take the lead of the pack and finish third.

Despite the nail biting finishing for third the day cannot be taken away from B&G, who won with more than enough time to spare. The Red Backs smashed all of the competition and were the clear winners of this event.



Moot Points win Final

Scott Walker

The final of the ANU Mooting Competition took place at the High Court of Australia on Tuesday 20 May.

Justice Michael Kirby, well-loved patron of the ANU Law Students’ Society, adjudicated the topic on the constitutional validity of a hypothetical piece

of Commonwealth legislation which sought to regulate inland river systems. About 50 people watched the quality debate in Court 2.

The winning team consisted of Joseph Johnson, Michael Jones and Josh Paine. The runners up were Ellen Chapple, Nicholas Vreugdenhil and Cate Le Mesurier. Joseph Johnson took out the best speaker award.



The winners: Josh Paine, Joseph Johnson and Michael Jones

Gnar Pow Shredding Beside Chif

Diwa Hopkins
Sports Reporter

On Thursday May 15 the ANU Snow Sports Club held their inaugural Box Jam outside Chifley Library in anticipation of this year’s approaching ski season and winter Uni Games.

A box jam is an event where freestyle skiers and snowboarders perform tricks while sliding over boxes (of varying dimensions, but typically of about 40x40x300cms). This particular box jam involved man-made snow courtesy of Phillip Ice Skating Rink, 2 boxes of the above description on the lawn outside the entrance of Chifley Library, as well as the snowboarders of ANU Snow Sports. One of the riders, known within the club as D-Wizzle, commented on the night:

“OK, so our box jam didn’t have gnar pow pow like in mammy, but the shredders of the ANU Snows Sports were poppin’ sweet tricks in front of a way gnarly crowd. Crockdog pulled off some pretty epic backside lipslides. I also saw Gus crank a wicked 270 frontside boardslide – it was totally out of control. All in all I’d say the riders were way steezy and we’re all ready to slash the pow stashes when it hits the hill.”

The ANU Snow Sports is preparing for a busy winter this year. Its associate group, the “weekend warriors” are organising weekly weekend trips to the NSW ski fields during the season, however the culmination of the club’s activities will be the much anticipated winter uni games, to be held at Mt Buller Ski Resort next term.

Last year’s winter Uni Games competition saw the newly formed ANU Snows Sports Club

attain an overall fourth place. With Club membership and general activity expanding, the Club is hoping to improve on their last result.

Club President Tim Cameron has been pleased to see membership double since last year amongst both skiers and snowboarders. He also assures *Woroni* that communication between club members is not in convoluted snowboarder jargon, as in D-Wizzle’s aforementioned commentary.

He is encouraging students of both disciplines to not only join the club, but also participate in the next box jam, which he envisages to be next term.

For more info on the club and trips (particularly the upcoming budget trip in the last week of the semester break), check the facebook group *ANU Snowsports Club* or contact Tim Cameron at *anu_snow@hotmail.com*.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

INTER-HALL	FEMALE	BASKETBALL
COMPETITION:		
Women’s Round 1: B&G 14 d Burg 9; Ursula 16 d Johns 10.		
Women’s Round 2: Burg 24 d Ursula 14; Johns 21 d Fenner 6.		
Women’s Round 3: Johns 20 drew Burg 20; Fenner 30 d Ursula 0 forfeit.		
Women’s Round 4: Johns 18 d Bruce 9; B&G 23 d Fenner 4.		
Women’s Round 5: Bruce 20 d Fenner 10; Bruce 21 d Ursula 12.		
Women’s Round 6: B&G 26 d Johns 20; Burg 31 d Fenner 10.		
Women’s Round 7: Burg 23 d Bruce 17; B&G 36 d Ursula 12.		
Women’s Round 8: B&G 27 d Bruce 17.		
INTER-HALL	MALE	BASKETBALL
COMPETITION:		
Men’s Round 1: B&G 24 d Burg 21; Johns 40 d Ursula 13.		
Men’s Round 2: Burg 27 d Ursula 23; Johns 45 d Fenner 18; B&G 33 d UniLodge 32.		
Men’s Round 3: Johns 34 d Burg 22; Fenner 30 d Ursula 0 forfeit.		
Men’s Round 4: Johns 30 d Bruce 24; Fenner 39 d B&G 33; Burg 34 d UniLodge 32.		
Men’s Round 5: Bruce 29 d Fenner 27; UniLodge 47 d Ursula 32.		
Men’s Round 6: Bruce 26 d Ursula 24; Johns 36 d B&G 29; Fenner 33 d UniLodge 29.		
Men’s Round 7: Burg 27 d Fenner 21; B&G 31 d Bruce 27.		
Men’s Round 8: Burg 28 d Bruce 27; B&G 50 d Ursula 23; Johns 46 d UniLodge 28.		
Men’s Round 9: UniLodge 51 d UniLodge 33.		

RUGBY LEAGUE

INTER-HALL RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION:					
Round 1: Bruce 18 d Burg 6; B&G 20 d Ursula 6; Johns 26 d Fenner 4; B&G 28 d Burg 0.					
Round 2: Bruce 24 d Ursula 16; Johns 22 d Burg 4; Fenner 24 d Bruce 18; Johns 16 d B&G 12.					
Round 3: Burg 20 d Ursula 14; B&G 38 d Bruce 6; Fenner 18 d Ursula 10; Fenner 4 drew B&G 4.					
Round 4: Johns 64 d Ursula 8; Burg 18 d Fenner 10; Johns 18 d Bruce 6.					

	Wins	Losses	Draw	Points	(+/-)*100
Johns	5	0		15	
B&G	3	1	1	10	
Fenner	2	2	1	7	
Burg	2	3		6	55.88%
Bruce	2	3		6	52.5%
Ursies	0	5		0	

Final: Johns 14 d B&G 4.

ROAD RELAY

INTER-HALL ROAD RELAY: 1st B&G; 2nd Johns; 3rd Fenner; 4th Bruce; 5th Burgmann; 6th Ursula.

SOCCER

ANU	LUCHTIME	INDOOR	SOCCER
COMPETITION:			
Semi Finals: CJ’s Angels 7 d Kinky Gone Wild 1; Abod 8 d Arpillera 6; Texas Rangers 3 d B&G 2; Newell’s Old Boys 7 d Sneakers 2.			
Final: Newell’s Old Boys d ABCD.			
3 rd Place Play Off: Sneakers d Arpillera.			
5 th Place Play Off: CJ’s Angels d Texas Rangers.			
7 th Place Play Off: Kinky Gone Wild d B&G.			

SOFTBALL

INTER-HALL SOFTBALL COMPETITION:			
Round 1: Johns 8 d Burg 0; Fenner 11 d B&G 9; Burg 21 d Ursula 4.			
Round 2: Fenner 17 d Bruce 1; Fenner 3 d Johns 2; Bruce 11 d Ursula 7; B&G 8 d Burg 1.			
Round 3: Johns 8 d Bruce 6; Burg 7 d Bruce 2; B&G 14 d Ursula 0; B&G 8 d Johns 2; Fenner 27 d Ursula 3.			
Round 4: B&G 10 d Bruce 1; Johns 19 d Ursula 8; Fenner 13 d Burg 0.			

	Played	Wins	Losses
Fenner	5	5	0
B&G	5	4	1
Johns	5	3	2
Burg	5	2	3
Bruce	5	1	4
Ursula	5	0	5

TOUCH FOOTY

ANU LUNCHTIME COMPETITION:			
Semi Finals: SRA d Burg forfeit; Halal Butchers 7 d Fenner 8; Peewees d Johns forfeit; Magpies 4 d Young Libs 1; Darts 10 d Off Constantly 4; Run Straight Johnnies 11 d Living the Dream 8.			

VOLLEYBALL

ANU LUNCHTIME COMPETITION:			
Semi Finals: Dig Deep d Mean Machine; Velociraptors d SVH Bombers; Wallyballs d Springers.			

	Wins	Losses	Forfeits	+/-
Dig Deep	8	1	0	143
SVH Bombers	7	3	0	-59
Final Thoughts	7	3	0	14
Velociraptors	5	4	0	-8
The Wallyballs	4	5	1	-15



History repeats itself

John XXIII College takes Inter-Hall Rugby League Premiership for the 11th time.

John Birrell
Sport Editor

The 2008 Inter-Hall Rugby League competition stands out from the last ten years. The last time John XXIII College lost a final was ten years ago and unlike the previous ten seasons many thought that Burton & Garran Hall were a team that could rival Johns. They had emerged from their poor showing last year to be serious premiership contenders.

In their first match against Johns in the ordinary season they equalled the defending premiers try count. The only thing separating the two teams was poor kicking in the 18 – 12 win to Johns.

Although the scoreline in that match showed a Johns win the casualty count told a different story. Both sides suffered significant injury but Johns were left much worse off. Six of their players ended up in hospital after the game and, for the last 10 minutes, they were playing with only 11 men on the field, their bench lying on the sideline nursing concussions or dislocated shoulders. Despite this, they showed true composure to hold B&G out and secure a confidence-boosting win.

The first encounter between the two form teams this season was also a good reflection of the improvement of the competition as a whole. The standard of league has improved a great deal this season. Once poor performers like B&G and Bruce have secured some good young talent and this has seen a huge improvement in the footy being played. Many Burgmann residents (myself included) have even gone so far as to suggest that it is this improved standard that has led to that College's poor showing this year.

From this context rose a final that was not to be missed. The



atmosphere before the Rugby League Final was nothing like I have ever experienced at Inter-Hall sport before. As soon as the girls were off the field and the tunnels formed an unexpected tension descended over Willows Oval. It was almost like it was *real* sport.

Both teams were eager to put first points on the board, however they seemed to be getting a little ahead of themselves. During the first ten minutes there was a lot of dropped ball from both sides and the backlines seemed

to be struggling to gel. Despite the sometimes messy play, both sides showed some good passages of attack and defence.

B&G were defending for most of the first half and, about 15 minutes in, it was beginning to show. After some broken play, George Morris off-loaded to Tom Marshall and Johns put on the first points on the board. With this try Johns were beginning to show the form that had given them 10 premierships in a row thus far. They scored again before the break for a 10-point

lead at half time.

After the break it seemed like B&G had found their form. Both sides came out much stronger and it seemed like the crowd was going to see a show like the one they had a couple of weeks before. B&G scored early in the first half off a scoot from dummy-half but this didn't seem to dampen Johns' spirits. Both teams continued to press each other in attack and defence.

The game continued tit-for-tat for the remainder of the second half with Johns scoring an-

other try in the last 10, securing a 14 – 4 win. Like in their first encounter this year it was Johns' composure and experience that allowed them to keep B&G out and retain the premiership for 11 years on the trot.

The game was played at a very high standard and, despite the early jitters, and both teams put on a great show. The bar has been raised for the league competition next year and, with many first years in both sides, these two teams will go into next season as clear favourites.

B&G tear up Daley Road

Scotty Bolton
Sports Reporter

The Road Relay — as the name suggests — is a running relay race between ANU residences. The race involves each college

entering four male and four female runners with two runners of each sex completing a 1.5km course and two completing a 3km course.

The event, which had been won by Johns until last year, when it was won by B&G looked to be a tightly fought contest this

year. All the colleges presented strong teams on the day and it seem like the event would come down to the wire.

The race kicked off at 2pm as the horn was sounded and the runners shot off the block. The race was extremely close for the

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