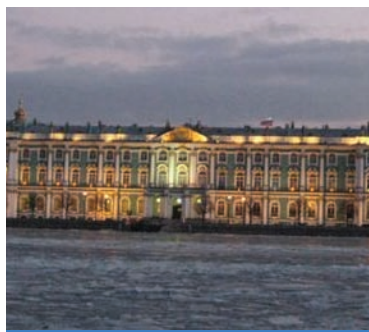




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Woroni

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27 March - 9 April 2008

National Day of Inaction



ANUSA Education Officer Anya Aidman and NTEU representative Dr Rick Kuhn address the distracted crowd in Union Court

The National Union of Students (NUS) National Day of Action turned, once again, into a national day of inaction at the Australian National University last Wednesday.

A smattering of interested students took time to watch parliamentarians and activists speak to the theme 'Fund Our Education'. Despite the presence of a DJ and barbecue the audience seemed to be outnumbered by students just sitting in Union Court to socialise or study.

ANUSA Education Officer and NUS ACT State President Anya Aidman conceded that more advertising might have been required, but said that she and the Association were pleased with the outcome.

"My personal idea for the day was certainly not what we've seen in the past - in terms of an angry rally with lots of students - because it was a positive campaign. Not many people stuck around but quite a few people came through during the day," Ms Aidman said.

"I was very pleased with the media coverage we got. We made two television news broadcasts. I think the whole point of the campaign was to get across ideas, and I'm glad that students listened." - Tully Fletcher

Medical students swallow bitter pill

Annabelle Craft
News

Students at the ANU Medical School have contacted *Woroni* with concerns that the "insular" and close-knit nature of the school is fostering a culture of favouritism and elitism in which

students are scared to speak out for fear of alienating their instructors and peers.

Resentment has apparently been fostered by the initiation of extra 'special tutorials' for certain students led by Dr. Subramaniam, a surgeon at the Canberra hospital. The tutorials are part of an experiment in medical

instruction approved by the Office of Research Integrity with a workload so tough it has earned participants the nickname 'The Submariners'.

The issue for medical students is that the criteria for selection were not revealed, allowing a persistent rumour to spread that students were chosen based

on personal favour rather than merit.

One disappointed student explained "this group of hard-nosed aspiring surgeons will be undergoing a rigorous schedule of an alternative curriculum" created by Dr. Subramaniam who it is said believes that the current curriculum offers inad-

equately preparation for medical students. In response to concerns raised by medical students on the School's discussion board, Medical School staff member Imogen Mitchell responded that the tutorials were "part of a research project evaluating a novel approach to teaching a

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woroni

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ANUSA 08
make the most of your students' association!

From Page 1

curriculum and has not previously been evaluated as effective or helpful to medical students partaking in a medical degree." She explained that the small number of students selected was based on "pure practicalities and logistics."

She referred to the selection process as being one based on "objective criteria" written up by Dr Subramaniam and Dr Corrigan. She admits that "this process was probably not as transparent as it could have been" and a more transparent approach needed to be used in the future.

When contacted, Dr Corrigan was not willing to elaborate on the nature of the selection process, nor was the Director of the Office of Research Integrity who cited a policy of not commenting publically on ethics approval of projects "under deliberation."

Some students fear "that they risk 'career suicide' if they speak out too strongly about their grievances. As one student put it, "...it is better to toe the proverbial line (or more accurately keep both feet firmly planted on the equator of conformity) than question anything that [the] medical school or professors do."

- with Robert Wiblin



Discontent is brewing behind the smooth contours of the ANU Medical School Heather Webster

'On Campus' a basketcase



Charles Prestidge-King
News Editor

In a move that has surprised many dedicated readers, ANU's very own *On Campus* has chosen a cane basket as its Featured Classified. Priced at a reasonable \$8, the cane basket, it is alleged, would be great for "storage, laundry or gardening." Yet many with-

in the ANU feel slighted by the choice of yet another basket as a featured classified. The first, featured in the 18th February issue of *On Campus*, was a pink grocery basket at \$4, in "Very Good Condition." "I guess I just wanted a bit more variety", said first-year law student Jason Eritas. "I expected more from *On Campus*. Not even having a photo of Jackie Chan and Kevin Rudd is going to make up for this."

Woroni firmly believes that *On Campus* should take into account a range of interests in its selection of Featured Classifieds. Mobile phone chargers, blank DVDs, and cars are all on offer. Why, given that it featured a basket not a month ago, does it not promote some other type of item or service?

Rudd announces \$53 million to combat binge drinking "epidemic"

Scott Walker
Law Reporter

On 10 March, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon, announced a national binge drinking strategy to work in tandem with a new National Preventative Health Task Force.

Starting in 2008-2009, the \$53 million program includes three measures to help reduce alcohol misuse and binge drinking among young Australians.

\$14.4 million has been allocated for community initiatives to confront the culture of binge drinking, particularly in sporting organisations; \$19 million for

early intervention and diversionary programs; and \$20 million to fund a television and internet based scare campaign.

The scheme is intended to tackle a problem which Mr Rudd describes as an "epidemic of binge drinking across the country". It will be funded by redirecting existing government resources from the Community Partnerships Initiative and Rural and Regional Initiative programs. Encouraging young people to assume personal responsibility for their alcohol consumption will be the main focus of the scheme.

The National Task Force will deal with the increasing burden of chronic disease caused

Continued Page 14

Tax deal strengthens Union finances

Maiy Azize
Student Politics

The financial status of the ANU Union has attracted a great deal of attention in recent months after an unexpected budgetary turn around. The significant deficit projected at the Union's Annual General Meeting late last year by the Chair of the ANU Union Board of Directors, Chris Steel, appears to have been avoided after changes in tax arrangements and management. Reigniting an old debate, the revelation has been bittersweet.

Prior to the Union's Annual General Meeting, the Union Board of Directors made the decision not to renew the lease of the Acton Supermarket on financial grounds. This generated enormous controversy and caused a student uprising, culminating in the largest turnout to an ANU Union Annual General Meeting in decades. Debate was heated, and at one point food was thrown at Chair Chris Steel.

Based on bleak financial pro-

jections, Steel outlined his plans to lease the space occupied by the supermarket at a higher rate to a new operator. The meeting was suspended by the students, who refused to accept the report handed down by Steel as Chair. The meeting then passed three motions, including one urging the Union Board to reconsider the supermarkets' lease application. The third motion was particularly contentious, as it expressed no confidence in the Board, its decisions relating to the supermarket or its capacity to run its own supermarket. A popular Facebook group was also started by concerned student Toby Halligan, boasting over 1,000 members.

Nearly five months onwards, the financial rationale behind the closure has been called into question. A confidential source close to the Union has told *Woroni* that changes had been made within the Union and resulted in substantial savings, and that this would have been known to the Board of Directors before the lease application was rejected.

"When the budget was set at the end of the 2006-07 year,

there was a projected deficit. It was going to be tough to turn that around. However, towards the beginning of the year, there was a management restructure that saved staffing costs." Woroni has been advised that the saving was in the order of \$10,000 to \$15,000. The source added "...there was also a change to the management of the Asian Bistro, which was privatised. This also resulted in a saving."

Additionally, the source alleges that a payroll tax exemption was in the works well before the rejection of the lease application. "It is true that in August and September, the Union was on track to make a deficit. However, it was clear that a payroll tax exemption was going to mean a \$50,000 saving thereafter."

Chris Steel has told *Woroni* that although the application had been made before the supermarket lease was rejected, it had not yet been processed. As far as the Board of Directors were concerned, it was far from a certainty: "...the ANU has been trying to win the exemption for more than a decade. After submitting a number of unsuccessful applica-

tions for the exemption, we were finally notified of our successful application in November 2007. The exemption applies only on a prospective basis from November 2007 onwards."

Steel believes it would have been irresponsible to take the payroll tax exemption for granted when budgeting. "(It) is not in the Board's interest to pre-empt decisions by third parties with respect to taxation as these arrangements may vary from time to time. Certainly, given our past failed applications, we were hopeful, but could not guarantee access to the applied exemption."

Steel had also proposed a Union run supermarket prior to the October meeting, with a greater range of products and longer opening hours. This was rejected by students at the Annual General Meeting. Among their motions was an outright dismissal of a Union run establishment in favour of a privately run supermarket. On the 'Keep the ANU Supermarket' Facebook group, many students expressed disenchantment with Union run outlets more generally. For Chris Steel, the supermarket saga is

part of a broader debate highlighting the need for reform.

"[It is] my continued belief that wider long-term reform of the ANU Union was necessary to bridge serious gaps in net revenues in the now deregulated University service sector. Reliance on mere tax breaks to address the serious operating challenges that face the ANU Union into the future is at best short-sighted, and at worst grossly negligent."

Steel adds that the ANU Union is a non-profit organization, and "any net profits are returned to students by way of cheaper prices and through the extension of existing service provision. My view is that these goals can only be achieved through responsible fiscal management over the cycle."

Woroni's source, however, believes the Union is in a strong financial position, and has advised that the ANU Union has savings held in managed funds and high interest earning accounts.

Some have suggested that the feasibility of greater privatisation should be considered, as opposed to stronger student management.

Music restructure faces opposition

Bradley Kunda
Music Correspondent

Following increasing circulation of information regarding the University's proposed restructuring of the ANU School of Music, music students have been voicing their concerns about the future implications for the School. On Friday 14 March, about twenty School of Music students and alumni as well as members of other faculties met for a 'Develop the School of Music' barbecue lunch.

At the event, violin and viola lecturer Barbara Jane Gilby noted that there is almost no professional musical infrastructure in Canberra to support the School. Chris Nicholls, who is heavily involved in directing community musical projects in Canberra, was present on Chief Minister and Minister for the Arts John Stanhope's round table discussion the week earlier, and commented that many people at the discussion were very passionate about helping the School. Nicholls emphasised, however, that the School could be helping itself by making its students and resources more readily available to

local community music groups, which he considers a significant potential revenue source for the School.

The lunch followed an address given by Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mandy Thomas, on Wednesday 5 March. At the address, one student raised the possibility of lobbying the government to support a full-time orchestra in the ACT. Professor Thomas has since communicated that she would be 'very happy to assist and support such an initiative'. Professor Thomas's concerns were that the ACT Government 'has not been forthcoming before now' and that 'it is also important to be able to articulate precisely what is wanted [for the School]'.

A commonly recurring impression among some students and staff seems to reflect concern that the proposed restructuring will have adverse long-term effects on the School. While any real result is apparently still pending, it is clear that at least some students want their opinions reflected in the final outcome, with the Facebook group 'Save the Canberra School of Music' having some 619 members to date.

Print quota problematic

Summer students forced to purchase top-ups



Tom Swann
News

Students who studied at the University over the summer session have found that their print quotas have not been reset for the current semester. This means that students who used up their quota during summer, thinking it would be reset, will have to pay for all their future printing.

The 'Student iGuide', print documentation for Library and IT services, states that "Every student is provided with a printing quota" of "400 single-sided black and white pages", which is "reset at the beginning of each semester."

Print quotas are reset "twice a year", as stated on the online version of the iGuide, regardless of

the pattern of study within the year. The resets happen in January and July.

Dr Markus Buchhorn, Director of ICT Environments, Division of Information (DOI), denies that the printed iGuide contains ambiguous information. "The problem is that people have misunderstood the word 'semester'." "The concept of semester, as used by the ANU, is very, very clear - there are only two in a year," he says.

Confusion may have arisen from the phrase 'summer semester', as used by some other Australian universities, to describe what the ANU officially calls the 'summer session'. Yet official nomenclature did not prevent the misinterpretation from becoming widespread. Some students reported that teaching staff told them during summer courses that quotas would be reset for the semester. Others claimed IT and library staff gave similar information. Just where the misinterpretations occurred is not clear.

Apart from the confusion, some students have also complained about the policy itself. "On the whole we pay the higher fees for the same courses, but

receive lesser services," says Rohan, one of the affected students. "This is clearly discrimination against summer students."

Although the policy has been the same for many years, Dr Buchhorn admits that it may need to be "revisited". "When the current model was developed," he says, referring to the provision of print quotas "there were very few summer sessions and it rarely came up as an issue."

ANUSA and PARSA representatives will meet with Dr Buchhorn later in the year to discuss the current model. In the meantime, he says "there is a process where people can apply for quota 'repairs', and if it turns out clearly that there is good cause, something can be done."

The information services provided by the University through the DOI, including printing, storage space and internet, are twice as generous than the average for Australian universities, according to internal analysis, and in some cases better by a factor of 10. Future documentation will cite specific dates of the resets, and DOI channels of communication will be reconsidered to ensure clarity amongst staff on such matters.



EDITORIAL

We believe in “change we can believe in”

With the race for the Democratic Presidential Nomination winding on and on interminably, the Woroni editorial team is proud to help settle the nomination by doing what every group of young, liberal, college-attending, middle-class, coffee-drinking Westerners around the world is doing right now: endorsing Obama. We have been truly blessed: a virgin-birth politician; an African-American/Caucasian hybrid; a youthful idealism-tapping-machine like none before. For the greater good the Clintons must accept their obsolescence.

It is a cliché to say that Obama and Clinton's policies are more or less identical. With that debate settled, we owe it to ourselves to elect the candidate with the Morpheus allure who can give the free world a much needed dose of self-esteem therapy. A generation of wallowing in guilt about the world's injustices is enough. This election gives us, the long-suffering bleeding-heart student class, our first chance since JFK to experience the cathartic release of supporting a soaring oratory and knowing smile that never fail to hit our collective g-spot.

Clinton has run on her experience, promising to be a steady hand in dangerous times. As revealed by journalists for *The New Republic*, *Time* and *Woroni*, Clinton has had much proximity to affairs of state but near no

actual (much less successful) involvement. Yoko Ono was not a Beatle. Recalling the myriad harpy-ish personalities Hillary has flicked through during this campaign we would feel far safer with a voice as soothing as Morgan Freeman's answering the Red Phone at 3am.

Despite the failure of the monkeys running the US Executive to accomplish a single positive thing in the last eight years, the US remains in remarkably strong shape. We must reluctantly accept that the US President can't achieve all that much - for good or bad. But one thing he can do is speechify and so make us optimistic about 'our politics' while we continue solving our problems for ourselves as we always have. So instead of holding out for a Superhuman public servant capable of cutting taxes, increasing spending and shrinking the budget deficit simultaneously, let's cut our losses and consider ourselves lucky when the State of the Union address makes us go all gooey every January.

Therefore, after careful deliberation, *Woroni* implores its readers to believe in Obama as if he were a placebo, talk about him with delirious frequency and endorse him with at least two applications on every Facebook profile under their control. He's probably the right man for our times; he's unquestionably the right man for our demographic.

LETTERS

Townies sophisticated, mature
Dear *Woroni*,

I felt it necessary to query recent articles in the community section credited to Matt Teran. He has been dubbed, I assume affectionately, as your 'token townie'. However, I would like to point out that townies are anything but tokens at the ANU, where available statistics for 2006 indicate that locals comprise 70% of the student body.

I also question why Canberrans feel the continual need to apologise for the city's shortcomings. This strange compulsion was illustrated when Matt compared Canberra to the kid 'who wet himself at the last cool kid's party'. I wholeheartedly disagree with this analogy and venture to suggest that if this city were in high school it would actually be the sophisticated and mature kid that the cool ones didn't like due to their intelligence.

It is not us who should be ashamed, but any interstate students who make no effort to overcome their ignorance of the place that they now live. Canberrans should not be made to feel like outsiders at a university in their own Territory simply because of an insular college system. Perhaps if there were greater interaction between townies and college students, the latter would gain a perspective of this city that was wider than the distance from Daley Road to Mooseheads.

Yours, Megan Nash

Lee Kuan Yew deserved PhD

Dear *Woroni*,

I write in response to the ar-

ticle "It's Gough" (13-26 March 2008) to highlight the central role that Lee Kuan Yew played in transforming what appeared to be an apparent basket case in 1965 to the vibrant city-state it is today, with a GDP per capita of over US\$37,000.

Having a look at his son, current PM Lee Hsien Loong's, career, from his brilliant academic accomplishments culminating in a Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, to becoming the youngest Brigadier-General in Singaporean history, to a distinguished 20-year political ascension prior to becoming PM, should allay any misplaced concerns about nepotism.

Suggesting Singapore is an "effective dictatorship" implies a minimal tolerance for open criticism of the government's policies, in the same vein as Myanmar's military junta, Hu Jintao's and Robert Mugabe's administrations. To expose the lie behind such an implication we need look no further than the locally-produced movie *I Not Stupid*, the third-highest grossing film in Singapore ever, which satirically critiqued many aspects of Singaporean society such as the government's policy of actively employing foreign expatriates and its 'Big Brother' mentality.

Lee Kuan Yew inherited a country that had virtually no natural resources, limited land, a GDP capita of barely above US\$400, mass unemployment and racial tensions. In 2008, Lee Kuan Yew's legacy is evident, from Changi Airport, which won

19 Best Airport Awards to the fact it is one of Asia's most important financial centres, with more than 130 banks.

As such, I applaud the University Council in conferring an honorary Doctorate of Laws on Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

Yours, Andaleeb Akhand

A Degree too much

Dear *Woroni*,

Being students, our lives are all about getting the most out of our dollar; passion pop and goon our drink of choice, mi goreng our gourmet cuisine, preferring to walk home or stay out all night until the buses start running to avoid paying for taxis, purchasing entire meals for \$2 from Macca's with the aid of VIP cards, contemplating lining up for the Civic soup van and finding fashion at Vinnies, just to mention a few of our cheapskate ways.

When starting at ANU I was delighted, in my stingy way, to find a healthy, yet affordable option for lunch... \$4 salad rolls from Degree. Lettuce fresh, avocado creamy, beetroot juicy, this roll was what I dreamt of in 12pm lectures and what kept me going for afternoon tutes and labs. As the year went on, seasons began to change, leaves fell, workloads became heavier, exam period was looming...everything was changing, but I knew I could count on my \$4 salad rolls.

Then I strolled into Degree, \$4 in hand and glanced up at the blackboard only to realise the price had gone up to \$4.50. FOUR FIFTY? You have to be kidding. **Continued next page**

Education Revolution or Education Review?



Tully Fletcher
Editor

Vice-Chancellors and student representatives already know what higher education needs: more money.

In the classic British television satire *Yes, Prime Minister*, Cabinet Secretary Sir Humphrey Appleby once explained to the Prime Minister how a bureaucratic review of higher education might work:

"... they'll give it the most serious and earnest consideration and insist on a thorough and rigorous examination of all the proposals, allied with detailed feasibility study and budget analysis, before producing a consultative document for consideration by all interested bodies and seeking comments and recommendations to be included in a brief, for a series of working parties who will produce individual studies which will provide the background for a more wide ranging document, considering whether or not the proposal should be taken forward to the next stage."

The Higher Education Review announced by Education Minister Julia Gillard last fortnight will

conduct a thorough and rigorous examination of 'the future direction of the sector, its capacity to meet the needs of the Australian community and economy, and the options available for ongoing reform' with a view to increasing economic productivity, improving funding arrangements, widening access and improving student support programs, and ensuring the highest possible standards.

Well, Yes, Minister. We liked your speech, we welcome your concern, but we'd really just like some more cash to get back to the job of educating and learning after a decade of neglect.

Universities need a major increase in funding through Commonwealth grants and our students need to have *Youth Allowance* and *Austudy* arrangements reviewed. What we don't need is yet another government committee, a six-month review and an implementation schedule at least two years away. And even if we must have a review, the government should at least be bold enough to allocate a substantial and meaningful increase in funding to the sector in the upcoming May Budget.

The first key issue is the overall level of funding. Our universities are struggling to employ enough staff in the build-up to the mass retirement of baby-boomer academics, and capital works and maintenance has been put on hold due to underfunding (our own University is apparently experiencing a severe plumbing crisis). As the Prime Minister himself pointed out during the election campaign, we are the only nation in the Organisation

for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to have disinvested in universities while all comparable nations invested almost 50% more. The latest figures from the OECD also show that from 1995 to 2004 Australia made no change to the level of money it invested on a per student basis. We need to lift our game, and the May Budget should see the new government put its money where its mouth is.

The second key issue is student poverty. According to the 2006 Universities Australia *Australian University Finances*

"We'd really just like some more cash to get back to the job of educating and learning after a decade of neglect"

Survey almost three quarters of the full-time undergraduate population surveyed were engaged in paid work during the academic semester. The average hours worked were almost 15 hours per week, and over 15% reported working more than 20 hours a week. 40% of full-time undergraduates believed that their work was having an adverse effect on their studies and almost a quarter regularly skip classes to attend work. 12.8% of this group indicated that they regularly go without food and other necessities because they cannot afford them. How can we have the highest possible standards in our graduates when many can't afford the time or the resources to study?

Our outdated student welfare system should be dramatically reformed and new money should be appropriated as soon as possible. For a large proportion of full-time students between 18 and 25 years of age, one either struggles to earn the money to attain the independent rate of *Youth Allowance* (under-25s must work 15 hours a week for two years, get married for twelve months or earn around \$18,000 over 18 months to receive \$355.40 per fortnight) or struggles on the independent rate of *Youth Allowance*. If you're over 25, you're struggling on *Austudy* (also

studying if we expect the best from our graduates. All full-time students should, at the very least, receive *Austudy* or the equivalent. The ridiculous distinction between full-time students under-25 and over-25 should be removed, or the hurdles to be jumped before receiving the independent rate of *Youth Allowance* knocked over. The next step should be easing the restrictions on student earning capacity or, if we're serious about good results, raising the level of *Youth Allowance/Austudy* to a level at least approaching the minimum wage. Yes, it will cost the taxpayer more money. But that's what we must do if higher education and equitable access to it is a real priority. When polled, Australians readily and consistently indicate their preference for new government investment in education to tax cuts.

"After 12 years in Opposition and four months in Government why don't you already have a complete blueprint for university reform ready to go?" Kerry O'Brien asked Gillard on *The 7:30 Report* when the Review was announced. The Minister replied, "...the Higher Education Revolution is under way. But we want this overarching review to provide a blueprint for the next 10 years for the higher education system and beyond. And there's been no evidence based independent review of the higher education system for a very long period of time."

Universities, students and voters expected an Education Revolution, not an Education Review. Make a courageous decision, Minister.

From Letters I know what you're thinking: 'its only fifty cents, don't be such a stinger'. But I knew this was the beginning of a very slippery slope. Sure enough by the end of the year the prices had yet again risen to \$5. I was not happy, but still continued to buy the rolls.

This year prices have risen yet again. Salad rolls are now \$6.90. I know our economy is facing some pressures at the moment. But inflation of close to 75% is absolutely ridiculous. Understandably, prices must rise over time, but this is extreme and devastating for all us poor Uni students. I will not be buying lunch at Degree any more.

(name and address supplied)

Send your (short) letters to woroni@anu.edu.au by Wednesday 2 April. We may edit for size or spelling.

In(or on-its-way-out?)ward Bound

Diwa Hopkins
Sports

Up until this year, Inter-Hall Sports has enforced an affirmative action policy on Inward Bound with each Hall or College required to include a minimum of three females in their 32 strong IB teams.

Recently, the powers that be served the Inter-hall Sports Club with the following ultimatum: scrap the affirmative action policy or scrap IB. The main line of argument was that were an unwilling and unfit participant (i.e. a female placed in the team to meet the minimum requirement) to suffer an injury, the ANU, Inter-Hall sport and IB coordinators would be seen to be

negligent.

Understandable. But, as a former female participant, my initial response was to mount that proverbial high, and in this case female, horse. Led by the stench of the North Shore, I galloped to Burgmann College under the flag of feminism, staving off criticisms of being a femonazi (witnesses are now claiming sightings of hairy armpits – no comment). I charged there to engage in battle against the patriarchy, represented by none other than the Inter-hall Sports President, John Birrell. Ok, that was unfair to Biz – in our ensuing discussion he revealed his feminist leanings.

Such leanings are probably also found in many a gender studies essay on affirmative action along the lines of "hey sista",

we don't need no paternalistic affirmative action, we can bust this system on our own merit," etc, etc. And certainly there are the examples of strong, young female IB runners pretty much eating the div 1 and 2 courses for breakfast.

But still, I put this to John: quite simply, from experience, if I were to do the same training as a male counterpart, he would come out the stronger runner. Put this into the competitive IB equation and I have no, or at least very limited, IB prospects. If we look ahead five years – IB is open to the average bloke willing to push himself, but open only to the exceptional girl willing to self-harm.

Of course this is an exaggeration and only a glimpse into the myriad of issues and arguments

surrounding the recent IB developments, and affirmative action in general.

I understand and accept the Legal Department's case. As a passionate IB advocate, I accept that scrapping the affirmative action policy is better than scrapping IB.

But surely we cannot take this change lying down. So I put it to you to at least think about where this leaves us in terms of female participation in IB. How do we generate such participation given these new parameters? IB enriched my college experience and it should not be limited in its capacity to enrich the college experience of other enthusiastic young women.

**no relation to (nor comment on) the "Sisterhood"*

The intellectual pygmies at the gates

Complaining about opinionated academics misses the point.

Alessandro Antonello
Columnist

The only time I've been uncomfortable in a lecture was when some random obese guy who stank like a dead kangaroo chose to sit next to me. Yet apparently Greens are also invading lecture theatres, not only stinking up the place, but speaking as well, using mystical techniques to brainwash the unsuspecting into discovering feelings of social justice. This is what the NSW Young Liberals would have us believe. Appearing on the front of a recent issue of the Higher Education Supplement in *The Australian* was Natalie Karam, a Young Liberal and ideologue who was made to feel "marginalised" for holding "mainstream views" by a lecturer who professed being a long-standing member of the Greens. As a response to this, I feel compelled to spray my marginalising venom over what can only be described as a deranged and

anti-intellectual campaign on the part of these Young Libs. Sit up and think for yourselves, you lazy and naive intellectual pygmies. If you think that every lecturer is an oasis of academic objectivity, or that every lecturer demands absolute fealty to their positions or in any way wants to brainwash students, perhaps you should reassess the situation around you for what it generally is. First, to the idea of academic objectivity: perhaps I am more radical than some on the impossibility of academic objectivity, but the first thing all students should learn is that lecturers have their points of view and vision of human society that influences the ways they teach, research and write - presumably a reason they were hired in the first place. It is those lecturers who believe in academic objectivity, rather than those professing political allegiances, whom we should be ferreting out. Moreover, I can only hope that one day lecturers, especially in the humanities and social sciences, will confidently

put forward their views in the hope that students, agreeing or disagreeing, will engage productively with a variety of ideas. Secondly, to the point about fealty and brainwashing: while I'm sure that lecturers hope you

even bothered to skim the course readings. What the NSW Young Libs are trying to start is a half-arsed attempt at an Australian version of Campus Watch—an American organisation that searches for

involving concerted attempts to penalise dissident students, all Karam could say was "I felt marginalised for being mainstream," a phrase so lacking in meaning that it could give 'family values' a run for its money. Moreover, Karam's statement ignored the fact that the Greens are hardly a marginal political force given that they are as popular as current Opposition Leader Brendan Nelson. If it means being an insipid and mealy-mouthed dunce, who'd rather be taught at than participate in the ongoing human endeavour of thinking, I'd rather be marginal. In the final analysis it appears that the next generation of vapid Liberal apparatchiks is finding its feet. Instead of wanting to change the disreputable tactics that characterised their party's past and embrace collegiality and good-tempered philosophising, they still feel the urge to divide. Perhaps they should attend the history lectures of a pinko-leftie and learn the term 'McCarthyism'.

“Lecturers, and even other students, can only be exasperated at lazy students who make glib and unreflective attempts at wise pronouncements about topics on which they haven’t even bothered to skim the course readings”

agree with them, the truth is that most are quite open to wide ranging consideration of the issues. Lecturers, and even other students, can only be exasperated at lazy students who make glib and unreflective attempts at wise pronouncements about topics on which they haven't

lecturers in Middle East studies who might disagree, even slightly, with the Israeli Government. Various conservative commentators have already tried to name and shame Australian lecturers and have patently failed to cause a stir. Instead of providing detailed and substantiated charges

Add a dash of Darwin to that Derrida

Science marches onwards and its academic critics risk being left behind.

Jamie Freestone
Columnist

It has long been fashionable to criticise science, reductionism and the white males who were the spearhead of 19th and 20th century scientific research. But have the humanities now lost touch completely? Has science advanced too far for the Marxist, Freudian, Foucauldian purveyor of "Theory"? Science has often been criticised for being nothing more

than a "meta-narrative". It has been told that its findings merely reflect the socio-political contexts of its researchers. It has been accused of being dehumanising, exclusive and reductionist. Arts students among you will encounter claims like these in subjects at the ANU. It is interesting therefore that science has seemingly overcome these formidable handicaps to go on apparently discovering and inventing things at an ever-increasing rate. Recent advances in nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, genetics and neuroscience simply dazzle with their science-fiction-

sounding implications. Last month scientists created artificial life in a laboratory by writing their own genetic code. This news was understandably buried by Corey Delaney and Heath Ledger. Scientists have also now developed an artificial limb which users can control with their minds. Researchers at Princeton have been tracking data flows in the internet's cyber-highways, looking for the emergence of artificial intelligence borne out of the accumulated "global brain" of networked information and they have found some interesting results. The huge implications of these kinds of research projects are surely self-evident. Yet where is their discussion in policy, politics, public discourse and academia? There seems to be as great as ever a gulf between the knowledge of the public and the knowledge of experts when it comes to scientific endeavour. As a sociology graduate I could consider myself a social scientist. I may be somewhere between the humanities and the natural sciences. I have done my time in terms of critiquing

science, I have studied Thomas Kuhn and Paul Feyerabend, and I have read countless sceptical reviews of what science can actually achieve. I have also certainly witnessed pseudoscience, bad science and abuses of ethics and honesty in certain scientific branches. But what is the conclusion we should draw from examples of bad science? Some would take these instances and denounce science altogether, claiming that if a perfectly accurate account of reality cannot be promised by the scientific method, then all science must be doubtful. Surely this is a lazy, foolish position. It is a truism to suggest that we as sensory beings can never know a completely objective reality; but to conclude that we should abandon all effort

at getting as close as possible to objective knowledge of our world is intellectually negligent. Of course many writers, philosophers, theorists and historians are enthusiastic watchers of scientific endeavour and have ignored the more antiquated condemnations of the self-important, self-appointed guardians of knowledge in the humanities. I urge everyone to keep apprised as best they can with scientific advancement, for it advances unabated, regardless of what some post-everything professor may claim. So go forth, Arts students, and read *New Scientist* or browse Edge.org. Otherwise you may have a rude awakening when some of the more science-fiction inspired technologies are available at Big W.

“Last month scientists created artificial life in a laboratory by writing their own genetic code. This news was understandably buried by Corey Delaney and Heath Ledger. Scientists have also now developed an artificial limb which users can control with their minds”

Huddling with Ruskies

Anna Williams
Recently Returned

It's been about a month since I came home to Australia and it feels like I never left. As clichéd as that sounds, it's true. It's as though everything I experienced over the past summer is condensed into a weird sort of dream, where the only proof I have that I really was in Russia are some photos I took and friends I made. That and my stunning, glaringly white tan. My sister asked me if I was feeling alright when she saw me a couple of days after I returned. She thought I was ill! No, just haven't seen the sun for three months.

The truth is, I feel so unsettled right now. I'm sure this is a common thing for anyone who has travelled and returned home again. This is what's making this apparently little task so damn hard. I think this is what Russia does to you, though. It was so intense, dark, cold, scary and completely consuming that it would be impossible to feel any differently. But take this with a word of caution. I don't want to romanticize this place in any way, because Russia is not for everyone, especially not in winter!

My fascination with this country began a few years ago when I was a kid. I remember I had to do a home economics project and bake something from another country. I was so curious about Russia because it was far away and I knew nothing about it at all, so I made a Russian cake. It didn't tell me much, but as it turned out, this was precisely how I was viewed when I was there. Not as a cake, but as a subject of immense curiosity. I only ever met two other Australians while I was there, so this reaction was entirely understandable. At one stage I was asked by a young Russian guy, "why are you here? I mean, my friends from Europe won't even come here!" He just couldn't understand why I would travel from Australia to the other side of the world, to Russia, of all places. In my limited Russian, I don't think I provided him with a satisfactory answer. In fact, I'm not sure if I can provide a satisfactory answer in English!

I picked up Russian last year. It was a grammar and reading course, so I wasn't particularly good at speaking or understanding Russian at all. I decided that the only way to consolidate what I had learnt was to give up my



Clockwise from top: the Winter Palace in St Petersburg, our writer and the Kremlin Anna Williams

summer break and head to the far off frozen lands of Russia. I spent most of my time living in St. Petersburg, the 'European' city up on the 60th parallel. Living there was a sensory overload. I never got tired of walk-

Empire and much of what was there then is still there now. It is full of beautiful palaces, cathedrals and canals. But that's not the real soul of Russia. The living, breathing soul of this place is the people themselves. Generally

not much after 4pm. The shops were still open, but most people tended to sleep, eat and drink while I was there.

I made an effort to watch the news most nights, if only to catch a glimpse of what was happening outside of Russia. It was the same old news day after day. The first story was always about how fantastic Vladimir Putin was and who he had hauled into his office that day. It was usually accompanied by a snippet of a nervous-looking governor or minister sitting across a small table from Putin, who scrutinised the poor person with his icy gaze of steel. Coming in a close second was Dmitry Medvedev - now President-Elect Medvedev - and how he had actually made some progress with the National Projects scheme. Most Russians

felt they would fail miserably, like all the other half-hearted reform attempts that had been introduced. I was surprised in January when news reports came in that the Russians living in central Siberia were starting to become a little grumpy with the local authorities. It was about 55 degrees Celsius in some parts and the infrastructure was failing because pipes were freezing and cracking.

In this place, people just survive. They get up and go to work and go home again to their crumbly little apartments. That's it. They don't take any crap, because life is hard enough as it is without having to put up with much else, including the attempts of a foreign girl to make conversation on the trolleybus. If someone looks at your girlfriend the wrong way, you bash them, in front of everyone, including me and including the militsiya (who stand there and do nothing). If that doesn't work, then you can go to the shop around the corner from Uni and purchase a gun and silencer, if that's what is required. Needless to say, nothing much surprises me now. Even finding a nuclear missile in the middle of St. Petersburg and a submarine parked at the end of my street seemed to be normal discoveries after a while.

For me, it was a massive challenge going to Russia, let alone living there and learning the language. Understanding Russian people was the biggest hurdle, and while I don't pretend that I'll ever get that perfectly right, I have a working knowledge, which is better than nothing. I've found that once you understand Russians, learning the language is so much easier.

So now I'm learning to live in Australia again. People say you have to adapt to a culture when you live in another country, but I think you have to do exactly the same when you return home. There's no doubt that the second part is much harder than the first! I felt completely at home in Russia. It was right from the start. I don't know why, but in true Russian style, I've learnt not to care too much about that. It's not important. The challenges I faced and what I learnt from them is more valuable than anything and I wouldn't swap that for the world.

Anna Williams is in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science and Russian) / Bachelor of Laws

"The first news story was always about how fantastic Vladimir Putin was and who he had hauled into his office that day"

ing through the Winter Palace square on my way home from Nevsky Prospekt. This probably means nothing to most people who read this. To give you some perspective, this city used to be the imperial heart of the Russian

speaking, they are rude, scowling and depressed-looking, but who wouldn't be if you had experienced the history they had and it was winter? The five hour days were a killer. Nothing happened before ten in the morning and

State of the Association: under examination

Jamila Rizvi
ANUSA President

Exams. Okay, so most of us haven't even started thinking about them, especially because it's semester 1 and there isn't the Fluff to warn us anyway. But ANUSA has been working on a few exam-related issues, which we wanted to update you on.

Before I begin, it's important to point out a few things about the academic structure of the ANU. The ANU is organized into seven Colleges. The College system is relatively new and implemented for several reasons, one of which was to give greater connectivity between undergraduate and postgraduate education. The idea is that those of us who

legies who go out of their way to justify why their not-so-student-friendly practices are actually very good. The list of issues raised is a long one but I want to take this opportunity to look at two points, which I believe are fundamentally important for undergraduate students.

Firstly, the practices of Colleges when it comes to the availability of exam script books, following the release of marks, are very different. Some Colleges actually return the script books to students, some allow students to take a photocopy of their exam, some provide set 'viewing times' and some refuse to let students access their exam papers at all.

Now I am sure I am not alone in having sat an exam, been convinced that I literally re-invented the wheel with my brilliance and

the exam and that what I wrote made little sense; hence the low mark. However I have friends who have discovered inaccuracies in the marking or noted that the total tally of marks missed one question, for example. It is in these situations, that students having the opportunity to, at the very least, view their completed exam is essential. Moreover it is an essential learning tool for students – how can you be expected to improve if you don't have the opportunity to learn where you went wrong?

The second issue, which I have always had concerns about is the option of anonymous assessment. ANUSA would like to see all Colleges provide students with the option of either writing their name OR their student number, to identify themselves on exam script books. Of course there are some assessments, like in the Art or Music Schools, where anonymous assessment is impossible. However, where it is possible, the option should be available to students.

The position of some Colleges has been that anonymous marking would mean that students would not receive individualized feedback. However any feedback is individual to the piece of work and not the student and as such detailed feedback should not suffer simply as a result of anonymous marking.

The main reason for seeking student anonymity is to reduce claims about marker bias. Many of the concerns ANUSA receives from students are claims that a lecturer or tutor was biased against them. The option



“The option of anonymous assessment would reduce these concerns for many students and also protect markers from untrue allegations, where the student is simply upset about a bad mark”

are at ANU to gain further education, should be able to benefit from the expertise held by those who are here, predominantly to conduct research.

Although I believe the system is a good one, it results in a system where there are essentially seven different academic structures existing within the university. Each College is different, reflecting the very different nature of the many disciplines of study available at ANU. Each College believes it's the best at everything and that what it does is more important than what is done by any of the others.

One of the many differences between the colleges is the way examination procedures are conducted. Late last year, the previous ANUSA executive made a request at the University Education Committee that each College outline their practice in relation to a number of exam-related procedures. The results of that request were presented at the first meeting of the Committee that Madeleine and I attended, late last year.

To put it simply – there is a whole lot of variance. There are some Colleges who go out of their way to make examination practices as student-friendly as they could possible be. On the other hand there are some Col-

then been shocked when I received a shockingly low mark. One thing I have really appreciated, as a law student, has been the opportunity to pick up my exam paper after marks have been released and to read over where I went wrong.

I have always discovered that in fact, I was clearly thinking faster than I was writing during

of anonymous assessment would reduce these concerns for many students and also protect markers from untrue allegations, where the student is simply upset about a bad mark.

ANUSA is currently pursuing these two issues, in particular, through the University Education Committee. I will make sure students are kept updated on any changes. I understand that

each College is different and of course they are entitled to their autonomy. However there are some basic examination standards, which I think should be met by every College, including the opportunity to view completed exam papers and the option of anonymous assessment. As always, please get in touch with ANUSA if you would like to share your views on this issue.



The name's Bug, James Bug

Could cyborg insects be the next generation of spies?



Joy Thompson
Research

Humans have a long history of sending robots into places too dangerous for us or too small for us to fit. We've already sent them to Mars and national intelligence agencies would be delighted to use them as substitute spies. However, their applications on our own planet are still problematic. Robots are often expensive and time-consuming to make, and none have yet improved on nature.

The solution? Use biological systems, which have been delicately engineered by millennia of evolution, and tweak them by adding mechanical parts. After

all, many living organisms move faster than robots, and their sensory capacities can far outstrip artificial sensors. Indeed, as strange as it sounds, a number of remote-controlled animals have been developed over the past few decades.

Such experiments have ensured that cyborgs – self-regulating combinations of biological and mechanical components – are now a part of reality as well as science fiction. This isn't as disturbing as it sounds: people with artificial hearts or even micro-chipped pets could arguably be called cyborgs, and the principle is simple. If you know the right areas of the brain to target, you can plug in electrodes and either control movement or mainline sensory information.

Of course, it's not so simple in practice, but the latest attempts to produce remote-controlled animals have successfully fitted tiny electrodes and batteries in, or on, flying insects. Enter the cyborg bugs, subjects of a project funded by the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). It is easy to see why insect cyborg research

has caught DARPA's interest; a remote-controlled insect would be highly mobile, unobtrusive and replaceable; in other words, the perfect spy.

Most winged insects go through a pupal stage, during which larval tissues are broken down and literally rebuilt, before emerging as adults. Any probe or

“A remote-controlled insect would be highly mobile, unobtrusive and replaceable; in other words, the perfect spy”

electrode inserted into a pupa at the right time will form strong connections with the surrounding nerve cells or muscles as they grow around it, becoming part of the insect's body. Timing is crucial: introduce the device too early and the insect dies, introduce it too late and the tissues are damaged.

As difficult as this sounds, one research team has successfully used this technique to connect a tobacco hawkmoth with a system to control wing movement. Led

by David Stern, the researchers inserted flexible plastic probes into moth pupae a week before emergence. The thickness of the probes alone – only a few hundred microns – gives some insight into the precision required. However, most of the moths survived to pupate, with the probes stably connected to their flight

muscles. After attaching wires to the probes, the researchers could control a moth's wing movement by delivering electrical signals to its flight muscles.

According to *New Scientist*, the researchers cannot speak freely about their work, but some of their results have been published in the IEEE MEMS 2008 conference proceedings. A series of video clips shown at the conference has even been released online and is available on YouTube under the title “Cyborg

insects”.

They show a moth, with wires issuing from its back, which upon electrical stimulation, raises and lowers its wings. Another moth is in full flight and veers left or right as signals are delivered to each set of flight muscles.

The last clip in the sequence is the result of experiments by another DARPA-funded team, led by Michel Maharbiz. They developed a battery-powered June bug, controlled by electrodes implanted into the areas of its brain controlling flight. In the video, one beetle takes off after pulses of negative voltage are delivered directly to its brain. Maharbiz and colleagues have also published a more comprehensive set of results in the IEEE MEMS 2008 conference proceedings.

Of course, a hybrid moth will not turn up on your lampshade for some time. The sight of all the wires and batteries attached to this generation of cyborg bugs would make anyone reach for the fly swat. Still, if the researchers manage to conceal all the necessary equipment inside an insect, it may be prudent to avoid every fly on the wall.

Don't change your mind, just change your brain

The best way to dull hearts and win minds is with a scalpel.



Katja Grace
Health

Give up your outdated faith in the pen over the sword! With medical training and a sufficiently sharp but manoeuvrable object of your choice, you can change anyone's mind on the most contentious of moral questions. All you need to make someone utilitarian is a nick to the Ventromedial Prefrontal Cortex (VMPC), a part of the brain related to emotion.

When pondering whether you should kill an innocent child to save twenty strangers, eat your pets when they die, or approve of infertile siblings making love in private if they like, utilitarian

ians are the people who say “do whatever, so long as the outcome maximises overall happiness.” Others think outcomes aren't everything; some actions are just wrong. According to research, people with VMPC damage are far more likely to make utilitarian choices.

It turns out most people have conflicting urges: to act for the greater good or to obey rules they feel strongly about. This is the result of our brains being composed of interacting parts with different functions. The VMPC processes emotion, so in normal people it's thought to compete with the parts of the brain that engage in moral reasoning and see the greatest good for the greatest number as ideal. If the VMPC is damaged, the rational, calculating sections are left unimpeded to dispassionately assess the most compassionate course of action.

This presents practical opportunities. We can never bring the world in line with our moral ideals while we all have conflicting ones. The best way to get us all on the same moral page is to make

everyone utilitarian. It is surely easier to sever the touchy feely moral centres of people's brains than to teach them the value of utilitarianism. Once everyone is forced into utilitarian reasoning they will act with everyone's net

“It turns out most people have conflicting urges: to act for the greater good or to obey rules they feel strongly about. ... the result of our brains being composed of interacting parts with different functions.”

benefit more in mind. Partial lobotomies for the moralistic are probably much cheaper than policing all the behaviours such people tend to disapprove of.

Unfortunately, VMPC damage also seems to dampen social emotions such as guilt and compassion. The surgery makes utilitarian reasoning easier, but so too complete immorality, meaning it might not be the answer for everyone just yet.

Some think the most important implications of the research are actually those for moral philosophy. The researchers suggest it shows humans are unfit to make utilitarian judgements. You don't need to be a brain surgeon

to figure that out though. Count the number of dollars you spend on unnecessary amusements each year in full knowledge people starving due to poverty.

In the past we could tell moral questions were prompting action in emotional parts of the brain, but it wasn't clear whether the activity was influencing the decision or just the result of it. If the latter, VMPC damage shouldn't have changed actions. It does

- so while non-utilitarianism is a fine theoretical position, it is seemingly practiced for egoistic reasons. Can this insight into cognition settle the centuries of philosophical debate and show utilitarianism is a bad position? No. Why base your actions on what you feel like doing, discounting all other outcomes? All it says about utilitarianism is that it doesn't come easily to the human mind.

This research is just another bit of evidence that moral reasoning is guided by evolution and brain design, not some transcendental truth in the sky. It may still be useful of course, like other skills our mind provides us with, like a capacity to value things, a preference for being alive, and the ability to tell pleasure from pain.

Next time you are in a morally fraught argument, consider what Ghandi said: “Victory attained by violence is tantamount to a defeat, for it is momentary” He's right; genetic modification would be more long-lasting. Until this is available though, why not try something persuasive like a scalpel to the forehead?

Art needn't be propaganda



Cathy Haines
Culture

As an amateur actor, I recently arrived at the first rehearsal about which I had been frighteningly enthusiastic. The cast was dancing around the room pretending to be atoms of their own 'loved and accepted' bodily fluid. That struck me as odd. Was

this a script reading or a political rally?

I share my acting addiction with a range of others, including a selection of self-confessed politicians. They are, generally, of huge benefit to the industry, especially in Canberra. Their energy and commitment is a relief from the egotism that usually runs riot. But that very drive which makes them as successful can also be symptomatic of motivations closing the arts world.

When people become involved in a cultural pursuit for a personal reason, and not in order to advance political points and views. Political agendas and ideologies are consequently thrust upon cultural activities. 'Politicians' thus limit their audience to people who agree with them, instead of reaching out to people

who want to understand themselves.

It is possible for a man to appreciate a production of *The vagina Monologues* without wanting to cut off his own penis. A woman can read D.H. Lawrence and realize that he understands and respects her as much as most contemporary feminist writers. *Othello* can be played as a drama of jealousy and psychology, as well as one of class, race and gender. You can enjoy your favourite band without having to pay any attention to the political message they offer before the start of the set. I'm certainly more interested in appreciating Mr Darcy than criticising Austen's society for necessitating the existence of 'pride' and 'prejudice'. Cate Blanchett's directing debut for the Sydney Theatre Company's production of *Blackbirds* was a

success precisely because I spent the hour after the show trying to decide what she thought about its issues. That is also one of the reasons she is such a sophisticated and subtle actress; she doesn't judge her characters.

Maybe freedom, inquiry and debate - once so fundamental to liberal ways of thinking - are no longer high priorities. Instead, we find ourselves living in a culture where politics are bound by moral imperatives that people try to instigate artistically.

The most insightful epistemic achievements in the arts occur when the focus is placed on the personalities and experiences of human lives. The alternative is an abstracted concept, which might be popular or even righteous but makes me feel claustrophobic, and propagandised.

Art has meaning simply in

merit of its existence. But 'politicians' are not interested in life being observed, they want life finalised. They need to superimpose their ideologies onto life - to govern and live by them. That's fine, even important. But keep it for policy (or the media). I don't know that any artist would ever claim he, or she, had the meaning and principles of life figured out. But at least he'd have a good think about it, give it a lot of value, and capture a whole lot of it in the process. Sometimes the most delightful things are those you stumble across as if by accident.

It is a function of the arts to influence thought. Such tributes would be more authentic if those precious people who have their own thoughts could show, not tell, them. That would give the audience some autonomy.

Death Defying Acts

Lyndsay Dean
Film Critic



Guy Pearce may be amazing, but Houdini? I'm not sure. He's more Steve Buscemi than Eric Bana. His ability to disappear into roles is fascinating (to learn that he trained to hold his breath for 2 minutes 45 seconds for a single underwater take is mind-blowing), and yet somehow he doesn't feel quite right. Perhaps due to a physique more applicable to a crazy revenge killer of *Memento* fame, or maybe because of all the crazy emotional baggage applied to the Houdini character, but Pearce never seems to command the role. He just doesn't fit as well as he should.

For a film that's advertised as being about Harry Houdini, the world's greatest magician, Houdini weirdly doesn't really drive the narrative. If the advertising were to be true to life it would be more "mother-daughter drama... with a bit of Harry on the side." It's probably fair to point out that Brian Ward and Tony Grisoni's script initially focused solely on the mother-daughter act, but was expanded later to include Houdini. And you can't half tell.

As it now stands, *Death Defying Acts* begins with an insight into how Mary McGarvie (Catherine Zeta-Jones) and her daughter, Benji (the amazing Saoirse Ronan), use their con-artist skills to feed themselves. When

Houdini embarks on his 1926 tour of Scotland the duo take him up on the \$10 000 bounty offered to make contact with Houdini's deceased mother, only for romance to bloom between Houdini and McGarvie.

Director Gillian Armstrong (*My Brilliant Career*, *Oscar and Lucinda*) attempts to explore the most unknown facets of Houdini's life, most notably his hatred of psychic frauds contrasted with his secret wish to talk to his mother once more. However, it's here that the narrative falls into the air of the unreal. If Houdini hated psychics as much as we are led to believe, would he ever fall for a fakir like McGarvie? Even if she was as attractive as Zeta-Jones?

While much of its heart comes from the chemistry between the two female leads, and aided by Armstrong's tasteful capture of 1920's Edinburg, you can't help but be left cold when the end credits role. *Death Defying Acts* is a stunningly visual and yet painfully annoying film. There is no major climax, the romance farfetched and again we come back to Pearce - a cinematic chameleon, but no Houdini.



The Other Boleyn Girl

Jonathan Fisher
Film Critic



The most surprising thing for me about *The Other Boleyn Girl* was its total lack of energy. It has three very fine actors (Bana, Johansson and Portman) and is directed by the man behind the Dickensian mini-series *Bleak House*, but it just lies there on screen. It takes no risks, despite the operatic melodrama of its story. It's dead in the water.

It tells the story of Henry VIII (Eric Bana in a very generous piece of casting) and his tumultuous relationship with the two Boleyn girls - the famous one Anne (Natalie Portman) and the other one, Mary (Scarlett Johansson). The story is 'historical' in that it uses some of the original names. At one point of the film, Bana rips his shirt off to reveal a 300-style six-pack. This web address has a photo of the real Henry VIII -- [http://www.portcities.org.uk/london/server/show/conMediaFile.490/Henry-VIII-\(14911547\).html](http://www.portcities.org.uk/london/server/show/conMediaFile.490/Henry-VIII-(14911547).html). Eric Bana he ain't.

Maybe my aversion to *The Other Boleyn Girl* is because it has a distinct 'flavour-of-the-month' atmosphere. The fact that Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn were the parents of Elizabeth makes this a kind of prequel to the two *Elizabeth* movies (I'm not sure, but I think that's Cate Blanchett as the two-year-old Elizabeth in the last shot of the

movie), and the film was written by Peter Morgan, who wrote 2006's *The Queen* (or, as I like to refer to it as, "Elizabeth II").

Generally I can praise a movie I give a negative review to for its great visuals, as these days it seems a given that a movie will be good-looking. Not so here. The cinematography and costumes are so-so - not good, not great. The lighting is middling, and I thought the movie didn't know if it wanted to go dark like the first *Elizabeth*, or glossy like *Casanova*.

I also think that the two female leads should have been reversed. Natalie Portman is convincing when she plays the pluckiest girl in the room - she's not as convincing when playing an ice queen. And Scarlett Johansson is too mysteriously beautiful to pull off sweet and innocent. The Boleyn family is also curiously presented - we only see them in what appear to be 'board meeting' style gatherings, and Uncle Boleyn is painted so cartoonishly as the villain that it's difficult to see any gray in this decidedly black and white picture.



The Neverending Serial

Andy Wilcocks

I tell Grace to look beyond the heavens: familiar tracks flow under black skies, as we soar together into the white expanse- and faint remembered sights prick our eyes; make us smart and test suspicions on a chance. Yes, that possibility is here no lesser found, here in these very valleys do cryptic keys lie; clutched vaguely in fleeting shadows on the ground. And together we could examine them and try details and bits and bobs of meaning that fit snugly if we could just bend them into shape around some other track (then we could pit our minds as one and help decode, scrape and haul it together against the harmonious fused line). But, as with all these things, you fumble without me around the felonious scrum of rhythms, with pen and paper.

It stings: as the eagle watches from above the row that your vision can and ought to match; and yet there you are, your arms throw wild imitations, and the breezes only catch troubled minds. In fading shadows -but for the grace of paper cranes to bend, fold lines, and save you- goes the one hope of finding the eagle's trace: to know of the heavens what the eagle knew.

Continue this story! Send 200 words (max) to woroni@anu.edu.au by Wednesday 2nd April.

School of Art demands some attention



Emily Birks
Art

In her last article on culture, Cathy Haines wrote about Australian National University's lack of it. She urged us to go out and experience some art. May I suggest that you start by supporting our School of Art students?

One only needs to read back issues of the Art News newsletter (available online) to see how prolific exhibitions by alumni and staff are. In fact, the news of art students fills pages. As well as the newsletter, the School has taken steps to report on news of most recent alumni with a blog that accompanies the recently completed graduate season of



exhibitions. The blog can be visited at www.transitlane.net.

Founded in 1976, the School of Art seems to be going from strength to strength. Its alumni include comedian and artist Paul McDermott, graphic artist Judy Horacek, and Benjamin Edols and Kathy Elliott, of the glass design team Edols & Elliott. On that note, it has one of the top glass departments in Australia, with glass artists consistently winning awards and notoriety for their work. The premier prize for the medium in the country,

the Ranamok Glass Prize exhibition has been held here numerous times. Over the 13 year history of the prize, ANU Glass Department staff, including the head of the department Richard Whiteley and students have won the prize 8 times and been finalists too many times to count.

This year the School started a new major in Digital Arts, which includes studies in animation, digital video and sound and interactive media taught in context with other visual arts. With today's television, film and music

industries requiring expertise in these technologies, the School is certainly keeping up with the demand and popularity of computer arts in Australia.

There is plenty to be involved with at the School of Art, even if you aren't a student. Amid the enticing aromas of paint and sawdust, free public lectures are held every Wednesday and Thursday at 1pm. Topics include performance in contemporary art, environmental issues in art and talks from visiting artists who work with jewellery, glass

and painting. For more information, visit <http://www.anu.edu.au/ITA/CSA/events/index.php>.

Okay, so you've missed out on starting a Visual Arts degree this year. But you're itching to get your hands on some art supplies and just get creative. Consider signing up for a Visual Arts Access program. Usually taught on weekends or evenings throughout each semester, you can enrol in subjects such as Ceramics, Life Drawing, Woodworking or Photography. They also have short courses. Pick up a catalogue at the School of Art office or library.

In fact, if you're in need of inspiration, I defy you not to find something of interest in the art library. With an impressive range of current art magazines, journals and publications, it's a pleasant way to spend an afternoon – well, at least if reading's your kind of relaxation! Oh, and I'll let you in on an Art School secret – the library has a comfortable sunken seating area affectionately known as "The Pit" which is the perfect place to study, because unlike the Chifley, it is quiet!

Great guitars strike new chord



Bradley Kunda
Music

Review: John Williams and John Etheridge: *Together and Solo*
Tilley's Divine Café, Lyneham
Saturday 9 March

With the gregarious union of classical and jazz guitars, John Williams and John Etheridge skilfully confronted the issue of the perceived inaccessibility of 'classical' music today, by presenting a programme reflective of the growing chamber music idiom and its emphasis on original, varied and accessible repertoire.

John Williams is perhaps one of the greatest living exponents of the classical guitar with his career extending well beyond the classical repertoire and ventur-

ing into the realms of jazz, fusion, African and pop. John Etheridge is a virtuosic jazz guitarist who for several years toured with Stephan Grappelli and is noted for his jazz fusion group *The Soft Machine*.

Their concert featured a number of works from Williams's recent CDs *The Magic Box* and *El Diablo Suelto*, as well as original compositions by both Williams and Etheridge. Together, they delighted the audience with beautiful duet adaptations of Francis Bebey's *Sangara* and Williams's *Malinke Guitars*, both taken from the African-influenced *Magic Box* album. Venezuelan waltzes *Como Lloro Una Estrella* and the lively *El Totumo* from *El Diablo Suelto* were enlivened by Etheridge's steel strings. Williams's inspired composition *Extra Time* was based on a prelude by J.S. Bach, where the note values were halved and the duration of each bar quadrupled. The resulting effect was an almost twenty-first century hyper-modern realization of Baroque continuo, and played simultaneously on nylon and steel strings gave it a stimulating and electric effect. Etheridge's *Strange Comforts* was a beautiful and adventurous exploration of harmony.

As soloists, Etheridge opened the second half of the concert with some explorative and at times dazzling arrangements of familiar standards, *Stormy Weather*, *Come Sunday* and some general larking about with the digital loop pedal; he got a good laugh from the audience when he threw up his hands and started dancing to his own loops. Williams then returned to successfully woo the audience with four delightful compositions of his own. *Song Without Words* was particularly memorable, arguably more for the almost Baroque-ian fluidity of its ingenious harmonic progression than the slightly less memorable melodic line. *Hello Francis* was Williams's memorial tribute to African musician Francis Bebey (who wrote the earlier *Sangara*) and was appropriately cheerful, bearing references to African rhythms as well as Bach, who Williams later said was a favourite of Bebey's.

The concert ended with a gigantic work especially written for the duo by American guitarist and composer Benjamin Verdery (a guest artist at the ANU School of Music last year). Entitled *Peace, Love and Guitars* (this is very typical of Verdery's somewhat aspirational titles; c.f.

Be Kind All the Time and Tears for Peace) this elaborate tour-de-force was the longest and by far the most complex item on the program. A homage to Leo Kottke, the work explored a vast range of styles in a rhythmically complex interplay between the two guitars, culminating in a quasi-bluegrass breakdown that thrilled the audience. Their encore, *Triangular Situations* (again from *El Diablo Suelto*) was a fitting end to an extremely varied concert.

While some may turn up their noses towards such a programme, which with its popularist homogeneity lacked significant 'classical' repertoire, the beautiful thing about this concert was precisely that it refused to conform to the tendency to re-hash standard repertoire. Indeed, the quality of the performances highlighted the players' love of the music and motive to share this with the audience. The contrasting idioms of each player was thoroughly entertaining; like a true jazz musician, Etheridge was constantly in his own little world, and let show through his face and body the immense pleasure he derived from his often ballistic and colourful improvisations. Williams, on the other

hand, was more thoughtful, and spent most of his time gazing admirably and conscientiously at Etheridge's handiwork while he effortlessly spun out his own remarkable lines. The sound was enjoyable up the front, and Williams even managed to get a reasonably good sound from the built in pick-up in his Greg Smallman guitar (which, be assured, is no mean feat!). Some of the café's bar noise was apparently distracting towards the back, however.

With unparalleled dexterity, these two luminescent giants of the guitar have again proved this instrument's capacity to harmoniously fuse seemingly disparate musics into concordance.

Brad's Pick

RARE ROMANTIC TREASURES
Sunday 30 March, 3pm,
Rehearsal Room 3, ANU School of Music

David Pereira (cello) and Larry Sitsky (piano) are both on the staff at the School of Music, and are both exceptional musicians, their playing the likes of which is among some of the finest you'll ever see. Tickets \$16 / \$13 / \$6 (ANU Students) at the door.

Are you ready to go NUTS?

Alice McAvoy
Community Editor

It has always been the rage. Ask anyone. Indeed, alumni include a veritable Who's Who of 20th and 21st century glitterati ranging from Gough Whitlam and Germaine Greer to now professional actors John Bell, Hugh Grant and Miranda Otto.

Unfortunately however, since 2005, ANU students have been deprived of the unparalleled cultural experience that is a university theatre society. That is, we were deprived, until now.

Introducing NUTS
You may have met our saviours already. They hit Market Day by storm, resembling a radical guerilla movement with their red bandanas and their extroverted thespian zeal. With over 250 members signing up on market day alone, their enthusiasm was clearly contagious. Leading the modest revolution were NUTS Presidents Sam Yeo and Cara Irvine, supported by a talented executive consisting of Secretaries Natalia Thomas and Zoe Tuffin, Treasurer Byron Fay, and Events Coordinators Lucy Hayes and Carol Whitman.

Why is it back?
When the National University Theatre Society (a.k.a. NUTS) closed shop in 2005 some thought it would never return. ANU had no shortage of theatre companies with the ANU drama department's Papermoon Theatre Company and the PhD student's Moonlight Theatre Company running packed seasons annually. However, Cara and Sam still found that supply was not meeting demand, particularly in regards to students who were not enrolled in the Theatre Studies Major. Both presidents talked passionately to *Woroni* in favour of harnessing the dramatic abilities of all interested ANU students. "We want to provide a stepping stone for all ANU students into theatre and, further down the track, into the entertainment industry as



well, regardless of whether they are studying drama," commented Cara. Whether these new kids on the block will survive where other presidents haven't is yet to be seen, but the outlook is promising. "The thing about university theatre societies," states Tony Turner, the head of the ANU drama department "is that they are usually only as successful as the energy and the drive of the people running it." Although referring to the downfall of NUTS, Mr Turner's theory is also pertinent when you examine the energy and drive of this new bunch of thespians.

Madame & Monsieur President
Sam Yeo has been acting since primary school where his prodigious ability to remember lines assisted him to procure the

lead in "Who's Afraid of Geoffrey Rigglesworth?" and other such classics. You may have seen him in such recent hits as ANU's "Antigone" or "Night and Day," not to mention his lead role in Burgmann College's 2007 production of Nowra's "Cosi." His insatiable passion for the theatre also extends to the backstage, an area for which he has profound respect. "It is an incredibly satisfying experience to see what really goes into the show,...to see what's going on in the 10 hours before the actors even show up to rehearsal" says President Yeo. "I think that every actor should do backstage at least once in their life."

Cara Irvine started her passion for the theatre later on in her school years but with no less voracity for the art. Her recent per-

formance in "Lovepuke" gained her critical acclaim, adding to an already impressive C.V. Cara has a great love of set design, which she has studied within her drama major. In short, she is no stranger to the wealth of opportunities that the theatre has to offer. "What we want to do with NUTS is give people an opportunity to explore all the areas that theatre offers" stated Cara. Both presidents are in their Honours Year of their Bachelor of Arts degree. Cara will be focusing on set and production design within her Honours while Sam has opted to write and direct his own play.

New NUTS Resolutions
NUTS has an ambitious line-up this year, setting itself the task of running at least two student run productions by the end of term four along with a plethora

of other activities listed above. However if the success of their first event "Scared Scriptless," a theatre sports night, is anything to go by, they are more than up to the challenge. In a show of faith, the ANU drama department has already given an unprecedented amount of backing to this group, providing them with free rehearsal space, an office (located in the Script Library within the Arts Centre) and "as much support as they need."
If you wish to get involved contact either Cara or Sam by dropping in to the NUTS office on the second level of the Arts Centre, sending a line to nutsanu@live.com.au, visiting their website at <http://nutsanu.blogspot.com> or if all else fails, succumbing to the monster and adding them on Facebook.



Fenner's Mark Norrish, Zheng Bo Wang, Michael McGarrick & Peter Varela win Chess Nick Kizimchuk

Inter-Hall Arts Shield

Fenner Hall	40 Points
John XXIII	36 Points
Bruce Hall	24 Points
Ursula Hall	12 Points
Burgmann	10 Points
Burton & Garran	10 Points

Canberra's rivalries reveal its true nature

Matt Teran
Canberra

To understand a person, you need only examine their internal battles, the choices they struggle with daily. Similarly, to truly 'know' a city, one must understand its rivalries. The following tiffs, tensions, and long-running feuds have divided Canberra families, severed friendships, inspired murders, and have generally injected a shot of passion into this sometimes sluggish little settlement.

Lets begin with the obvious: The University of Canberra versus the Australian National University. As the ANU/UC Reconciliation Society on Facebook would suggest, there is some serious angst going on between these two institutions. But why exactly? From what I gather, the ANU views the UC as a second choice for university studies and as inescapably inferior due to the absence of the word 'national' in

its title. But as businesses such as National Patio and National Capital Charcoal Chicken demonstrate, the word 'national' is not always affixed to the most deserving of ventures. In the eyes of the UC, the ANU is pretentious; it is more focused on lovingly pruning its lush old-growth trees and its 'world-class' rep, then fostering student experience. If you are sensing some fence sitting going on here, you are correct. I am a slut. I have bedded both educational establishments. At the same time in fact. And it was fantastic. When it comes down to it, parking at the UC is ample, the vibe is friendly and the courses engaging; but when you say you attend the ANU, rightly or wrongly, people generally let out an 'mmmm' with a particular intonation that reeks of approval. And so, this rivalry ain't going anywhere.

You encounter our next rivalry in Civic usually at around 2am. Jess piked early because she has to work in the morning. Stew got depressed and is now alternating between texting his fugly ex and yelling at the bewildered cabbie

to pull over so he can vom. Maz is round the back of Mooseheads, legs akimbo, mumbling into the ear of her random, the one who bought her a slice of vegetarian pizza. It's time to go home. But before you stumble to the taxi queue, you must decide between two institutions competing for the drunken student dollar - Chicken Gourmet or Oporto. In fact, this rivalry can be refined further - do you go with the sheer nutritional joy that is the Oporto Bondi Burger or a serve of Gourmet's chips and gravy, a rich greasy mass of brown and pale yellow (Although in a recent scandal, they have switched from crinkle cut to straight cut. For shame.) It's a toughie; and if you pussy out, all you have at home is an Aldi pasta sauce and a three week old piece of ham. The choice is yours. Don't screw it up.

Our final rivalry is geographic. Those new to Canberra may not have heard of Charnwood. But you should, lest you accidentally catch a bus there and have a cap popped in yo arse. Okay, it's not that bad, but this neigh-

bourhood does hold the rather dubious honour of being one of the only suburbs in Canberra to have a shoot out in their shopping centre car park. Put simply, Charnwood is the place where the bogans, sheilas, bazzas and Epponnee-Raes of the National capital conglomerate, breed and exchange information about which Coles stocks Ugg boots, the basics of home dentistry and the like. This suburb doesn't like Canberra and Canberra would prefer to dispose of it as one would a festering piece of belly button lint. And this tension has been escalated by a recent swell of Charny Pride. Take for example the 'Charny Carny', which is apparently the newest and most esteemed addition to the ACT Social calendar, with attractions such as Charny Idol, a Mullet Competition, a Wife Beating Expo and a Syringe-themed craft workshop for children (Okay, the last two are not real). It would appear that Charny is successfully attempting to change/embrace its rep and Canberra doesn't like it. Charny pride could make this rivalry boil over. I fear for the fu-

ture of my children, I really do.

There are many others I am missing. Like the turf war in Garema place between Emos and Junkies; the war of trendiness between Stocks and Parliament Clothing; the debate over which is Canberra's most depressed inhabitant, the giraffe at the National Zoo and Aquarium, who struck me as being pretty down, or Northbourne Avenue, whose depression stems from being perpetually North *bourne* but never actually there; the competition over which can be called Canberra's greatest mystery, the goings on of those metal sheep in Civic or how the waiters at Cream manage to wear their shirts so incredibly tight; and the rivalry between those competing for the title of Canberra's most beloved character, Prime Possum versus the absolute burst of sunshine that is the LJ Hooker Dickson receptionist. Okay, now we are just getting silly. But it is these tensions, big and small, that make Canberra the thriving hotbed of belligerency it is. Trust me. For I am your townie. And love you.

THEY'RE EVERYWHERE...

They're in Copland, Law, Menzies, BoZo, Engineering, Peter Baume, John Denman, CSIT, Baldessen...

In fact, with over 1,200 computers on campus, they're probably in a building near you.

So if you're looking for a computer, don't just look in Chifley and Hancock.

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*Information Commons
are everywhere!*

woroni events

Send your (short) events to u4303222@anu.edu.au by Wednesday 2nd April. Inclusion is subject to editorial discretion

Thu March 27
ANUSA presents "I Forgot Valentine's Day." Union Court @ 11:00. FREE
SALSA LESSONS, SPEED DATING, FREE FOOD.
sa.social@anu.edu.au

Fri March 28
V-Day ANU presents "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer." Teatro Vivaldi @ 19:00. Bookings required.
vdayanu@hotmail.com

Sat March 29
ANU Earth Hour. Fellows Oval, ANU @ 17:00. FREE
BBQ, LIVE MUSIC, BAR OPEN.

Sun March 30
ANU School of Music Staff Series presents **Rare Romantic Treasures for Cello and Piano.** Rehearsal Room 3, School of Music @ 15:00. Tickets: \$6 Students.

Mon March 31
Academic Skills and Learning Centre presents **Academic Honesty: Acknowledging Sources.** ASLC, opp. Chifley @ 14:00.
<https://academicskills.anu.edu.au/>

Tues April 1
Fossil Fools Day. Union Court, ANU @ 12:00, Garema Place @ 12:30. FREE.
activistupdates@gmail.com

Wed April 2
Wesley Music Centre presents **Wednesday Lunchtimes Live: Jazz.** 20 National Cct, Forrest @ 12:40. \$2

Thurs April 3
The University Toastmasters Club presents **Weekly Meetings.** Green Coach Room. Physics Link Building @ 12:30. FREE.
adargan@grapevine.net.au

Fri April 4
Interhall Sport Committee presents **Inward Bound.** Destination Unknown @ a time unspecified.

Sat April 5
ANU Uni Bar presents **Dukes of Windsor.** Uni Bar @ 20:00. Bookings required.
61253660

Sun April 6
All Bar Nun presents **Live Music Afternoons.** All Bar Nun, O'Connor @ 19:00. FREE
lssevents@anu.edu.au

Mon April 7
Phoenix Bar presents **Live Music Night.** The Phoenix, 21 East Row, Canberra City. Evening Time. FREE

Tues April 8
ANU School of Music presents **Music at Lunchtime.** University House Hall @ 12:30. Tickets: \$17.50. Light lunch and wine included

Wed April 9
ANU Environment Collective presents **Weekly Meetings.** ANUSA @ 17:00

The Inter-Hall Arts Shield is SIC

David McGill
Halls & Colleges

Whilst sport certainly dominates the dining hall/kitchen conversation at most colleges, ANU rivalry is not all goals and wickets: Daley Road (and Fenner) are fired up for the intellectual and artistic death match that is the Inter-hall Arts Shield.

Trivia and Chess have already

provided some thrillingly close finishes. As reported last issue, trivia was an agonising tie between John XXIII and Fenner. The annual chess tournament held at Fenner Hall last Friday 14th March saw a last round showdown between John XXIII and Fenner with Fenner winning two of the last four boards to hold onto a narrow lead. If the competition for the shield is this close all year trivia organisers

may come to regret the decision not to hold a tiebreaker round. Inter-hall Arts events are organised by the Social Inter-hall Committee (SIC), the non-contact cousin of the Inter-hall Sports Committee. In recent years the committee has worked hard to lift the profile of the Arts Shield by broadening their competition to include 'Texas Hold'em poker and, more recently, a hugely successful 'Battle of

the Bands' night. In 2008, SIC members, led by their President Heather Webb, hope that an Iron Chef style cooking competition will continue to create interest in the Arts Shield. This concept is no-doubt drawn from similar cook offs held (with mixed success) at the two self-catered halls. The Battle of the Bands competition, which has been given the highly original title of: "The

Big Night Out" will take place at Bruce Hall on May 1. With points from this event now counting towards the Shield, SIC is confident that the standard of entries will be accordingly higher. *Woroni* only hopes that this year Burton and Garran will be able to scrape together enough talent to actually enter the competition. Last year's Arts Shield winner was St John XXIII College. Arts ladder on **Page 12**

INSERT YOUR PHOTO HERE!

Introducing 'Snapshots at ANU'. Your photos published here in short. Some would say it was free advertising. Others, that it's a way to ensure that if we miss out on photographing a fantastic event we won't feel like bad people.

If you are interested in making a dramatic splash and increasing your exposure to the ANU student body or simply want to ensure your place in the Woroni archives at Menzies for the next eon, then please read on.

Conditions are as follows:

- We want a photo of an event that is happening/happened on the ANU campus;
- A caption is recommended but not obligatory;
- The photos to be published in each fortnightly issue will be selected at the Editor's discretion;
- Please provide the photographer's name if possible;
- All submissions should be sent (in high 300dpi resolution .jpg format) to Alice McAvoy at u4303222@anu.edu.au

Rudd announces \$53 million to combat binge drinking "epidemic"

From Page 2
by alcohol. It will examine the impact of binge drinking on urban street violence. Enhancing education about the effects of alcohol abuse has been flagged for attention as has reform to alcohol labelling and advertising laws. One outcome currently being explored is establishing a uniform national code of conduct for safe alcohol consumption at sporting clubs, particularly football clubs. This uniform code is to be developed by sporting bodies themselves. The national football, cricket and netball associations have agreed to support the Government's scheme.

Meanwhile, youth binge drinking has come to the fore in the NSW city of Newcastle, where local police have commenced a case before the NSW Liquor Administration Board against some 15 licensed venues in the city. Their complaint concerns the negative impact of late night trading on violence and anti-social behaviour in the city. An angry Newcastle residents' action group is allegedly advocating midnight closure of all licensed premises across the city. The result of this case is being closely watched by Newcastle's youth and others around the country. If successful, the potential for it

to shape a national model is an ominous reality. Binge drinking will be addressed at the Prime Minister's 2020 Summit next April. In introducing its website, Mr Rudd says the Summit "will help us shape a long term strategy for the nation's future...and ensure nobody is left out". In light of changing community attitudes and new government policy, what place will hotels and clubs have in this bright new future? Given the steps already taken by the ACT Government, will we see a return to something akin to the six o'clock swill?

Memoirs of an IB Virgin

From Page 16
adopted a fresh, new dieting regime. This was, however, solely due to coincidence. When I last visited the supermarket – to buy study soup and almonds for endurance law reading sessions – I walked through the muesli section.

Visiting the supermarket is often dangerous for me. I usually walk out forgetting what I came for, but with several goods I had not planned to buy, or on especially bad days, goods I previously did not even know existed. Instant Dandelion Tea probably remains the best example of this.

The container remains full after I realised the tea was made from dandelion roots and, upon sipping it tentatively, agreed that the ingredients had spent the last month in the soil. However, confronted by it in the supermarket, I was enthralled by the concept of this tea. Yes, the use of dandelions to make tea interested me. But more interestingly, what really puzzled me was the ‘instant’ part of this product - what sort of market are they trying to attract? I would imagine that the type of people who would purchase regular, non-instant, dandelion tea would also be those who roll

their own cigarettes over buying the instant variety, knit their own clothes, and grow their own vegetables; people who clearly have a lot of time. Dandelion tea doesn’t strike me as the beverage of choice for many busy business executives.

My supermarket problem is also worsened by my clinically recognised, medically treated attraction to the word ‘mega.’ This is why I last time I left the supermarket it was with 4 packets of ‘Mega High Protein Muesli.’ The bad news is that muesli with added protein makes dandelion tea taste relatively sweet and re-

freshing. There’s little point in trying to eat a bowl of protein, if three bowls leave your stomach in the attempt.

The article so far may worry you. It seems that I am avoiding talking about Inward Bound at all costs – even by discussing dandelion tea.

Fear not. What you are instead witnessing is my grasp of Zen philosophy – my ability to ignore pain, by transferring negative energy items external to myself. While the dandelion may have got a hard time in this article, my legs and heart feel nothing. By the time Inward Bound

starts, I fully expect to be able to transfer my pain to IB runners of different colleges.

You may have noticed that this week’s IB journal has fallen within another of the reality TV episode categories – alternative approaches to fitness. I even went one further than acupuncture – to dandelion tea. I will continue to follow the reality TV structure for the remaining articles. Next week will be the celebrity special – where a famous athlete turned inspirational speaker gives me a surprise visit to boost my lagging motivation, and lagging viewing numbers. Stay tuned.

SCOREBOARD

HOCKEY

INTER-HALL COMPETITION:
Men’s Second Round: B&G 4 d Ursula 0; Burg 0 drew Bruce 0; Johns 3 d Fenner 1.
Men’s Third Round: Johns 2 d B&G 0; Burg 2 d Ursula 0; Fenner 1 drew Bruce 1; Johns 6 d Ursula 0; Burg 3 d Fenner 1; Bruce 4 d B&G 2.
Men’s Final: Johns 4 d Burg 1.

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	+/-	Pts
Johns	5	5	0	0	16	1	15	15
Burg	5	2	2	1	5	2	3	8
Fenner	5	2	1	2	11	7	4	7
Bruce	5	1	3	1	6	8	-2	6
B&G	5	1	1	3	6	8	-2	4
Ursula	5	0	1	4	1	15	-14	1

Women’s Second Round: Ursula 3 d B&G 2; Johns 5 d Fenner 0; Burg 3 d Bruce 2.
Women’s Third Round: B&G 1 drew Johns 1; Burg 2 d Ursula 1; Fenner 1 d Bruce 0; Johns 2 d Ursula 1; Burg 2 d Fenner 0; B&G 4 d Bruce 0.
Women’s Final: Johns 5 d Burg 0.

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	+/-	Pts
Johns	5	4	1	0	9	2	7	13
Burg	5	3	1	1	7	4	3	10
Ursula	5	3	0	2	15	6	9	9
B&G	5	2	2	1	9	4	5	8
Fenner	5	1	0	4	1	15	-14	3
Bruce	5	0	0	5	2	15	-13	0

CRICKET

INTER-HALL 20/20 COMPETITION:
Men’s Second Round: Ursula 133 d UniLodge 132 (Ursula chases in 18); Fenner 165 d B&G 113 (B&G bowled in 18); Johns 204 d Ursula 84 (Ursula bowled in 12); Bruce 97 d UniLodge 94 (Bruce chases in 14); Burg 129 d B&G 124.
Men’s Third Round: Johns 145 d Burg 38 (Burg bowled in 14); B&G 142 d UniLodge 120; Bruce 110 d Fenner 109 (Bruce chases in 16); Johns 107 d UniLodge 106 (Johns chases in 9); Fenner 155 d Burg 64; Ursula 98 d Bruce 97 (Ursula chases in 18).

	P	W	L	Net Run Rate	Pts
Johns	5	5	0	8.5	15
Fenner	5	3	2	7.1	9
Ursula	5	3	2	6.9	9
Bruce	4	3	1	6.5	9
Burg	5	2	3	5.9	6
B&G	5	1	4	6.8	3
UniLodge	5	0	5	5.5	0

FENCING

2008 ACT OPEN TOURNAMENT:
Open Men’s Foil: 1st Nigel Nutt (ANU/ACT); 3rd Mathieu Meriaux (ANU/ACT).
Novice Women’s Foil: 1st Marija Taflaga (ANU/ACT).
Open Men’s Epee: 1st Nigel Nutt (ANU/ACT); 2nd Mathieu Meriaux (ANU/ACT).
Novice Mixed Epee: 3rd Alex Chapuis (ANU/ACT).

INTER-HALL SPORTS SHEILD

Place	Hall/College	Sports Won	Points
1 st	Johns	WH; MH	37
2 nd	Burg		28
3 rd	B&G	Sw	24
4 th	Ursula		21
5 th	Fenner		19
6 th	Bruce		14

Aleisha Quarisa: “What Glass Ceiling?”

Kosta
The view from the umpire’s chair...

The final of the ANU Tennis Club’s Division Two Tournament turned out to be the Battle of the Sexes, with Aleisha Quarisa playing ANU’s very own Beau Heath. Heath came straight out of a grueling 50min match with the rookie Adam Schwebel to take Quarisa on.

Quarisa broke serve in the first game and was soon up two games-love. Heath, in what some have described as an attempt to keep face, conveniently acquired a cramp in his right calf. This forced him to call on the trainer/Chair Umpire Kosta for some

medical advice, whose immediate diagnosis was to tell Heath to tough it out and stretch.

From this point Heath felt that the match had gotten out of his reach and started questioning everything in Johnny McEnroe-esque fashion. By this stage Aleisha grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck and after two quick games was up 4-0.

With an inspirational speech, consisting mainly of profanities, from the Chair Umpire, Heath pulled what could have been the greatest comeback in ANUTC history, taking four unbelievable games to level the score at 4-4.

However this was not enough to save the battle of the sexes for the male half of the species and the match ended in a 6-4 win to Aleisha.

CORRECTION

In the 28 February - 12 March edition of *Woroni* we incorrectly attributed the article ‘Good Fencers Make Good Neighbours’ to Sport Editor John Birrell. It was written by Helen Baxendale.



John’s lost this sortie, but they won the battle: Inter-Hall Hockey report P16 Rob Anderson

Wanted: Sports Results

Is your sport not being covered? Season about to start? It’s been a few years since *Woroni* covered ANU sport and we need your help to cover the field.

Please let us know about your season dates, upcoming competitions, wins, losses and ladders.

To make the next edition, email woroni@anu.edu.au by 5:00pm sharp, Wednesday 2 April.



John's thwacks Burgmann

John XXIII defeats Burgmann in men's and women's Inter-Hall Hockey Finals



Why hockey players wear shin-pads Rob Anderson



Ashoor Khan
Sport

It was a courageous effort from Burgmann College in this year's Inter-Hall Hockey Grand Finals but, yet again, John XXIII College proved too good, winning the girls 5-0 and the boys 4-1 last Wednesday.

The atmosphere was red hot from the word go. Not surprisingly, John's brought out their army of first year supporters, making it hard to find a parking spot. To their credit, the smaller and louder Burgmann contingent made sure the African drums

and corrugated iron were put to good use.

The girls' game was tight at the start despite John's scoring early goals in the first half, leading Burgmann at half time. The Burgie Cats gave it their best shot in the second, but in the end Johns showed off their talent with a strong and impressive win.

After much deliberation from the Inter-hall Sporting Gods, the highly anticipated and slightly controversial boys Hockey final kicked off under intense pressure. Burgmann only knew they were in after the deliberation of the Inter-Hall Sports Committee that went late into Tuesday night.

John's capitalised on Burgmann's poor performance and played well in the first half. Their star Kiwi import showed the Burgies how hockey is played across the ditch. With the crowd behind him, he literally ran rings around the opposition defenders.

The John's war cry of "Gumboots!!" kept everyone entertained, especially the bloody idiot playing in tracksuit pants in thirty-degree heat. Again, Burgmann fought hard and tempers flared among players from both sides. However, John's held back the late Burgmann onslaught securing the match and the free keg at a Civic nightclub.

Memoirs of an IB Virgin

James Dawson
Suppressing the pain

Originally I was very proud that I was writing the weekly Inward Bound column. This weekly piece seemed designed to serve as a window into the life of a champion. I thought it would portray me as an top class athlete. Now I have changed my mind.

I now see my column as

more similar to the reality TV programmes where a chubby, smoking celebrity tries to lose weight and, for the finale, compete within a team for a power-walking half marathon. Sad as it is, having now fully come to this realisation, I have decided to just run with it.

To have a successful reality TV show/Woroni article like this, you need tick a few boxes. Firstly, there has to be little coverage of the actual training – watching running is bad television. It is

good to have an episode with some crying on the 'confession cam.' This was last week. Or having the camera follow me to acupuncturist for alternative treatments in order to keep the attention of the viewer. Themes are also often good, and likewise is teaching the audience how you too can reform your life. This article picks up the last two, and will share my approach to the IB diet.

Many have noticed that I have

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Wanted: Sports Writers

Competition is heating up, and Woroni now requires two dedicated Sports Writers to cover University and Inter-Hall sporting events for the remainder of the academic year.

Applicants should have a demonstrated interest in sport, a talent for metaphor and some time on their hands.

Email your CV and a writing example to woroni@anu.edu.au by 2 April.

