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WOMAN

The Australian National University Student Newspaper | 1948 - 2008

10 April - 7 May 2008

Another Liberal Intervention

Party rules ANU Liberal Club AGM invalid and requests resignation of 2007 President

Robert Wiblin
Editor

Serious allegations have been raised about the conduct of last year's ANU Liberal Club President, Aaron McDonnell, who it is claimed changed the club's constitution to make it more difficult to expel members - without ever bringing those changes to a club meeting. While the charges have not been proven it threatens to put a cloud over a possible political career. The issue began when some vigilant members noticed that varying versions of the Club's constitution were sent out to members and used to affiliate with ANUSA through 2007/08, all purporting to be correct as of an April 7th 2006 Special General Meeting. It was clear that the changes could have been advantageous to McDonnell, as he had reason to fear expulsion by factional enemies within the club executive in early 2007. The alterations also allowed the club to affiliate to ANUSA without seeking approval from members, and made dissolution of the entire club much easier.

The issue was brought to a head at the club AGM on Thursday the 19th of March by a small



Duped? Members of the ANU Liberal Club look on as Tony Abbott MP speaks at 'Politics at the Pub' during O-Week **Tully Fletcher**

group of alienated members impotently attempting to provoke an upset in club elections. Nerves clearly showed as attendees were told to "cease the use of recording devices and cameras" and McDonnell shut down challenges to his explanation saying "I'm giving you an answer already ... I don't wish to raise my voice". It was quickly claimed that the multiple versions were not a

"conspiracy" but rather just an "administrative error" and further discussion was shut down until later in the meeting.

After an interminably long election for a 2008 executive, discussion of the constitutional kerfuffle was ultimately muted as it "did not keep the club active" and was "really embarrassing". Despite the strategic decision, some members wanted to fully

investigate the matter to ensure that no doubts would linger on and damage the club's credibility. The changes had practical implications - it was not clear whether the expulsion of one student present at the meeting was legitimate under the true constitution. Ultimately, while no coherent explanation for the varying documents was provided, the agitators were unable to show that

the confusion was more than the output of a lively 'fantasy club constitution' session accidentally being distributed to members.

Unfortunately for those who would rather bury the issue, the club is a special interest branch of the ACT Liberal Party and is accountable to the party proper. Agitators alerted the ACT Management Committee to

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ACT Govt puts the squeeze on booze

Scott Walker
Law Reporter

Having a drink, or serving one, may cost you more than you know after alcohol laws got a shake-up last week.

The *Crimes Amendment Act 2008* was passed in the ACT Legislative Assembly last Tues-

day. It amends several Territory laws including the *Liquor Act* and *Crimes Act*. The Act gives ACT Policing and the Office of Regulatory Services the power to issue on-the-spot fines for a range of alcohol-related public order offences. Attorney General Simon Corbell says the measures are designed to reinforce the harm minimisation principles of

the Liquor Act and to respond to night time anti-social behaviour in Canberra. Mr Corbell also announced a review of the *Liquor Act* last week and referred to Government interest in extending Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) training requirements for workers involved in the supply of liquor.

Under the changes to the

Crimes Act, police officers are authorised to issue \$200 infringement notices for offences including defacing premises, public urination, offensive language, and excessive noise.

Meanwhile, amendments to the *Liquor Act* enable police and liquor inspectors to issue fines of \$100 for the offence of consuming alcohol in certain public

spaces. Under the Act it is an offence to consume liquor within 50 metres of a bus interchange, a shop, licensed premises, or other prescribed places.

In order to make the above laws easier to enforce, a change was also made to allow police to assume that any person drinking from a container which nor

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woroni

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From Page 1

mally contains alcohol is actually drinking alcohol. This eliminates the previous law which required police to prove a substance was alcoholic.

Mr Corbell's office has confirmed that the new legislation will not be enforced until appropriate regulations governing their use are drafted. Furthermore, the Chief Police Officer will be asked to report to the Attorney General on the use of the fines after 12 months and the ACT Ombudsman will review the implementation of the fines for the same time period.

Licensee of the *Wig and Pen* Lachie MacOmish has some interesting thoughts on the rise of binge drinking in Australia. He is concerned about how liquor taxation schemes which operate according to production volumes rather than consumption levels have encouraged the rise of the current drinking culture in Australia. Cross-subsidisation of alcohol from poker machine revenue and the vicious cycle it perpetuates is another of his concerns. So too the increasing practice of "pre-binge drinking," particularly by young people. It involves the rapid consumption of large volumes of alcohol just before one attends a licensed venue, simply because many low income earners cannot afford the cost of drinks at licensed premises. This can force people into drinking on the streets rather than in the questionable safety of licensed premises.

"An excise system calculated according to actual levels of consumption rather than produc-

tion volume, which also taxes at a lower rate, in addition to a common sense liquor policy across all of Canberra is the most important component of any solution to binge drinking in Canberra," said Mr MacOmish.

The possibility of increasing penalties for liquor-related offences and extending the use of on-the-spot-fines to liquor licensees for serving intoxicated patrons; implementation of lock-outs and curfews; and the development of a code of conduct for the liquor and licensed hospitality industries are being considered in the review of the *Liquor Act*. "The Government will give consideration to extending the mandatory training requirement to all staff involved in the service of alcohol including bar staff, security guards, floor hostesses,

room service staff and bottle shop staff," said Mr Corbell.

A three day blitz of Canberra's licensed premises by plain clothes police officers and liquor licensing inspectors last month further highlights the Government's shake-up of alcohol in the Territory. This investigation detected numerous problems including underage drinking; patrons and staff smoking inside prohibited premises; overcrowding; unlawful supply of shots; and excessive noise. Moreover, the Liquor Board has fined the licensee of Echo Bar in Civic and OJO Café and Bar in Tuggeranong a total of \$10,000 for breaches of the *Liquor Act*. The Board also imposed several strict licensing sanctions.

It is feared that students and other low income earners will

be unfairly burdened by possible changes resulting from the review of the *Liquor Act*. This concern arises from the fact that a great majority of positions in the liquor and licensed retail and hospital sectors are filled by students and other young people. The review is expected to deal with the serious issue that young workers could be forced to pay for mandatory RSA training or be fired. The review is also expected to consider the added possibility that extending mandatory training will be a deterrent to young people entering the industry.

Given that there are over 600 liquor licenses in Canberra, it is clear that any significant change in policy has the potential not only to affect many young drinkers but also thousands of young workers.



Will casual drinkers and workers be hit by laws targetting troublemakers? Heather Webster

ANU and Melbourne quit bugging about



Charles Prestidge-King
News Editor

Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Chubb has announced that the Australian National University and the University of Melbourne have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), paving the way for "closer ties through collaboration and exchange in areas of mutual interest and benefit to both institutions." The MoU, designed to foster research

links, productive collaboration, and student exchange, sees an end to the unofficial rivalry that has dogged the universities for years, with both competing to be the best university in Australia. "A lot of the unnecessary competition over the years has probably been not necessarily destructive but certainly not adding value to what we do," said Prof. Chubb. He's not kidding, and as much as we love to hear that we're number one, we're even happier to down swords and work with another excellent university in a range of areas, including funding, teaching, and consulting.

Chubb's ANU has looked to foster closer ties with other universities for years now, serving as one of the most active sponsors in the foundation of the International Alliance of Research Universities, a network of research-intensive colleges that includes Yale, Cambridge, and Tokyo.

Liberal Club squabbles over constitution

From Page 1

the purported fraud. The committee annulled the AGM due to a failure to announce the location until one day before and was concerned that 'establishment' candidates were listed first on all ballot papers. They reinstated the 2007 executive but subsequently requested that McDonnell resign as president, leaving the position vacant. McDonnell also attracted unwanted attention from McCarthyist political blogger Andrew Landeryou. The club must now hold a repeat meeting early in second term. Given the overwhelming majority by which they won and McDonnell's current lack of involvement, it is unlikely that a repeat meeting would at all change the conservative lineup elected at the overruled AGM.

McDonnell responded, "I refute the claims and conspiracy theories that have been made of me and my presidency. I fully

support the newly elected executive who were elected by a clear majority under the correct constitution." A prominent member of the club speculated that the party ruling may just be the result of intraparty personal and factional disputes.

ANUSA Social Officer Sham Sara commented, "The allegations surrounding the Liberal Club are disturbing in that they unmask the potential for abuse of the democratic provisions ANUSA requires of clubs. They not the only one however, that formal complaints have been made against. ANUSA will be looking at reforming the regulations in relation to clubs and societies in order to foster a more effective and transparent club culture."

Through the tea-cup scale scandal the club has continued its 2008 calendar apace, successfully entering the Relay for Life, circling repeated around a track to raise money for heart health.

SRC makes the newspaper the news

Maiy Azize
Student Politics

The second meeting of the Student Representative Council (SRC) was not as well attended as the first, with a number of absentees. General Secretary Mark Smyth waited twenty minutes to achieve quorum in a meeting that saw *Woroni's* editorial and financial affairs explored thoroughly by ANUSA representatives. This was controversial, as some felt the Executive was not subjected to the same level of oversight.

The meeting began with reports from the Executive team, and featured a few highlights. President Jamila Rizvi handed down a lengthy written report covering appeals, examination periods, food in Union Court and the new email system, among others. Social Officer Sham Sara reported that he and the Treasurer had been finalising the figures of the profit made from O-Week. *Woroni* representatives at the meeting enquired and were told the figure at this stage is \$26,724. Given the varying degrees of success in previous years, this figure reflects a properly organised and well executed O-Week in 2008.

Treasurer Alex Rafalowicz told the meeting that ANUSA funds are being moved into accounts generating higher rates of interest. No questions were asked at the meeting as to the details of these arrangements, though Rafalowicz later told *Woroni* that \$500,000 would be placed in an account at 8.2%, \$200,000 would be placed into a Maxi Saver at 7.2% and \$280,000 would be placed into a cheque account at 5.2%. Rafalowicz also followed up the issue of internet banking in relation to trusteeship and the

constitution. He said he would prefer to avoid internet banking, and that this option is best used only over summer if trustees are unavailable.

Other notable reports include that of Education Officer Anya Aidman, who reiterated her view that despite the low turnout, the recent National Day of Action resulted in an excellent distribution of materials by the Education Department and was well covered by the local media. In the discussion that followed, it was pointed out that National Days of Action have been consistently declining in numbers for years now and some have suggested that the format of the event itself may need to be reconsidered. Aidman also stated that as far as she observed, the only negative coverage the event received was from *Woroni*.

The newspaper was later targeted in earnest by Jo McIntosh, Aidman and others. This followed an unresolved motion from the previous SRC, where General Representative Janet Mills, also President of John XXIII College, was the first to express concern over the number students from Burgmann College in the *Woroni* team. This concern was repeated, with Education Officer Anya Aidman and General Representative Jo McIntosh also unsupportive of the *Woroni* Section-Editors.

The debate ranged from whether the Section Editors should be given honoraria, as promised last year, to the suggestion that the editors favoured applicants from Burgmann. *Woroni* representatives at the meeting pointed out that the positions were widely advertised in last year's *Woroni*, on the internet and with posters on campus. Editor Robert Wiblin told the meeting that the decisions were

based on resumes and writing samples, and were advertised as such. Anya Aidman told the meeting that she felt that *Woroni* should favour returning money to ANUSA to paying contributors, though Vice President Madeleine Firth felt that the Editors had been elected on a platform which included paying contributors, giving them a mandate to do so. Following some discussion, President Jamila Rizvi negotiated the separation of the approval of the Section Editors from the issue of honoraria.

After approval of the Section Editors, a second motion was put forward by Jo McIntosh and Anya Aidman, pertaining to the honoraria. After negotiation with Wiblin, Rizvi and others, the motion was amended and carried with little opposition, though questions have since been raised about why the SRC spent almost half of the evening debating the editorial quality of *Woroni* when so few substantive questions had been asked of the Executive earlier in the meeting.

Editor Tully Fletcher said "stu-

dents don't want to read about the newspaper in the newspaper. We all expect the SRC to spend its time debating more substantive issues of general concern."

"It's also important that our readers can be confident that our reporting on the Association isn't tainted by undue influence, or political pressure" he said.

Most of this year's SRC (including Aidman and McIntosh) were elected on a platform that included respecting the traditional independence of the student newspaper.



'Chubby holes' ahoy University considers container housing

Tully Fletcher
Editor

Woroni recently suggested that the University purchase RMS Queen Elizabeth II as a solution to our accommodation crisis. We've now learnt that while a ship is out of the question, shipping containers are being seriously looked at as future ANU student accommodation.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Chubb will send an investigative team from Facilities and Services and the Students' Associations to Amsterdam to view the latest in container housing later this month.

The award-winning 'Keetwonen' development in Amsterdam (pictured) uses prefabricated self-contained shipping container units (or 'modules') as building blocks in a student apartment complex. Each shipping container houses a bedroom, living area, study and bathroom.

Warwick Williams, Director of University Facilities and Services, said that the investigative team's research in the Nether-

lands is preliminary and that forward projections show that "at this stage we might be able to satisfy the demand for [accommodation] next year" through the existing UniLodge and the new 500-bed 'Student Residence 2'.

"The idea is just to have a look at the overseas experience, to talk to the operators, the builders and the students and see whether it's worthwhile our pursuing this," Mr Williams said last Friday.

Though it seems that demand will be satisfied for 2009, Mr Williams said that Facilities and Services were still "looking at new accommodation in the short term" in the context of the ongoing rental accommodation crisis in inner Canberra.

No location had been selected yet, but the vacant land beside Bruce Hall on Daley Road was ruled out. Mr Williams said that "it's a fairly conspicuous site. We'd have to be conscious of having something attractive on that site, not that this construction would be unattractive."

"We have to make sure that if we do proceed the sites are appropriate and the preference would be to try and site them

close to existing student accommodation and facilities" Mr Williams said. Placing the construction within the ANU Exchange has been suggested as the most likely possibility.

When asked about the potential cost of construction, Mr Williams said that "there are a range of options within the market. Some which appear to be quite cheap, and others which are expensive." The increased cost of construction on Student Residence 2 was cited by University Accommodation Services Director Marie Wensing earlier this year as the reason for that development's expected high rents.

Mr Williams was also concerned to reassure UniLodge, Colleges and Halls of Residence that the possible addition of a shipping container apartment complex would not impact on their market, and said that the University "would have to work closely with existing halls and colleges to avoid an impression that we're undermining them."

Woroni understands that it would only take three or four months to construct a fully functional 'modular' student residence.

ANUSA student diaries arrive at last

Robert Wiblin
Editor

The free diaries produced every year by the Students' Association have finally arrived - just in time to still be of some use for those who haven't bought an alternative.

The holdup is due in part to a last minute change made by diary editor Kevin Kim to correct some errors in the dates. He apparently asked the company to reprint just three pages, but the company mistakenly reprinted

the full diary. The expected arrival was then delayed to the first week of term. Forms were also delivered late

The further delays resulted from problems in shipping of the diaries from Hong Kong due to 'Chinese New Year' and Customs delays. These have kept ANUSA representatives turning thousands away at the door as the expected arrival date has dragged out. ANUSA has secured a 42% discount from the printing firm for the errors made on their part, hopefully enough to console any disappointed sponsors.

EDITORIAL

Fear And Loathing
In The Peter Baume
Building

Following *Woroni's* story on the murky events at the ANU Medical School we can report that the 'special tutorial' program allegedly offered at Canberra Hospital has been abruptly suspended. A medical student contacted *Woroni* to say that all fourth-year students were subsequently informed via email that the tutorials, part of a School 'research project', had been put on hold pending a review of whether they had met their own ethics guidelines.

The medical school, which accepted its first enrolment only five years ago, is perhaps eager not to face more scrutiny over what appear to be, if not unethical, then certainly non-transparent practices. If, as the allegations go, the "special tutorials" began because the existing, mainstream curriculum "offers inadequate preparation" for medical students, then this is a very real problem that must be addressed, and we can only hope that the medical school is reviewing this.

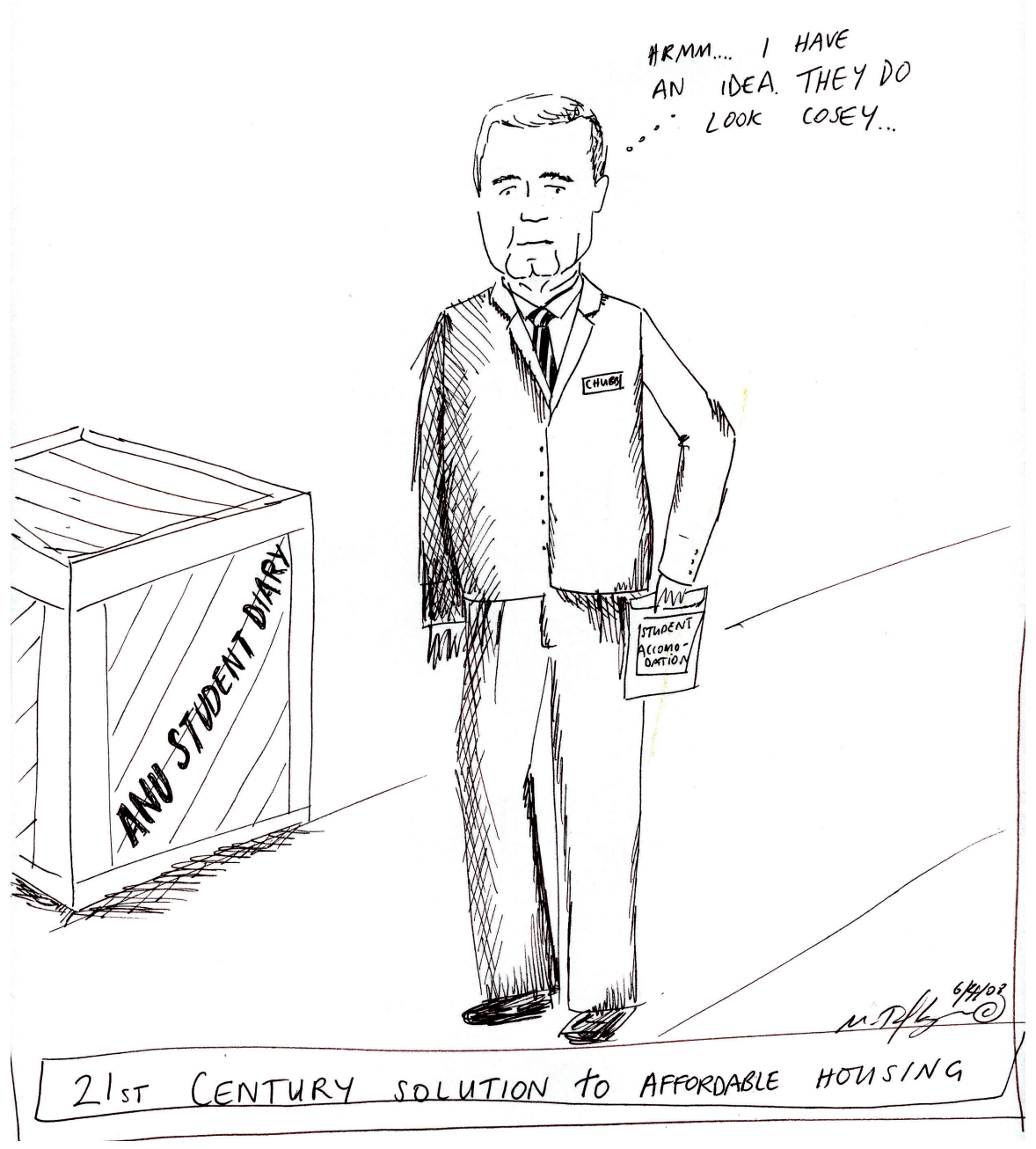
Yet the entire saga speaks poorly for a school in which students who speak out do so with fear for both their academic and medical careers. The same student revealed that the 'Submariners', the select students who had been offered up to six hours of extra tutorial time per week, have been searching hard to find the source of the story.

Obviously, there is nothing wrong in offering extra help and time to students, be they strug-

gling or be they the stars of the course. If extra tutorials do help, then they should be accessible to all via an open process. What is questionable in this instance was the selection process used to pick students felt to be protégés of the school. The medical school appears to have fostered a culture where ill-will and rumours can flourish, unchecked by the kind of honesty and transparency needed when making decisions that affect students' careers.

The grave allegation that the special tutorials were based on personal likes and dislikes (one source reported that a favoured student was invited to bring some friends) has not yet been settled, despite staff member Imogen Mitchell's discussion post saying that selection was "in part done objectively using criteria drawn up by Dr Subramaniam and Gerry Corrigan". Even the impression of favouritism and elitism is damaging to the school, and obviously upsetting to the bulk of students not invited to participate in the research.

An unconfirmed report says a student wishing to join the special tutorials was briefed before attending and then "humiliated in front of the group when she did go, with the group voting if she could join or not. They said no". At the very least, the group has been secretive and exclusive; surely we want our future psychiatrists, surgeons, and GPs to leave ANU with precisely the opposite set of values.



David Batstone. Thirdly, write to your favourite chocolate company or politician demanding fair cocoa prices for producers and an end to child labour and slavery. We should not be getting rich at the expense of the poor, let alone fat.

Yours, Heather Watson

Culture has many faces

Dear *Woroni*,
"Can ANU students be bothered with culture?" Cathy Haines asked readers of *Woroni* in a previous edition. Do too many of us belittle our faculties of the 'Arts', which support and interpret such culture?

I share these concerns. But I also think that viewing 'culture' and 'Arts' in this way ignores some pervasive, contentious and so much more important issues. 'Culture' has another meaning. Humans are cultural animals. We are wielders and transmitters of dynamically open-ended systems of beliefs, values, norms, concepts, practices and symbols.

Culture in this sense is not really a 'pursuit'. Humans are always within and living through their cultures - they help us deal with and make sense of each other, the world, and ourselves.

Now, creative arts play vital roles in every culture, especially our own intellectual culture. But

they play different roles, mean different things, in different cultures, indeed within the 'subcultures' of a broader society.

Consider those 'cultured' types in our society who find their collective pursuit of creative arts so intrinsically valuable that they treat the arts as an ideal of culture. And consider those who don't really like art at all.

Let's call them 'elites' and 'philistines', respectively.

Now, these elites might say: "you philistines impoverish your own lives. Have better ones, like ours!" The philistines, in turn, might tell the elites to take their taste regime, and stick it up their proverbials. In this case, I think the philistines are in fact acting rationally. They have been given no reasons to change their ways, much less good ones.

The sketch is unfair and simplistic, of course, but I think it is telling. It represents a very real dialectic in our society. Moreover, it represents the much more pervasive problem of cultural relativism that pervades our practical and theoretical discourse. The polemics are well-rehearsed: if cultures generate different 'perspectives' of meaning, then how can anyone make objectively coherent value claims about another culture? And if we take this seriously, then do we

not risk sliding into a sceptical subjectivism? Are we left chanting "everything is relative"?

The way forward, many have thought, is to think in terms of the give and take of intersubjective reasons, and not comparison to objective truths. A rational community of competing values is something that we can all make sense of, and aspire to. And this, I think, is the ideal function of our ineptly titled faculties of "Arts"—even when they deal with 'the arts' properly considered. Critical discourse, and critique of discourse, clarifies what we mean when we talk about what matters, in our lives, our social arrangements and culture. Moreover, it helps us see what we should mean and what should matter.

If we want people who happen to be reading the culture section to get involved in the culture of creative arts at the ANU, then rather than accusing them of being philistines, it is wiser to try to convince them.

For philistines can live good lives too. How could the arts make their lives better?

Yours, Tom Swann

Send your (short) letters to woroni@anu.edu.au by Wednesday 30th April. We may edit for size or spelling.

LETTERS

Just Chocolate

Dear *Woroni*,

As you lick your fingers and perhaps moan quietly to yourself, hand on belly, ruing the fact that you have, once again, overindulged in the annual chocolate orgy known as Easter, perhaps you should ponder where that delicious cocoa comes from.

43% of it is produced in Côte d'Ivoire, while another 25% is grown in other parts of West Africa. Using false promises of a better life for the child and their family, or abduction of unaccompanied children, slave traders have trafficked an estimated 12,000 children from countries like Mali to the cocoa farms of

Côte d'Ivoire. But don't despair! Not only can chocolate remain an essential part of your post-break up or exam period diet, there is something you can do to change the situation on cocoa farms. Firstly, Coles, Woolworths, some IGAs and other retailers such as Oxfam (Canberra Centre), the ANU Food Co-op, As Nature Intended (Belconnen Fresh Food Markets), Dickson Health Foods, Mooble (Bailey's Corner) and Wilson's Organics (Farrer shops) all stock fair trade chocolate—look for the blue swirly Fair Trade symbol. Secondly, get informed at sites like www.stop-thetraffik.org and www.antislavery.org, or read "Not for Sale" by

Kevin07, Establishment08

Ed McDonald

On the 11th of November 2007, I lined up outside a primary school to vote in the federal elections. Aside from being grumpy that the polling would make me late for work, I was quite amused when an AEC official told the two girls behind me to cover their Kevin07 shirts while in the polling booths, much to their dismay.

I can imagine that such scenes were abundant around Australia that day. The election had generated a spiritual meaning in the usually apathetic Australian political consciousness. It had shaped and defined an entire social movement – almost an entire social class. This movement centred on a witty slogan on a \$7 white T-shirt that became almost ubiquitous – and quickly clichéd.

Kevin Rudd's election

campaign, through the clever manipulation of pop culture – most notably the shirts, the MySpace and the Facebook friends – successfully mobilised the support of a young, white middle class. Neither the traditional notions of 'workers' and 'capitalists' nor 'battlers' and 'elites' serves adequately to define this group of people. Perhaps they could best be called the "aspirational" middle class.

On the whole, these weren't oppressed workers suffering under the yoke of AWAs. Nor were they likely actually to care about the war in Iraq, or make real world sacrifices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Watching *An Inconvenient Truth* was about as far as they would go. In short, the principles the movement embraced were not likely to be upheld by its subscribers.

But I don't think that was the point. Wearing a "Kevin07" shirt was not necessarily about the political issues. The closer the 2007 election came, the less it seemed to revolve around

the actual political issues for which Howard had to go. The rent-a-crowd at the Tally room that night screaming "JULIA! JULIA!" weren't focussing on those issues.

The advent of "Kevin07" was more a vehicle for some sort of personal spiritual definition, if not elevation. The movement was predicated on being part of a young, politically conscious social movement for change. It was a means for defining the self in a meaningful way, and feeling like a participant in the "good fight" against the "real issues". The swagger of the Kevin07 shirt became all too familiar, usually accompanied by a small, self-confident smile. Cynics might call it being a "Balmain lefty" – others might call it funny.

In defining themselves as a conscious, aware and righteous force for good, these people were attempting somehow to raise themselves socially. They were attempting to distinguish themselves from the (perceived) fat slobs in King Gees driving around in bogan utes. They were

distinguishing themselves from the Howard battlers – or perhaps more from the old Labor crowd. A social conscience meant you belonged to something better, a battle against the establishment and its ignorant masses and the traditional social conservatism they embodied.

Traditional class analysis doesn't always account for the political force of a petty and aspirational middle class. It is, however, a potent political force. The role of the disgruntled lower middle classes in interwar Germany, trying to re-establish meaning and distance themselves from a more traditional proletariat, cannot be underestimated in the subsequent events. In the years following the Keating era, Howard's "battlers and elites" discourse seemed to resonate in this area. It seems probable that the Kevin07 discourse of climate change, anti-Iraq, anti-AWA resonated and mobilised these same sectors of the population, who quickly latched on to their convenient cause.

Now, a few months after the election, the shirts aren't nearly so prevalent. There are fewer comments on Kev's Facebook wall. Aside from that, in 2008, Kevin07 is "so last year", it is unlikely that the social movement of Kevin07 will thrive when policy and governance turn out to be much less exciting than lofty ideals and promises. When Rudd's Labor took power, their support group was now in support of the new establishment. It's always an unusual occurrence for any social movement to support an establishment – and hence the Kevin07 shirts might seem a little out of date, without the cause to rally behind. Kevin07 was defined in terms of its opposition to Howard. Now, without that establishment to oppose, and without the idealistic stance of opposition, the movement will probably just fade out and its subscribers will slowly renege on the progressive principles, and complain when they don't get tax cuts at the announcement of the first budget.

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Downward pressure on political discourse

Some things don't change in modern politics. Others just get worse.

Alessandro Antonello
Columnist

The West Wing's President Jed Bartlett had a secret plan to fight inflation. And now Kevin Rudd has a plan to fight inflation. Except it isn't so secret. He keeps talking and talking about it. Despite the good aspects of his premiership, he has managed to destroy my hope that government and public discourse might escape the one-liners and empty phrases that have characterised it for so long. In just over 100 days, Kevin Rudd and his ministers have managed to turn the phrase 'downward pressure on inflation' from a necessary function of government into a hackneyed and meaningless phrase.

Rudd has a sound plan to 'fight' inflation. He will be fiscally restrained, foster a 'culture of savings', 'tackle' chronic skills shortages and infrastructure bottlenecks, and attempt to increase

participation in the workforce. Whatever I might say about the rhetoric of inflation, this is a perfectly reasonable plan to address a perennial issue.

However, some of these points have been drowned out in recent political discourse by the dominance of fiscal restraint and the Government's 'Razor Gang'. May I humbly ask the following questions of our illustrious prime minister or treasurer:

Why haven't you been talking about personal debt? Credit card debt has risen to about \$42 billion, and over 10% of Australians' income is spent on servicing personal debt; the government even persists in giving enormous tax cuts to the same people who have deluded themselves into thinking that they can sustain this kind of debt.

Why haven't you been talking about irresponsible and cavalier borrowing by investors? It is the logic of the capitalist economy that investors, both big and small, want increasingly larger returns from their investments,

and will do anything, including destabilising the market, to get a quick return.

Why, in fact, are you talking about inflation so much as to make it a self-fulfilling prophecy? In the end, it seems that

“In just over 100 days, Kevin Rudd and his ministers have managed to turn the phrase ‘downward pressure on inflation’ from a necessary function of government into a hackneyed and meaningless phrase”

by talking about it so much, the government will inevitably scare people into thinking the inflation problem is worse than it is.

Every part of the public service has been asked to find savings by the 'Razor Gang'. Even the National Library, National Museum and National Gallery have been asked to find cuts

each of \$1 million for the coming budget. These institutions already provide substantial services on small budgets, and to suggest they could sustain such a cut in one year is deluded. Even so, does the government really

phrases in currency with the Rudd Government. My particular favourite is 'working families'. I think it is a more marginalising phrase than anything about inflation. What about working singles? I suspect they are figments of our imagination. What about the unemployed? Even more a figment of our imagination with a 30 year low in unemployment.

If Australia thinks it has rampant inflation, perhaps it should look at Zimbabwe. Inflation there is now at 100,580.20%. Perhaps Mugabe could cut his torture program, or deregulate his department of farm dispossession to put downward pressure on inflation.

Hopefully everyone feels compelled, like me, to refer continually and ironically to this nation's attempt to put downward pressure on inflation. It's one way we can reverse the trend of pathetic public political discourse. I started a Facebook group you can join, called 'I joined this group to put downward pressure on inflation'. I'll see you there.

Hopes of a right-wing fatalist

The neocons have lacked gushing praise recently so *Woroni* goes bravely unto the breach.

George Ober
Conservative

I love John McCain. He is everything I want in not only a presidential candidate, but also in a president; the natural heir to one of the greatest American presidents of all time. He loves the War on Terror, has a vague appreciation for the UN (Wizard!), is good enough on gay rights, relatively soft on immigration and hates taxes – yay! But – and trust me, this is a soul-defying 'but' - I have come to the realisation that my Nan has a better chance of becoming the next President of the US of A than a Republican. I'm not so right wing that I want Australia to shut all its doors and close itself off to the world and negate the fact that drought in Africa and an economic boom in South Korea directly impacts Australia. We are ironically not an island in international governance so when the most powerful nation in the world goes to the polls, I feel it's my duty to care.

To this end my attentions turn to the remaining Democratic can-

didates: Clinton mark 2 and the candidate whose name sounds a little too much like the 21st Century's most wanted terrorist. Everyone knows what they're getting in Hillary. Her big-ticket items are universal health care, better education, strong foreign policy, liberal family values, and civil unions.

I have a friend who has backed Obama since day one and every time we get into the which-Democratic-candidate-is-better routine, he argues 'til he's blue in the face that I'm just stupid for not 'getting' Obama.

He's for hope and change, that part I understand. Like most Democrats, he is anti-Iraq war, but he can comfortably take this position due to the fact that he wasn't faced with the vote for or against it, and was left to create an opinion based on hindsight. But what does he think of gay marriage, of immigration, of Puerto Rican independence or anything for that matter? You genuinely have to search for the answers. After his recent win in Vermont he spoke about the criticism heaped on him by Mc-

Cain and Clinton for being eloquent but empty, and then went on with paragraphs of eloquent but empty examples of people marginalized by society and the government, offering no solution to any of their problems except for one word: change.

“... but it may just be that she knows she has the better policy and can back it up and show that Obama is rhetoric without substance ... a cult of personality. At a recent rally he was genuinely applauded for 3 minutes for sneezing”

In contrast, Clinton spoke about how she wanted to change American society. Like spending more money on green-collar jobs to stimulate the economy but also curb climate change and environmental degradation.

Criticism of Hillary includes

wanting more debates because she can't afford as much airtime as Obama, but it may just be that she knows she has the better policy and can back it up and show that Obama is rhetoric without substance; a cult of personality, highlighted by the fact that a re-

cent rally he was genuinely applauded for 3 minutes for sneezing.

I just want someone, anyone, to tell me what he believes in besides himself. A simple glance at the homepage of his website, where many people under 30

research, provides no answers, with no mention of policy except for a tiny, hidden tab marked 'Issues'. There are, however, lots of inspiring quotes about people power and phrases like 'believe in yourself' and how it's Women's Month and Black Fortnight and Gay Day somewhere or other to clutch a few extra votes from interest groups.

Jed Bartlett (work with me here) was successful because members of the GOP and the Democrats bought into his vision of a socially conscious libertarian domestic agenda and a compassionate take on the Bush Doctrine overseas. I fail to understand how Obama will meet the same challenges of bipartisanship without first telling America and the world his stance on a wide range of issues. I pray that while Mr Obama progresses through the rest of the primaries, he believes in us all enough to let those concerned and interested in the race to the White House, get down and dirty with some details. He expects the American people to trust him, but does he trust the American people?

A closer look at the Pal in our Pockets

Uma Patel
Freshly Minted

As a fresh student of the ANU I was thrilled to have the aptly named "Pokit Pal" propelled into my show-bags, hands and of course pocket at any moment of vulnerability during O-Week.

On further analysis it became clear that my friend in my pocket was also a testament to the culture of Canberra. On the foreground of the cover we are greeted by a man who I assume to be named 'Pokit Pal'. The most intriguing part about Pokit is his ambiguous ethnicity. Is he Korean? Is he Japanese? Is he Aboriginal? Is he a mix? Does it matter? The answer; no, not because race is irrelevant when judging the value of a person, the answer is no because according to university culture, if a person is a non-anglo Australian and therefore the minority they must be cool, especially if their origin is as indistinct as our friend Pokit's.

On the back we find a re-usable offer for Zeffirelli. Not only is the use of Nellie the pizza slice one of the least original choices



Who are you, PokitPal?

of mascots since the No Name Brand decided to use a sock, but also an unwelcome reference to pubescent teenagers' acne ridden faces. To be fair, Zeffirelli have evidently done some market research as the largest print on the advertisement includes the word "free" beating their own name by a long shot and "wine" by a slither.

As we open our pal up we find answers to questions we never even thought to ask. No one realised that there was a reason to enter Chicken Gourmet before 10pm until they noticed the offer within and subsequently the fine print which states "only before 10pm", nor did they realise that Mooseheads served food or any-

thing besides cheap drinks, oversized bouncers and four floors of fabulous filth stacked up on top of one another (much like any burger from Chicken Gourmet).

My favourite exhibition of Canberran culture is the UCU bar's contribution. They have somehow managed to shrink their entire ad to ten words to make room for Pokit's terms and conditions, which takes up the majority of the page; a testament to the excess of law students wandering around who don't so much care about what the product is but more importantly; will someone be liable? And thus, can they strangle every loophole, not to prevent monetary loss but to show off their knowledge of the law? It is quite plausible that Pokit is a member of the Law Student's Society. This shows Canberra's willingness to sacrifice anything including advertising space for the sake of the law.

Special mention goes to Pokit's use of the word "re-usable", not only used on the cover just behind Pokit's purple streaked hair but also on the first page where they even go through the trouble of underlining it. Either they assumed we would dispose

of Pokit after each "solid student discount" or it's a clever reference to- you guessed it- recycling. It is almost as though he wants us to believe that simply by using the coupons we are planting a tree, choosing to walk instead of drive or saving a whale. Why would you bother turning off your lights from 8-9pm when you can instead simply buy a discounted burger at Chicken Gourmet any-

time before 10pm?

As Pokit has been my cultural guide to the circular world of Canberra I wonder if it is appropriate to tip him for his assistance, at which point it becomes clear there is no need. He understands my nature as a university student to protect every penny and besides, I think the purchase of a burger would be much more appreciated.



Fan dancing at ANUSA Harmony Day Miriam Rizvi



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Immune pruning

The brain and the immune system are closer than we thought.



Joy Thompson
Research

Picture the human brain. It sits aloof at the top of the body, cradled in the skull. It's bathed in a clear fluid that both nourishes and protects. Most importantly, though, it's separated from its fellow organs by a physical defence called the blood-brain barrier.

The rest of the body, lacking these impressive barriers, seems vulnerable by comparison. It compensates by having in reserve an army of white blood cells: the immune system. These specialised cells tag invaders, engulf them, or release toxic chemicals that kill them. The sheer complexity of such a response means that even the slightest mistake in immune regulation can turn its destructive power back on the

body.

After looking at the immune system, the brain appears delicate. In fact, researchers believed for decades that having the immune system patrol the billions of cells and connections in the brain would be dangerous. Immune cells and molecules had no place in the cranium.

More recently, however, some immune molecules have been found to blur the boundary between the brain and immune system. What's more, they don't seem to cause disease: they are present in healthy brains throughout development and are necessary to prune connections properly.

Neurons in the brain are connected by synapses, which wire cells together into the elaborate electrical pathways underlying our thoughts, memory and behaviour. When the nervous system begins to form before birth, far more synapses form than are needed. Every subsequent spurt of synapse growth is followed by a period when lesser-used connections are trimmed. The mechanism of all this neuronal re-wiring may unexpectedly involve two molecular markers.

The major histocompatibility

complex (MHC) molecules were among the first immune markers to be identified and characterised. One type of MHC, termed MHC1, is found on the surface of most cells in the body and marks them as 'self'. The immune system spares cells with the correct type of MHC1 but those expressing the wrong kind are recognised as foreign and dealt with accordingly.

It was not until the 1990s that MHC1 was discovered where it shouldn't have been: in the brains of fetal cats. MHC1 expression was affected by disruptions to the development of connections within the visual centres of the brain. For instance, more synapses formed in the visual cortex of mice lacking MHC1 than in that of normal mice, and the pattern of connections was less orderly. Researchers now believe that MHC1, together with a partner molecule, prevent neurons developing in this area making undesirable connections.

Synapse formation is, however, slightly more complicated than just two molecules. First of all, the brain houses a group of supporting cells called glia, which are known for keeping the environment surrounding the neu-

rons free from metabolic wastes or by-products of neuronal signaling. Astrocytes, a particular class of glia, are also necessary

system. When C1q is knocked out in mice, too many synapses form in this area and the visual cortex does not function prop-

"...even the slightest mistake in immune regulation can turn its destructive power back on the body"

for the growth of synapses. If you culture neurons in a dish without astrocytes, they form few or no synapses; add astrocytes, and the neurons suddenly start talking to each other. The molecule that balances the stimulating effect of the astrocytes is secreted by the neurons themselves, C1q, is also part of the immune armament.

C1q is normally part of the complement cascade, an array of proteins that have potent antimicrobial activity. In the brain, it appears to flag unused synapses for destruction; they may then be disposed of by yet another type of glia, the microglia. These are the brain's equivalent of macrophages, immune cells that patrol the body and engulf pathogens. The role of microglia is still uncertain, but C1q is certainly required for the formation of proper connections in the visual

erly. So if these immune molecules are needed to curb over-enthusiastic synapse formation, what happens when they build up in the brain? In neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's, dramatic changes occur in the brain's organisation, including massive synapse loss. In both Alzheimer's and glaucoma, a disease where neurons in the retina and optic nerve die off, C1q levels are much higher than normal. It's thought that C1q production working together on the wonders of the immune brain causes most of the synapses to disappear, which eventually causes neuron death.

Research is nowhere near a cure for Alzheimer's, but the blending of the nervous and immune systems offers a promising place to start.

Milk, bread, insert catheter...

Making lists to guide medical procedures saves lives but is unethical, say Americans.



Katja Grace
Health

What if the key to rescuing hundreds of thousands of the sickest people in the world's hospitals was discovered to be the humble dot point? Michigan would take up the idea, Spain and a couple of US states would be interested, and then it would be banned in the US for being unethical.

Being in intensive care is dangerous. Not only because having all your organs fail or your brain bleed everywhere is unhealthy, but also because the care is, well... intense. To look after a person in intensive care for a day, a hundred and seventy eight pro-

cedures have to be done on average. Each procedure involves multiple steps and is performed by a collection of professionals struggling to keep their patients alive as different parts of their body fail. Small chances of inevitable human error add up, no matter how good the doctors and nurses are, amounting to about two errors per patient each day.

Finger pointing and suing doesn't work to reduce these figures, so what will? You could say human error is inevitable and congratulate doctors and nurses for keeping it as low as they do in a hectic and complex situation. Or, as Peter Pronovost, a critical care specialist at Johns Hopkins Hospital, realised, you could take the same precautions with critically ill patients as you do with shopping or making a cake.

He made a list. It was a list for one procedure: putting in a catheter, the tube for getting fluids in and out of people. Four per cent of catheters develop infections, which means some eighty thousand people per year in the US. Between five and twenty eight percent, depending on circum-

stances, subsequently die.

The list had five steps. It seemed so simple as to be useless. Surely people performing cutting edge surgery can remember to wash their hands before they do a routine job? For the first month he just gave his list to nurses and asked them to note how often the doctors missed a

"They even judged it 'potentially dangerous' as records meant doctors' poor practices might be exposed"

step. It turned out they missed at least one in about a third of cases. He then asked the nurses to remind the doctors when they missed a step. The catheter infection rate over the next year at Johns Hopkins Hospital dropped from eleven per cent to nothing.

Pronovost made more lists and asked doctors and nurses to make their own. These lists proved so effective that the average length of patient stay in intensive care dropped by half

in a few weeks. Pronovost travelled to other cities to spread his astounding results. People were unenthused. However Michigan agreed to try the idea in 2003 and in eighteen months saved fifteen hundred lives and two hundred million dollars. Since then Rhode Island, New Jersey and Spain have become interested,

and there is a new project at the World Health Organization to institute checklists internationally. At the end of last year, however, the project ceased in America. The Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), a bureaucratic appendage charged with overseeing ethics in research, decided it was unethical. Their reasoning was that since careful records were being kept of results, it was research, and

should have informed consent from every patient. They even judged it 'potentially dangerous,' as records meant doctors' poor practice might be exposed. Protecting doctors from having their performance evaluated is apparently more ethically weighty than ensuring patients aren't needlessly killed.

After some argument OHRP reneged their banning this February, a decision made more significant for its allowing similar projects in future. The checklist is still getting nothing like the attention and funds ineffective bits of equipment for similar purposes have elicited.

Atul Gawande, a surgeon who originally alerted the public to this story through the New Yorker, suggests the disinterest might be because we like the idea of gallant doctors deftly coping with the complexity and risk the esteemed job entails. Standardised list checking doesn't fit into anyone's ideal of heroism. For whatever reason, thousands of people will now die of negligence rather than unyielding complexity, for which we have a remedy.

Extensive knowledge of a limited world

Anthony Hall

Cultural Amnesia
Clive James

What hasn't been said about Clive James, author of *Cultural Amnesia*, described as "the most glorious prose stylist of his generation"? Judging by this and a plethora of other glorified odes otherwise called reviews - anything critical.

Seemly a one man renaissance, James as an author, academic, poet and journalist has published more than thirty works, a literary man-bag spanning novels, essays, literary and television criticism, travel writing, poetry and four volumes of autobiography. Jesus only required one volume for his life story, Clive.

His latest epic - it spans from Tacitus to Miles Davis in 876 pages - *Cultural Amnesia* is a work of cultural history and an intriguing autobiography of James' own cultural experience. Structured alphabetically as a series of essays, *Cultural Amnesia* presents a discussion of both timeless and obscure cultural figures, from all areas of the humanities: literature, history, politics, philosophy, journalism, music, art and fashion among others.

Each essay, beginning as a biographical description, evolves into a varied thematic cultural discussion covering a diversity of topics: the ideal of romantic love through the ages; the inverse-racism of Jazz in 1940s America; the blindness or silent knowledge of the German public to the holocaust; the despotism and yet intuitive creativity of Mao; the dogmatic and somewhat blind anti-Americanism of the pseudo-Lefts of the world; the bank balances of famous figures throughout history and the homoeroticism of Kafka, to name only a few. Undeniably, *Cultural Amnesia* is a good read.

One is struck by the enormity of James' cultural knowledge. His style is both readable and intellectually engaging, maintaining a balance between the popular and the intellectual, drivel and snobbery, along similar lines to Craig Schuftan's *Culture Club*. The polyphonic nature of James' discussion must also be praised, combining biographical, thematic, personal and even philosophical layers, with the book espousing its own philosophy of prose style. Students will also appreciate the informal and subtly inserted 'what to read' guide James inserts in each essay, pro-

viding an entry point into an author that, due to the sheer number and often obscurity of figures discussed, may be unknown to the reader.

One is wary of critiquing such a successful collection.

However, 'Amnesia' may have more than title relevance, as it is somewhat apt to describe the cultural perspective presented by James. He seems to have forgotten cinema post-1950, maintains only a hazy memory of literature after 1960, cannot recall popular music at all and has omitted Africa, South-East Asia and the Middle East entirely. James' cultural perspective is somewhat restricted to his own place in the world - that of a middle-class, white male academic, with an affinity for the literature, history, politics and philosophy of Europe, pre-colour cinema, refined jazz and classical music. Also, for an author with strong ties to Australia (James was raised in Australia, educated at Sydney Uni and is a member of the Order of Australia) *Cultural Amnesia* contains a noticeable absence of Australian culture. It may never have been the intention of James to provide an authoritative guide to culture but the book is marketed as 'the ultimate guide to the twentieth century'. And news to the world - it isn't.

His fetish for the aphorism also becomes a little tiresome. It is interesting on page 19 with "love follows lust and grows through knowledge", a little forced on page 111 with "luxury is a necessity that starts when everything stops" and tiresome by page 370 with "a liberated woman is a fish that has fought its way ashore." Another not necessarily problematic but odd aspect of *Cultural Amnesia* is its traces of political conservatism. This is best evidenced in James' description of Tampa refugees as queue jumpers who could have sought asylum elsewhere but chose Australia for its economic advantages - our stunning cameo appearance. Such conservatism is seemingly at odds with his strong views on the holocaust and other world traumas.

But do not be deterred by the above criticisms. Whilst not "the ultimate guide to the twentieth century" *Cultural Amnesia* is well worth its \$29.95 price tag. It is readable, intellectually engaging and covers enough cultural figures and themes to make you marvel at how one person can not only have read and experienced so much but have remembered it to the extent that they could compile it into a book. Cheers.

The Road into the Western Canon

Jamie Freestone

The Road
Cormac McCarthy

In the year 2012 we will still be hearing the familiar complaints of students bemoaning the rehashing of the same handful of over-analysed, didactic texts for the moral instruction of young people. "We've all read *Animal Farm*, *Brave New World*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Lord of the Flies* and *The Road*", they will say.

I have no doubts that this novel will be on the reading lists for senior high school and undergraduate courses around the English speaking world. The novel has been lauded over the last 18 months, universally praised as the finest cautionary tale since *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. I too urge students to read this book, as everyone else will in a short while. Instead of being prescribed it by a teacher and forced to fit it to an essay question, we can access it. The book tells of a post-apocalyptic world, with prose as desolate as the ash-covered landscape it describes. Something terrible has happened, though we are given only vague clues by the author, who hints at climate change and nuclear fallout. The two characters are the boy and the father. There are no names,

for names would be a ridiculous luxury where mere survival is all-encompassing. The two of them are heading towards the coast where they hope to find something better - food, other people, vegetation; it is unclear what remains beyond hope itself. Save for a few horrible encounters with other, putative, humans, there is nothing more to the story.

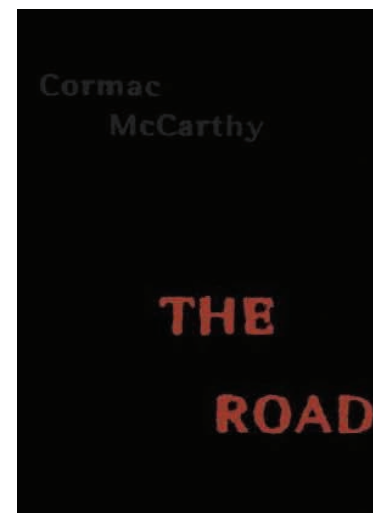
For McCarthy fans there are still his stylistic idiosyncrasies such as the lack of quotation marks, the selective apostrophes and the third person limited narration. But there is none of the vocabulary or cogitation of his earlier works like *Blood Meridian* or *No Country for Old Men*.

The Road benefits from this scant, dispassionate style, allowing the reader's conscience to engage fully with the anthropological concerns of the story. With such sparse prose and almost monosyllabic language, one cannot help but rush through the 300 pages and yet one is still left to mentally stall, pondering the gargantuan moral question of the book: what does it mean to be human? Countless paragraphs simply describe the remains of civilisation, but do so in an utterly readable way. One is thus forced to engage so intensely, so entirely with any allegorical or philosophical implications the narrative has, that it

is necessarily a landmark text of this decade.

Aesthetes among you may worry that the book has descended into literature's own wasteland; ungainly social criticism. But I would argue that the material of the story is so basic, so fundamental to humanity's character, that it cannot help but be a comment on the responsibilities of language, narrative and art.

Cormac McCarthy's art is flourishing at present, with *No Country for Old Men* successfully made into a film. *The Road* is also set to be adapted and will thus follow the aforementioned works of Orwell, Huxley, Lee and Golding. Compared as novels, *The Road* is superior to those works. Whether it is as memorable will depend on whether the human race emulates the catastrophe in *The Road* with as much alacrity as we emulated the evils of totalitarianism, conformity, racism and violence.



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Cathy Haines
Culture

Once in my life I received a grade of 110% for a piece of assessment. It was because in response to the question; “What is the origin of the word Canberra?” I gave the proper answer - A Meeting Place - but also the truthful one - A Woman’s Breast.

This represents something important about Canberrans - we understand ourselves in an entirely different way to the rest of the country. I am in the unusual, though not unique, position of living at an ANU college despite having finished high school in the ACT. The Daley Rd inhabitants do indeed understand their current home as the somewhat barren and uninspiring destination of overnight school field trips, while also the ideal environment for “overnight” college activities to take place in (except when its size makes those ‘one-night’ stands into recurring awkward interactions). It is barely redeemed by the presence of Parliament House and the Law Courts, not to mention the word ‘National’ in the titles of various other institutions. But it has certainly be-

gun to work its magic and inspire in them a sense of home - mainly because of the people they have come to know and love while being here. A Meeting Place. I’m not going to explain the other half of the Canberra analogy to you. Not because I’m conscious of its being potentially awkward for me, but because I’m decent enough not to claim to understand the effect a woman’s breasts have on you. But if you understand culture as that which makes us who we are, then surely the way we think about the town we live in is fundamental to ours. I’ve often heard people complain about Canberrans being unreasonably smug. It is true that no-one proves themselves here - the capital, like its people, has an innate purpose. And we live with that knowledge and that confi-

dence. Do I dare suggest that the rest of this battler-loving, underdog-supporting, tall-poppy syndrome-suffering, politically correct country finds that profoundly disturbing? Part of the very nature of Canberra living is the understanding amongst its residents that we are all going (or have at some time in the past been) somewhere else. This is not because, as misperception would have it, there is something wrong with where we are; but because the essential personality of the city is necessarily based on a culture of Diplomacy, politics and - forgive me - savoir-faire. Perhaps it sounds as if I am generalising based only on a very specific demographic. But - and I address this to my ‘exclusive’ ANU audience with slight trepidation as to the integrity of your response - isn’t that the demographic you

are all secretly hoping to join? Of course, Canberra, like anywhere, has its frustrations. It inspires claustrophobia, and a loss of momentum, which can feel closely akin to mediocrity. You’ll find that many Canberra youths have a very real fear of ‘settling’. But therein, for me, lies the town’s beauty. I once read an article in *The Canberra Times*. It quoted some bureaucrat as saying “Canberra is a wonderful place to visit, but I wouldn’t want to live there”. He thereby described precisely the opposite of Canberra’s point. There is no point coming here unless you are going to live here. Canberra doesn’t demand anything from you the way a world city does. But it never fails as a base in which we are nourished, and from which we can embark. And for that I, at least, am grateful.

The Chaser running out of breath

Lyndsay Dean
Theatre

I don’t really get the whole fascination with *The Chaser*. Sure, every now and again they come out with some really satirical comment on the state of our nation’s politics, but in between waiting for those remarks you have to wade through piles of inflammatory statements and crass situations. At least when this formula is applied to television you don’t feel bad not laughing at every skit. If it doesn’t grab your attention you can always talk to your mate beside you about how bad it is. And yet, despite the whole hit and miss nature of their show, the Chaser crew unwisely decided to use this exact formula and apply it to the stage. What results is an hour and a half of raised smiles and the minimal hearty laugh. That is, of course, unless you find songs about fat and hairy guys sung by a fat and hairy guy unbeatably funny. Canberra was the first port of call on *The Chaser*’s national tour, lampooning a new government and raising old skits from the dead (where they deservedly should return to) and you’d think that they’d want to start out with a bang, not a fizzling smoke bomb. Technical glitches aside (of which there were many), the problem with the stage show is that it’s just not funny enough. Sure there are some awkward

moments when you look back on society and go “man, we really are a bunch of weirdos” (see Chas’s crash course on internet dating), but the majority of it is spent ridiculing a government that most of us know nothing about and the Peter Garrett gag wears thin after a while. And then there’s the fact that the entire Chaser crew isn’t there. Instead of Chris Taylor we get this random guy (Dominic Knight) who we’re told is the “guy in the background in season two” (despite actually being a Chaser founder and seasoned writer). The only comic gold of the entire night was found in (a) the Anna Coren segue challenge and (b) picking the two most random people possible out of the audience and giving them bells, of all things. Even still, the main gripe I have about the show is not that it’s lame and tacky (the Chaser disclaim their own show saying that some of it is “kind of okay-ish”) but the fact that they treat their audience like dirt, and we still clap. What kind of self-respecting person would clap after being told that you’re idiots, people hate you and you’ve been conned out of your money in order to pay for a lawyer? Shame on us. If you insist on trekking to the return show sometime in May, make sure you sit next to the guy who laughs at how his toes look when he’s wearing sandals. That way he’ll laugh for the both of you while you just sit there wondering why you spent \$43 to come.

Four stars out of what?

Jonathan Fisher
Film Critic

In the last two years or so, since I began reviewing movies, I constantly get questions about the star system that I (and now my esteemed colleague Lyndsay Dean) use. Four stars? Am I crazy? Surely Margaret and David, with their fancy five star treatment, cannot be wrong? The answer is actually pretty simple. The majority of the film critics that I read and have read for the last six or seven years (since my love affair with the movies began) are American. The four-star rating system has been a staple of the American film industry for several decades, in part made popular by the highly influential *Chicago Sun-Times* critic Roger Ebert, who has been writing with great insight and wit about the movies for forty-one years. Before I get jumped on for blindly following the Americans, I’ll admit something here – I actually think that four stars is a better rating system. For me, the four-star system only really breaks down into three or four categories. It’s a lot simpler to navigate as a reviewer than the five-star system, which has eleven increments. Four stars means a film is one of the best of the year, but because it’s not quite as dramatic as a ‘five-star’ movie, it’s possible to rave about a film without making it sound like you think it’s the best thing since Citizen Kane. Three-

and-a-half stars is a strong recommendation, three stars is a mild recommendation. Two and a half star reviews are often the trickiest reviews. I class them as a mildly negative review, or at least a negative review with some affection for the picture. Two stars is a solidly negative review, while anything beneath that is a total write-off (although I tend to give one-and-a-half stars to films that I think could be entertaining while under the influence of some kind of intoxicant). Some respected critics, like AO Scott of the *New York Times* and Kenneth Turan of the *L.A. Times*, have actually forgone any kind of star system, preferring to “Surely Margaret and David, with their fancy five star treatment, cannot be wrong?” let their reviews do the talking. I admire this and respect it, but I know that if I were to remove the stars from my print reviews or on my website (www.jonathanfishersmoviespot.blogspot.com), I’d lose a majority of my readers. It’s the thumbs-up/thumbs-down mentality. People like to know, just by reading the header of my review, if I think they should see the movie or not. But I plead you to read on – every movie has its good and its bad, and sometimes I’m not sure if I’m happy to have seen a picture.

Writing Serial - Pt III

Charles Prestidge-King

Grace, the admissions officer explained, wasn’t quite Raffles material. She never would be: she doesn’t quite fit; one can’t quite explain. He vacillated. Hands folded quietly on the fuzzy gleam of a hardwood desk. I don’t think she could explain it either, even if she really tried, he said. Grace sat in the smallest chair in the room, willing back pinpricks of heat forming at her temples, half-remembering, half-knowing. Half-believing. She looked out the window, crossed as it was with slats and, past the glass, iron bars painted white. Her father stood, pleading the case: but she’s so creative! Sure, she doesn’t quite fit, but nothing does! Nothing does! It wasn’t enough. Mother looking drawn, making her way down bluestone steps. Grace, half-comprehending, walks alongside, hand stretched upwards: a quick, damp little handful of knuckles in her mother’s cooling fingers. Her father hangs at the doorway, grey, refusing to be hustled away. No fugue for future success today. No treat on the way home. No guarantees. Wheeling above the straight lines of the courtyard was a flock of geese. They flew over the school grounds, sweeping over bare trees and flagstones. South for the winter. Carrying with them all that they needed. Grace watched, slowly stumbling forwards. Continue the story! Email 200 words to woroni@anu.edu.au

ANU's Glass Maestro Lives on in Light



Emily Birks
Art

Stephen Proctor: *Lines through Light*
Canberra Museum and Gallery until 8th June.
Free.

Glass is a fascinating medium. Incredibly fragile, yet considerably strong. Clear or opaque. Practical and artistic. Formed from the application of the elements – fire, earth and air. If you've ever watched glassblowers in action, you will know that there is a certain 'dance' to creating these works of art. Given the time and money, I'd be over at the ANU School of Art in the award-winning Glass Department completing a degree. However, until I win the lottery, I am content to frequent glass art exhibitions, such as the retrospective of Stephen Proctor's work now on at the Canberra Museum and Gallery.



A Drop in the Ocean Stephen Proctor (1997)

Proctor moved to Australia from England in 1992, where he took up the role of the head of the Glass Department at the ANU School of Art, where he worked until his death in 2001. This retrospective of his art is beautifully curated, with plenty of space to move around his sculptural

vessels and to contemplate the works assembled on the gallery walls. Knowing only of Proctor's glasswork, I was surprised to see a substantial collection of paintings, drawings and prints included in the exhibition. Many had been inspired by his surroundings just outside Canberra. With the flick of a brush Proctor is able to convey peaceful, engaging landscapes with a minimum of lines. In his 'Taiwan' series Proctor uses thick black and grey ink lines to suggest mountains or clouds. In his 'Line' series, using

pale oil colours on board gives the impression of pale sunrises over flat, bleached landscapes. It is clear from the retrospective that Proctor was interested in the way light effects landscape, and how this could be expressed in his glass works.



Seeds of Light Stephen Proctor (1992)

Clear glass vessels with the curves of shells catch and reflect the light, while Proctor's sandblasted and cut glass forms have a tactile appeal. Titles such as 'The Gatherer', 'For Giving and Receiving' and 'Regeneration' show the meditative quality that

Proctor found in his work and what he successfully intends the viewer to feel. In his later work, Proctor was still interested in how line would impact his work. In a series of coloured vessels, he engraved landscape images based on his ink drawings into the layers of glass, creating sculptural 'drawings'.

This is a beautiful, meditative exhibition on the qualities of light and line in a gallery space that allows for the viewer to be alone with the work, which is essential to the appreciation of it.

The Reel Deal returns to Canberra



Bradley Kunda
Music

Review: *National Folk Festival Exhibition Park, Canberra*
20-24 March, 2008

The National Folk Festival is one of Canberra's biggest music festivals, with thousands of people flocking to Exhibition Park for the Easter weekend to see over 150 acts from around the world.

The festival's title can be misleading. To call something 'folk music' is as dubious as calling J.S. Bach 'classical music' or Ravi Shankar 'world music.' While the Irish fiddles were in abundance, many acts exemplified how malleable the folk idiom has become by fusing different musical styles into a homogeneous performance aesthetic that sees musicians as communicative vehicles; this is the real stuff of folk.

Numerous acts typified this

ideal. Mal Webb is possibly Australia's answer to vocal genius Bobby McFerrin; through 5 performances and a workshop, Webb demonstrated how flexible the voice could be, with witty and comical originals that featured pygmy yodelling, throat singing, harmonics, body percussion, beat boxing, and falsetto. All this fed through a loop machine (called Derek) allowed Webb to solo with the trombone or slide trumpet, mbira or guitar.

Pacific Curls (New Zealand / Scotland) also represented the fusion camp, with a progressive mix of world roots, traditional Māori, Pacific and Celtic music. This energetic female trio played a colourful array of instruments, from violins and tambourines to taonga pūoro (Māori instruments) and a djembe. Woven through their sultry vocal harmonies was a strong climate change message.

Canberra's own *Griffyn Ensemble*, comprising largely ANU School of Music graduates, was an interesting addition to the programme. As one of the only acts that read from music scores, their performance contrasted with most others in that it was bereft of the spontaneity that typifies performances where the instrumentalists use form as an

improvisatory vehicle and words as a tangible communicative device. However, through their unique re-interpretations of folk melodies, they added yet another hue to the spectrum of fusion-infused folk.

Branching further out into the realms of quirkiness was the *Spooky Men's Chorale*. Living true to their title, this group is re-defining choral music in a frightening way. With occasionally off-pitch and muddled harmonies, they gave theatrical renditions of original songs and arrangements through their witty and at times suggestive lyrics and choreography. Love them or hate them, they did not fail to amuse with their cover of Cole Porter's *Everytime We Say Goodbye*, for which they afforded the audience an opportunity to 'lovingly insert their tongues into another's ear.'

More festival highlights included Canadian group *Gentico-rum*, which blended the songs of their native Quebec with more traditional North European folk styles in a fun and rhythmically addictive way. Australia's traditional Irish band *Trouble in the Kitchen*, boasting the incredible talents of fiddle player Adrian Barker and flautist Ben Stephenson, was the recipient of the National Film and Sound

Archive's Folk Recording of the Year Award.

With so much cross-cultural collaboration and fusion represented in folk music, it seems appropriate to characterise the idiom not by what is played but instead by how it is played. For me, the folk musician is a communicative vehicle that, through music, connects an idea with those in reach, either participating or listening. It is not, nor can it be, an opportunity for a performer to exude godlike virtuosity, if indeed that is even desirable, or self-centralised expressivity, because so much of the music is based on repetition and improvisation, and it is so often rooted in collective song or dance.

This is why some acts stood out – for all the wrong reasons. *Women in Docs*, for example, enjoyed emphasising the sound of their Austrayan Twang as they emphatically bopped along to their rather monotonous songs. Sadly, *Women in Docs* remained a rather pale imitation of Missy Higgins or *The Waifs* – with the accent minus the good songs and audience appeal.

While the closing concert was, by contrast, full of humble and merry folk performers, it was disappointing for seemingly the opposite reasons. Do not be mis-

lead: community participation is an integral and vital force in music making. There is, however, only so much one can stand of hearing the National Folk Festival Choir. And the *National Folk Festival Fiddle Orchestra*. And the National Folk Festival awards recipients...

On a final note, this festival is always worth your buck simply because of the variety of acts, the huge range of activities and the benevolent and participatory festive atmosphere. This year's festival, however, seemed to feature a disproportionate number of singer/songwriters, rather than larger groups, which did get tiring after four days. Nevertheless, if you are an Arts or Music student, consider enrolling in the 6 unit, 2 week long 'Folk Music' course at the School of Music, if only for the free season pass.

Photo page 16

Brad's Pick
WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME
LIVE
Every Wednesday 12:40pm
– 1:20pm
Wesley Music Centre, 20
National Circuit (Corner
Sydney Avenue), Forrest

See some great performances
by ANU School of Music
students in the beautiful Wesley
Music Centre. \$2 entry.

Planeteer Alert: Where do I Boogie?

Matt Teran
Canberra

I hate reading reviews of Canberra night life. I think they annoy me because they position the writer as an all knowing party god (which I would never claim to be) and because, well, this topic has been done to death.

In an attempt to avoid the inevitable cliché and monotony that has riddled other reviews, I will appraise some of Canberra's hippest night spots in relation to a theme that makes only limited sense in this context –the Planeteers from Captain Planet. If you were born in the 80s, not only have I got love for you, but I dare say you were a Captain Planet fan and to this day retain a little of that studly green-mulleted man in your heart. If you were never exposed to this program as a child, I pity you. If you did see the show and just never became

a fan, not only do I question your ability to live a full and content life, but I secretly hope Gaia, the spirit of the Earth and Captain Planet's biyatch, materializes before you and give you a good arse kicking.

When she could no longer stand the terrible destruction plaguing our planet, Gaia gave five special rings to five special young people. Introducing Kwame, who was presented with the power of earth. When chillaxing in the Canbamberra, Kwame feels at home at King O'Malley's Irish Pub in Civic, affectionately known as Kingo's. This down-to-earth bar and beer garden is the perfect place to ground oneself for an lazy afternoon of sipping on that all-natural beloved brown beverage, and indulge in some dirty discussions with familiar friends and sturdy sidekicks.

With the power of fire, Wheeler descends on the dank and somewhat sinister stairs off Bunda Street into the blazing

pit of boogie that is Academy. As host to some of the brightest young sparks and hottest DJs on the dance scene, this hotspot regularly inflames the passions of Canberra's rump shakers and nearly always sizzles on Saturday nights. So, if you want to burn the floor with Wheeler, smoulder with a stranger, melt into a Vodka Sunrise and kindle the embers of that primitive drive within you that can always find the beat, then this is the place for you, you little hottie.

If you go with the flow and give yourself over to the currents of the night, you may find yourself blown past the merry-go-round to Cube, Canberra lone gay club, buying a cool Bacardi Breezer for a planeteer named Linka. At Cube, Linka uses the power of wind not only to protect the planet but to dance up a storm, flick her hair in the gusts of mechanical air, catch her breath on the plush leather lounges, only to drift back to the dance floor

and get swept away all over again by the whirlwind of boys kissing girls, girls kissing girls, boys kissing boys, friends kissing strangers and strangers kissing her. I always knew Linka was a player.

Gi, our final planeteer, can often be found in the stream of people waiting to enter Mooseheads. With the power of water, Gi is used to braving the gush of eager club goers that flows heavily down London Circuit and trickles round the corner to Northbourne. Inside, at any of the given depths or levels, be it the pool bar down below or the dance floor upstairs, Gi encounters liquids of various descriptions – the sweat of anonymous sleazes, the thin bile vomit of just legal girls, the unmentionable on a couch tucked away in the corner, the tears of emotional drunks and the warm, putrid blood of freshly carved moose flesh. Yep, Mooseheads ra-hocks.

This is by no means an exhaustive review. Canberra has a

thriving little nightlife. Really it does. And if you can people, try to go somewhere other than Civic once in awhile. I know, I know, the ease of stumbling into the city and then paying a measly five bucks for a taxi home is a hard pattern to escape, but Kingston and Manuka have their merits as well (or so I am told). And you may notice that I have omitted one planeteer from my appraisal - Ma-Ti. He is nothing to me. I'm sorry but the power of 'Heart' is utterly useless and lame. So lame it hurts. His very existence annoys me to no end. And to suggest this ridiculous power is capable of saving the world and a necessary component in conjuring up such a fantabulous superhero as Captain Planet is an insult not only to little kiddy cartoon viewers, but more importantly, to the pub/club going Canberra public. The power (to party) is yours!

Trust me. For I am your townie. And I love you.

UAS Considers Culling Weak

Adam Brereton
Shane Svoboda
Ignis Draconis, Bruce Hall

Later-year college residents may be the real losers in the struggle University Accommodation Services (UAS) faces in honouring the first-year guarantee. The option of culling later-year students through the use of a 'participation requirement' to free up places is under serious consideration. Accounting for UAS' traditional reluctance to be frank with student leadership and in light of the huge amount of applications for college places, this may prove to be an uphill battle for residents.

Marie Wensing, head of UAS, claims that her vision for student accommodation is "an emerg-

ing vision, aligned with the university's, that keeps changing." Currently that means that UAS must endeavour to provide a range of accommodation options to "meet the personal and professional development of students." Ms Wensing puts this on a scale of independence, ranging from Ursula and Bruce Hall as the most supported, through B&G and Fenner, with UniLodge and ANU rental properties at the least supported end of the scale.

This system would offer first year undergraduates the option to choose an accommodation option that suited their desired lifestyle, if only there were enough places. Instead, UAS has had to resort to stop-gap measures.

Ms Wensing is adamant in her view that "whether the [college] structure stays depends on the market but colleges are vital to

give first years the best possible experience they can have." Even though it seems as though all UAS decisions are yet to be reviewed at an impending meeting, the participation requirement is

“Ms Wensing’s justification for the participation requirement is that college students view on campus accommodation as a cheap option. She doesn’t want later-year students to ‘see this as an answer to an affordability issue’ ”

under serious consideration as an option to ensure first years get a place and to ease the pressure on UAS to find beds.

Under the participation requirement students would be required to re-apply to their hall or college at the end of every year,

and their performance reviewed by the Head, who would choose whether they would be allowed to return. No criteria were offered by UAS beyond the statement that "[we would] consider

the individual needs of students. Everyone recognises it has to be fairly clear." It is not clear what effect black marks against a student's name would have on their chances of returning, nor is it clear how this policy will apply to the privately owned colleges,

if at all. An appeals process has not been considered and Marie explicitly stated that it is not on the agenda for consideration.

Ms Wensing's justification for the participation requirement is that college students view on campus accommodation as a cheap option. She doesn't want later-year students to "see this as an answer to an affordability issue as opposed to community living." In a territory with a 2% vacancy rate in the rental market, where students must compete with public servants, families and other students, it remains to be seen whether staying on campus is an affordability issue or a basic one of having a secure place to live.

Hall and College Residents' Associations and the Interhall Council are currently developing a proposal to UAS on the issue.

Inter-Hall Arts Ladder

	Chess	Trivia	Public Speaking	Total
Fenner Hall	20 Points	20 Points	16 Points	56 Points
John XXIII	16 Points	20 Points	12 Points	48 Points
Burgmann	8 Points	2 Points	20 Points	30 Points
Bruce	12 Points	12 Points	4 Points	28 Points
Burton & Garran	2 Points	8 Points	8 Points	18 Points
Ursula Hall	4 Points	8 Points	2 Points	14 Points

Earth Hour a big success...

David McGill
Halls & Colleges

When the lights were turned down across the globe for Earth Hour a small but enthusiastic crowd of ANU students and staff met on Fellows Oval to mark the global climate initiative in their own way.

Around 150 people braved the cold to see 2000 candles shaped into a 40m globe and the letters ANU across the grass. The pre-earth hour festivities also included a BBQ and musical performances by the Bruce Hall choir and a local Drum ensemble. ANU Green representative Jennifer Zhu said the event was designed to "involve students in the wider Earth Hour and also demonstrate the kind of fun you could have without the lights on." While *Woroni* can think of a few other things to enjoy with the lights off the idea certainly was a novel one.

This year ANU Green and its college offshoots are hoping to change campus attitudes towards energy consumption and waste creation by staging the first Inter-hall 'Green Shield'. The shield will be awarded to the hall or college that shows the greatest percentage reduction on its energy consumption over the academic year. Along with reducing electricity usage, the shield aims to increase participation in 'green' events such as Earth Hour and Clean Up Australia Day.

However, some who attended Earth Hour (along with many more who didn't) questioned the effectiveness of turning off

lights for just one hour, others even pointed out to organisers that their choice of paraffin oil candles and a motorised crane were hardly carbon neutral. Very few of those who criticised the event were willing or even able to suggest more appropriate sustainability ideas. A quick tour of the university's accommodation showed that many residents preferred to mark the occasion by watching the Canberra Raiders defeat St. George Illawarra on television (A game they could have seen live only 5 minutes

down the road.) University students in general are hardly at the forefront of carbon neutral living, a fact that is highlighted by the ever-increasing demand for parking on campus.

The other truth about energy consumption for university students is that some of the factors contributing to our so-called 'carbon footprint' are not directly under our control. 24-hour lighting and computer access on the campus is arguably student related. This is especially true for campus residents; who, after

you take into account 24 hour lighting, in-room computer access and shared heating, cooking and washing facilities individually register a carbon footprint similar to that of a small African village. This is why it is vital for students to demonstrate a widespread desire for change. In order to be truly 'green' university students need to push for a more sustainable campus. While the 'Green Shield' concept may be a little naff it hopes to achieve this aim. It certainly isn't possible for demonstrations like Earth

Hour to reduce carbon emissions overnight or change global patterns of energy consumption but they can help to convince the Chancelry that students are genuinely committed to a sustainable campus.

Critics of Earth Hour may have grasped the exceedingly obvious point that a one hour demonstration doesn't 'fix' climate change, but they have failed to see that Earth Hour is an offer to those with greater, collective power to co-operate in achieving real, quantifiable change.



Many hundreds of ANU students congregated on Fellows Oval for a light show to celebrate Earth Hour **Andrew Flint**

...but at what exactly?

Sydney Morning Herald glowed with the predictably fatuous headline: "Our Gift to the World."

The organisers of the event, no doubt, deserve every tipped hat they have received, for pulling off such a huge and visible affair. But the participants? The event itself? What did Earth Hour actually achieve?

No one, I hope, was daft enough to think that the reduction in energy use was significant in its own right. A yet, every news story reported a measure of energy reduction, as if to prove that there was indeed a positive story to tell here, for once. The *ABC* news presenter almost smirked as he read that Canberra's national-best effort was the equivalent of taking no less than eight cars off the road for a year.

(Eight!)

'At least we're doing something!', the less cynical voices object. 'Look at the strong message we sent!' An admirable message, to be sure. It will be even more admirable next year if projections for one billion participants next year become even vaguely correct.

Indeed, it would have been more admirable still had it been taken up a decade ago at a fraction of the rate, when action wasn't almost too late. But now, in the light of cold, calculative economic analysis, when the issue has no possibility of dropping from the agenda, doesn't the expansion of Earth Hour, seemingly without resistance, signal that getting everyone involved in this way was all too easy?

Business and government in-

stitutions had clear incentives to get 'officially' involved. Apart from saving some portion of an hour's energy costs, they could attach their name to the darkness, or at least avoid defecting brightly from the implied social contract.

Why was this opportunity available to them at all? Why did so many get so excited about reflecting good intentions off the half-bleached city sky for one hour, once a year? Because it let us hope that the syrupy-sweet stew of sentiments would cause something to happen, and it let us hope this without asking any tough questions. (Why must our cities must be so illuminated in the first place?)

It would not have been so easy to generate such an expression of public will if the event had the

critical edge it implicitly claims for itself. And yet this is precisely what is needed.

In the nexus of production and consumption, both play an eliminable role. Just as we must push for political impositions, we must also publicly and critically re-examine the way, as individuals and as a community, we choose to live.

Our economic-ecological systems change too fast to properly predict, much less to efficiently control. We are denizens of an inherited social and technological arrangement that we now all agree cannot last.

The critical reflection and virtue required of us to live well in the face of our epochal tragedy of the commons cannot be gained with a flick of all the switches in a city.



Tom Swann
Columnist

Just one year after its inception in Sydney, Earth Hour has taken off in a big, globally mainstream, kumbaya way.

The *Canberra Times* lauded the event as "the largest voluntary energy reduction event" in human history; it was surely also the largest public demonstration of concern about anthropogenic climate change. Meanwhile, the



Exotic belly dancers put on a colourful show at the Canberra Folk Festival Matt Withers

Building Rome away from Home

.....
Melissa Jogie
International Community
.....

The idiom “Rome wasn’t built in a day” comes to mind three times in ones life span; when studying to get into University, when in University and when paying your mortgage after University. Yes, our ambitions tend to humble us in most endeavours. The better the college the harder the work. The best University translates to higher pass rates. The Ferrari and Penthouse apartment in any city central generally means you’re on your way to dead broke or tied down to a high-risk job for approximately ten to twenty years. Nevertheless, we accept these challenges, lose our hair and gain weight over the demands of gargantuan dreams and understand that to whom much is given much more is expected.

So it’s 2008, although we are a quarter way in the new school year, it is not too late for change. Now that you’ve sworn to keep your unfulfilled commitments like handing in assignments on time and attending all tutorials.

It’s time to gain some wisdom about adjusting to a new life-style. For some of you Canberra is home away from home. For others, particularly students like myself who have had to cross thousands of miles of ocean, Canberra becomes home, without a long weekend alternative.

Like all things in life, particularly like marriage, the honeymoon period of University is pretty sweet, until the domestic realities set in and we are all running around avoiding commitments. Well maybe University life isn’t as bad as a marriage; at least we get the summer break. Any way you look at it you are adapting and adjusting trying to maintain a healthy and balanced physical and mental lifestyle.

When the demands of your studies begins to wear you down it is important to do a few things to get you on the right track. Being by cleaning you room. Simple organization has a way of making us gain clarity and more importantly perspective on what is priority.

While your assignments and reading material may pile from the floor to the ceiling, be sure to remember how to relax. Know that a relaxed mind makes you

more productive in your studies. Relaxation does not mean drinking way to much alcohol and staying out until 5am. Proper relaxation time means spending some time, preferably alone calming your mind. Find a spot in your room where you put something that reminds you of home. Or at

“Well, maybe University life isn’t as bad as a marriage; at least we get the summer break”

least create a spot in your room that makes you feel calm. Do not make this area your intense study zone. Make this spot your time out, your relaxation bubble where you can imagine yourself in Barbados drinking a tropical fruit punch. Your room sets your frame of mind and it should be the one place you can escape the world and seek mental solace.

Even international students deserve a break. If you are anything like me, it means you require some self-indulgence from time to time. In my many years at University I have never once missed a deadline or pleaded for an extension. I’ve managed this by granting myself little treats

when I practice good time management. Treats extend from a piece of Koko Black to a gorgeous standing lamp. Take the time to pat yourself on the back for a job well done. Bad time management means enduring unnecessary stress. Be good to yourself.

Knowing yourself and maintaining self-preservation is vital to your mental stability. In many ways you are still new in a foreign environment, which means you are eager to be accepted by your new friends and you want to swaddle yourself in this new culture. My advice to you is to embrace the culture shock and understand there are differences. Whoever said being different was bad? Different is just what it means - different. You are not inferior because you do not know. Many people will be open to learn about your culture so speak up and share. Build yourself a sense of values and practice them. People are long-term

projects. It takes a considerable length of time to know them properly.

As an international student I’ve had to learn the hard way that sometimes people see what they want to see and they derive some obnoxious opinions of your foreign nature. Don’t let the few and far between miscreants taint your adventure. Just remember that now is your moment to take this wonderful opportunity at the ANU to enjoy your transition from a young grasshopper to a long robed Jedi.

So at the end of all things home really seems to be what you make of it. Yes, home is where the people you love dwell, where the faces and the places are familiar. However, nothing good or bad is meant to be forever. Change exists on a conscious state and the effects are mostly felt in our hearts. On the bright side it hardly ever rains in Canberra so you can’t possibly have that many gloomy days.

When the going gets tough and your passion dwindles just bear in mind that situations do get better. Home really isn’t that far away and for everything else in between, what can I say, “Hey, Rome wasn’t built in a day!”



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IB deflowering delayed

From Page 16
using a Class A drug on that journey was understandable. Mainly because walking over ice for months would otherwise be dead boring, and with a cruel anti-climax.

Scott: 'Is this it? It looks exactly like what we've been travelling over for the last month and a half.'

Captain Oates: 'That's disappointing. Let's finish the cocaine.'

So when Captain Oates, Scott's team member, delivered the immortal line 'I may be some time', his thoughts were not in fact heroic. Rather he simply thought that riding to Mars and back on a Unicorn may take a while.

You should note that I have

only shared Scott's cocaine strategy now that IB has been postponed. No wonder. For getting pearly-eyed for IB was my plan too. Here also lies the first lesson to take from Scott's experience. While IB's postponement may be disappointing – cocaine will not make it any better.

My criticism of Scott's love for all varieties of powder snow doesn't mean that I think Amundsen was the better of the two, and by deduction nor does it mean that IB this week would have been the best option. This is because I have always been largely suspicious of Norway's intentions in this part of the world.

There are two big examples that I will use here. The first is the selection of flags at the South

Pole – the flags of Australia, New Zealand, Britain, the US, and Norway. The first two own large sections of Antarctica. The second two pour money into the area. But Norway? The fact that Amundsen was a Norwegian does not explain anything – rather it is just another concrete example of Norway's aggressive foreign policy.

The second example of Norway's suspicious involvement in our hemisphere is the HMAS Sydney incident. The story is that during World War II a German ship disguised as a Norwegian vessel opened fire and sunk the HMAS Sydney. But No. Too complicated. Often the clearest explanations are the best. It was a Norwegian ship.

When the Burgmann team was told that IB would not happen this week, there was understandably much disappointment. However, I also noticed relief. Some competitors I think felt like the subject of an infamous picture of another failed Antarctic explorer, Sir Ranulph Fiennes, after he was air lifted to safety in the last few days of his attempt to cross the Antarctic continent. In this picture, Fiennes stands totally naked after 95 days of inadequate food. It is not a pretty sight, and I doubt that I looked much worse after the last 30km IB training run.

Although probably a little annoyed at being pulled out less than a week before the end, imagine Ranulph's delight when

someone handed him a cup of tea, shortbread biscuits and gave him the chance to snuggle up in front of the fire to watch 'Touching the Void' with someone other than his male travelling partner who hadn't shaved, showered, or changed underwear for 95 days. I would imagine that even while medical experts were prodding his ribs and taking pictures of his naked body, that being in a room warm enough to be naked in without suffering from frost-bite to a usually covered body part would still be comforting. So while you may be a little disappointed – go on, admit that there's a part of you that will enjoy doing nothing more than walking to Civic this Thursday night.

SCOREBOARD

CRICKET

INTER-HALL 20/20 COMPETITION:

Men's Fourth Round: Johns 107 d UniLodge 106 (Johns chases in 9); Fenner 155 d Burg 64; Ursula 98 d Bruce 97 (Ursula chases in 18); B&G 177 d Bruce 177 (in bowl off; 15 over match); Ursula 149 d Burg 90; Fenner 172 d UniLodge 51 (15 over match).
Men's Final: Fenner d Johns.

	Wins	Losses	Points	Net Run Rate
Johns	6	0	18	20.85
Fenner	4	2	12	14.12
Ursula	4	2	12	0.1
Bruce	3	3	9	2.73
B&G	2	4	6	-2.9
Burg	2	4	6	-8
UniLodge	0	6	0	-22.75

Women's Final: Johns d Fenner.

Place	
1 st	Johns
2 nd	Fenner
3 rd	Burg
4 th	B&G
5 th	Ursula
6 th	Bruce

INDOOR SOCCER

ANU LUNCHTIME COMPETITION:

Round 1: Newell's Old Boys d CJ's Angels Forfeit; Sneaker 2 drew Texas Rangers 2; Abod 14 d Kinky Gone Wild 3; Arpillera 6 d B&G 3.
Round 2: Newell's Old Boys 9 d Sneakers 1; SRA Unlimited 6 d Kinky Gone Wild 1; Abod 4 d CJ's Angels 1; Arpillera 7 d Texas Rangers 2.
Round 3: CJ's Angels 7 d SRA Unlimited 3; Newell's Old Boys 4 d Abod 1; B&G 8 d Kinky Gone Wild 1; Arpillera 8 d Sneakers 1.
Round 4: Texas Rangers 3 d Kinky Gone Wild 0; Abod 8 d SRA United 1; B&G 4 drew CJ's Angels 4; Newell's Old Boys 7 d Arpillera 5.
Round 5: CJ's Angels 3 d Texas Rangers 1; Sneakers 13 d Kinky Gone Wild 0; Abod 4 d B&G 3; Newell's Old Boys d SRA Unlimited Forfeit.

INTER-HALL SPORTS SHIELD

Place	Hall/College	Sports Won	Points
1 st	Johns	MH; WH; WC.	54
2 nd	Fenner	MC.	36
3 rd	Burg		35
4 th	B&G	Sw.	31
5 th	Ursula		29
6 th	Bruce		20
7 th	UniLodge		1

TOUCH FOOTY

ANU LUNCHTIME COMPETITION:

Second Round: Johns 10 d Hairy Fish 6; Halal Butchers d Off Constantly Forfeit; Return of the SRA 12 d Living the Dream 4; Magpies 11 d ANUS Touch 3; Fenner Cobras 7 d Run Straight Johnnies 3; Burg Cats 6 d Sports Peewees 5; Young Libs and Darts had the bye.
Third Round: Burg Cats 8 d Hairy Fish 2; Halal Butchers 7 d Run Straight Johnnies 3; Young Libs 4 d Fenner Cobras 3; Johns 5 d Darts 4; Return of the SRA 8 d Magpies 5; Sports Peewees 6 d ANUS Touch 3; Living the Dream and Off Constantly had the bye.
Fourth Round: Magpies d Hairy Fish Forfeit; Halal Butchers 6 d Fenner Cobras 4; Young Libs 4 d Johns 3; Darts 7 d Off Constantly 4; Return of the SRA 9 d ANUS Touch 2; Halal Butchers 6 d Fenner Cobras 4; Burg Cats and Run Straight Johnnies had the bye
Fifth Round: Halal Butchers 10 d Hairy Fish 5; Young Libs 10 d Return of the SRA 3; Magpies 5 d Darts 3; Johns 12 d ANUS Touch 0; Burg Cats 7 d Living the Dream 2; Fenner Cobras and Sports Peewees had the bye.

	Win	Lost	Draw	+/-	Points
Young Libs	4	0	0	21	15
Halal Butchers	5	0	0	19	15
Magpies	4	1	0	22	13
Johns	3	1	0	16	13
Return of the SRA	3	1	0	11	13
Burg Cats	3	1	0	8	13
Fenner Cobras	2	2	0	1	11
Run Straight Johnnies	2	2	0	7	11
Sports Peewees	2	2	0	10	11
Darts	1	3	0	-8	9
Living the Dream	1	3	0	11	9
Off Constantly	0	2	0	-9	5
ANUS Touch	0	5	0	33	5
Hairy Fish	0	4	0	19	4

VOLLEYBALL

ANU LUNCHTIME COMPETITION:

First Round: Bombers 2 d Springer Final Thoughts 0; Wallyballs 2 d Dreamtime Kings 0; Dig Deep d Team Red Forfeit; Velociraptors 2 d Mean Machine 0; SVHB 2 d Final Thoughts; Team Red had the Bye
Second Round: Springer Final Thoughts 2 d Dreamtime Kings 0; Dig Deep 2 d Velociraptors 0; Bombers 2 d Mean Machine 0; Wallyballs d Team Red Forfeit.
Third Round: Wallyballs 2 d Velociraptors 0; Dig Deep 2 d SVHB 0; Mean Machine 2 d Dreamtime Kings 0; Mean Machine 2 d Dreamtime Kings 1; Springer Final Thoughts had the bye.
Fourth Round: Springer Final Thoughts 2 d Velociraptors 0; SVHB 2 d Wallyballs 1; Dig Deep 2 d Dreamtime Kings 0; Mean Machine had the bye.
Fifth Round: Final Thoughts 2 d SVHB 1; Wallyballs 2 d Dreamtime Kings 0; Velociraptors 2 d Mean Machine 0.

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 30th April.



Legally Bound To Stay Indoors

Diwa Hopkins
Sports

On Wednesday 26 March, Inward Bound (IB) Organiser, Ben Patricks and Inter-Hall Sports Club (IHSC) President, John Birrell, announced to the IHSC that IB would be postponed until September or October. This postponement is the culmination of a myriad of mounting requirements on the IB organisers and IHSC from the ANU.

Despite the Daley Rd speculation of imminent cancellation of IB, Birrell and Patricks were both "confident that it can be rescheduled to later on in the year".

As the actual secret IB courses are implicated in Birrell and Patricks' reasons for the postponement, such reasoning to the IHSC at the aforementioned meeting was shrouded in vagueness. However they did reveal that there had been "miscommunications with key external stakeholders," ultimately preventing the running of IB on April 4th and 5th. Birrell and Patricks did reiterate that IB has only been postponed – that courses have been set and now it is the legal and insurance issues that have to be resolved.

This is the first year the IB organisers have engaged in serious and continuous consultation with the ANUSRA and ANU Legal Department regarding the safe and lawful implementation of IB, a 46-year-old event. This is also the first year in the history of IB that external stakeholders



Organisers assure us the sun is not setting on IB; a team arrives home exhausted last year Diwa Hopkins

have been formally approached about the event.

In previous years external stakeholders, namely unsuspecting property owners, have encountered burglar-esque IB participants traipsing across their respective properties during

the wee hours of the morning. Such occurrences have resulted in police involvement and have also flagged the issue (among a mountain of others) of trespassing during the IB races, obviously of concern to the ANU and the ANUSRA. Bodies that are now

liable on the behalf of the IHSC since its affiliation in 2006.

This year looks to be a transition year for IB and its organisation. The conditions have changed – the ANU has expanded their involvement and raised their requirements to approve

IB as an ANU associated event. Hopefully the efforts of the organisers will lay the foundations for the continuation of IB, an institution in itself along Daley Rd, amidst what seems to boil down to increasingly litigious conditions.

Girls Maintain Johns Pride

Johns men lose to Fenner but girls pull through.

Rose Tabeni
Sport

Despite the shock loss to Fenner in the Men's Cricket Final the diehard fans and Friday afternoon procrastinators amongst the Johns' College populous were out in force to watch their girls claim victory over Fenner Hall in the Women's Final.

Before the first thwack of that synthetic cricket ball the players suffered a pre-match scare in which it appeared Fellows was to host the first non-backyard/beach cricket game sans umpires, stumps or boundary. However our fears were soon allayed and instead of cheering, as expected, the blindfolded, back-

packed IB runners, we found ourselves witnessing what could have been another strange and shocking twist in the Inter-Hall Sports Calendar.

Fenner, determined to capitalise on an opponent still reeling from their male counterparts' surprising defeat in the Men's Final a week before, came out fighting and were praised by both camps for their agility and enthusiasm. Oh, and the very intense wicket keeping from a certain Fenner sports rep really must get a mention.

At a score of 77 ten overs later Johns was looking tentatively secure but Fenner, known for its astronomical batting totals, was not to be underestimated. Despite rampant boundaries by

the batting team, the Johns' balls found the stumps just a little too often and as the sun sank, so did Fenner aspirations. The Daley Road girls went on to limit Fenner to 46 to claim the Shield and nicely round off an undefeated Cricket season.

With this strong Johns' victory Term 1 Inter-Hall Sport bit the dust. Basketball, rugby and softball are lined up for next term and while Johns may have surprised absolutely no one with its' early position atop the Inter-Hall ladder, if Fenner's cricketing skill and Burgmann's hockey strength are any indication, this writer does not predict an easy ride for any residence this year.

Full sports results page 15

My deflowering delayed

James Dawson
IB Virgin

Inward Bound has been postponed due to difficulties finding insurance, and will hopefully take place in term three. There have been suggestions that I should continue to write this IB journal in *Woroni* until then. Admittedly this suggestion has come from me. Nonetheless, it is a valid suggestion. Please take note, Mr Sports Editor.

For this article I had planned to change your life with an inspirational piece about the first person to the South Pole, Amundsen. But with no IB it would be inappropriate, like salt in the wounds, to make this piece motivational. However it will still

be about Antarctic explorers. Instead of Amundsen this article will be about the person he beat to the Pole, who then died on the return journey – Captain Scott. His story, the hard work and disappointment, is the story of every IB competitor this year.

Many say that Scott's failure should come as no surprise. While Amundsen used dogs to drag his equipment, Scott's team pulled the sleds themselves. However, upon review of the equipment that Scott was pulling, his failure becomes more interesting. Yes, his sled contained the usual equipment, such as food and a tent. But the sight of the amount of cocaine he carried would have made Snoop Dogg cry.

In Scott's defence, I think
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