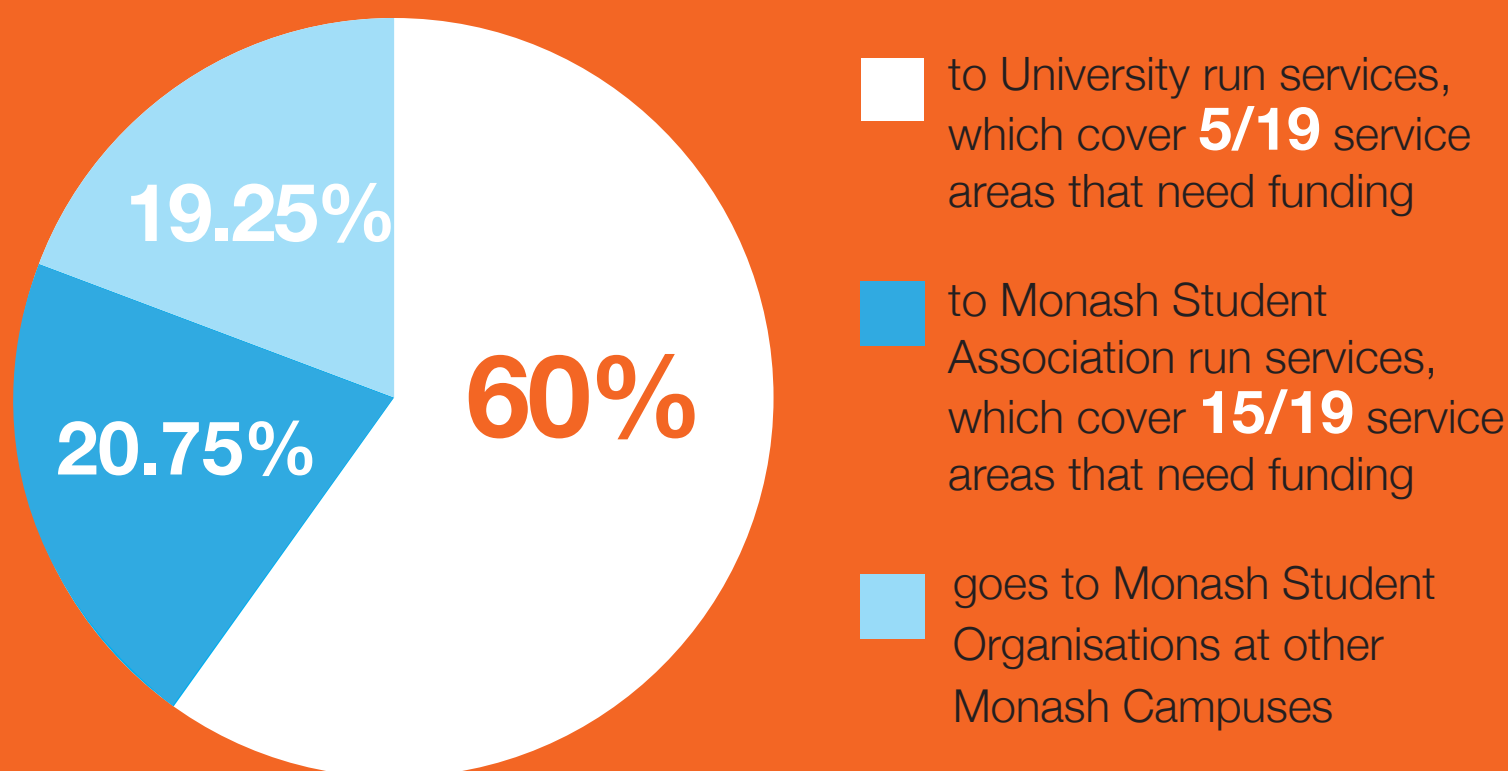


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## LOT'S WIFE

EDITION 4, 2012

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*Jamie Blaker*

So, consciousness is a funny thing. Isn't it? I bring it up because... well it's strange that people don't talk about it more. In fact, people don't talk about it at all, really. When I bring myself to think about it, the fact that I am alive is glaring. I can only assume that others think about it too from time to time, and so I would just expect it to be part of normal discourse... but it's not, and so it's a realization that occurs in another world. It's a place that you're not meant to be when you think about what things are, and so maybe that's why people don't remember to talk about it, back in this world. Push away centripetal society, you can see for a moment, and then it all converges back on you like warm gravity.

It's not a huge problem though, obviously. Life's pretty good, regardless. Still, I wonder whether it's nature or just a fabricated thing that takes awareness out of the public sphere? I feel like it's partly the latter, which would seem a pity. I tend to think that our world would be a bit more interesting and restful if we approached reality together, over the coffee table, in the classroom, on the train, in the streets and, of course, whenever we're faced with beauty.



*Melinda Bladier*

We have run with an unusual front cover this edition. The distribution of revenue from the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) is a huge issue for Monash students at the moment. This fee, designated in Government legislation for the provision of student services, has renewed debate about who is best placed to provide student services: the University, controlled by unelected professional administrators, or the Student Association, controlled by elected student representatives.

Students have an essential role to play in providing student services; being a student entails an understanding of student issues, issues that University administrators are not, by virtue of their position, always in a position to understand, whether well intentioned or not. University is about more than academic learning, and many students benefit from student run student services such as clubs and societies, welfare support and advocacy. These services contribute to making university a place where many students feel at home, and are part of what distinguishes university as an experience rather than a simple good, whereby a degree is gained in exchange for fees.

The idea of 'home' is explored in this edition in a number of articles. 'Home' is a normal part of life for most of us, and usually comes with a roof over our heads and a stable support network of friends or family from whom we gain a profound sense of belonging. Student networks can similarly create a sense of home at university. When the existence and authority of these networks and other student run services are threatened financially, the existence of university as an educational and cultural home is implicitly threatened. Students are the lifeblood of university; we are the ones who are learning, socially, culturally and academically, the skills that will inform our adult lives and shape the world in which we live. As such, students have an obligation, and a right, to be the primary providers of student services.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

**Dear Lot's Wife,**

Zionists in Australia are increasingly associated with far-right politics. They chime in with the racist narrative depicting Muslims as terrorists, they like to cheer-lead human rights abuses and, they advocate for the repression of free speech and the right to demonstrate.

MONJSS (Monash Jewish student society), an explicitly Zionist organisation, recently held a forum featuring Dr Emanuele Ottelenghi. Ottelenghi is a right wing hatchet man for the US who was recently quoted in the National Business review on the question of Iran:

"Western nations ... must adopt crippling sanctions that will bring Iran's economy to the brink of collapse... the West is willing and capable of inflicting devastating harm."

The West certainly is capable of this. The sanctions on Iraq, for instance, which killed at least 1.5 million civilians. Or there's Israel's illegal blockade of Gaza (largely backed by the West). A recent UN report conducted by South African Judge Richard Goldstone said of the blockade:

"Israeli acts deprive Palestinians in the Gaza Strip of their means of subsistence, employment, housing and water, deny their freedom of movement and their right to leave and enter their own country, and limit their rights to access a court of law and an effective remedy"

For advocates of Israel to talk about Iran's crimes is rank hypocrisy; if it were not for Students for Palestine (SFP), hacks like Ottenlenghi would be able to war monger on our campus without a murmur of criticism. MONJSS members didn't agree and tried to repress our criticisms.

The problem for Zionists is that to defend Israel is

to defend the indefensible. They cannot use facts to justify their "cause", as the facts reveal a very skewed balance sheet.

MONJSS members regularly rip down SFP posters and harass members of SFP. They have recently been involved with a tawdry campaign of abuse and harassment against Laura Riccardi, Environment and Social Justice Officer for the MSA. This campaign has involved sexist abuse of Riccardi, ridiculous accusations of being "anti-Semitic", and a wide array of other largely apolitical and nonfactual assertions.

But, the Monash Zionists are pretty small time. By far the most disgraceful and underhand attack on freedom of speech and the right to support Palestine is the persecution of the Max Brenner 19- a group of pro- Palestine activists who are currently being dragged through the Victorian court. Their crime is "trespass in a public place" [my italics!].

The activists were arrested at a peaceful demonstration outside of the chocolate shop, Max Brenner, which is owned by an Israeli company that provides "care rations" for the Israeli military.

The protests against Max Brenner are part of the International Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign (BDS), taken after a similar campaign during the International anti-apartheid movement against South Africa.

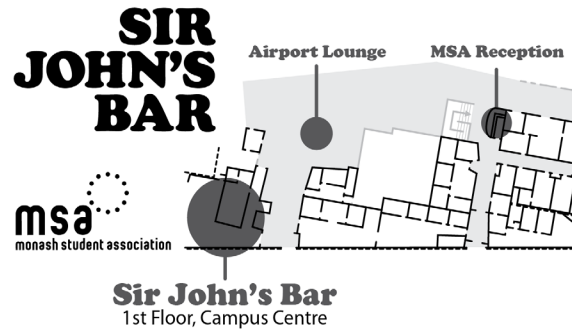
Following the arrests of the BDS protestors, representatives from the Israeli state as well as various other bigots (Kevin Rudd, Greg Sheridan, Michael Danby) went out of their way to affirm their support for Israel and condemn the BDS activists. Fascists, Zionists and Liberal party members also came together to hold counter-demonstrations at the subsequent BDS actions.

It must be frustrating for the Zionists that despite their attempts to intimidate and silence us, the mi-

nority of people willing to publicly criticise Israel and unambiguously support the Palestinians continues to grow. The BDS campaign in particular has seen many successes.

To find out more about Students for Palestine, come to our next meeting (every Tuesday at 1pm in the Activist space- upstairs in the Campus Centre) and come to the next BDS action, at 6pm at the old GPO on Friday May 18th.

For further info:  
sfp@monashclubs.org  
0423 742 453  
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## STUDENT ACCOMMODATION PROVIDER FACES FINE

*Rachel Tosolini*

The operator of a student accommodation provider that falsely claimed an affiliation with Monash University has been ordered by the Court to pay \$3,000 for multiple breaches of the Residential Tenancies Act 1997. The Director of Consumer Affairs Victoria brought action against Monash Residential Apartments Pty Ltd in the Melbourne Magistrates court for a number of charges. These include using tenancy agreements that were not in the prescribed form, failing to lodge bonds with the Residential Tenancies Bond Authority and falsely claiming an affiliation

with Monash University. Monash Residential Apartments Pty Ltd operated premises known as Rusden House, located opposite the Monash University Clayton campus on Blackburn Road.

The matter came to the attention of Consumer Affairs Victoria following the complaint of a tenant. Consumer Affairs Victoria Acting Director Dr Elizabeth Lanyon said it is illegal for residential accommodation providers to claim an affiliation with a reputable school or institution to sustain their own businesses. “Residential accommodation providers are not above the law. Landlords that flout the law or do

not meet their legal obligations will face consequences,” Dr Lanyon said. In this case, a company used the name of a reputable organisation without proper authority. In addition the bonds paid by tenants in good faith were not lodged legally. Under the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 all bonds must be for properties in Victoria must be lodged with the Residential Tenancies Bond Authority (RTBA). Prior to the hearing Monash Residential Apartments Pty Ltd paid approximately \$78,000 to the residential tenancies fund compensate the fund for interest lost on bonds the company failed to lodge.

# MSA REJECTS UNIVERSITY'S SSAF DISTRIBUTION PROPOSAL

*Melinda Bladier*

On April 18, the Monash Student Council (MSC) voted to reject the University's most recent proposal for distribution of revenue from the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF). This year, the University is receiving an estimated \$8 million from students by way of the SSAF. From 2012, this will increase to around \$11 million of student money. The discrepancy in these figures is due to the University accidentally omitting international students from the fee this year.

The University maintains that 100% of the SSAF is going towards student services as stipulated in the relevant legislation. This statement is, however, problematic as it neglects to address the issue of who is best place to provide student services: the University, or student associations. This difference is clearly illustrated on the covers of this edition of *Lot's Wife*. The University's rejected proposal would increase MSA based funding only \$155,000 from last year, and offer

the MSA an additional \$50,000 for expenditure on student activity on Clayton Campus and a further \$30,000 to be spent repairing services damaged by funding cuts under Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU). This paltry proposal firmly indicates a belief that the University should be the primary provider of student services. The MSA maintains that students are best placed to provide many student services, as students often inherently understand student issues, and are an effective source of advocacy and support when individuals are involved in disputes with the University.

The MSA has most recently requested that the University MSA commit to providing the MSA with \$150,000 in addition to base funding, and that this be included in a long term funding agreement. They have likewise requested that the \$50,000 earmarked for student activity on Clayton Campus be included in an overall funding agreement. Furthermore, the

# FUND OUR FUTURE

*The importance of increasing funding to the higher education sector*

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*Esther Hood*

### *The importance of increasing funding to the higher education sector*

*Esther Hood*

As students, we experience the ramifications of the dramatic underfunding of the higher education sector every day. Increased class sizes, decreased one on one contact hours with tutors, and the frustrating transition from the traditional lecture and tutorial structure to a single seminar are all direct consequences of an underfunded system that cannot meet the demands placed on it.

The results of the Base Funding Review (BFR) prove just this. The BFR, released on December 8 2011, was commissioned by the government and conducted by an independent panel chaired by the Hon Dr Jane Lomax-Smith, former South Australian Minister for Education. It found that the current funding system no longer represents the actual cost of providing quality education. This is no surprise. Although the current government has increased the funding to higher education, the sector suffered repeated funding cuts under the Howard Government; without a significant increase in funding, students across Australia will continue to pay for increasingly low quality education.

The BFR has proposed reforming the existing clustered funding system (in which the rate of student contribution varies depending on the degree) to a system where all students contribute 40% and the government 60% to the funding of a degree. While at first glance this recommendation appears fair, the proposed implementation of the recommendation means that students who already pay over 40% will have their fees frozen until CPI is such that they are paying 40%. This would take upwards of 20 years to achieve. Students who currently pay less than 40% would have their fees increased 'incrementally,' leaving the proposal sounding more like a quick fix cash grab from students rather than a long term solution.

The review also recommends the introduction of 'flagship programs.' In essence a 'flagship program' is a particular course, chosen at the discretion of each University, in which only 5% of the student population for that University can gain entrance. Student

and Government contributions for these courses would be up to 50% higher than all other degrees, and according to the BFR they should provide 'a level of excellence and innovation significantly above other course offerings.' This statement implies that these degrees will require a higher ATAR score than many other courses within the institution. This proposal is incredibly concerning as it creates an inequitable system where students who can afford to pay more can buy their way into a more prestigious education. It further ensures inequality, as students with high ATARS generally experience access to well funded primary and secondary education, a privilege that low-SES, rural and regional students often do not have.

It is important to remember the role of education within society, and the effects these proposals would

have if introduced. Education has the ability to bridge the socio economic divide, and benefits all of society, not just the individual. Why then, are we seeing proposals such as these? These proposals inherently contradict the role of education. When education is expensive, it remains accessible only to the rich. When prestigious classes are introduced elitism is created. It is imperative that we do not see an increase to student contributions, a proposal that could become a reality with the government now committed to a budget surplus. To ensure education is accessible to all, and of high quality the government must commit to increasing funding by 10% in line with the Bradley review. To say no to HECS increases, and demand a well funded education sector, sign the Fund Our Future petition available on the National Union of Students Australia website.

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## VOICE OF THE THEATRE

EBONY BOWDEN SPEAKS WITH LIZ JONES,  
CEO AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR OF LA MAMA THEATRE



The office of Melbourne's La Mama Theatre is a misshapen space. On one side of the room, storage boxes are stacked to the roofline in no particular order. Posters from the past forty years are stuck haphazardly over the walls, and desks are put in the only space that is left. This tiny space is La Mama HQ – the office, dressing room and storage space. To Liz Jones, La Mama's Creative Director and CEO since 1977, it is

bliss. "We've tried using other offices but people don't like it. It's a very communal space. It's a very welcoming space and we all relate together," says Jones. Despite running the Melbourne icon for the past 35 years, her desk remains next to everyone else's, in the middle of this chaotic multi-function space.

Jones is 65 this year. She has been running La Mama since she was 30 years old. Her hair is now white blonde and in a few weeks she'll be recovering

from a hip replacement. "You could say I came here in 1973 and never left," she declares, drinking her homemade tea, indifferent to the behemoth Brunetti café across the road. Jones, however, is not a time-worn woman. She paces down the theatre's external staircase to sit in the mid-morning sun and laughs vivaciously when recounting going to London with her lover (now husband, Lloyd Jones) in the 1970s. "I went overseas with my husband - sorry, no! I didn't

go overseas with my husband; I'd left my husband by then! I went overseas with my lover, my now husband," she laughs. In what should presumably be the quieter years of her life, Jones certainly hasn't slowed down. Once a keen actress herself, she admits to recently turning down three roles alone because of her operation.

Liz Jones is the Mama in La Mama. She is warm, engaging and doesn't forget your name. As we speak

Jones unconsciously chews on a croissant, giving the sense from her worn out deck chair that this is her real home and haven. Still, being this enamoured hasn't come without consequences. "What my family has had to deal with is that there's an extra person in the bed, or in the nest, and it's La Mama". She speaks with a hint of guilt. "There was a time when my husband wanted to go and live in the country and teach in the country, and I didn't. Well, I would love to have lived in the country, but I didn't want to leave La Mama. There was also a time when demanding performances left Jones too emotionally exhausted to even give a speech for her son's 21st. "I stopped acting for ten years."

***La Mama is not like any other theatre. It's not exclusive for certain actors and certain performances***

Jones is synonymous with La Mama Theatre, having taken over from founder Betty Burstall who opened La Mama in 1969. "We met as teachers and we instantly engaged with each other," she smiles. Despite her close relationship with Burstall, Jones wasn't always welcome at La Mama Theatre after becoming Creative Director. "I was quite young, I was 30. I think it was really hard because people totally associated La Mama with Betty. She was such a one man band. She really did everything, and people were really a bit shocked that she'd gone and that someone else was running it. You'd open the door and they'd look at you like you were the charlady [cleaner] and say 'where's Betty?'".

Jones was undeterred by a lack of staff and fans. She continued on as both company manager and artistic director, despite having had a baby only a month before. How did Jones rationalise running a theatre with a newborn? "I'd just come home from hospital and had my first baby, and I thought 'I'm going to have so much time... I'll run it!'"

After 35 years at La Mama, Jones' career has come full circle. She is no longer just a director, but a teacher too. Pippa Bainbridge has been her right-hand woman and La Mama's Company Manager since 2009. Bainbridge is energetic and full of life like the women before her. "I have known Liz for three and a half years. For me, Liz has been a real mentor. She is a very big asset to La Mama for her capacity to mentor

and develop us as artistic leaders". Jones is proud of her young staff and looks forward to her retirement and leaving La Mama. "I want it to stay the way it is, but that won't be up to me. I have such a young, dynamic staff now that is beginning to take lots of initiative".

Despite La Mama being a darling in the theatre scene, working there hasn't always been desirable and Carlton hasn't always been an attractive part of town. "Now, La Mama has got such a profile, I think people would fall over themselves to want to help me run it. In those days, I approached about three people and it just didn't appeal to any of them. So in the end I just did it on my own. Initially, on my own meant on my own. I did the cleaning," explains Jones, conveying just how much La Mama has grown. It is hard to imagine the director of any theatre doing the cleaning. But La Mama is not like any other theatre. It's not exclusive for certain actors and certain performances – "Betty didn't see this as being anyone's exclusive home. She always saw it as being open to all-comers," - and unlike grander theatres, the seating is limited to forty. La Mama has an outhouse for a toilet and a bonfire for heating.

But La Mama is more than just the building (a 19th century clothing factory). For the people who love La Mama, including Liz Jones, this theatre is about artistic freedom. "This is such a blank space; you can paint anything you like, except the emergency lights. This has been filled with water; it's been filled with sand. I'm okay with that". Despite torturing the building, Jones loves it more than anyone else. An archaeological dig, years ago, revealed a 10 centimetre layer of paint on the floor. "It's amazing because when you look through it you can actually see certain productions". It's true that Jones knows this theatre better than most. "I hope that what this place means to most people is artistic freedom and that people, whether they live on the street or not, still have a chance to work here. It should never be exclusive".



# A FIELD GUIDE TO THE MODERN DICTATOR

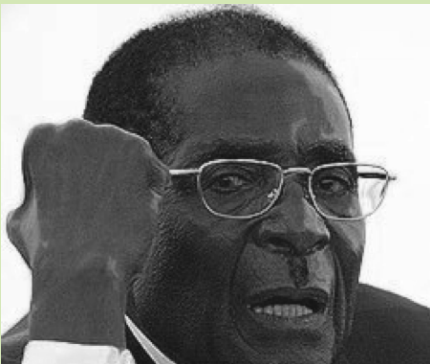
Rebecca Irvine

*With the imminent release of Sacha Baron Cohen's fourth film, The Dictator, here at Lot's we thought we'd better debunk the myths about how crazy dictators are...then we realised they actually are crazy! Human rights abuses are something they all have in common, but each and every one of these classic dictators has their own personal quirk and charm.*



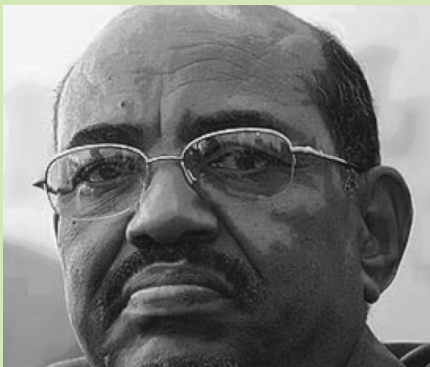
**The Generic Middle Eastern Dictator: Bashar al-Assad**

Assad's ascension to power in 2000 after the death of his father, the former President, was a curious occurrence. After the Syrian parliament had voted to lower the minimum age for candidates from 40 to 34, so Bashar could even run for election, he won an astounding 97% of the vote. One can only imagine that his father's repression, frequent massacres of Sunni Muslims, and extrajudicial executions of his people had left a good impression on the electorate. Ironically, despite being the former head of the Syrian Computer Society, since taking power Assad has intermittently blocked websites like Wikipedia, Youtube and Facebook, in addition to passing a law requiring internet cafes to record all comments posted on forums by customers. Over the last couple of years, the people have showed their support for the human rights abuses imposed by the President's regime by taking to the streets and protesting, leading to a constitutional reform limiting Presidential terms to 14 years. It may only be a couple of years before we see the end of Assad.



**The Inflation Master: Robert Mugabe**

At 88 years of age, Mugabe is the ripened old President of Zimbabwe, his regime of oppression having spanned the last quarter of a century. Mugabe has banned homosexual acts (and pretty much anything else fun) in his country, and left his people to suffer from hyperinflation while he spews out anti-Western rhetoric. Mugabe is a true democrat who holds regular elections; which he wins by killing anyone who opposes him. Following the 2008 elections, when he was defeated at the polls, Mugabe called for a second election and in the intervening weeks ordered his soldiers to beat up and displace opposition voters. Funnily enough, he won the second round of elections with an overwhelming majority of 85%, demonstrating how much the people truly love their leader.



**The Warlord: Omar al-Bashir**

Al-Bashir's main claim to fame is that he is the first head of state to ever be indicted by the International Criminal Court. The ICC, one of the least effective international institutions of all time, issued an arrest warrant for him on counts of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Given the ICC's utter lack of power, and the fact that they've only managed to deliver one conviction, EVER, it's unlikely that this warrant is a threat that keeps al-Bashir up at night. al-Bashir isn't exactly the world's best dictator, having lost half his country in a civil war (South Sudan declared independence in 2011), but he did manage to be partially responsible for the deaths of 2 million Sudanese in the process. Luckily for this burgeoning dictator, his country has been blessed with a significant amount of oil, which China has no scruples in taking off their hands, and thus Sudan has found itself a valuable ally in the Security Council.



**The Chubby Nightmare – Kim Jong-un**

The third incarnation of the socialist dynasty that has repressed North Korea since 1948, Kim Jong-un is a cake-loving, spherical dictator. Sporting what is almost a hipster hairdo, short on the sides and curly on top, the youngest Kim is almost as interested in fashion as he is in food. His attempts to improve relations with the military have consisted mostly of holding hands with his security guards, an endeavour which suggests that his Swiss education was unable to inspire him to adopt pacifism. North Korea's pudgy overlord shows little indication of relaxing the policies of his forefathers, with hundreds of thousands still enslaved in gulags in the country's north. We can only hope that a copy of this article does not fall into this Supreme Leader's hands, lest it is paraded as an example of yet more Western vitriol.

关系

# AND DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA

**Erik Korpas**

Inside the Beach Volleyball Stadium during the Beijing Olympics, frantically running around between interviews to translate for one of the biggest television companies in the world, Eric Wang's story is interesting yet far from unique in China.

Originally from Shanghai, Eric chose to enroll in a University in Beijing largely because he wanted a chance to see the 2008 Beijing Olympics. In his third year of University, a close friend of Eric's learned of a job opening within his company, translating at the Olympics. Knowing Eric's passion, and seeing as Eric had always helped him with his studies, the friend realized this was a great opportunity to return the favor. He knew that the manager was from the same small town as Eric in Southern China and that this could give him a real advantage over the hundreds of other candidates for the job. Sure enough, only one interview was held, Eric mentioned their common friend and where he was from in China, and he went on to get the job.

These are just two examples of how关系, or guanxi, works in modern China. Helping someone is remembered for a long time, and will be of benefit in the future. Being from the same town, or even having a link to that town, and meeting in a city far away can be of major value.

Loosely translated as 'relationships' or 'connections' guanxi runs deep in Chinese society and is essential to understand and develop if you want to succeed in business in China. The Associate Dean at the Faculty of Business and Information Systems at Hong Kong Polytechnic University Howard Davies and three co-writers stated in a 1995 report that "The most common contrast between Western and Chi-

nese management practice lies in the emphasis placed on written contracts and procedures in the former, compared with personal relationships in the latter."

Guanxi revolves around the idea of returning favors – if you scratch my back I'll scratch yours. It exists to some extent in the West, but is much more defined and emphatic in China. The concept dates back several thousand years to when the legal system was underdeveloped and guanxi was commonly used to secure business deals and protect oneself from authority. Today the concept of guanxi remains an important part of Chinese culture when building business relationships. One must devote time to build a relationship over multiple dinners and karaoke nights before expecting to close a deal.

*“Loosely translated as ‘relationships’ or ‘connections’ guanxi runs deep in Chinese society”*

“The contracts would often come at the end of the process - but to get to that point required good guanxi” says Daniel Nivern, Co-founder and Director at CRCC Asia, a consulting company that advises international firms on coming to China, and runs an internship Program for foreigners in China. CRCC Asia has brought over three thousand people to China on its Award winning Internship Program, and Daniel has witnessed first-hand how foreigners are slowly coming to terms with the business culture here.

“When I first got here, teaching ‘western’ business procedures to the Chinese was common practice; nowadays it seems that it's more common teaching

Chinese business culture to westerners!” Indeed, the number of foreigners in China is growing everyday with several hundred thousand living in Shanghai alone. It's getting increasingly important to distinguish yourself from the crowd, and an understanding of Chinese business culture and local etiquette is essential to successful.

Having some previous China experience and knowing how to strike a good relationship with a Chinese counterpart can really make you stand out from your peers. As a result, many students are now choosing to study Mandarin or spend an exchange semester in China. Others aim to get on-the-ground, practical business experience, which is why the internship market has boomed in the last decade. CRCC Asia has seen the number of annual participants rise from 250 in 2009 to approximately 1500 in 2012. The model works effectively as the foreign intern gets work experience in the fastest growing economy in the world, and the Chinese company gets to have an international employee who can contribute different ideas and different ways of thinking from what they are used to.

Eric, who expanded his network even further during his time working at the Olympics, is now holding seminars on Chinese business culture for expats in Shanghai. He states that things in China don't change very easily. In the same way that you should expect Chinese rice wine and Karaoke when going out to a business dinner, you will also have to accept and embrace the importance of guanxi when working in China.



# BIRTH CONTROL POLICY SURROUNDED BY MISCONCEPTIONS

Michelle Li

It is the veritable triumvirate of controversy: the woman, her body and the state.

Barack Obama’s recent introduction of a policy requiring contraceptives to be covered under health insurance, without co-pays or deductibles, has been met with much debate in the US. This policy, amended in 2012, greatly reduces the out-of-pocket expenses that are incurred alongside the purchase of these medications. In a country where nearly half of all pregnancies are unintentional, and in a world where a staggering number of women die from pregnancy-related causes or suffer from sexually transmitted disease, contraception improves public health on such a scale that it ranks as one of the greatest public health achievements of the past century.

Yet, despite the progressiveness of Obama’s policy, there has been an outbreak of protest against it.

Perhaps the largest goldmine of misconceptions—pardon the pun—has arisen from the pro-life Republican camp, exemplified by former presidential candidate Rick Santorum. Quote, “What we are seeing is a problem in our culture with respect to children being raised by children, children being raised out of wedlock, and the economic impact and the impact on society.” Whilst correctly identifying several pertinent cultural issues, Santorum fails to understand that contraception functions as a mechanism to prevent pregnancy and therefore reduce the impact of all that he has outlined, such as the burden of population growth. When society lacks this fundamental knowledge on birth control, and has misconstrued ideas about its purposes to such a degree, opposition to a national policy that affects half the population is not only foolish, but also dangerous.

Furthermore, contraception is misunderstood by some, including Santorum, to be “a license to do things in a sexual realm that is counter to how things are supposed to be.” The very suggestion that there is

a specific way that “things are supposed to be” smacks of a conservative attitude towards sex, as well as a woman’s right to bodily autonomy.

Even then, it is often overlooked that contraceptive drugs do more than simply prevent pregnancy. For example, the pill reduces menstrual cramps, protects against endometrial and ovarian cancers, regulates menstruation, controls acne, manages PMS and lessens period pain. Logic dictates that birth control is not always synonymous with promiscuity. The idea that a woman should simply “close her legs” rather than “drain tax-payer dollars” by accessing free contraception is not only highly misogynistic, but ignorant of the entailed health benefits. With 50.8% of the population comprised of females, the epidemiological impact of contraception is by no means insignificant—boasting high efficacy rates, it deserves the same right to government funding as other public health measures.

***“In respecting religious beliefs, individual and gender rights must also be considered.”***

Social conservatives have also opposed the policy on religious grounds. In particular, Catholic authorities disagree on a moral level with providing access to free birth control, given their pro-life advocacy. However, it makes greater logical—and indeed, moral—sense to let the matter lie with the individual, rather than the institution.

Regardless of their reasons, an individual has the same right to choose to use contraception as they do to refuse it, and it is not an institution’s place to provide a moral compass on an area of policy that is highly personal. Republican Roy Blunt recently

raised a narrowly defeated challenge to Obama’s bill, aiming to exempt religiously-affiliated institutions from having to provide free insurance coverage for birth control drugs and devices. This challenge, had it been successful, could have strongly disadvantaged a number of people, including non-religious women—professors and students at Catholic universities, doctors at affiliated hospitals and workers at associated charities do not necessarily share the same religious or moral views as their employers. A woman should be allowed to make her own decisions, rather than have a third party pre-emptively limit her options on her behalf. In respecting religious beliefs, individual and gender rights must also be considered.

Timothy Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Cardinal-elect, was another strong spokesperson against this healthcare reform. He stated, “To force American citizens to choose between violating their consciences and forgoing their healthcare is literally unconscionable”. This idealistic vitriol is a pervading theme in the debate surrounding the policy. The existence of a woman’s choice, and the idea that she possesses her own moral compass, is forever ignored.

The solution is quite a simple one. If a person is consciously opposed to contraception, they don’t have to use it. If religious beliefs lead them to forgo healthcare, then the problem lies with faith, not policy. Obama’s healthcare reform does not force the pro-choice ideal upon women—it renders the choice more affordable, and therefore, accessible, to a significant proportion of the population. Furthermore, it recognizes that this choice is the domain of the individual. Covering birth control under health insurance is a socially progressive move, and one that should be applauded as a long-overdue recognition of the multiple benefits that contraception offers.

# THE POVERTY OF POPULAR DISCOURSE ON ALL ISSUES “INDIGENOUS”

James Grout

Popular discourse on issues relating to Australian Indigenous peoples is profoundly impoverished. This impoverishment is due neither to a lack of sympathy, concern, or good intentions. No. Bleeding hearts and well-meaning people abound on this subject. And yet the road to hell is paved with the best of intentions, gilded with righteous outrage and often trodden by even the most angelic amongst us.

What is continuously lacking from the contemporary discourse on Australian Indigenous issues is a sense of historical perspective. This is most pronounced not only (nor surprisingly) in government rhetoric and public policy, but perhaps more problematically in the concurrent work of influential journalists. A prime example of the latter is Russell Skelton who was interviewed for the last edition of Lot’s Wife.

As this recent article explained, Skelton, who writes for Fairfax media, is currently preoccupied with reporting on issues relating to Indigenous people and communities, primarily in far-northern Australia. He has also recently published a book called King Brown Country: The Betrayal of Papunya.

As Skelton’s journalistic approach confirms, even the more educated, experienced and intimately informed amongst us can produce accounts of Indigenous issues that are strikingly ahistorical and therefore, in crucial ways, defunct. Defunct because these accounts ironically entail the perpetuation of the very problems they set out to address.

Skelton defines his basic journalistic interest in terms of the ‘effectiveness of public policy’; simply put, does government policy work or not. While this may appear to constitute a politically neutral position - Skelton assumes the apparently impartial role of a critical observer of contemporary policy and its implications for people ‘on the ground’ - it is in many ways deceptive, especially when it comes to government policy designed “for” Australian Indigenous peoples.

The main flaw of this kind of journalism is the very way the issues are framed (i.e. Northern Territory Intervention, petrol sniffing, alcohol abuse, youth suicide, child abuse etc.) in terms of a success or

failure (or “betrayal”) of government public policy. In remaining wedded to this point of view, and unconscious of the broader history of white settler government in Australia, journalists like Skelton fail to articulate a stronger and more effective critique of the nature and legitimacy of such government authority over Indigenous peoples.

As was recently demonstrated in a radical history lesson given by renowned Aboriginal anarchist Gary “the agitator” Foley at Monash Clayton campus, the fundamental problem of Australia’s colonial origins makes the federal and State governments’ consequent claims to jurisdiction over Indigenous peoples especially dubious. But because people like Skelton do not adequately consider the history of relations between settler and Indigenous peoples in Australia, because they neglect the historical truth that the lands and waters were taken from Indigenous peoples without treaty, reparations or apology (that is stolen), these critics are unable to ask the more challenging and pertinent questions that such a historical understanding prompts, i.e. why is it legitimate for a white-settler government to determine policies for Indigenous communities of people?

***it would be more productive for us to first address “gaps” in our own historical understanding of contemporary issues***

They are unable to question the authority of the Australian government in this sphere of its public policy. Without a historical perspective, this legitimacy is always and already assumed. In summary, what (re)emerges is a clear case of ‘the definition of the problem being a part of the problem itself.’

Furthermore, because this kind of framing of Indigenous issues lacks historical perspective, journalists such as Skelton inadvertently propagate the same stereotypes, misconceptions and prejudices about Aboriginal Australia they seek to overcome. Indeed, the sense of despair, community dysfunction and

perpetual crises commonly portrayed in the media industry reinforces negative imagery of Indigenous people in the public mind and serves to legitimise further interventionist/assimilationist policies from federal governments, such as that being implemented in the Northern Territory. Ironically, this reporting becomes part of the vicious circles journalists seek to expose and condemn. For Skelton and those who buy into his picture of the ‘Aboriginal problem’ as a matter of (in)effective government policy, the solution can only be a matter of ensuring better Federal Government policy, rather than seeing (foreign settler) government itself as the problem.

Only truthful understandings of our shared histories will allow us to question the authority of settler governments in Australia and challenge their control over the lives and lands of Indigenous peoples.

It is our responsibility as non-Indigenous peoples, especially as young students, not to simply accept the way problems are framed for us by governments or the media. Instead, following Foley’s suggestions, it would be more productive for us to first address “gaps” in our own historical understanding of contemporary issues so that we might be more receptive to, and accepting of, Aboriginal peoples’ political claims for recognition of their sovereignties, rights to land and self-determination. It is only by addressing these claims, which raise unsettling questions about the Australian state’s legitimacy and seek to fundamentally alter the political and economic circumstances between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, that we might begin to make meaningful and lasting progress together in terms of social justice.

If you are interested in learning more about white Australia’s black history and/or organising to demonstrate solidarity with Indigenous peoples, please come along and participate in a student-run, political though not aligned discussion forum on Mondays at 12pm in Wholefoods or email jegro5@student.monash.edu.

Alternatively explore coursework units offered by the Indigenous Studies Centre, Australian Studies or History Department at Monash University.



# SOUTHERN MIGRANT AND REFUGEE CENTRE

When refugees and new arrivals come to Australia, the initial barriers they face are considerable. They must find houses, jobs, schools for children, and learn how to access services such as banks, local GPs and hospitals. Difficulties are often increased by language barriers, and individuals often face cultural differences between Australia and their home country.

The Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre (SMRC), a community based organisation that operates in the Cities of Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia, provides support to refugees and new arrivals. SMRC was founded in 1993, and has grown in size and outreach since its inception. Jenny Semple, who has been CEO of the organisation for the past 14 years, says that changes in the local community have occurred concurrently with this. When Ms Semple began in her role, the refugee communities she worked with were largely Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian, a consequence of the breakdown of Yugoslavia. Ms Semple has subsequently seen an increase in Afghan refugees, then communities from Africa, leading to the current renewed growth in Afghan refugees, in particular those from the Hazara community. The communities and individuals which it is SMRC's prelude to support change, it seems, in tune with global events.

SMRC does not work with asylum seekers, and is not responsible for providing counseling support to torture victims. Despite this, Ms Semple says that SMRC has a strong history of providing culturally appropriate services which allow migrants and refugees to feel more at home in Australia. "Understanding the culture and the background of people is critical... I believe that we're the experts in this area."

Providing culturally appropriate services means, for Ms Semple, talking to refugees and migrants and adapting services to meet their needs. Whilst many of SMRC's staff are bicultural and bilingual, and a considerable number are migrants, these are not conditions for employment with the organisation, and all staff are provided with a strong orientation program. Professional interpreters are used for all services apart from SMRC's Diverse Care program, in which

qualified bilingual workers go into the homes of aged migrants and provide personal care.

***"Understanding the culture and background of people is critical."***

SMRC offers a wide range of aged care services, and a large number of programs for young people and their families. Examples include the homework support program, in which volunteers help students with their homework – whilst this may seem like a small task, education is of extreme importance in gaining a job in Australia, and being successful in school has the potential to enormously affect an individual's future. In SMRC's settlement program, refugees and new arrivals are given information about many services, including finance, education and health services, and how to access them. A lot of the program is about "educating clients about mainstream services and to be independent and able to access them".

The SMRC also offers family counseling and support, parenting programs and community development programs. Mentoring programs are also provided for youths "that schools would consider at risk of disengagement". The aim is always to offer people the support networks necessary to help them eventually find their own feet.

The largest barriers refugees face upon arrival in Australia are, in Semple's opinion, housing and employment. Whilst some refugees don't need the help of SMRC and quickly become self-sufficient, others face more issues and may rely on SMRC for some time. This disparity is not a judgment on the capabilities of individuals, but a reflection on the fact that all refugees and new arrivals, like all other Australians, are "individuals with individual circumstances".

Ms Semple says that the main challenges she face in her role are due to the organisation's limited funding; "it's working on a limited budget and doing the best you can". Most of SMRC's funding comes from government bodies, and the funding dedicated to the



Jenny Semple

refugee sector is, in Ms Semple's opinion, restricted. With more funding SMRC could increase the number of programs that it runs, and provide services to more people.

Despite these restraints, Ms Semple believes Australia is a global leader in refugee resettlement. For her, seeing an Afghan migrant gain employment at SMRC and then leave to start his own restaurant, which has become extremely successful, is an example of the successes that emerge from effective settlement programs. Ms Semple also believes that Australia can take more refugees, and that the benefits of a highly multicultural society are vast, "it's diversity, it's different ideas, it's new skills".

Fourteen years after beginning in her role, it is a passion for her clients that keeps Ms Semple at SMRC, and a profound belief in what the organisation has to offer. The culture of support which underpins the organisation's commitment to helping people to access basic services is a key tenet of SMRC, and fundamental to the settlement of many refugees and new arrivals.

*For anybody interested in volunteering in aged care or youth services at the SMRC, please contact them on 9706 8933 for more information.*

# ALLOWING REFUGEES, MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS TO RISE

Haseena Manek

The treatment of Australia's 'Boat people' is currently a hot topic in the national media. Should Australia be taking refugees? Can we handle more refugees? Will we be overrun by an 'Asian invasion'? What do we do with people who arrive without visas? The solution to this trumped-up paranoia is detention.

About 50,000 people overstay their visas each year in Australia, compared to the approximately 2,000 arriving by boat and seeking asylum. On average, 95% of people seeking asylum arrive by plane. As of 2012, there are eight detention centres in Australia, not including the Christmas Island Immigration Detention Centre located on the eponymous, excised Australian territory. Those looking for protection in Australia are people fleeing war, violence and oppression in their home countries, who, when put into immigration detention, are incarcerated and in some cases, held indefinitely within the confines of the Australian immigration detention complex.

Recently I had the opportunity to sit down with Ramesh Fernandez, founder of RISE: Refugees, Survivors and Ex-Detainees. In 2009, Fernandez, along with some other youths at RMIT's CBD campus, founded RISE at the campus' Swanston Library. After three months they moved to their current CBD location in Ross House. RISE officially launched in 2010.

"The main reason we started RISE," Fernandez says, "was to have a place for people in our community to be respected and have a safe environment where they can come and raise concerns about what they feel about certain things, including settlement or policy or their own personal issues. We don't have luxury funding, but we try as much as we can to assist people."

RISE has taken a very firm position against mandatory immigration detention, and is vocal in its advocacy work on behalf of those in detention as well as those who have come out of the system but still suffer the effects of their time inside. "Many of our members fled war zones or other traumatic experiences, and were then exposed to trauma inside detention," Fernandez says, "and some of the problems they are facing now in the community are a result of what they

endured in detention. As an organisation that works with them and for their interests, we have to address those issues. It would be dishonest not to."

Fernandez arrived in Australia from Sri Lanka in 2001, and was held in detention for three years. "I wanted to empower my own community," he says, when asked why he wanted to be a part of an organization like RISE, "and tell others: chill out, pipe down, we can look after ourselves. Organizations speaking on our behalf don't have the first-hand knowledge, and RISE fills that gap. They're out there doing ad hoc work which is not relevant to our lives, and it's not relevant because they are not part of the community they claim to serve."

RISE defines itself as a "not-for-profit incorporated association... the first refugee and asylum seeker aid and advocacy organization in Australia to be run largely by refugees, asylum seekers, and ex-detainees; as such, we view those who seek assistance from RISE as members and participants, not 'clients'." Members can access all of the RISE services regardless of status and at no cost.

RISE also does an extensive amount of advocacy work through community education, research and publishing, positive media coverage as well as legal and governmental advocacy. In advocacy, and in their programs and services, RISE stays true to its core values. The RISE Charter reads: "...successful resettlement is best achieved by engaging refugee and asylum seeker communities." Indeed, the ideas behind many

of RISE's annual projects actually come from members of the community themselves.

"I am not fond of any organization working for refugees unless refugees themselves are involved in decision-making or governance" says Fernandez. RISE's governance system is structured so that all RISE board members must be active members of refugee, migrant and asylum-seeker communities. "We cut out the middle man," explains Fernandez, "by working with our own communities."

Organizations that provide services to refugee, migrant or asylum seeker communities have to ensure that they are providing a foundation that will give the people they are working with a sustainable future in Australia. That means engaging with people and empowering communities that are being marginalized by current policy – in some cases it means stepping aside and letting those communities articulate their wants and needs themselves.

RISE, independent of the Australian Government, is able to work on a grassroots level to support, empower and engage with refugees, migrants, asylum-seekers and those in community detention. In only two years, RISE has an established drop-in centre with public computers, a resource library, an annual arts festival in Federation Square as well as over a dozen programs and workshops.

**Find out more about RISE at:**  
<http://riserefugee.org/>





# ROLE MODELS AND SCAPEGOATS: THE FOOTBALLER AS ‘PUBLIC FIGURE’

David Heslin

In the simplistic political discourse of privilege and oppression, any suggestion of a link between professional sportspeople and disadvantage may sound counterintuitive. The best AFL players earn upwards of \$1,000,000 a year, whilst even the lowest paid earn substantially more than a retail, hospitality or even low-level government employee. Their work, as it were, consists of one game a week from March through to September, regular training sessions and various media and sponsor-related commitments. In the football-obsessed cities of Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth, players can earn the adulation of tens of thousands of fans and receive praise for their talents in print, radio and television media. On these counts, they're not exactly doing it tough.

With such fame and wealth, however, comes the problem that most celebrities encounter: media harassment. Unlike some entertainers who use the attention for their own purposes, footballers generally have no say in whether or not these incursions into their privacy will take place; thus, it is common practice for popular media organisations to seize on any personal information—preferably scandalous—about the extracurricular activities of footballers and expose it to the public as a ‘news’ item.

Although criticism persists, media organisations defend their behaviour with a range of justifications: that footballers are public figures; that such stories in the public interest; that to legislate against these practices is to suppress journalistic freedom.

By far the most insidious claim, and perhaps the one that has gained the most traction among the public and news media, is the ‘role model’ argument: that is, the concept that footballers’ influential position in society means that they ought to be held to a higher degree of personal responsibility. It’s a spurious argument—the idea that footballers should be morally

accountable to the public for their private decisions is a patent absurdity—but an extraordinarily effective one. This paradigm has become so widely accepted that any player misbehaviour is now viewed as a serious threat to the credibility and, crucially, marketability of their club and code.

This extends not just to serious criminal allegations such as assault or sexual abuse, but to traffic and drug offences, public drunkenness or anything that can be construed as improper behaviour. The law of the land—let alone the widespread media coverage and predictable consternation of self-righteous media commentators—is rarely deemed sufficient punishment by the AFL or its clubs. Sponsors and all-important public image must be protected; thus, one or both will inevitably do the (perceived) proper thing by levying further penalties upon the offending player. Such responses have become so common that they are now expected; indeed, demanded. The result is that the mere accusation of misconduct is sufficient to earn a hefty fine, suspension or, in some cases, termination.

A deeper problem is the presumption that non-football-related transgressions lie within the jurisdiction of the AFL or clubs at all. It is arrogance beyond belief to assert that a football suspension is an appropriate response to, say, a sexual assault; nevertheless, the AFL increasingly seeks to assert its own moral correctness by offering its own form of retribution. It and its players must be seen to exert a positive influence on society—‘role models’, as it were.

One of the gravest instances of this mentality was the year-long suspension foisted upon West Coast Eagles player Ben Cousins for drug use. Drugs and sport have always had an uneasy relationship: the prospect of unfair advantage brought about through use of performance-enhancing drugs is understandably anathema to sporting codes dedicated to maintaining a level

playing field. What was troubling about Cousins’ treatment, however, was that he had neither been accused nor suspected of using performance-enhancers; instead, he was found to have used recreational drugs which, while illegal, have no link to unfair advantage on the sporting field. This fairly fundamental distinction is one that the AFL and other sporting bodies seem unable or unwilling to make. Instead, the charge laid was that of causing damage to the organisation’s PR; a claim dependent on the (in this case, frequently and disingenuously invoked) role model argument. By suspending Cousins, the AFL grossly prioritised its public image and marketability over an employee’s career; a model that has persisted over all subsequent scandals. This consistent preference for knee-jerk punitive response displays a shameless disregard towards the players that make the corporation profitable.

Such decisions, some may argue, are entirely the AFL’s prerogative—the rules of the game, as it were. Popular media organisations tend to be comfortable with that conclusion; the ‘role model’ doctrine, after all, is a key justification of their own muckraking and ethically questionable behaviour. What has emerged out of this is an unusual societal stratification: a class that earns a disproportionate amount of money, whilst being stripped of a right to privacy and held to an unrealistic level of moral responsibility. The one neither justifies nor cancels out the other; both are, to different degrees, a blight on our society.

The fact that these are the established rules does not make them just. As football supporters, we need to remind the AFL that it is the players we go to watch, not the administrators, sponsors or betting agencies that profit from their competition and our patronage. Likewise, we have a choice as media consumers whether or not to support those sources which treat people contemptuously in the pursuit of profit.

# SEMANTIC DOLDRUMS

Jack Kenchington Evans

Public political discourse has entered the semantic doldrums. The ease with which one may rebut an argument on the ground that it reductively caricatures its topic of criticism would be laughable but for the fact that it sadly reflects the dissolution of genuine political debate in our society.

Take the following examples: in last year’s Age, December 21, Peter Costello wrote that Europe’s economic woes were due to it being the “home of social democracy”. Later that month, Professor Donald Brook wrote in Contemporary Visual Art + Culture Broadsheet that “Capitalism is staring ruin in the face”. On January 10 this year, Occupy Wall Street tweeted that “Fascism is the combination of decaying capitalism and crass nationalism. We are seeing the rise of both in action” and over 2011 mainstream US Republicans continued to label their “socialist” President’s plan to tax billionaires at a higher rate than their secretaries as “class warfare”.

Each of these claims may be summarily dismissed for want of factual support: Costello ignores the successful northern European social democratic model; Brook’s wild assertion is unsupported (in fact, he undermines his ‘critique’ by noting in the same article the Randian narrative accompanying the expansion of big business into social media); the rhetoric of the Occupy movement, often influenced by a not-unsubstantial contingent of bizarre anti-establishment sub-groups, creatively manages to mistake small government neoliberalism for fascism; as for the language employed by the leaders of the largest political party in the US...well, at least they don’t go as far as their Tea Party brethren, who manage to believe that Obama is simultaneously a Muslim, a Nazi and a Kenyan.

Putting aside our Tea Party friends, the reason why an empirical argument against these claims is so easy to make is because the language employed in the arguments is simplistic.

Concepts like “socialism” and “social democracy”

cannot be bandied about with semantic impunity: they are the abstract meta-structure supporting a perpetuity of more specific ideas, policies and societies. Socialism, as the 1955 split of the ALP, and its continuing factionalism, attests to, is not so easily pigeonholed as some would have it. Costello’s criticising ‘social democracy’ has the unfortunate corollary of attempting to dismiss what are considered successful national models - such as post-war Australia, Britain and Japan and today’s Scandinavian societies - alongside the failing Mediterranean economies. Does Costello intend to critique palatable ‘socially democratic’ policies such as social safety nets, government provision of public-interest services, and the recognition that the market cannot be left entirely to its own devices? Closer to home, Costello may wish to consider the socially democratic nature of his Future Fund, which, prior to - and confirmed by - its raiding by Rudd and Gillard, resembled something of a Keynesian slush-fund.

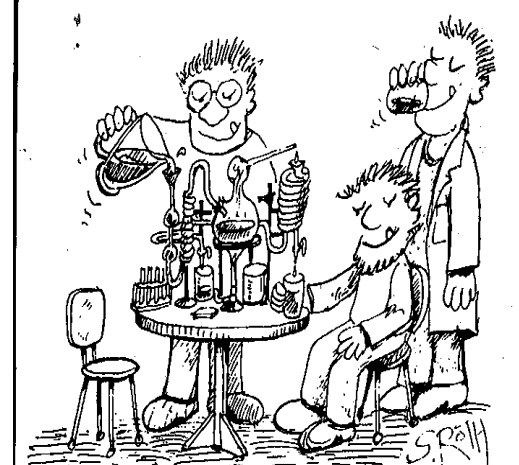
It goes without saying that the right’s mischaracterisation of left wing politics has negative democratic implications (although the audacity of the Murdoch media’s branding of the NSW Greens as both Stalinists and “watermelons” demands comedic laurels for painting Australia’s third largest political party as a swaggering, moustachioed tropical fruit). However, the left hand of politics is not clean either: there persists the belief that one may criticise “capitalism” as if it were a simple, internally coherent concept.

What does it mean to criticise “capitalism”? Are Brook and the Occupiers railing against the freedom to spend one’s earning on items of one’s free choosing, the neoliberal movement towards economic globalisation, the privatisation of traditional public services, the once-hailed efficiency of deregulated financial markets, or the ethical implications of competitiveness and corporatism? It is unclear. Because they appear to criticise all aspects of capitalism, critical and antagonistic commentators may comfortably

dismantle their argument from any and all angles, and, for better or worse reasons, dismiss their ideas as unsophisticated.

The simple solution is to use more specific language, which compels critics to engage with the core argument, rather than attacking the inadequately defined terms. An additional benefit of both sides of politics presenting more nuanced rhetoric is that it is necessarily preceded by a greater understanding of the opposition’s arguments. An appreciation that one’s opposition is (hopefully) neither stupid nor evil is as integral to facilitating debate as is the clear articulation of one’s concerns.

(This article was originally published in In Brief Magazine. Like them on facebook.)



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# A EULOGY TO BOB BROWN’S POLITICAL CAREER’

Frances O’Brien

On the 13th of April, Senator Bob Brown resigned as leader of the Australian Greens and announced his retirement from politics. Bob Brown has been a polarising figure in Australian politics. His 26-year career in Australian politics was long, outspoken and the foundation of the Australian Greens movement.

In 1972, Bob Brown became a member of the United Tasmania Group; Australia’s first green party. Bob Brown soon went on to lead one of Australia’s most significant environmental campaigns, preventing the construction of the Franklin Dam on the Gordon River in Tasmania. The dam was proposed for the purpose of generating hydroelectricity, and the construction of the dam would have flooded the Franklin River valley. In 1982, after the dam proposal was

announced, the dam site was occupied by protesters, leading to increased media attention and a number of arrests, including that of Bob Brown. Brown spent 19 days in prison. On the day of his release in 1983 he was elected to Tasmania’s State Parliament. The dispute became a federal issue in March 1983 with the support of Brown. The prevention of the dam construction was made a campaign promise by the Hawke Labor government, and was kept when the party came to power.

Throughout his political career, Senator Brown was very outspoken on the issues he believes are of great importance to the values of the Australian Greens, and to Australian society as a whole, regardless of how his views contrasted with those of the

major parties. Brown’s views on border control, which conflict with those of the major Australian political parties, came to culmination in 2001 when the Howard Government refused to allow 438 asylum seekers to land on Christmas Island after being rescued from the MV Tampa. Senator Brown was also extremely vocal in his opposition to Australia’s participation in the 2003 Invasion of Iraq. Brown has come to be recognised as the leading voice for the anti-war movement in Australia.

Regardless of whether you love or hate Bob Brown, it is impossible not to admire his skill and commitment in building the Australian Greens party to become the force in Australian politics that it is today.

# WELCOME TO MONASH UNIVERSITY OF ART

Anna Carrig

The newly incarnated Monash University Museum of Art, otherwise endearingly know as MUMA, is located in Building F on the Caulfield campus beside Dandenong Road. Drivers in the evenings would recognize the site by the Marc and Eva Besen commission Silverscreen 2010, a distinctive work by Calum Morton that appears as a lattice of light against the side of the building. Approaching the gallery instead from the Ian Potter sculpture gallery, students wander into a spacious foyer area where the attitude of the interior architecture references the elements of its construction.

Max Delaney, the Director of MUMA, tells of how this allows the visitor to “create their own itinerary” to navigate the space, an element that demonstrates how “at least metaphorically we tried to escape the limitations of the bourgeois picture gallery”. Instead the space is flexible, transforming from white cube to black box with ease for the various exhibitions throughout the year. In its new location, MUMA has welcomed more than double the num-

ber of guests through its doors than previous years, when MUMA was housed on Clayton campus.

MUMA has a rich and colourful history that is mapped out by the exciting and diverse collection of 1800+ works with a focus on presenting and promoting the work of Australian Contemporary Artists. The collection boasts inclusions by renowned artists including the likes of Tracey Moffat, Patricia Piccininni, Howard Arkley and Richard Larter to name a few.

Currently on display at MUMA is ‘The Collector 7: The Processor of Circumstance’ an animated and intriguing installation by Hobart based artists Meijers + Walsh, who document the strange and obsessive collecting habits of an invented figure, Henri Papin. Expect to be entranced by the whirl of his machine and intrigued by the kinetic constructions that engage material as diverse as magnetic attractions, band aids and crystals. Also on display is ‘Vision in motion’ by Narelle Jubelin. Focusing on this single artist, we’re made privy to a history of modernism in Australia intricately stitched and sewn in the petit point style. The dedicated survey of Jubelin’s work is then married

with ‘Dissonant Visions’, a show featuring work from the Monash Collection by artists that worked alongside Jubelin in Sydney throughout the 80s and 90s.



Narelle Jubelin, *Vision in motion*. Exhibition ends 7th July

# THE BODY IN THE LIBRARY

Nick Fuller

Detective stories combine ingenuity and imagination in a way that few other genres do. At its heart, a detective story is a battle of wits between the reader and the wily author, who has some new cunning (but fair) way of distracting attention from the culprit. And then, when the solution is revealed, not through plodding routine, but in a blinding flash of illumination and the hurling of the divine thunderbolt of revelation - WOW! If the author is good, then the solution will be both unexpected and completely logical and justified, so that the reader can look back and understand how the whole deadly design fits together.

The best detective stories are more than problems; they’re also richly imaginative stories, with humour, atmosphere and vivid characterisation. Agatha Chris-

tie and Sherlock Holmes are world famous, so, like good wine, need no bush. Who else should you read? My advice would be to start with G.K. Chesterton and John Dickson Carr, who pull off the impossible feat of being dazzlingly ingenious plotters and master storytellers; we find murders in locked rooms, or victims vanishing before half a dozen startled witnesses, so that it seems the crime must be the result of supernatural forces—until the detective reveals a rational solution. (If you like the puzzle plot, then try the Americans S.S. Van Dine and Ellery Queen, and the British Christianna Brand.)

For something more eccentric, consult Gladys Mitchell’s witty, flamboyant Mrs. Bradley—psychiatrist, witch and acquitted murderess—who finds herself embroiled with multiple decapitations, witchcraft, ghosts, and modern day spell-books. If

you want character-driven detective stories, then Nicholas Blake, Ngaio Marsh, or Margery Allingham are musts. After Carr & Mitchell, the best humorous writer is Edmund Crispin, whose hypo manic Gervase Fen romps through a dozen stories. If you’re of a more scientific bent, and want writers who excel in plot construction and focus on detection, look up R. Austin Freeman, J.J. Connington, Freeman Wills Crofts, and John Rhode. And, for something modern, combining all the best features—brilliant plotting, titanic ingenuity, a lively wit, memorable characters, and literary power—Reginald Hill’s Dalziel and Pascoe series, particularly On Beulah Height. Something for everyone; a mystery tonight!

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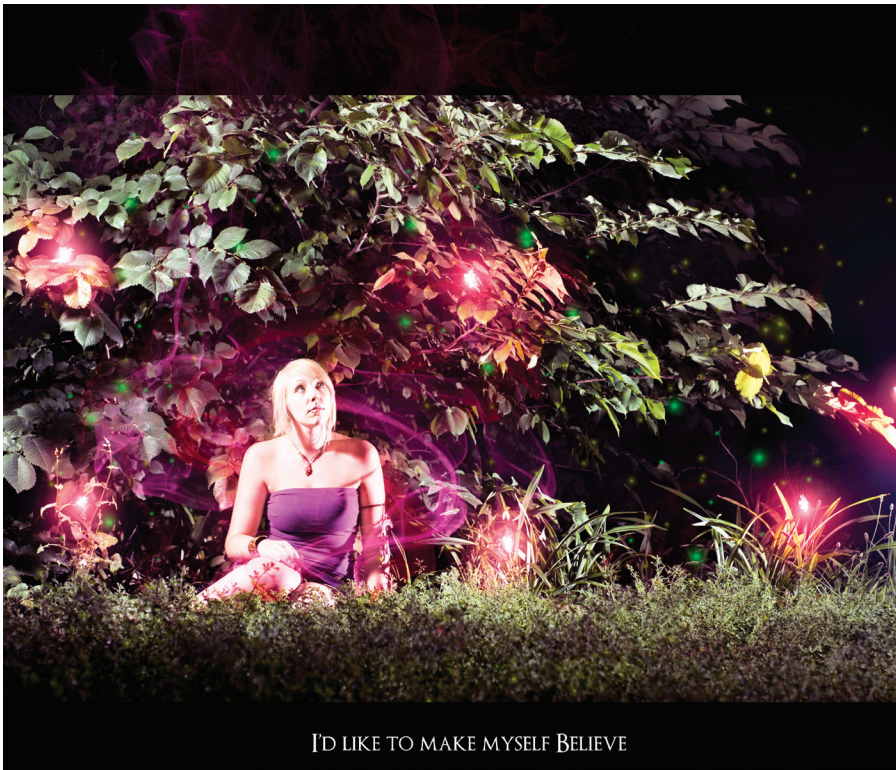


# PHOTOS IN FOCUS

WITH BEN DONALD



I've been making pictures on and off for years now. Photography offers an incredible range of experiences, and I've had the pleasure of shooting live music events, running my own concept shoots with incredibly talented collaborators on fun things like 'Where the Wild Things Are' and a conspiracy between an angel and a demon to split the profit on a soul. My promotional work has been used on posters, postcards, stickers and business cards. I learn new things whenever I pick up my camera, and I have a blast every time.



Ben Donald (above)

# // CREATIVE //

# // WRITING //

## BARREN

*Michelle Li*

The wasteland stretches, endless.  
As time replicates in proportions infinite;  
Contortions of the phrases that coil  
Around our necks, beautiful  
In their syntax.

The fever sets deep, and the delirium  
Sets us tumbling abed,  
The sickly flush upon our cheeks  
Like nascent plague rose blooms.

But the days are set in arcade loops  
And winter's child weighs heavy  
Underneath this aching heart,

With no future to be cradled  
In these fledgling arms.

We see no changes in the months,  
Though calendars mark them true;  
I cycle through the bloody seasons  
And feel no visceral stirring, save

Acid reflux,  
Retrosternal burning.

## TO THE WARMONGERS OF THE WORLD

*Md Roysul Islam*

Come out, come out, into the sunlight,  
we want to see your slimy faces, shiny and bright.  
Our stones are ready with hands held high,  
to remove your masks of greed and lies.

We are the people, who wandered away,  
from your hypocrisy and betrayals.  
Now we are awake like giant waves,  
to crush your dreams, and weapons of mass deaths.

You led us to the paths of false fights,  
where our children are killed days and nights.  
We curse you from the bottom of our hearts,  
Earth has no room for you but hell's delight.

We curse the days you were born,  
as innocent as our mothers' children.  
No tears will be shed on your deaths,  
while hellfire seizes you by your heads.

We will unite our hands and march to freedom,  
as your bodies become food for the worms.  
We feel sorry for the worms as they devour  
The cursed flesh and bodies of warmongers.

## COFFEE DATE WITH PHANTOM

*Jarryd Redwood*

Sitting in The Den  
sipping chai latte from a scaly saucer  
the coffee machine sounds like idle chatter  
The brunette phantom rises  
like a celestial body  
evaporating to dust at the sight  
of the bearded dragon  
When is my love  
my phantom?

my resurrection?  
my silence?

Mimesis of a foreign mind  
lay open on my lap  
Stalkwardly warking bye  
Mr. Potter waves away a cloud of steam  
and bobs his head like a cork  
in the ocean

An insincere smile  
waltzes across the bare slate  
as eyes land again on yellowed paper

Coffee is a true drink  
that tastes its color  
like brown baubles  
A cold echo choes  
off vomiting walls

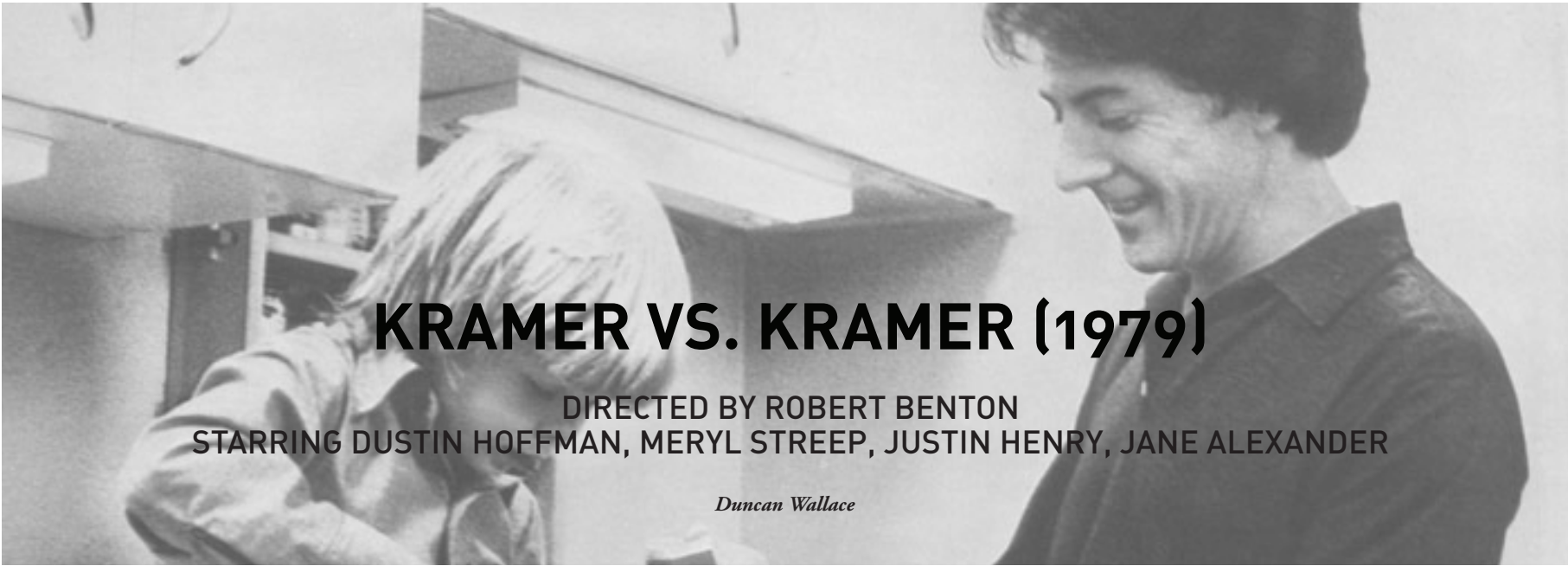
A silver spine full of metallic quivers  
a needle in the tailbone  
Awaiting mam that want appear  
a mouse waiting for a python  
to strangle out its heart

A raging tocker in my fear  
I'm date for a late

3 p m  
slst slst slst slst

Moses and Mises part the glass ocean  
To die





*“I came here to take my son home. And I realised he already is home.”*

Kramer vs. Kramer tells the story of a divorce that truly breaks your heart. From the outset, we are confronted with the agonisingly abrupt breakup of Ted (Dustin Hoffman) and Joanna (Meryl Streep), and the devastating portrait of a fractured family. However, the plot is all the more heart-wrenching when the couple’s child, the disarmingly cute Billy (Justin Henry), becomes the unknowing subject of a trying battle for custody. It’s a particularly upsetting legal dispute because, in Joanna’s absence from the domestic picture of their quaint Manhattan flat, Ted and Billy experience a transformative reconciliation which doubtlessly has left many audiences in tears. Kramer vs Kramer won five Academy Awards and saw maiden Oscar triumphs for Hoffman and Streep as Best Actor and Best Supporting Actress respectively.

Kramer vs Kramer is a commanding, honest study of human relationships and the character developments which define them. The Kramer family, in the process of separation, becomes just as changed as its individual members. At its simplest, the film stands as demonstration of how we can improve our relationships and learn to approach them in a way that is respectful and amicable, despite unavoidable awkwardness and tension. Ted’s transformation from an impatient and inconsiderate husband to a composed and devoted father is obvious proof of this, but so is Joanna’s thankful epiphany at the conclusion of the film. After winning custody of Billy she realises

that removing him from Ted’s apartment, the enduring symbol of the happiness and security of family, is too heartbreaking a contemplation. It’s easy to think that Joanna irreparably ruined her family, but by the end of the film the audience sees her as a mature and courageous woman who has changed for the better, and has actually changed her family for the better. Ted’s admiring smile acknowledges this as she ascends an elevator at the end of the film to speak with Billy about the future.

The film’s portrayal of these relationships, on another level, serves as commentary of the changing social conceptions about fatherhood and motherhood in the 1970s. The story is acutely conscious of the value in presenting a balanced perspective about the merits of Ted and Joanna’s prospective custody. In court, Ted pronounces his frustration at society’s unspoken assumption that mothers are somehow best placed to have custody. He admits his own guilt and error in previously supposing that women might not have ‘the same ambitions’ as men, but in the same breath challenges the justifiability of the view that a woman is a better parent ‘simply by virtue of her sex’. He claims desperately, and rightfully, that no gender should have a ‘corner on the market’ on the aspirational virtues of good parenting. His lawyer, however, warns him that unless he can steadily maintain a job and demonstrate a solid relationship with Billy, Ted has ‘no chance’ of winning custody. However, the plot’s huge emphasis on Ted’s transformation isn’t to

discredit Joanna’s position. Instead, it’s an attempt to dispel presumptive attitudes towards the comparative validity of either position. At a time when divorces were becoming more commonplace, this film crystallises a changing consciousness about parenting.

Lastly, the film presents us with the transitional awkwardness of resolving a social problem through the legal system. The adversarial pressures of the system make harsh victims of Ted and Joanna, rather than alleviate their sincerest concerns. Joanna breaks down in the face of accusations that she was a ‘failure’ in the most important relationship of her life, and Ted is forced to grudgingly respond to cynical questions which ‘don’t have a yes or no answer’. We’re even warned about the ensuing messiness by Ted’s lawyer, who discloses candidly that he’ll have to ‘play rough’ in order for Ted to win custody. The limitations of the system’s ability to give effect to the best interests of Ted, Joanna and Billy are on full display. The divisive remedy which the law offers is even questioned by its reluctant beneficiary. Ultimately, we’re left with a trio of flawed and vulnerable characters who somehow manage to transcend the need for the attribution of blame or the allocation of responsibility, and look instead for mutual convenience, resolution and reconciliation.

# FILM REVIEWS

## MURIEL’S WEDDING (1994)

*Estela Pham*

An Australian comedy that is unafraid to critique and celebrate the suburban grotesque. Muriel’s wedding, directed by P J Hogan, follows the life of Muriel and her adventures in and out of Queensland’s suburbia. Muriel, played by Toni Collette, is a gawky, Abba-loving misfit who desperately wants to be accepted by a group of popular, bitchy girls.

By chance, Muriel bumps into old

friend Rhonda, who is anything but pretentious. Rhonda inspires Muriel to escape from her monotonous suburban life, and the two run away to Sydney. In the big smoke, the pair experience the opportunities of city life. Muriel is obsessed with getting married, and being accepted and successful. She perseveres to extreme lengths to achieve these aims.

However, despite her grand aspira-

tions, Muriel will always be the dancing queen of suburbia. Toni Collette excels in making Muriel a lovable, endearing character regardless of her flaws. Muriel often incites despicion, but the situations that she finds herself in are just too funny to forget. Cringe-worthy but hilarious, this is an unforgettable Australian comedy.



## REBELLION (2011)

*Estela Pham*

Rebellion, written and directed by Mathieu Kassovitz, is a confronting account of when, in 1988 in Ouvéa, New Caledonia, a group of French gendarmes and GIGNs( counter terrorist operatives) were taken hostage by a group of Kanakan separatists. The Kanakan separatists demanded independence from France, but after 10 days of negotiations, French forces were instructed by their right-wing French government to abandon negotiations. They were then instructed to ambush and brutally execute the separatists.

The events are recounted through the GIGN negotiator, Phillippe Legorjus. However, the film also highlights the Kanakans’ perception of the events. The Kanakan separatists were not terrorists - they were non-violent fathers and young men, who were calling for freedom from France.

Kassovitz has invested in Hollywood-like dramatic sounds and picturesque shots of Ouvéa to create a visual and aural memoir of Legorjus’s experience. At times the film is conflated to

fit into the genre of Hollywood action thriller. However, these Hollywood techniques are effectively used to stir feelings of discomfort.

The events in Rebellion leave viewers, and the characters, with a desire for events to finish. This is most pertinent at the end of the film, when we are reminded that New Caledonia is waiting for the 2014 referendum on Kanakan sovereignty. Kassovitz’s film is cliched at times, but provides a deft education on democracy, colonialism and Indigenous sovereignty.



## THE FIVE-YEAR ENGAGEMENT

*Joshua Reinders*

Let me just mention first up that any Lot’s Wife readers who consider themselves fans of NBC’s Community will easily be able to justify the price of admission to The Five-Year Engagement based on the strength of Alison Brie’s (who plays Annie) utterly hilarious supporting role alone. As to whether anyone else should see it, well that all depends on whether you a) have a sense of humour and b) believe in a thing called love. Readers who answered ‘yes’ to the preceding should expect to enjoy a genuinely funny slice of comedy that

manages to do something I hardly thought possible: drag the familiar rom-com formula kicking and screaming out of the shallow, tepid waters where it has contented itself to tread water for far too long. And although The Five-Year Engagement runs quite long for this type of film, the plot is so well-woven that I can’t begrudge the writers the extra half hour it took them to tie it all up.

Four stars.





# NON-STOP STOPPARD

Martin Shlansky

## ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD

This season, Monash University Student Theatre (MUST) and Monash Shakespeare Company present Non-Stop Stoppard, involving the production of three plays by Tom Stoppard between May 10 and June 1st.

MUST presents Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, a play featuring two secondary characters from Hamlet in the moments they aren't seen onstage. Directors Tom Lawton and Jonathon Powell describe the play as "absurdly intelligent" and brilliantly written, and describe bringing a play like this to life as presenting unique challenges and opportunities.

Having "exponentially expanded" upon the metatheatrical elements of the play, the design of this production highlights the discordant harmony of the action onstage, occurring offstage in the source material.

The majority of the events occurring onstage for the audience of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern take place offstage in Hamlet, though there are moments where events from Hamlet are seen from the perspective of this plays protagonists. The set design is intriguing, combining elements that at once feel natural and uncanny; an audience member can feel that just behind this set is the stage of Hamlet, with charac-



ters from Shakespeare's tragic masterpiece coming backstage to enter the action of Stoppard's tragicomedy.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead intensely examines identity; the title characters lack strong identity and the action taking place around them draws them along. This action is, however, perpetrated by the play's minor characters, who seem far surer of themselves.

In a modern world where we have many different public and private identities, it's interesting to see what the consequences of not having an identity are. Rosencrantz, played by Nigel Langley, and Guildenstern, played by Liz Thiessen, prove to be companions in an existential nightmare. Both begin to lose their freedom to self-determine their paths as their senses of self vanish, and the semblances of identities they possess are revealed to be flimsy.

The character of Rosencrantz tends to offer simplistic (sometimes stupid) statements that, in the world of the play, are sensible; meanwhile, Guildenstern speaks with more intelligence, yet her words tend to be punctuated by holes in her logic as the universe frequently contravenes her assertions. At the end of the day, they're "two sides of the same coin".

## DOGG'S HAMLET, CAHOOT'S MACBETH

The Monash Shakespeare Company (MSC) recently presented Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth, two plays written by Tom Stoppard and intended to be performed together. They were offered as a double feature.

Dogg's Hamlet takes place at Dogg's School for Dangerous and Special Boys and Girls, a 1960s English private school, on the day of a performance of a truncated Hamlet by the students. The denizens of the school make bizarre use of the English language, leading to much of the humour and intrigue. The audience's only respite from the inane language use is the character of Easy, an outsider who is as dumbstruck by the cant of the play as the audience is likely to be.

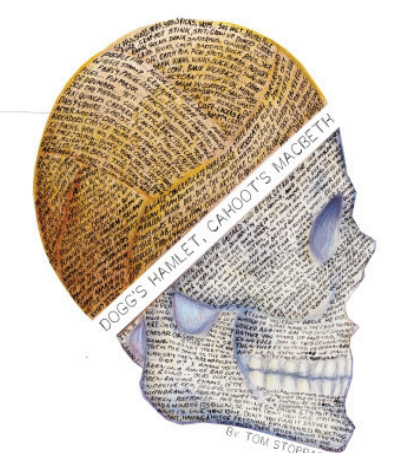
Comedy (and this play is definitely comical) is derived from many sources in Dogg's Hamlet; the silliness of the language, the incomprehension between characters, good old fashioned slapstick and the hectic deconstruction of language and meaning as events progress. By the culmination of the 15 minute Hamlet and its encore (you read that right) sense and sensibility seem to have been abandoned in a humorous and educational manner.

Cahoot's Macbeth sets itself in 1970s Czechoslovakia, some time after a revolutionary totalitarian communist regime has been replaced with... a revolutionary totalitarian communist regime. Under the repressive gaze of the restructured state, an air of tension permeates everything. Theatre in its freest form has been heavily censored, and people whose lives have revolved

around the dramatic arts have been forced to find a living elsewhere. But when people cling to the things they hold dearest, they always find a way to pursue them, no matter the cost.

The theatre troupe at the focus of the play has found a means to continue practicing their art for an appreciative audience, but it is both secret and illegal. Their performance for the evening is a unique rendition of the Scottish play, but with the uncertainties of the times, it is fate that things don't go quite as planned. A night in at the theatre is set to be the moot court for opposing ideologies. Based on true events, Cahoot's Macbeth explores the power of art as an agent of rebellion, as a means of self-expression and as a way of life, even in a society where the price of living freely can be a lengthy spell in prison.

Tom Stoppard has been hailed as a master of playwriting for his wit, insight, and incredibly engaging material. These offerings from Monash's student theatre groups are not to be missed.



# MTC REVIEWS

## AUSTRALIA DAY

Carmel Wallis



### Australia Day

**Venue** Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse  
**Season Dates** 21 April to 26 May 2012  
**Opening Night** Thursday 26 April 2012 at 8pm  
**Tickets** from \$56 (Under 30s just \$33)

**Booking Details** The MTC Theatre Box Office 03 8688 0800 or [mtc.com.au](http://mtc.com.au); Arts Centre Melbourne 1300 182 183 or [artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au)

Based on the experiences of playwright Jonathan Biggin's as an Australia Day ambassador, Australia Day invites audiences to the small town of Coriole to witness the devotion with which its Australia Day committee (somewhat problematically) begins to plan its Australia Day celebrations. A small sample of the town's multicultural make up (mostly white, mostly middle class, mostly in favour of snags on the barbie) with just a few outliers to challenge the town's entrenched way of life, sets the scene for the play's tensions, treading effortlessly between humour and drama.

As the five cast member ensemble battles its way through disagreements about who'll pick up the gas bottles, what kind of sausages should be served and questions the racial sensitivity of the local dance troupe performing an Indigenous dance number, broader questions sneak in. Implicit in each decision is a compromise between old and new, between differing values and the legitimacy behind each of these value systems. Is Australia Day really as multicultural as the speeches would have us believe when the coun-

cillor needs to slyly enquire as to whether any Muslims will be present at the naturalisation ceremony?

In the midst of each character passionately defending their way of doing things, amid wine poured into mugs, runs a secondary motive; politics. A political spectrum running from a Liberal mayor hopefully agitating for a seat in Canberra through to a surprisingly ambitious Green's senator, allows the play to not only poke fun at the way of doing things when it comes to celebrations like this, but the reason behind each character doing the things they do. Pulling no punches, the play savages (with savage humour) the lengths each of the committee will go to in order to see their vision come to fruition; both for Australia Day and beyond.

Australia Day perfectly captures each element of the accepted hypocrisy of Australia Day celebrations, defending its necessity as much as it questions it. Deftly negotiating political correctness with an unapologetic humour, Australia Day is about as Aussie as it gets, whatever that means.

## BOY GIRL WALL

Sam Whitney

"This is not a love story" proclaims the narrator (Lucas Stibbard) of Boy Girl Wall from the start of the piece, signalling, of course, the beginning of a love story. The play, performed solely by Stibbard, isn't revolutionary in terms of its plotline (a boy and a girl, living in adjacent rooms in an apartment block, separated only by a wall, are perfect for each other, but don't know it), but it is the play's little twists and turns which impart charm to an otherwise tired formula. The only character who realises that they'd be perfect for each, for instance, is the wall who separates their rooms.

Stibbard, armed with minimal props (mostly

comprising a piece of chalk and some blackboards) is energetic, engaging and exquisitely well timed. It's evident Tom knows who his audience is. His brand of humour delighted the matinee crowd, which on this particular evening was largely comprised of VCE students in hysterics over Tom's personification of A Boy, A Girl, A Wall, two Despicable Bosses as well as a host of other characters.

Boy Girl Wall follows the lives of the play's protagonists through their respectively shitty days. The mundane problems that they face sometimes let down the script by opting for common and easy day-to-day woes which seem unoriginal rather than merely

recognisable. But the play redeems itself in the unique way that each problem is unpacked and occasionally resolved.

Boy Girl Wall is fun, inventive and it's a pleasure to watch a performer like Stibbard pace through the play. The format chosen suits the play's content perfectly and the little jokes and asides are as entertaining as the play's focus. An excellent choice for the Lawler studio's season launch.

Details for the play, as well as tickets, can be found at <http://www.mtc.com.au/>



## INTERVIEW

### INTERVIEW WITH JEN CLOHER

For someone who only started to take guitar and music seriously about ten years ago, singer-songwriter Jen Cloher has come a long way, at both a professional and personal level.

In 2010 Cloher wrote a letter for Women of Letters, a female discussion forum lead by Melbourne author Marieke Hardy. Cloher read the letter publicly on stage, and recognises it as the first time she openly declared herself to be gay. The letter speaks of when she was 12, and her desire to kiss another girl.

“When I was 20, that’s nearly 20 years ago now, we were told not to talk about it, because you’d be pink listed, which meant you’d only have a gay audience, or people won’t engage with you because you are gay. Just that kind of bullshit,” she said.

In 20 years though, Cloher has seen a shift in the environment. Especially within the artistic community, she says that being gay and being an artist is now spoken about, and it is not seen as something subversive.

“All of my songs are very obviously addressed to women, especially the love songs. I haven’t hidden that and I’ve certainly never said ‘he’ or lied and tried and cover that up,” she says.

In the last five years Cloher says she has felt more comfortable about

being transparent about her sexuality, and does not have the worry that it will alienate her.

In her music, Cloher is all about connecting with her audience, whether they are men, women, gay or straight. She believes that it is crucial to include yourself in songwriting, and connections will grow from that. “There needs to be something of you in there or something that you care about, whether it’s real or imagined.”

Cloher played her first show in over a year at the Northcote Social Club a few weeks ago, and looking out at the crowd “it wasn’t all lesbian, and it wasn’t all women. Certainly more women than men, but there were plenty of men, all different ages and backgrounds.”

That is exactly what Cloher wants; she wants to connect with a wide variety of people, who ever they may be.

“I’m interested in people, not demographics, not whether they’re cool and wear the right clothes, or listen to this radio station. I’m over all of that shit now. Whatever. People are people. Get over it.”

*Jen Cloher plays with The Merri Creek Pickers at The Caravan Club in Oakleigh, on May 18*



## TOP 5 SONGS...MONEY

**It’s a common sentiment in a lot of songs that we don’t need money as long as we have love. As impoverished students, we can take some comfort from these songs that we should be happy without the evil dollar.**

#### Can’t Buy Me Love – The Beatles

Paul McCartney’s own explanation of this song is that money can’t buy him what he really needs. What he really needs is love and affection, which no diamond ring can offer. There is a way to buy affection, of course, but apparently McCartney doesn’t take kindly to that suggestion... the song is about a prostitute.

#### Mercedes Benz – Janis Joplin

Showing their lack of understanding for this song, Mercedes actually used this song for one of their advertisements. Joplin was really singing about the need to compete in the material world, and those who turn to their religions for personal gain. Declaring it to be a song of “great social and political import” is her way of aiming it at the superficial ills of society.

#### Money – Pink Floyd

“Money, so they say, is the root of all evil today,” is pretty much the whole premise of this song. Some people have

mistaken this for a tribute to money, but it is really a stab at all the bad things money brings to the world. Kind of ironic, seeing as Pink Floyd made a whole packet of money from this song.

#### Get Rhythm – Johnny Cash

We might complain about our less than pleasant part-time jobs, but at least you’re not getting “a nickel a shoe.” Just take Mr. Cash’s advice and “get rhythm.”

#### For The Love of Money – The O’Jays

Oh, the lengths some people will go to for a bit of “cash money.” The O’Jays had it right with their funky, soul tune about how crazy money sends some people. The song really speaks for itself: the worship of money will send you mad. Aren’t you glad you’re flat broke?



## ALBUM REVIEW

### FATHER JOHN MISTY FEAR FUN

John Tillman has stepped out from behind the drum kit of Seattle-based folk band Fleet Foxes and is forging a path of his own under the name of Father John Misty.

While the incredible harmonics in this album bear some resemblance to his previous band, there is not much else similar in this new venture.

Those who have heard the lead single Hollywood Forever Cemetery will notice it stands alone as a low-fi indie rock track. The rest of the album takes on a more traditional folk and country sound, with violin and organs mixed in

with Tillman’s vocal harmonies.

Tillman proves with Fear Fun that he is much more than a drummer, and evidently has a wide stretching talent to bring songs seeping such sadness and beauty.



## GIG REVIEW

### COURTNEY BARNETT

#### EP LAUNCH

The Tote, Thursday 19 April

The crowd turned out in force on a Thursday night to see Courtney Barnett launch her EP, I’ve got a friend called Emily Ferris. Along with the four constants on stage, the number of musicians totaled 11 throughout Barnett’s set, really emanating the sound that she produced in her EP.

With so many musicians on stage, some songs turned into a cross between a half self gratuitous jam and a demonstration of Barnett’s friends’ talents, with piano and guitar solos a plenty. Despite these demonstrations, there was no sense of grandeur about it. It was really all about the music.

Barnett’s frank and honest air meant

there wasn’t all that much need for banter, when her songs communicated all that she needed to say. Mixing beautiful harmonies, talented musicians and honest songs together, Barnett showed that she could translate her recording to the stage.



## ALBUM REVIEW

### JACK WHITE BLUNDERBUSS

We know him as part of The White Stripes, The Dead Weather or The Saboteurs, but what can Jack White offer with his own solo album?

Having heard so much Jack White over the years, this is an easily identified record. He puts in just enough cat-scratch guitar, banging of drums and unique vocals that it is undeniably his album.

He rummages through blues, soul, traditional rock’n’roll, and even country

throughout his solo debut, discussing matters of the desires and disillusionments of love.

While this album is not a great unveiling of an unknown artist, it is still a tribute to Jack White’s talent and abilities not only as part of a band, but also as a stand alone performer.



## GIG GUIDE

#### Leader Cheetah

Northcote Social Club  
Saturday 19th May

This is your last chance to see the band before they head off into songwriting and recording mode. It promises to be an intimate show, with support from Courtney Barnett & Band, and Dan Waters.

#### Devin

Northcote Social Club  
Thursday 24th May

You might have heard Devin’s style of old school rock’n’roll being played on the wireless. If you like it, we suggest you hop on down to Northcote to get a glimpse of the man in action. His SXSW shows were, by all reports, a hit.

#### Flight of the Conchords

Rod Laver Arena  
Sunday 15th July  
Because who doesn’t love Brett and Jermaine?

#### Tumbleweed with King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard, and Sun God Replica

The Tote  
Friday 25th May  
Road testing the new songs they write in a whirlwind of touring, Tumbleweed will delight their longstanding fans. Their “stoner rock” will ring through The Tote, the place of their first ever Melbourne show.

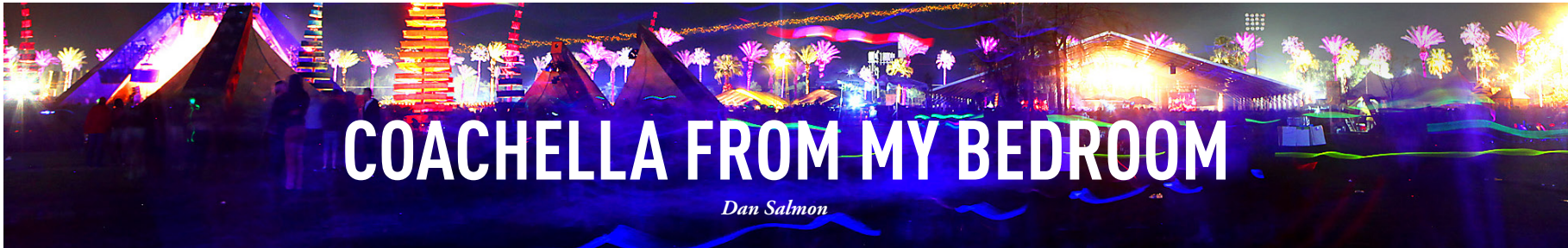
#### Trial Kennedy

The Corner Hotel  
Saturday 23rd June  
Catch the boys from Trial Kennedy on their farewell tour.

#### Bob Dylan Night: The 50th Anniversary Concert

Melbourne Palais Theatre  
5th & 6th July  
Five distinct Australian performers join together to honour Bob Dylan’s remarkable legacy.





A few weeks ago, a good friend of mine told me of her intention to head to the US and complete the South by Southwest/Coachella double whammy. After cursing her very soul for a couple of days, I was informed that this year the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival would be doing a weekend-long webcast with the help of YouTube. “Finally,” I thought, “I can have all the ‘Jesus fuck what act am I missing?’ festival panic from the comfort of my bedroom!”

And so on Friday night, as is customary when one goes to a festival, I packed the essentials (sleeping bag, food that doesn’t require preparation) and took what I knew would be my last shower until Sunday afternoon.

In true festival fashion, I didn’t manage to be there for the beginning. Normally, I could blame the

traffic or not knowing how to set up the tent we just bought, but the fact of the matter is that it was 8am on a Saturday and I had turned my alarm off. Good thing the builders on the roof woke me, or I may have missed more than I did. As it was, Neon Indian got my festival off to a good start with a set worthy of the finest NES soundtrack.

With three channels broadcasting simultaneously, it was often difficult to choose which acts to see, but there was some absolute gold. The 90s revival has definitely reached unstoppable momentum, with Yuck channelling Pavement on one stage, while Tim Armstrong belted out “Ruby Soho” on another – I was fast realising that the beauty of the live stream was that moving between stages didn’t involve a fifteen minute walk and waiting for a friend who

needed to go to the toilet first. Personal highlights were the indomitable Pulp, who never fail to make a set feel like sex (which was convenient, considering I was already in bed), and, of course, Thom Yorke’s band, whatever they’re called, who played an amazing two hour set that included everything you wanted to hear and quite a few you didn’t realise you wanted to – Neil Young’s “After the Gold Rush”?

Absolutely.

The fact that this e-fest made me late for an actual gig I had paid real money to see is testament to how enthralling it was. After watching Tupac’s ‘one afterlife only’ performance, however, it was time, inevitably, to return to the real world – unwashed, disoriented, and with a distinct fear of natural light. A weekend well spent.

# ME AND BIG DICK

Nick Fuller

## In a series of how not to listen to music.

Richard Wagner: the greatest composer in the world (as he would have gladly told you); the man who singlehandedly unified drama with music, thereby proving his superiority to Sophocles, Shakespeare, Mozart, Beethoven—in fact, pretty much anyone you’d care to name. His colossal genius meant that he was widely recognised as the Third Reich’s favourite composer, with high-ranking Nazis and soldiers alike ordered to attend his operas to understand the true spirit of Germany. True, he died decades before—but, as a philanthropic idealist who wrote pamphlets on “The Jew in Music”, Wagner believed that superior German art had to be kept free from any taint of French or Hebraic influence, that meat eating was the result of Jewish corruption, and that it would be a jolly good thing if all the Jews in Germany were burnt alive during a performance of Lessing’s Nathan der Weise; he would have embraced Hitler with open arms.

Wagner was an optimistic, happy-go-lucky chap whose operas all involve death, sex, bounteous cascades of blood, angst, sin, and redemption: usually by the heroine jumping off a cliff, dying of saintliness, or throwing herself into a funeral pyre while the stage is flooded, the gods go up in flames, and the end of the world comes. Holy Grails and Schopenhauer are usually worked in as well. It is said that Wagner composed the entire score of Parsifal, an opera about abstinence and the renunciation of the flesh, while dressed in women’s clothes and reeking of cheap perfume.

At his best, Wagner’s music is extraordinary. He had the genius to recognise that the audience didn’t need tunes or story, but “endless melody” composed of leitmotifs and heightened recitative, with basses very slowly telling the audience exactly what they saw the night before. The operas have an average running time of six hours (or, in extreme cases, four days), which is why catheter sales quadruple whenever Wagner’s on. Bizarrely, his operas weren’t blockbuster successes until he built his own special theatre at Bayreuth (which he wanted burnt down afterwards—

preferably with the audience inside) and demolished the reputation of his one time benefactor, Giacomo (né Jacob) Meyerbeer.

Nowadays, Wagner’s operas are widely loved wherever there are highbrows who believe that art is suffering. That said, Wagner showed his brilliant flair for comedy in Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, a warm-hearted Rodgers & Hammerstein type musical in which a Jewish caricature is beaten up by the entire town, publicly humiliated, and then driven out of the community. As Goebbels said to Himmler at the Nuremberg Rallies: Lawks, what laughs. The nobility and heroism of Wagner’s works is shown in Parsifal, a treatise on philosophy and racial purity, and Rienzi, which gave the Führer the idea for the Third Reich (“In that hour it all began”). Wagner wrote a couple of works which don’t make the audience want to invade Poland (Woody Allen’s line, not mine). The best is Lohengrin, which is rousingly tuneful, dramatic, and actually has human beings rather than demigods—and argues that asking questions (such as “Who is this guy who’s just appointed himself Protector of Flanders? Where does he come from? How did he rise to power? Why do I have to trust him blindly?”) is a BAD idea.

Hardcore Wagnerians prefer Tristan und Isolde. The underlying philosophical idea of the opera is a confusion between sex and death: Tristan and Isolde

love each other so much they want to die (a sentiment shared by the audience), and tell each other this for four hours of orgasmic screeching, with a philosophical discussion of night and day and a coitus interruptus thrown in for good measure. Tristan demonstrates his love for Isolde by tearing open his wound and spurting blood all over the stage, much to the audience’s disgust. This reveals far more about Richard Wagner than it does about Tristan and Isolde. Wagner was, in fact, the first notable musical emo. The first performance was a disaster: nearly everyone had committed suicide, except for one priest, who ran out in horror halfway through the second act, and so escaped with his life and wits intact, which could not be said for the Tristan, who topped himself a couple of weeks later. It was a very depressing failure for Wagner, and even more depressing for the Tristan.

SURGEON GENERAL’S WARNING: Wagner can take over your life. Patients have been struck down in their prime with Wagneritis, the symptoms of which are a tendency to talk about Gesamtkunstwerk, write horribly pretentious Symbolic poetry, read scores and scores of studies, and murder their nearest and dearest for tickets to Bayreuth, Wagner’s shrine to his own genius. This is the guy who presented himself in Parsifal as the Redeemer. Well, at least the world was spared Jesus von Nazareth, in which he would have presented himself as the son of God.



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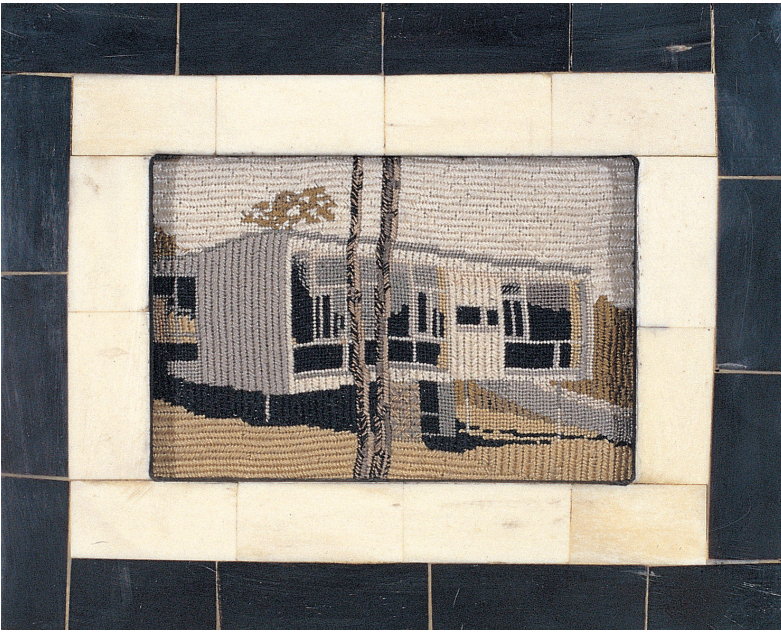
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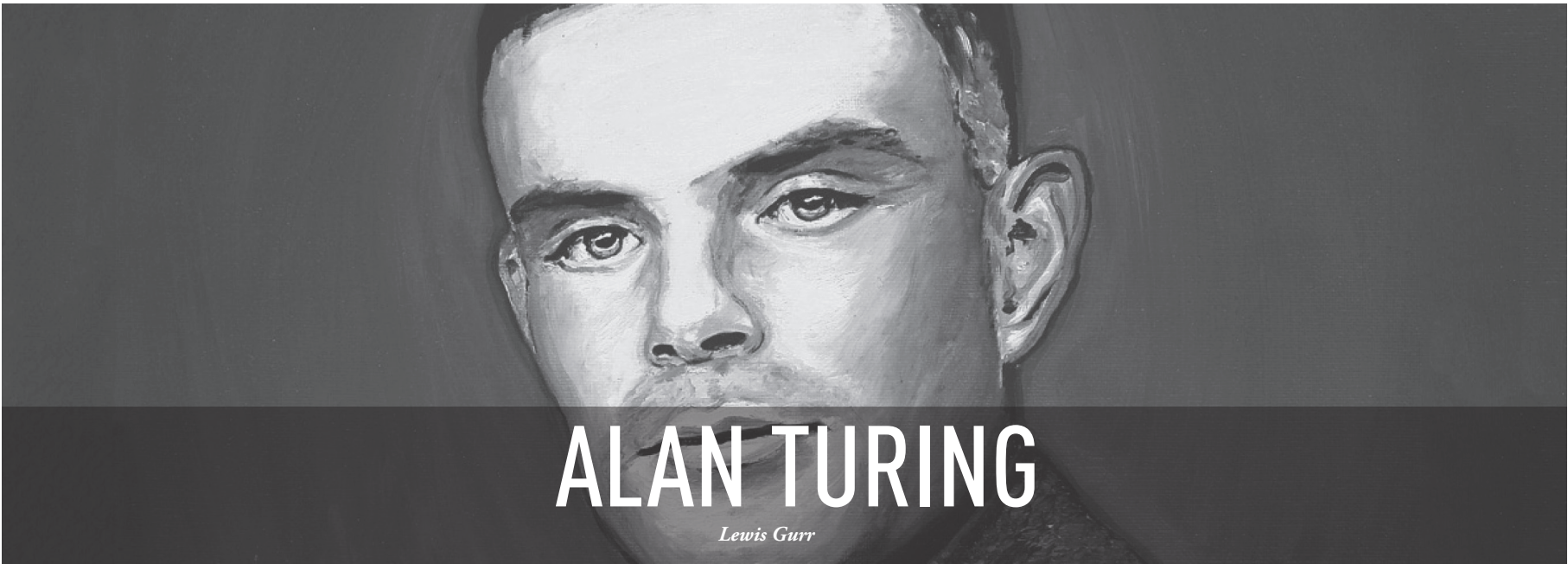
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cotton thread on cotton mesh petit point  
rendition, photo by Anna McMahon





Alan Turing was a war hero, the founder of modern computing, a brilliant mathematician and a homosexual. He lead the British team that cracked the ‘unbreakable’ German enigma codes, came up with the idea of a binary computing machine, and was chemically castrated after an investigation into the burglary of his own home ended up exposing his homosexuality. He committed suicide by eating a cyanide laced apple in 1954 when he was forty-one years old. Alan Turing gave so much to a country and a culture that returned the favour with persecution and torture. His story is a heartbreaking one because he was a hero who was the victim of extraordinary injustice, and paid for society’s bigotry with his life. It’s impossible to do justice to the man in 800 words, but it’s important that people know his story. This year is the 100th anniversary of his birth, and it would be remiss to miss the opportunity to talk about him. Alan Turing wasn’t a flawed genius. He was a genius and the world around him was flawed.

At school, teachers remarked on Turing’s potential, should he find his calling, but his grades were inconsistent. His parents were often overseas as his father worked for the Indian Civil Service. He and his closest friend, Christopher Morcom, were to study mathematics at Cambridge together when Christopher died of Tuberculosis leaving Turing alone. Turing was obviously devastated, but he nonetheless produced his most significant contribution to mathematics doing postgraduate work at King’s College, Cambridge.

Turing had a brief spell in America, but returned to England (PhD in hand) in 1938. When war broke out he started to work for the Government Code and

Cipher School at Bletchley Park. His work in cracking the German navy’s enigma code shortened the war by as much as two years, and earned him an Order of the British Empire. The Germans never knew that the code had been cracked (indeed, they had thought it unbreakable) and this had untold benefits. For one thing, merchant shipping convoys carrying supplies from the United States to England and Russia were incredibly vulnerable to Nazi submarines until about half way through the war when anti-submarine tactics and RADAR started to swing the balance the other way. During the early stages, however, sufficient German codes were broken that enough ships could be steered away from the submarines and the war effort could continue to be supplied. The cracking of the codes also gave the Allies knowledge of Axis supply ships crossing the Mediterranean during the desert war against Erwin Rommel, which was a major factor in the victory in the North African theatre of World War II. The British public would not know about Turing’s huge personal role in the war until two decades after his death.

After the war Turing decided to keep working on computers. After two years however, during which time he casually came up with the idea of an electronic digital computer that could store programs, he returned to Cambridge and mathematics, and then left again to work in Manchester. In 1952 Turing was robbed by an acquaintance of a new partner, who realised that the police would be no help to Turing as to report the crime would lead to his homosexuality being exposed. The thief was right, but he didn’t take

into account Turing’s naivety. Turing reported the robbery to the police. The man was charged with burglary; Turing was charged with gross indecency and found guilty. Stripped of his security, he was given the choice between prison and chemical castration via oestrogen therapy. He chose the hormone treatment, and so became impotent as well as depressed. He captured the social attitude to homosexuality in this logical proof he wrote to an acquaintance:

- P1. Turing believes that machines think
- P2. Turing lies with men
- C. Therefore machines do not think

Turing committed suicide by eating a poison apple\* in 1954, long before the world knew about his wartime achievements. Stephen Hawking wrote about Turing:

“We can only imagine what great works might have been in his future. And we can only imagine what the consequences for Britain and the free world would have been had Turing’s ordeal occurred fifteen years earlier, before he led the effort that cracked the Nazi’s enigma code in World War II. However, Turing had proven that no machine would ever be able to decide this question.”

\*The apple was never actually tested for cyanide, and Turing’s mother always claimed that his death was an accident. It is generally accepted, however, that he committed suicide.

# NEUTRINOS ARE PRETTY SLOW AFTER ALL

Sadly or luckily (depending on how much you love Albert Einstein), neutrinos are slower than light after all. Late last year, physicists everywhere were excited and frightened by an experiment from a team at OPERA that had a beam of neutrinos travelling underground (through rock) from Switzerland to Italy and arriving in less time than light would be expected to take travelling the same distance. This is forbidden by Einstein’s Special Relativity, which states very, very strongly that nothing that has mass can be accelerated to a speed faster than light. It also implies that if a message is sent at a speed faster than light, the message can (if you arrange things right) arrive before it was sent. So a neutrino beam travelling faster than light is not okay for a lot of reasons. Most physicists were skeptical of the result, because Relativity has stood up to a century of experiments and is now com-

monly accepted and used. For instance GPS systems use General Relativity to take into account the fact that the earth’s gravity bends space-time, and make tiny adjustments to their clocks to take into account that they tick faster in orbit than they would on the surface of the earth, where gravity is stronger. It’s worth remembering that even had Einstein turned out to be wrong, he would still have been close – your iPhone works. Another team (ICARUS) running the same experiment found that the neutrinos were slower than light after all, and this follows the news a few weeks ago that there were issues with the synchronisation of atomic clocks in the original experiment.

It’s been said that in science ‘many a beautiful theory was killed by an ugly fact’, referring to elegant and sophisticated theories being proven wrong by one experiment. But here, at least, the theory has

come out on top. Although, maybe not for much longer, as Relativity and Quantum Mechanics make awkward bedfellows and it is thought that Relativity may just be an approximation of a more fundamental principle. Then again, it may not, but that’s a story for another day.



# SCIENCE PROVES RELIGION IS FOR IDIOTS

Well, that might be an exaggeration. But it’s not exactly a lie. If you swap ‘science’ for ‘two scientists’, ‘proves’ for ‘suggests’, and keep ‘idiots’ the same, it’s not too far from the truth. It turns out that analytic processing appears to reduce religious belief. William Gervais and Ara Norenzayan from a Canadian university tested undergraduate students’ ability to override an incorrect intuition by providing the right answer to specially designed problems. They found that those who performed better on the test were less religious overall. But we could have guessed that believing in people with magic powers requires a certain mindset. So what makes this interesting? The first test established a correlation, but nothing more. Next on the Science Radar was causation. This was measured by ‘priming’ people for the tests – i.e. using subtle techniques that promote analytic thinking.

Exposing a group to the Primers has been shown to improve analytic performance, and so it was with this experiment. The funny part is that the primers also reduced religious belief. So reading instructions

Control	Subtle cue to improve analytic skills, or the ‘Primer’
Picture of Greek throwing discus	Rodin’s Thinker
The words “hammer, shoes, jump, retrace, brown” as part of a word game	The words “think, reason, analyze, ponder, rational” as part of a word game
An easy to read font	A difficult to read font

in a difficult font reduced religious belief, and the experimenters suggest that this is due to the fact that the primers focus the brain on analytical thought, and religious belief fits better with intuitive thinking. Exactly how this interplay between intuition and analysis works is not well understood in the context of religious belief, but it is reasonably well accepted that they constitute two separate, complimentary modes of cognition in humans. Further, it is known that the analytical system can override the intuitive one. Since it is thought that religion is, at least in

part, due more to intuitive concepts such as mind-body dualism, it follows that analytical thinking could override tendencies for religious belief. This is by no means an established fact, it is only an hypothesis at this stage, but it was supported by this particular experiment. The authors caution that this makes no claim as to the truth value of religion, and that many other factors are likely to contribute to religious disbelief. Still, I’d rather take it out of context and overstate its importance.



# GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER: A GUIDE TO MOVING OUT

Bren Carruthers

The time has come. Maybe making the daily two-hour hike to Australia’s most awkwardly placed university campus is taking its toll. Maybe your domestic situation has reached a point where you’re constantly walking on eggshells. Maybe the people you live with are so messy that you’re literally walking on eggshells. Whatever the circumstances, it’s time to move.

Whether it’s your first time moving out of home, or you’ve lived in more places than a Bedouin backpacker, moving house is a stressful experience at the best of times, and a horrific, emotional experience at the worst of times. However, with a few hints and tips, it’s possible to minimize the cartage carnage.

**Know what you can afford before you make the commitment.** If you’re struggling to save enough to pay the bond, then you might either need to find another source of income, or seriously re-evaluate your chronic addiction to Manga.

**Once you have an idea of your budget, stick to it.** Living expenses are non-negotiable. You may not think your landlord will care if you blow all your money going to Splendour In The Grass, but don’t be surprised if you come home to find the locks changed and your possessions strewn across the grass.

**Read the lease before you sign it.** Know exactly what is required of you as a tenant, and what rules you need to abide by. Most tenancy agreements are reasonably straight forward, but others can be rather obscure and tricky. Don’t find yourself in a situation in which you’re renting a deceased estate with a cat as landlord, and Friday night is specifically designated as “grooming time”.

**Picking a good housemate is a trial-and-error process,** and you won’t know exactly what you’re getting until you’re well into your lease. Try to find someone you share at least a few common interests with, someone who you aren’t afraid to genuinely communicate with, and be sure to lay down some

house rules before you even set out to find a place together. Be prepared to make concessions: playing dubstep at three in the morning might not be in the best interest of the entire house, or, for that matter, civilization.

**Pack like an anally retentive librarian.** The main aim is to move house without losing anything, including your sanity. Colour code, label and organize ruthlessly if necessary. Put your absolute essentials into one separate box, and keep it in an easily accessible place. Fill it with things that will sustain you for a couple of days: spare clothes, some tinned food and a can opener, a bottle opener, toiletries, medicine... and toilet paper. Don’t ever forget the toilet paper. No-one truly knows fear until they are madly diving into packing boxes after a dodgy beef vindaloo. Worse still are the consequences of failure. Worst of all is explaining to your new housemates why you needed to call a plumber after a piece of cardboard box somehow became wedged in the toilet piping.

**On moving day,** enlist the help of as many people as possible. You never know how many no-shows you’ll be faced with. The most useful person is one who is old enough to rent a van and willing to do all of the heavy lifting. If you can find one of these rare, almost mythical beasts, be sure to fuel them with enough beer/pizza/flirting to get them through the day. Plan out where you intend to put your furniture before you even open the door. Plan out how to get your furniture through the door without losing your bond in one swift and forceful motion.

**Have a housewarming party.** Everyone loves an opportunity to laugh at someone else’s horrible interior decorating disasters, and flip through their record collection whilst making disgusted grunting noises. Alert the neighbours; if they still complain about the noise, blame gatecrashers. This is a situation when playing dubstep at three in the morning may be acceptable. The jury on good taste is still out on that one.



# WHAT IS YOUR WORST EVER HOUSEMATE EXPERIENCE?

Lot’s Wife asked your fellow students to describe the worst housemate they have ever had. The results speak for themselves.

“They were really dirty and they brought weird people home late at night. That was my first year. I was living with random people.”

“I was living in Halls and my RA and his girlfriend were having sexy times. It was pretty loud, and pretty disgusting as well.”

“My housemate, who was on holidays when I moved in, came back and started throwing out my things. She also put up lots of notes saying that I couldn’t use her stuff.”

“There’s a person in my house, he’s 40, and we have so many conflicts about noise. If I’m talking to my girlfriend or family on Skype late at night he bangs on the walls. But he talks loudly until 12:00 or 1:00 too! We fight every day.”

“My housemate smoked bongs day and night. They had a psychotic break and believed that our other housemate and I were conspiring against him to make the cat shit in his room. He threatened to kill the cat. He started throwing crockery at the walls, and it was all because he had run out of weed.”

“I was living in a tiny four bedroom house that was almost uninhabitable. The boyfriend of one of the girls started living in her room with her. He was unemployed, not paying rent, smoked bongs inside, and watched Top Gear all day so we could never watch the TV. He brought his motorcycle into the backroom and turned it into a mechanics shed.”

“I once came home to find my housemate screaming in her room because she’d sliced her leg open through self harm and wanted our help. It was awful.”

“A guy I lived with used to try to steal all my dates. He was fat and gross. A friend borrowed \$3,000 to move interstate with me. He took over a year to pay it back after continuous lies; it finally took involving his sister to get the money back.”

“My previous housemate was a 60 year old Asian man who was extremely racist to everyone, including other Asian people. He was sexist too. He also threw all of my shoes onto the lawn over the fence.”

“One of my housemates shoved all her rubbish down the side of the couch arms – tissues, food, wrappers, cigarette butts, everything. She also had a two month old collection of dirty dishes on the ground around the couch.”

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# LIFE ON A HOUSEBOAT

Emily Finch

Last semester, I lived on a houseboat in London. When I first responded to the on-line advert seeking a new houseboat-mate, images of a moonlit bohemian lifestyle popped into my mind. I saw myself sitting on a deck chair stroking a cat and discussing Lord Byron with a fellow adventurous spirit who had abandoned the monotony of land-locked life.

Waterways are often ignored in the metropolises that are lucky enough to have them. In times of yore, many fledgling cities subsisted on the rivers that ran through them, as they served as transportation routes and a source of water and food. Arguably, the greatest ancient civilisations sprung up around waterways as observed in Cairo and Baghdad. However, due to the industrial revolution, the waterways of great cities often became polluted through factory waste; consequently, the symbiotic relationship between the people and the rivers ceased to exist. Pollution brought with it a disregard for waterways and the cornerstones of great civilisations began to be seen as burdensome and a source of shame.

In 1960s London, species such as otters and sturgeon which once thrived in the Thames disappeared entirely. The river was labelled biologically dead and a huge drive to rid pollution via the restructuring of the sewer system was undertaken by the government. The Thames has consequently been transformed into one of the cleanest estuaries in Europe, and a resource which is surprisingly underused given its potential to once again be the cornerstone of the city it runs through. Apart from the handful of houseboat communities, which consist of roughly twenty houseboats each, the people of London rarely have an opportunity to access the Thames and utilise it in a positive manner.

The boat I lived on was beautiful. Originally a Dutch fishing trawler from the 1920s, it had been converted into a livable space by an eccentric Thai millionaire. There were three bedrooms. The bedroom at the helm was the most spacious, with protruding

timber decor and two porthole windows that looked onto the Thames. The second was just large enough to fit a double bed and little else. The third was mine; it consisted of a tiny circular opening that led onto my bunk, which looked like a tiny slit in the wall. Rooms found on houseboats are hard to describe

due to their unconventional nature. However, the way my friends labelled my bunk 'the coffin' should paint an idea of the cramped conditions of my living quarters. In spite of this, my room had an incredible sense of character with its wooden paneling, painted blue, white and red, reminiscent of a child's bedroom



from the Victorian era. The open living room, which took up the majority of the boat's interior space, consisted of two unappetising green sofas facing onto an old fashioned wood burner. No television, a lacklustre modem and poor lighting led to many evenings crouched over a book with just candlelight to guide the eyes.

In reality, houseboat living leads to an almost grim existence and my pretentious delusions were quickly tossed aside. Going to the toilet was a ter-



rifying experience given the fact that toilet paper had to go into a bin and couldn't be flushed due to the small size of the pipe that led from the boat toilet to the sewer system on the pier. Secondly, the heating system which ran on diesel would often fail, leaving me and my fellow boat dwellers wrapped up in many layers of blankets while we stared at the white fog emitting from our mouths. The worst thing was the gap from the pier steps to the boat which could vary from 20cm to 1 metre dependent on the tide. Luckily for my boat-mate, who fell in one cold slippery afternoon, the Thames is one of the cleaner waterways in Europe given the enforcement of strict legislation which prevents the dumping of industrial waste. She

survived and I am happy to report that no long-term damage has been wrought to her immune system.

On a worldwide scale, there has been a trend towards the use of waterways as resources that contribute to surrounding land on both a community and business level. In New York's Queens, Constance Hockady created a Boatel (not brothel!) in a narrow waterway in close proximity to JFK Airport. Describing itself 'as an adventure at best and an art project at worst', the jumbled collection of donated boats is far removed from a conventional hotel. No running water, no internet, no chocolate mint on the pillow, it deters all but the adventurous and curious. It is not the luxuries that bring guests but the prospect of a quaint and unique lifestyle often associated with boating communities.

After being a part of a boating community, I can vouch for the eccentric characters who instead of gardening on a Sunday morning are seen frantically scrubbing their decks. It takes a certain type of person to reject conventional norms. You have to be a bit mad to be willing to jump a meter to get into your house across murky depths. Although I readily admit that living on a boat did not live up to my romantic expectations, I thoroughly enjoyed waking up to the peaceful rocking of the Thames river and sharing my breakfast with ducks, not to mention the prevalence of a great community spirit not frequently witnessed in urban sprawls, where ignoring one's neighbour is a norm.

The inaccessible nature of city waterways is also being eradicated in a non-commercial manner. The November Project is an example of a city waterway being used to benefit the local community. The November is the name of a Thames Lighter purchased by my old boat-mate Lucy who hopes to use the space as a zero-emission Arts space. Utilising the tidal energy of the Thames, the space will showcase films, educational workshops on sustainability and theatrical productions in an environmentally friendly manner. The project is still in its early stages, and if successful it is bound to change the perception of the city waterways from a mere tourist attraction to something that can house sustainable community centers. The November is located just behind the Houses of Parliament, heightening the importance of a community driven venue is due to the almost inaccessible dealings of the political elite situated just a few hundreds meters away on land.

One can only hope that the November will set a precedent that will see the Thames being used to benefit London as a whole. It would be interesting to see the Yarra River used as something that benefits

Melbourne's community in ways other than as a passageway for cargo boats and river cruises.

Like in almost any story, good does not exist on its own. The trend towards alleviating the inaccessibility of city waterways in a sustainable and positive manner is counterbalanced by the prospect of exploitation. There is a chance that companies will start exploiting the Thames in a profit driven manner that disregards the sustainable infrastructure it can cater for. Sadly, there has been a trend towards companies using the city waterway for commercial benefit. Take for instance the proposal for a new airport on the Thames. This would have devastating consequences for thousands of wetland birds, which would lose their habitat to a makeshift island, and for the environment as a whole. Noise pollution would increase by an insurmountably, and the Thames would once again be dirtied by construction waste.

City waterways have always existed for use by local communities. Commercial ventures and misuse have ruined them in the past. The day there are chain of profit driven enterprises such as airports and hotels on a city's waterway will be the day when historical heritage once again loses its community value.





# MSA OFFICE BEARER REPORTS



**President: Esther Hood**

Quality education is important. With policies such as deregulation drastically reforming the shape of the education sector, it is crucial that we monitor the standards of education at Monash to ensure that we are getting a valuable education. The MSA, in conjunction with the National Union of Students (NUS), is doing just this. Two years ago the MSA collected data surrounding all aspects of education. We collected information on class sizes, lecture recordings, facilities and more; now is the time to do this again. Take the time to fill out the NUS Quality Survey on the MSA webpage to help us track the quality of your education.



**Treasurer: Olga Lisinska**

This month in the wonderful land of the MSA treasury, we have done great things for students; we have rejigged some of the financial process in the MSA so we are able to bring you even more of the events that you love, such as MSA Tuesdays and MSA Breakfast Club, which bring you even more free sausages, hash browns, cereal and toast.

We've also created a new edition of the MSA Newsletter; keep an eye out for it for even more MSA news updates and information. It'll be handed out at MSA Tuesdays, and is available at MSA reception, the John Medley Library and on Lot's Wife stands.

This month I also organized some meetings, attended many that I didn't organize, drank a lot of apple juice and explained to many people that I don't drink coffee.



**Secretary: Freya Logan**

Hi all! As the walk from free parking seems longer and longer in the steadily cooling weather, I have been busy organising a lot of meetings (super fun!!). It is already time for the planning of Semester Two and Open Day, which I have been involved with coordinating. I have also seen the start of MSA Breakfast Club, which aims to provide a free breakfast to all students on Wednesday mornings from 8:00-10:30. We have a range of options, so come down and say hi. Other than day-to-day tasks, I have also been involved with the writing of the Survival Guide, which should be out soon, outlining the tips and tricks of uni student living. That's it from me for this issue!



**Education Public Affairs: Hiba Marbfour and Liam McDonald**

As usual we've been very busy in Education Public Affairs; since the last issue we have been focusing on the Student Representative Network (SRN) and the National Union of Students (NUS) Education Quality Survey.

The latest session of the SRN focused on public speaking, in particular how to form an argument and convey your point effectively.

The Education Quality Survey is intended to assess the quality of education in universities all across Australia. Results will be compared to the 2010 results to see how the quality of education has changed (hopefully it's better!).



**Indigenous Officer: Shawn Andrews**

It great to be part of the MSA as the Indigenous Officer - I know we haven't had someone in this position for a while, and I look forward to creating a safe and friendly environment where people can discuss Indigenous issues. Currently I am just finding my feet; I am in the process of organising my committee and setting up some plans



**Education Academic Affairs: Julia Ponte and Thomas Whiteside**

Julia has been investigating the University's Postgraduate system (Honour, Masters and PhD) to better understand the options Undergraduates have within Monash University. Master programs have decreased at the University as a result of the Base Funding Review that was passed in the Federal Government last year, creating the option for some Undergraduate courses to undertake Master programs in a Commonwealth Support Position. Thomas has been in contact with students concerned with changes to the language course structure. Thomas has also been involved in Learning Teaching Committee's new work-group that is investigating ways to boost responses to Monash's Student Evaluation of Teachers and Units program to a level beyond 40%. He has been given the task of speaking to faculty based student associations to try and get them involved, as these evaluations are an incredibly important vehicle available for students to voice their opinions regarding their units.

//////////////////// for the rest of the year. As the MSA Indigenous Officer I have already begun the process of organising some events for second semester; stay tuned because they will be a lot of fun and very informative. If you are interested in Indigenous People, or just want to see what's going on at Monash University with Indigenous people, then subscribe to our face book group "Indigenous student happenings at Monash Uni".



**Environment and Social Justice: Laura Riccardi**

For the past couple of weeks, the ESJ department has been busy organising two forums for social justice: Gary Foley's History of Aboriginal Resistance and the refugee forum commemorating 20 years of Australia's racist mandatory detention policy. The Monash Refugee Action Collective has also been promoting World Refugee Day, which is a march in Melbourne on Sunday June 17 at 12pm, meeting at Parliament House to call on the Labor government to stop its persecution of asylum seekers. I'd also encourage people to join Students for Palestine on a demonstration targeting companies in Melbourne that profit from the Israeli occupation of Palestine as part of the international Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions campaign. This event will be followed by a discussion about Al Nakba, which was the expulsion of 700,000 Palestinians from their homeland in 1948. For more information about any of these events, contact 0401 315 387 or lauram.riccardi@gmail.com.



**Welfare: Luke Nickholds**

After some delays the Student Survival Guide is ready to go, and should be hot off the press by the time you

read this edition of Lot's. Grab a copy for all kinds of useful tips; there's everything from how to have fun without any funds to how to iron. It's chock-a-block with advice from past students on how to survive and thrive in your time here at Monash.

In other good news, the Student Survival Centre is undergoing a revamp. We're changing the layout and shelving so that we can fit in even more everyday goods for students in need. There'll be an increased food supply, more clothes appropriate for job interviews, and other stuff like a mass of toothpaste, which someone recently donated.

If you're struggling to balance your essays, your job and actually feeding yourself and there's something you really need then PLEASE get in touch. If we can't help then we probably know somebody who can. Need food? A computer? A loan? Legal advice? There's someone nearby who can help. luke.nickholds@monash.edu 9905 5493



**Male Queer: Wade Aulich**

Hi everyone! I hope you are all surviving this hectic time of year - I know I'm tired of essays. What I am not tired of is the awesome happenings in the Queer Lounge. I would like to inform everyone that QC (Queer Collaborations) this year is taking place in Adelaide from the 2nd to the 8th of July, hosted by Flinders University. QC is a gathering of Queer Officers and Students across Australia who are interested in discussing in an open forum poli-

cies and issues in relation LGBTQIA (Queer) rights. This is a very important event for both the Monash Queer Department and National university Queer departments alike. If anyone is interested in going to QC please drop by the Queer Office or alternatively you can email either Liz or myself.

**Female Queer: Elisabeth Griffiths**

We're on the home stretch now folks. Just two more weeks of classes, swot-vac, exams (for those unlucky ones who have them), and then we can all take a much needed break. In addition to getting a snazzy new photo for these pages and juggling assignments, I've been hard at work. Wholefoods is now back in possession of all the crockery that had been hiding in the lounge, the Queer Office is clean(ish) and we've been brainstorming about our next semester's worth of activities, as well as getting organised for QC. Sign up sheets are now in the lounge. Alternately send Wade or myself an email if you're interested in giving up one of those weeks of winter break for a conference in Adelaide.

Good luck for exams!



**Activities: Paul Ireland and Bernadette de Sousa**

The MSA Activities Department is looking at launching MSA Unearthed in Week 10, on Wednesday May 16th. MSA Unearthed will be a chance for Monash students who are musicians to have their music heard. One lucky band will also get the chance to perform on Activities Night in

Semester 2 next to some big name artists (yet to be revealed). If you are in a band and want to get involved, make sure you contact Bernadette and Paul at msa-activities@monash.edu.

We have been planning AXP I, which will be held on June 21st at CQ. Planning is also underway for Activities Night, and there is also a committee of students and staff being set up to discuss Green Week for the second week of Semester 2. Make sure to keep an eye out for posters in the next month.

The Activities department has also been heavily involved with helping out the other MSA departments with MSA Tuesday BBQs and Free Food Mondays.



**Women's Department: Kate James**

I've been busy with the Women's Department, organising upcoming events as well as planning for the far off second semester. The women's discussion group, Thursdays in Black, has been going well, and will hopefully continue to attract more people - for interested women, please come along to the Women's Room each Thursday at 1pm for some friendly and thought provoking discussion on a range of issues. I've also been working on the incredibly important Safety on Campus campaign. Hopefully this will result in some better lighting to help make our campus safer for everyone, but particularly women, who are at more risk of assault. If there's anyone who is missing out on the Women's E-newsletter, feel free to get in touch with me at kate.james@monash.edu Have a great mid-year break!



# FINDING YOUR EMPLOYMENT DESTINY

*Alice Berkeley*

A student, eyes dewy with dreams and ambition to make it in their field of choice, might come to university because they’ve always wanted to be Insert Profession Here. Or they might enrol because they don’t know what to do with their life, and having at least an undergraduate qualification is increasingly seen as necessary for employment. The alternative is working at Coles for all of eternity. It’s regularly conveyed to high-schoolers that failure to get into university will result in a future devoid of any happiness or career fulfilment.

So people often end up confused. Did you choose Arts because you liked Politics in Year 12 but don’t actually want to be a politician (and are tired of being constantly mocked)? Were you scared that you could only do well in a Science degree but your real passion is interpretive dance? Did you sign up for Commerce

because you love money, but actually just want to make it, not learn about it? What do you do now that you’ve racked up one to three (or four, five...six?) years of HECS debt and are lost, bored, miserable and/or terrified of ending up back at Coles?

Do not be afraid. You are not dead, so you can change your direction. Career daydreaming is an important (and fun!) first step to deciding on the path you would like to take. Think about a job you would love to do. Even if you’re not going to seriously pursue this dream job – a la my childhood dream of being a caterpillar – the exercise can help you understand what you want from a job, and what your real career interests might be.

Self-reflection and finding motivation is the hardest part of searching for a job. A sensible complementary step is to talk to people who currently work in the area that you’re considering or curious about. The reality of a job might be unexpected, and potentially

different from what you’ve methodically identified that you want.

There’s nothing better than some good ol’ fashioned resources when making job decisions. If you ever want help or guidance in your search for career inspiration, the lovely staff at Employment and Career Development, located on the Ground Floor of Building 10, are incredibly helpful. Swing by to make an appointment. Another widely-available resource is the job-hunting guidance book ‘What Colour is Your Parachute?’ by Richard N. Bolles. In the words of the staffer who recommended it to me, I have no idea what he means about parachutes but it’s a really popular book.

I’d like to finish by saying that I have never worked at Coles. Maybe I should look into it.

# MONASH STUDENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

*Frances O’Brien*

**Monash Unearthed**

Monash Unearthed is an MSA event designed to support and encourage emerging Monash artists. The MSA are looking for any bands or solo artists that are looking to show off their musical talents. The public performances will occur between 1 and 2pm every Wednesday in the Airport Lounge, beginning in week 10. If playing music is not for you, and you prefer to enjoy music from the comfort of your chair, take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to hear some great talent during your lunchtime.

**The Breakfast Club**

The Breakfast club is another fantastic event that the MSA have created. The MSA just like many nutritionists, recognise that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and should not be skipped. For

the majority of uni students living on tight budgets, it is fairly common that some people cannot afford breakfast at all. Regardless of why you might skip breakfast, the MSA is now serving a free breakfast every Wednesday from 8am to 10:30am in the West Cellar Room in the Campus Centre.

**In other news, we have a MSA recently had a by-election**

MSC (Monash Student Council) resolved on 8th March, 2012 to hold a by election for the vacant positions in the MSA on 16th April 2012. The polling times were set at 9:00am until 4:00pm to be held in the Campus Centre Foyer and the MIC reception area.

**These positions to be elected were:**

- Indigenous Officer
- Indigenous Affairs Committee (x5 members)

- Student Affairs Committee (x1 member)
- Women’s Affairs Collective (x1 member)

At the end of the nomination period the number of nominations that were received did not exceed the number of positions vacant and therefore declared the following eligible students elected on 30th March, 2012:

- Shawn Andrews:
- Emily Estcourt:
- Stephen Wright:
- Sinead Colee:
- Lauren Sanford:

- Indigenous Officer
- Indigenous Affairs Committee member
- Indigenous Affairs Committee member
- Student Affairs Committee member
- Women’s Affairs Collective member



*Estela Pham*

The Fairly Educated Conference brings university students and staff together to educate them about Fair Trade, and equip them with the skills necessary to lead the Fair Trade movement at their universities.

Universities are sites of education, change and networking on a local and global scale. If universities support making trade fairer, then the first step for them is to receive Fair Trade accreditation. Monash University was awarded Fair Trade accreditation on the 5th of July, 2011. It became Australia’s fourth Fair Trade accredited university after Macquarie, La Trobe and RMIT. In gaining Fair Trade status, the university is required to supply Fair Trade coffee, tea and hot chocolate options at meetings, functions and in tea rooms. The Office of Environmental Sustainability (TOES) at Monash are also working with businesses on campus to ensure that they offer a Fair Trade coffee option. According to TOES director Paul Barton, “70% of businesses currently offer a Fair Trade coffee

option...but TOES is working to ensure that 100% of cafes on campus will supply a Fair Trade option.”

The concept of a Fair Trade University Movement was developed by Chris Hoy and Victoria Dimond who studied at Sydney University. The first Fairly Educated conference was held in July 2011 at Sydney University, with representatives from around Australia and New Zealand in attendance. This year, Fairly Educated will hold its second conference at RMIT in Melbourne from the 27th-29th of July. The event will be hosted by Melbourne Universities Consortium, comprised of The University of Melbourne, La Trobe University, RMIT University, Deakin University and Monash University.

Units educating students about Fair Trade should be offered at universities; currently most students learn about Fair Trade outside of university, and through NGOs such as Oxfam. Units discussing Fair Trade would not only be of relevance to Arts students,

but also to those in the Faculties of Business and Law. There needs to be deeper investigation into whether Fair Trade is more economically viable than Free Trade, and investment should be made into investment practices that incorporate Fair Trade principles. As such, Business students need to be provided with skills that allow them to engage with Fair Trade practices in their future careers. Where law is concerned, Fair Trade relies on a human rights based approach to protect its farmers and producers from discrimination and child labour. The Law Faculty has the potential to investigate how the law can be used to uphold human rights and ensure fair business practices.

The 2012 Fairly Educated Conference welcomes university students and staff to participate in the weekend long event from the 27th – 29th of July. Registrations have opened and places are limited to 120 people.

[www.fairlyeducatedconference.com](http://www.fairlyeducatedconference.com)

# HUMAN RIGHTS ARTS AND FILM FESTIVAL

*Jane Quinlan*

In 1985, Paul Simon emerged from his ‘South African Odyssey’ and released the controversial yet widely acclaimed album Graceland. The album relied on a number of collaborations with black South Africans. Simon recorded Graceland during the ‘cultural boycott’ that existed in opposition to the apartheid regime, risking hostility and political backlash. He hoped to make a positive statement for black South Africans. He wanted to fascinate the global conscience, and did so with success.

The Human Rights Arts and Film Festival (HRAFF) opens in Melbourne on Tuesday 15 May with the premiere screening of the documentary Under African Skies. Filmmaker Joe Berlinger follows Simon on his return to South Africa to reunite with musicians from the album, and face those who criticised Graceland for the potential threat it posed to the anti-apartheid movement.

For four years HRAFF has commanded Australian

audiences, showcasing the work of filmmakers, artists, activists and musicians who use creative expression to excite debate and raise awareness for human rights issues, fair trade practices and environmentally friendly policies. Like Simon in 1985, these creative individuals tell the stories of the vulnerable. They act as conduits between the voiceless and the vocal. From the portrayal of the psychological distress of returning American soldiers in Beer Is Cheaper Than Therapy to the ugly world of Muay Thai child-boxing tournaments in Buffalo Girls, the issues covered by the 2012 festival are challenging and vast.

Now in its fifth year, the festival, which runs over 11 days, houses a 19-film program including features, fifteen premiers and Australian and international shorts. A number of the screenings will be complemented by Q&A sessions with directors, actors, and special guests including Joe Eggmolese (Fantome Island), Andre Abel and Adam Pesce (Splinters), Todd

Kellstein (Buffalo Girls), Alex Pagliaro, Julian Burnside and Najeeba Wazefadost.

In addition to the film program, HRAFF will host three, free-entry forums: Extreme Reactions to Creative Expression; Off the Wall: Is Street Art an Appropriate Medium to Voice Human Rights Issues; and Flights of Fancy: The Ethics of Travel. The Festival art exhibition opens on Thursday 17 May. On Sunday 20 May the annual Rythym and Rights music event will be held at Abbotsford Convent. Tinpan Orange are set to lead an electric and eclectic program of human rights conscious musicians and performers.

HRAFF celebrates the tenacity of individuals who seek resolution on human rights issues. It will compel you to recognise the imbalance between the oppressed and those who oppress them, and invite you to scream for change.

For more information, special events and session times please visit [www.hraff.org.au](http://www.hraff.org.au).



# SEXISM ON CAMPUS: NOT AN ISOLATED INCIDENT

Anonymous

*The MSA Women's Department would like to commend the author of this piece on her bravery in coming forward about a serious and widespread issue. The following article contains descriptions of sexual misconduct, and may be triggering. If you have experienced or are concerned about unwanted sexual attention, please contact Monash University Security and/or the police. Visit [www.casa.org](http://www.casa.org) to find out about crisis care and counselling.*

I cannot speak for the duct-taped girl I saw being passed around by a bunch of guys in Sir John's during Green Week 2011. It would be unfair of me to make assumptions as to her motives or feelings on that day. What I can speak for as a female Monash Clayton student is the dynamic that I saw openly playing out in front of me: a group of guys passing a woman around literally like an object, continuing their conversations amongst themselves with no consideration given to their live cargo, almost as a matter of course. Worryingly, this episode is not a one-off. My university experience has led me to believe that misogyny is ingrained in the activity and behaviour of students at our campus.

Since coming to Monash, I have encountered more sexism, objectification and dismissal of women than I thought was possible in the twenty-first century. While many of the guys I have met and befriended are lovely, they are overwhelmed by the number of dickheads that treat sex like competitive sport. The notches on their bedposts are run-of-the-mill; it's the way they tally the worth of the notches between themselves that is terrifying and repulsive:

"I punished that girl."  
"Did she deserve it?"  
"Yeah, for being that damn ugly."

Between 2010 and 2011, the National Union of Students' Women's Department collected responses from 1500 female students in an online survey about safety, sexual harassment and assault. According to the Talk About It Survey, 67 percent of respondents have had an unwanted sexual experience<sup>1</sup>. While this statistic may seem outrageous, asking my female

Monash friends about their sexual experiences with fellow students makes it easy to see where it comes from. Degrading revenge sex with ex-girlfriends; coerced sex with drunken first-year girls; rough, humiliating sex with insecure girls who are supposedly "beneath them" in terms of physical attractiveness – Monash men are undertaking these deeds on a weekly or daily basis for congratulatory high fives.

I am writing this article because while this sort of exploit is not unique to Monash, I believe that our campus breeds unhealthy attitudes towards sex and socializes young men to interact with women in objectionable ways. These aren't isolated incidences, nor are they perpetuated by a small group of students that have no impact on campus activities. Many of the perpetrators of the actions I've described are committee members of our societies; they influence the student cohort that participates in uni events at Clayton. I've seen organizers of O-Week events bargain off first-year girls between them; I've heard of society executives hosting functions using their free drink cards to manipulate intoxicated girls into sleeping with them.

This behaviour develops from the moment impressionable first-year boys step onto campus during O-Week, when they are handed a beer and told that sleeping with as many girls as possible will make them a top bloke. Fourth- and fifth-year students who seem mature and respected take them under their wings, and indoctrinate them with the belief that the admiration of other men is gained by treating women like conquests. The natural progression of this is to treat women like objects, rapidly devolving into a lack of respect and a sense of entitlement over them. This can end too easily in a girl being bashed by her ex-boyfriend outside a house party, only one person coming to her aid while the rest sit inside with their eyes glued to the television, wallowing in tacit approval. This is not a hypothetical, and it's why this culture has to stop.

To be clear: I am not blaming alcohol, or events organized by societies, or the societies themselves, for the existence of this environment. I am a member of

MESS, SAS, and MSS. I have gone to their events with my friends to get plastered, have a roaring good time and stumble drunkenly home; I have just been turned off them by the droves of guys summing me up for my sole value as a sexual acquisition. I also believe that sex with whoever you want is one of life's greatest activities – as long as it's consensual and respectful of your partners' boundaries and desires.

In its recommendations, the Talk About It Survey includes distributing information regarding what constitutes assault or harassment across faculties and university services, and in orientation packs to new students<sup>2</sup>. They also recommend that universities develop respectful relationships training for students to break down negative attitudes towards women<sup>3</sup>. I will applaud our university and the MSA if they can work with Clubs and Societies on these initiatives; they are the first steps towards change. This is not just a Monash issue or a university issue. It is a societal issue – but in our little microcosm of society, it doesn't have to be. We come to this institution to learn not just academic material, but how to transition into adulthood; we rely on our interactions with each other to inform that. We are bright young minds being educated at one of the finest institutions in the country – surely it can't be that difficult for us to treat each other with dignity.

NB: Many people reading this article will immediately jump to the question, "If this is such an issue, why do the girls let these things happen to them?" Inexperienced first-year girls are indoctrinated into this culture just as aggressively as boys – they gain acceptance by submitting to this behaviour. Some women simply choose to exercise sexual agency in spite of the misogyny they endure. But the onus is not on young women not to get assaulted or bullied into experiences they don't want, it is on young men to respect them and treat them with decency during both sexual encounters and everyday interactions.

1. Sloane, Courtney: Talk About It Survey Results and Recommendations. Survey, 2011,

National Union of Student's Women's Department, p5

2, 3. Ibid, p.6

# LECTURER PROFILE:

# PAUL WILLIAMSON

**Position:**  
Music Lecturer

**Credentials:**  
• MA Music Performance (VCA)  
• Bachelor in Music Performance (VSA)  
• Lecturer, Jazz and Popular Studies Coordinator

Frances O'Brien

**What advice do you have for aspiring musicians?**  
The first piece of advice I give to aspiring musicians is to never lose sight of the reason why they are attracted to music and why they felt passionate about it in the first place. Although at Monash we focus on particular styles of jazz and popular music, students have to find their passion and constantly remind themselves of what they love to do. I strongly stress that people should play music the way they love to as well as learning the theory. If you really want to excel in music you have to put in a lot of time out of both passion and discipline.

The second piece of advice I have would be to be open to being versatile. You can retain your own style, but you need to have a reasonable command on a number of different styles because it means you are more employable. As long as musicians are performing and enjoying themselves, then all the other things they have to do to supplement their income – for example teaching – are put into context.

The third piece of advice would be to listen to music and watch live music. Passion develops when you are exposed to different things. Listening to a wide variety and seeing a wide variety of live music can help



people to develop a greater appreciation of music and enhance their passion. Exposure and keeping an open mind to a wide range of music is the key.

**Do you have a Jazz idol?**  
My jazz idol would be Miles Davis. Initially I was drawn to his personal expression on the instrument, but over time it has become an idolisation of the way he organises his music and his ensembles. Davis' music is really unique. I am interested in his music because of the level of interaction and inter-subjectivity between the ensemble. Davis developed a concept of everyone in the ensemble being involved in the music. The musicians would have a shared language and were comfortable enough with each other to start a journey without knowing where the music would end up. The idea of entering a performance, trusting the other musicians and having a shared understanding as well as not know where a performance will end up is part of the history of jazz.

**How did you end up at Monash?**  
I ended up at Monash through a chain of events. A position became available teaching individual students, which was something I was quite comfortable with and had a lot of experience with. I had completed my masters several years ago and was interested in getting involved on a tertiary level. Before coming to Monash I had been living in Ireland for 4 years and was fortunate enough to be teaching at a university that had a link with Berklee, which is a prestigious music school.

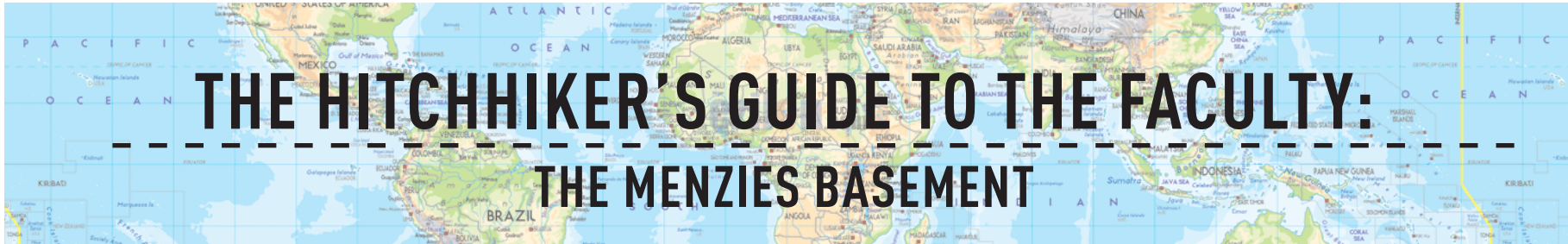
**How long have you been at Monash?**  
I have worked at Monash for 5 years, but in a few different capacities. I originally worked at Monash for 2 years taking ensembles and teaching individual students. I then was employed on a one-year contract before I applied for an ongoing position and was fortunate enough to be successful.

My current role at Monash is as Co-coordinator of the Undergraduate Jazz and Popular Studies. In the Monash School of Music we are really interested in providing our students with practical experience. We believe that students should know the theoretical ideas as well experiencing performance. We work with artists nationally and internationally so that our students get to participate in workshops as well as having the opportunity to collaborate and perform with the artists.

One of the roles I have assumed this year is as a first-year coordinator. I have really enjoyed this role because I get to stay interact with students outside of jazz and popular studies such as the classical and composition students.

**What is your baby's name?**  
His name is Max Mingus. It is a bit of a jazz name; Charles Mingus was a very famous composer and bassist so we had a lot of trouble agreeing on the given name but for some reason we both agreed on Mingus.





Good morning, evening, or whatever the time may be in your corner of the globe. Welcome again to our wonderful journey through the vast and wild expanses of the untamed land known as Clayton Campus. This month our travels lead us into the deepest, darkest pits; where rats breed and bats fly and all but the hardiest of Art students dare not tread... The Menzies Basement.

As I enter through a heavy portal, I find myself overcome with dust and damp air. A solitary light flickers above. The cavern twists and turns before me, the sounds of distant laughter (or is it screaming?) echoing through the halls.

Proceeding cautiously, I wonder why no one has ever documented the existence of this cave before. The winding corridor magnifies the sound of my

footsteps, a constant tapping in my ears. I come across a large door, marked with the mysterious glyphs S A S ... but I am no archaeologist, so I shall spare you my theories as to their meaning.

Continuing on, I spy light pouring in from an adjacent cave. Upon the entrance is posted an ancient manuscript, apparently detailing a schedule of some sort... peering in I see dozens of creatures tapping away unnaturally at obsolete computing machines. When one of them turns their head I quickly make myself scarce. The remainder of the corridor is quiet, filled with debris and remnants of a bygone age. Rusted locks and creaking doors sway in the draught, sending a shiver up my spine.

I hasten my departure.

I emerge into daylight, my eyes and muscles sore from the journey. Thick jungle spreads above me, and the natives pay little attention to my sprawled figure. I have escaped with my life and my sanity. I encourage all explorers to exercise great caution if they plan to mimic my adventure. Bring light, water, and enough food for three days. And maybe a ball of yarn.

Your friend in travel,  
Lord Timothy Christopher Samuel Newport  
the Third



## A TALE WORTHY OF HARRY POTTER

*Olivia Tolich plays Quidditch with the Monash Muggles*

They could be anywhere. They could be anyone. You will not be able to distinguish them from the crowd. They are the Potterheads. Those amongst us who credit the acclaimed bestselling series with making their childhoods. Those who read the blogs, watch the movies, subscribe to Pottermore and have lost count of how many times they have read each book.

I am one of them. In honest truth, I did not know that the Monash Muggles existed until I started this column. I couldn't resist joining. Until now, I had been in the closet: only my family knew the extent of my addiction. In finding the Monash Muggles, I found my kind.

Founded in 2011 by Raychel Barallon, the society currently boasts over 500 members. You may have already seen them; they were responsible for the Biomed Society Bar Night last year – can you guess

the theme? And as soon as they mentioned Quidditch... sold.

As I tirelessly explained to my sarcastic sister and skeptical friends, quidditch is a true culture in the USA, with teams spanning across the country from UCLA to Harvard and Yale. Not to mention the Annual World Cup. The only way I can effectively describe it is a game of tiggy occurring around a game of handball, dodgeball and netball. Naturally, I volunteered to be a snitch, signing myself up for more running than I've done since primary school.

The whistle sounds and I bolt, heading for the car park and some shelter from my adversaries... but they walk right past me. This is awkward. I wait several more minutes. Suddenly, from across the oval, I see a man in a cape. Slightly further away, the other seeker. Unfortunately, a sparkly gold cape is not the most

inconspicuous costume, so they take off after me. I head for a building. Locked. I climb to the balcony and run, hoping to confuse them. I lose one. I reach an alleyway. A dead end. I hide behind an old filing cabinet and wait. Will they pass by without searching? No. We struggle but the snitch is caught. Just quietly, this Arts degree is definitely going somewhere now. Who needs a real job when you can be a professional gold-outfit wearing snitch? Score.

Aside from book discussions, 2012 is a big year for the Monash Muggles. Expect to see intense promotion of quidditch culture, a big birthday bash for the bespectacled hero himself on July 31, a trivia night and an A Very Potter Sequel screening. Don't forget to visit the Monash Muggles Facebook page to keep up to date! I leave you with these parting words: Nitwit. Oddment. Blubber. Tweak.



## COMMON DISGUISES WORN BY ROMANTIC FEELINGS



*Anika Baset*

A while ago, my friend Ross Geller\*\* casually mentioned he was hanging out with a new girl. In response to this exciting news, the rest of us immediately bombarded him with a barrage of (largely ridiculous) advice about how to tell if she was really into him. It wasn't long before he became exasperated. "Why do I have to look for these bullshit 'signs'? If she likes me, why can't she just say so?"

When it comes to romantic pursuits why do we have so much trouble telling it like it is? Of course, there are the brave among us who have no qualms about simply saying 'I like you'. If you fall under this category, I tip my hat to you, sir. However, for a lot of people true feelings are disguised with giant glasses and a fake moustache to make us appear more alluring to the object of our affections, and soften the

blow of potential rejection. Instead of boldly declaring our love, we drop subtle hints, 'accidentally' brush against them and use excessive smiley faces in text messages (wink faces if you're feeling extra daring).

Ironically, it can be this very attempt at self preservation that leads to disappointment. A while ago, I became so caught up with appearing coy and mysterious that the guy simply found someone else. While I'm now pretty relieved nothing eventuated, being more honest and vulnerable might have led to the outcome I wanted at the time.

It's also just as complicated when it's purely physical. Saying "I want to have casual sex with you, with no interest in pursuing a relationship" is harder than saying "You're quite an excellent person" because it's akin to admitting you're a horny bastard that needs to get some, like, right now. Gym Dude was all kinds of gorgeous but his interests were limited to the gym.

Nevertheless, I was willing to look past this if he was willing to get into my bed. I went up to him, looked him in the eye and told him to make sweet, passionate love to me. Ha ha! I jest! I had too much dignity to expressly admit that I was attracted to him, yet somehow I was completely comfortable ogling him and sighing, much like a One Direction fan girl. Go figure.

Playing dress ups with our feelings is fun and exciting, and sometimes even necessary to keep the mystery alive. But maybe if we took the costume off once in a while, we'd get the girl or get to bed the guy more often. Just like my friend Ross, who cut the bullshit and got laid. Success!

\*\* Names have been changed to ensure the person in question continues to get laid.

## STUDENT HEALTH

*Cat Poiani-Cordella provides a guide on how to establish a cheap, nutritious student diet*

As students, maintaining our health is often the last thing on our minds. Between work, paying bills, social life and that thing we call study, there's barely enough time to think about the food that we're putting into our mouths. This can be exacerbated by not having the time or energy to make a meal, or food being too expensive. But what if I were to tell you that with only \$3 you could make a meal that will give you enough energy to focus in class and enough stamina to dance the night away? The key is to find the right balance between protein, carbohydrates and essential fatty acids which will allow your body to function optimally.

### Canned tuna- \$1.20

Possibly the one thing my pantry is always stocked with. It's cheap, full of protein, and has healthy

polyunsaturated fats which will help you fill fuller for longer, and apparently make you smarter.

### Almonds- \$8 per 500g pack, \$0.32 per 20g

A great source of essential fatty acids. These are perfect for snacks, and if you go to a whole food seller or buy in bulk, they are very cheap. Warning: don't abuse them - a small handful a day is plenty.

### Yoghurt- \$4 per 1L tub, \$0.60 per serve 150g

Great for a snack on the run and a perfect source of protein. A 1L tub is cheaper than individual packets, so buy in bulk. Then all you have to do is fill a small reusable container to take to uni or work.

### Canned four beans- \$4 for a packet of 4, \$1 per can

These are a great form of carbohydrates. If you're willing to pay a little bit more overall but less per serving,

buy your beans dried in a packet. Dried beans can be soaked overnight and cooked in the morning. Although this does require extra effort, it eliminates the added preservatives and salt that manufacturers pump into canned products.

Next time you're stuck at the supermarket wondering what to buy for the week, step away from the chips, chocolate, soft drinks and ice cream (which are just empty calories) and buy cheap healthy food. Not only will this keep you satisfied for longer, but it will give you energy to do the things you love best. For lunch try a tuna and bean salad, with yoghurt topped with almonds for dessert – all of this will set you back a measly \$3.12!



# WINTER WANDER-LAND

*Bren Carruthers*

Exam times and dates are now confirmed, and the winter break is firmly on the horizon. The time has come to make plans for that desperately needed time away from the hallowed halls of university. Whether you're that guy who drives a Lamborghini to Uni, or you're scraping away at the bottom of your bag for enough change for another packet of Mi Goreng, we all deserve a holiday, no matter what your budget. Thankfully, like a dottering Grey Nomad jabbering into your ear as you wait in the supermarket checkout line, Lot's Wife is happy to offer advice on some holiday destinations you may not have thought about.

**Portland**

Hidden away in sleepy Oregon, in the Pacific Northwest of the United States, Portland is an oasis for the odd and the ostentatious. Portland has firmly established itself as the Mecca for hipsters the world over... not that they would want you to know it, as it's like, pretty exclusive. Considered to be the micro-brewery capital of the world, prepare to whet your taste buds in anticipation of the thousands of varieties of beer on offer. Portland is also a gambler's haven; any number of these microbrewery beers may be tainted with tetanus and the faint taste of engine grease through the negligence of a back shed brewer.

Portland is one of the most socially liberal cities in the world. The International Rose Test Gardens, Hoyt Arboretum and the Grotto Gardens all offer wonderful opportunities for outdoor coitus. Please note, however, that this activity may be frowned upon in some venues, for example the Portland Children's Museum.

**Dallol**

If you're looking for somewhere warmer this winter, then scenic Dallol, in the Afar Depression in the north of Ethiopia, may just be your answer. The town still holds the record for the hottest average temperature on Earth for an inhabited location since the 1960s, long before the disputed threat of global warming.

A visit to Dallol is a brilliant way to get away from it all... as far away from it all as possible. There are no roads within hundreds of kilometres, probably because the local landscape consists of little more than lava and salt, and the township itself was abandoned for being ridiculously unsustainable – an amazing reflection on the region considering the Afar Depression is considered the cradle of humanity, with hominid fossils dating back more than four million years old having been found there. Sadly, this lack of population may make it difficult to contact the Dallol tourist bureau, although it may be the one place on Earth where it's possible to escape One Direction Mania.

**Darwin**

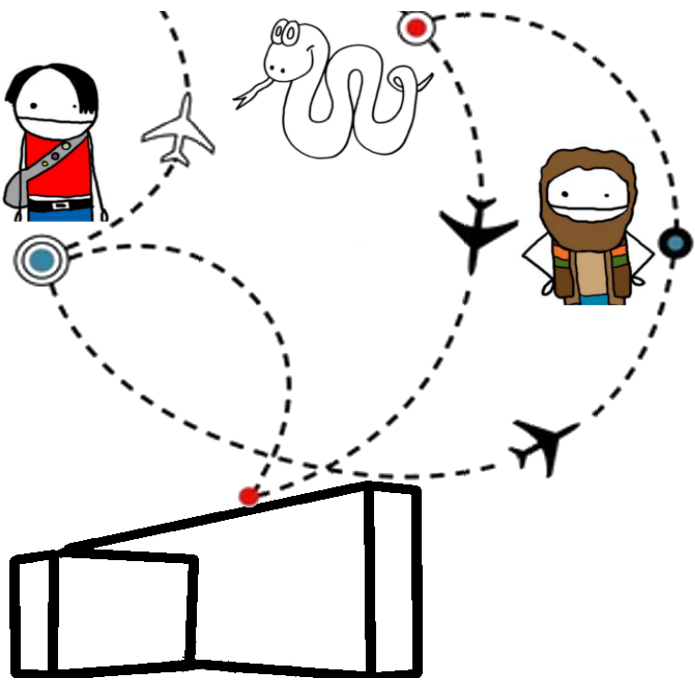
If you can't make your way to the hottest city on Earth, then you might want to opt for the hottest city in Australia. Named for the famous naturalist that developed the theory of natural selection, Darwin is the very definition of "survival of the fittest".

Set against the backdrop of the beautiful Timor Sea (stay away, or the box jellyfish will kill you) between the majestic Frances and Cullen Bays (stay away, or the saltwater crocodiles will kill you), Darwin is truly the diamond in the crown of the top end. Enjoy bushwalking in one of the many surrounding National Parks (stay away, or the snakes will kill

you) before kicking back in one of the city's many accommodation options – assuming you can book a room ahead of the thousands of Cane Toads currently heading towards the city... which of course, given the opportunity, will kill you.

**Cranbourne**

Have you ever wondered what lies at the end of the line? Whether you're short on money this winter, or you've just fallen asleep on the train, Cranbourne could be the holiday destination just for you. Surrounded by pristine swampland, Cranbourne forms part of the City of Casey, one of the fastest growing cities in the country. Entertainment options include the Cranbourne Multicultural Community Centre (due to open in 2007, as one horrifically-outdated Wikipedia article proudly claims) and the charcoal chicken shop on High Street (for lack of any other attraction). Extreme holidaymakers and daredevils in particular will revel in the Stevensons Road precinct, where an entire neighbourhood was recklessly built next to a landfill which began spewing deadly levels of methane in 2007. However, do remember: the last train returning to the city departs at 11:27pm, and very few have survived overnight in this dangerous, harsh wilderness.



**Phew! After the darker mood of last issue it is great to have a bunch of interesting reader questions that I can answer. Unfortunately I simply cannot discuss all of them and so I have had to pick just a few. Here we go.**

**Anika: “Has your experience as a male prostitute made you more sceptical of the perception that sex should be meaningful and an expression of love between two people?”**

I don't think so. In fact I think it may have reinforced this perception. The sex that I have at work is hollow and not particularly satisfying, even on the occasions that it is physically pleasurable. I know that sex can be many things. Sex can be some careless fun, sex can be a dopamine fix, sex can be a way to feel powerful, sex can be a business transaction. Sex can be whatever you want it to be. Whilst the idea that sex “should be meaningful” of course implies a degree of judgement that I wouldn't agree with, in my experience sex is so very much more enjoyable and more satisfying when it is meaningful and shared in love. That doesn't mean no strings attached fun isn't an acceptable pastime though.

**Tom: “What happens if you get a client who is an absolute bush pig; that is to say someone who you find to be physically unattractive, or even downright repulsive? Do you revert to medical assistance (Viagra etc.) to make sure the magic happens?”**

This brings up an interesting question. “Making the magic happen” was an issue for me for a good while when I first started. Regardless of how attractive the client is, hookering is a very different proposition to recreational sex. Getting your mind into a state where you can rise to the occasion can be a challenge. And unfortunately medical assistance is fairly useless in these situations. When the problem is a dodgy heart and poor blood flow then Viagra is a little blue miracle. When the problems are all in your head it's an expensive and side effect riddled waste of time. Eventually I got really good at playing out my wildest fantasies in my head while pretending my focus was on the client and pretending what they were doing was oh-so-pleasurable. As for what you do with an uggo, it actually doesn't matter anywhere near as much as you'd think. Whether they're hot or hideous clients are clients, what matters is their money. Worse than the unattractive clients are the creeps, the ones that make your skin crawl. I'm not classically pretty enough as a woman to get these guys regularly, I get the sweet old men, but you just smile extra hard and lose yourself in your fantasies.

**Amanda: “I know that we often see females struggle to find male partners that accept what they do for a living when they are prostitutes. Male pride I guess. Do you experience trouble finding girls who are okay with it? If so, what are their main issues with it?”**  
Well, I'm single, gay and I haven't really been looking

for a partner in recent times. In the Queer community people seem a little less intimidated by the concept of a partner being a prostitute, but it's certainly not a non-issue. For those who highly value monogamy dating a sex worker just isn't an option. Even if someone is open to a less than strictly monogamous relationship things can be complicated. It would be easy for a non sex worker to be resentful of their sex worker partner for all the sex they're having with other people, even though sex at work is really just work. And then there are just certain ways that it can mess with the dynamics of a relationship. Some nights I get home from work and I'm horny as hell and other nights I get home and the thought of another person touching me is absolutely the last thing I want to deal with. In a relationship I would have to reassure my partner that I'm not horny because I want to have sex with clients from work, but because I've been fantasising all night to keep myself in the mood so that I can perform. And other nights I'd have to reassure them that my unwillingness to be touched or be intimate is not because I don't find them desirable or don't care about them, but because (usually) I've had some creep at work who made me feel awful. And these are just some of the issues than can crop up for sex workers in relationships, so I guess my persistent solitude has been something of a blessing.

*Many thanks to everyone who sent me questions and I look forward to seeing you again in Semester 2.*



## SEPTEMBER PROSPECTS



## THE TOP 8

Giuseppi Spanti

**1. Hawthorn.** Despite having already lost to Geelong, it's my opinion that the Hawks are going to be very good this year. Last year they made the top 4, with the longest injury list in the league. Without the skeleton of their team, and with very little depth, they made it all the way to the preliminary finals, and only just losing to Collingwood in a classic. Now for me, that's scary. Imagine what they're going to do this year with a fully fit team firing.

**2. West Coast.** For some reason I love the Weagles. They probably have the best ruck duo in the competition, an ample midfield – but, this year, what will take them further is the emergence and improvement of all their young guns. I don't know how Woosha (John Worsfold, the Coach) does it. Just when you expect inexperience and youth to take its toll, the Eagles rise above your expectations once more. If not this year, next year they'll be grand finalists.

**3. Carlton.** I hate to admit it, but Carlton are once again becoming a genuine contender. They, all guns blazing, have the best midfield in the competition. But that's just their problem: their defence and attack are nowhere near as polished. Their defence, thanks to Jamison, Laidler and even Duigan, has improved, but against the big sides their forwards go missing. Fix up the forward line, improve the defence, Baggers, and you may well have a premiership contender on your hands - given Judd is still playing.

**4. Sydney.** In my opinion John Longmuir is one of the most underrated coaches in the AFL. Sydney have built a fortress at the SCG and, upon reflection of their schedule, they have a pretty good run in the first 12 or so rounds. So much so that after 10 rounds, I pick Sydney to be sitting 3rd (or better) on the ladder. Look out, it just might be the year of the underdog.

**5. Geelong.** Everyone's saying they're too old. I think last year, being one of the oldest teams in the league and still winning the premiership, showed just how good the Cats are at managing their players and timing their fitness. However, I don't think the Cats will make the beginning of October.

**6. Collingwood.** My team. To be honest I'm not that convinced of Collingwood's success this year. In the opening rounds they've played alright - nothing special, bereft of any apparent desire to win, unlike season 2010. They're going to have to rise up a few notches in their intensity and skill to have me back on the wagon. In their defence, they have had a third of their starting team out. But once the entire team is back together, they will need to re-develop fluency and consistency. Let's not forget, it took Malthouse 10 years to get a flag; give Buckley some time and he'll be a great coach.

**7. Adelaide.** Harder to pick. However, having looked over their side, Adelaide have the raw materials at their disposal to make a very good and competitive side. At the moment nearly every forward they've got is firing, with the midfield and defence remaining solid.

**8. Essendon.** Unlike West Coast, sometimes the youth of Essendon is... unsurprising. They started last season on fire, but two thirds of the way through, their young bodies and depleted motivation gave way and the Bombers barely made the finals. This year, player management will be key, especially given that soft-tissue injuries seem to be contagious at Windy Hill. As their ranks strengthen, the bombers should look to make it further into September this year.

**Agree? Disagree? By all means share your opinions - email whatever is on your mind to LWSports2012@gmail.com.**

## GRIDIRON: TARNISHED SAINTS LOSE THEIR HALO

I do follow the New Orleans Saints in the NFL, but their latest scandal, aptly called “Bountygate”, is confronting, brutish and downright disgraceful. Earlier this year, the NFL launched an investigation into the Saints’ hierarchy regarding the borderline violent defensive plays that had been implemented significantly from 2006 – 2011, after receiving a tip from a still-anonymous whistle blower. What has since surfaced is that former Defensive Co-ordinator Gregg Williams, who now works for another team in the NFL, was personally instructing his players to hurt, maim, injure – whatever necessary - to sideline opposition key players. And what's worse – yes, it still gets worse – he and head coach Sean Payton offered bounties to the players who succeeded! The prices paid ranged from \$1,500 to \$3000 for anything from a corked thigh to a complete knock out or broken bones. Williams has since been caught on tape openly encouraging the conduct in question, and even singling out key opposition players and offering higher bounties on their heads – “kill the head” is now a famous quote from the audio tape leaked.

To their credit, the NFL acted swiftly and seriously. They suspended Williams from the NFL indefinitely. And Payton, as head coach, also received a one year suspension from the NFL. And when I say suspension, it is not like the AFL suspensions that we're used to. It is absolute. They are not allowed in NFL institutions or buildings, and not allowed to contact anyone involved with the NFL, let alone their own organisations or players. The Saints were fined \$1 million, and lost their second round draft picks for the next two seasons. Ouch.

## MELBOURNE LIFE

### BAR REVIEW: MADAME BRUSSELS

Eleanor Taylor

With exams and deadlines looming, everyone's looking for an escape route. If you've always been tempted to follow Alice down the rabbit hole, you'll find the veritable wonderland of the cocktail scene three floors up at Madame Brussels. Step out of the lift and into a fancy garden party. Staff dress in tennis whites, and a scattering of garden furniture allows for seating. Wrestle for a place out on the terrace - it's less kitsch, but has a great view. A wide range of cocktails are available by the jug, so take a few friends and 'play doubles', sharing a pitcher of unique, well-mixed drinks. Sharing makes drinks quite affordable, and leaves you with money to put towards snacks (dips, sausage rolls and fondue) if you get peckish. The parlour is also worth a visit. Located out the back, it's a dramatic change of scenery and focuses on spirits. Oh, and who is Madame Brussels? One of Melbourne's most infamous brothel-keepers, and perhaps Melbourne's best known cougar of the 1800s!

Verdict? A fun change of scenery- best to visit with a small group of friends.

*Madame Brussels is located at level 3, 59-63 Bourke St.*

### CAFÉ REVIEW: MONK BODHI DHARMA

Rebecca Irvine

This café is as cute as it is tiny; and it is really, really tiny. Cosy, bungalow-sized, with one large communal table and a few smaller ones, this establishment fills up quickly at lunch, but it's worth trying to get in. What lies inside is a magical wonderland of delicious caffeinated beverages and wholesome food. Monk roasts its own specialty coffee beans with the help of one of Melbourne's top roasters, and focuses on sustainable vegan and vegetarian foods, with a number of raw vegan options. Coffee is top quality, and all coffees are made with double ristretto shots to enhance richness and complement a slightly lighter roasting method.

Both coffee beans and menu rotate seasonally; hearty stews and delectable vegan icecream (a creamy, coconut and nut-based delicacy) are recommended. The atmosphere is fun, and the staff friendly. Beware of Tuesdays, which are themed days, on which you may be greeted by Miami Vice style suites and 80s music as I was recently. Usually open just for breakfast & lunch until 5pm, Monk also opens for dinner on a Friday night (with a much more exciting menu I'm told) but a booking is usually necessary!

*Monk Bodhi Dharma is located at the rear of 202 Carlisle St, Balaclava.*

## THE JOY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Joshua Reinders

Admit it: you freaking love taking public transport. And you're starting to suspect you're not the only one who does, either. How else to explain the unflagging masses of fellow commuters on trains, trams, and buses night and day, day in, day out? Besides, there's clearly no better way to get where you've got to go – even if you leave aside the obvious environmental benefits, walking will always take you longer, riding your bike can get you killed, and taking a car like a hermetically-sealed pod person has always been an exercise in expense and alienation. Nevertheless, it's true that there are definite downsides to a mode of transport that, when it comes down to it, essentially amounts to travelling with strangers.

Sometimes you manage to squeeze your way onto a packed peak hour train and, as if by divine intervention, find yourself an empty seat. The problem is that, as soon as you sit down, you immediately come into contact with an intense rush of warmth emanating from the cushion below you. Naturally, it's not long at all before the enormity of the situation hits you: that warmth you're feeling (and possibly

enjoying) was brewed, emitted, and nigh on woven into your seat's upholstery by some stranger's hot, sticky, and oh-so-very internal organs. Sometimes it's even gross enough to make you consider giving up your hard-won seat for a pregnant woman or elderly person.

Another petty thing that often makes you want to flee our dear metropolis' communal transportation system: the sheer amount of close physical contact with the public that you're forced into. Not even a legion of rigorously hand-shaking, enthusiastically baby-kissing politicians would dare get so up close and personal with random members of society as

your average 5pm city loop train commuter. Common unfortunate situations include the perennial 'standing-up-facing-someone's-armpit' stance, the all too intimate 'interlocking-knees-with-the-person-sitting-directly-opposite' pose, as well as the classic case of people falling asleep next to you and resting their weary head on your shoulder (and vice versa). At times, the bus/train/tram gets so packed that it feels like things are starting to border on unwanted PDAs.

But, even with all this being said, you still adore taking public transport. Or at least you did until half of Melbourne got a myki and promptly decided to hold up the nearest line at the scanners, impotently waving their card like a Wii controller in its general





INTERESTING ETYMOLOGIES – MONTH OF THE YEAR

Kiralee Middleton

We have explored the histories of the names of the days of the week, so let’s complete our calendar-based linguistic knowledge with the months of the year. The Romans originally had only 10 months in their year, but two months were added in about 700 BC by a King named Numa Pompilius, so he’s the one to blame for why the names of the last couple of months don’t make much sense, as we will see shortly.

- January –

Janus was the Roman god of doorways, so this month was named after him as it is literally the ‘doorway’ to the year. The ‘-ary’ derives from the Latin suffix -arius which means “pertaining to”
- February –

Derives from the Latin februum meaning “purification”, as the Roman purification rite of Februa was held during this month.

- March –

Named after Mars, the Roman god of war. In the northern hemisphere this was the first month of the year in which the weather was good enough for warfare to resume.
- April –

This month is named for Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love
- May –

Maia was the Greek goddess of Spring and fertility.
- June –

Named for Juno, the Roman goddess of marriages, as this was the traditional month for weddings in Roman culture. Odd how the wedding month comes just after the love and fertility months...
- July –

Julius Caesar, rather convinced of his own importance, renamed this month after himself when he reformed the calendar in 45 BC.

- August –

Not to be outdone by his great-uncle, Augustus Caesar renamed this month after himself during his reign.
- September –

Derives from a combination of septem, Latin for “seven” and membris, a form of the word meaning “month”. As September is now the ninth month, not the seventh, you can see the etymological problem with Numa Pompilius’ reforms.
- October –

Latin octo meaning “eight”.
- November –

Latin novem meaning “nine”.
- December –

Latin decem meaning “ten”.

As a final note, several other Roman emperors also attempted to rename months after themselves, but the changes didn’t stick. Be thankful for this, otherwise you might have had to deal with months named ‘Neroneus’, ‘Exsuperatorius’, or three separate months all called ‘Germanicus’.

// CALENDAR //

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<div>LOT’S WIFE WRITERS MEETING</div> <div>EVERY MONDAY 1:00PM</div> <div>IN THE LOT’S WIFE LOUNGE</div>	<div>MSA TUESDAYS</div> <div>EVERY TUESDAY FROM 12PM</div> <div>ON THE MENZIES LAWN</div>	<div>MSA UNEARTHED</div> <div>EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 12:30PM</div> <div>IN THE AIRPORT LOUNGE</div>	<div>THURSDAYS IN BLACK</div> <div>EVERY THURSDAY 1:00PM</div> <div>IN THE WOMEN’S ROOM</div>
<div>FREE FOOD MONDAYS EVERY</div> <div>MONDAY 7:00PM</div> <div>IN THE AIRPORT LOUNGE</div>		<div>MSA BREAKFAST</div> <div>EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 8:00 - 10:30</div> <div>IN THE CELLAR ROOMS, CAMPUS CENTRE</div>	

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY MAY 24	SUNDAY JUNE 17	THURSDAY JUNE 21	
QUEER MOVIE NIGHT	WORLD REFUGEE DAY	MSA AXP	



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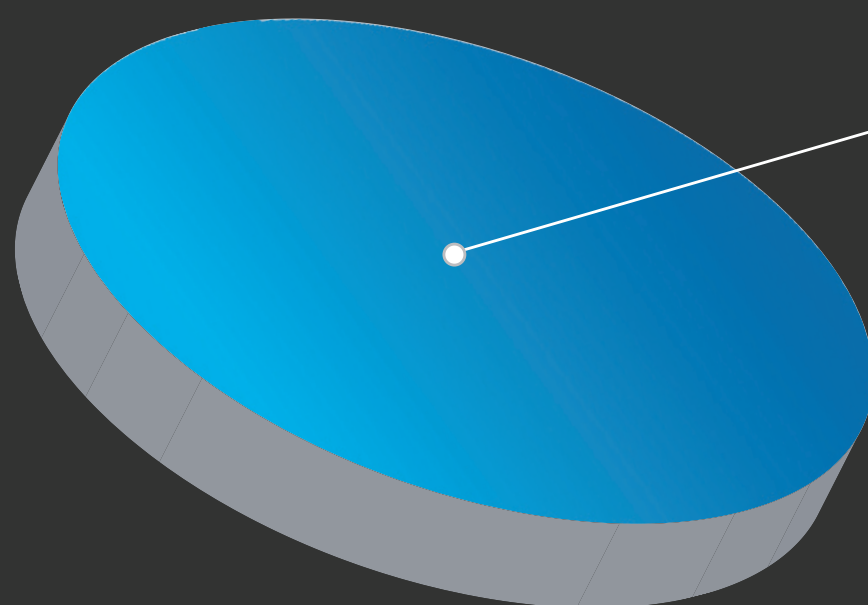
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