



BOONCAKE
YUM CHA FESTIVAL 2005

WIN A TRIP TO HONG KONG!

+ENVIRONMENT WEEK EVENTS +ADVANCE AUSTRALASIA FAIR +CONS AND CONSPIRACIES

Cheap Travel

Ask about our \$10 guarantee
Student Flights guarantees to beat
any available international airfare by... **\$10[^]**

Hot Deals

Melbourne from **\$265***

INCLUDES return airfare & 3 nights accommodation.

**India & Nepal
13 Day Tour** from **\$955***

INCLUDES 13 day fully escorted tour with experienced regional leaders (Nepali and Indian), all transport & accommodation. Airfare not included to Kathmandu. Tour highlights include Kathmandu, Chitwan national park, the Holy Ganges River & the Taj Mahal. **PLUS HEAPS MORE!**

Bali Contiki Resort
Opens Sept 05! from **\$1039[>]**

INCLUDES return airfare, 7 nights accommodation, return airport transfers, full brunch & dinner daily & loads of resort activities.

P&O South Pacific Cruise
18+ Schoolies Week from **\$1465[<]**

INCLUDES 8 nights cruising from Sydney, 3 islands & all meals and entertainment on-board the ship.

Airfares for Everyone

Gold Coast one way from **\$69***

Melbourne one way from **\$79***

Cairns one way from **\$149***

Fiji one way from **\$264***

Kuala Lumpur return from **\$785***

Vancouver return from **\$1639***

London return from **\$1685***

Round the World from **\$1965***

Santiago return from **\$1999***

Student only Airfares

Bangkok return from **\$765***

Singapore return from **\$785***

Hong Kong return from **\$895***

Ho Chi Minh City return from **\$929***

Mumbai return from **\$999***

Los Angeles return from **\$1419***

Flight Centre Limited Trading as

STUDENT Flights[®]



www.studentflights.com.au



1300 554 175



[^]Upon presentation of a genuine written quote from one of our competitors. *Travel restrictions & conditions apply. Please ask us for further details. Prices and taxes are correct as at 26 Aug 05 and are subject to change without notice. Prices are per person and are subject to availability. Accommodation (if included) is based on twin share unless otherwise stated. Seasonal surcharges may apply depending on date of travel. Additional levies, government charges and other applicable fees may apply and are beyond our control. Taxes are included. Payments made by credit card will incur a surcharge. Service charges from \$10 per one way domestic airfare & \$15 per one way Trans-Tasman airfare apply to in-store & telephone bookings. <Quad share package. >Triple Share package. Flight Centre Limited (ACN 03 377 188) trading as Student Flights. Ex SYDNEY Lic No. 2TA002719.

BLITZ

BLITZ MAGAZINE

Telephone: 02 9385 7715
Fax: 02 9313 8626
Address: PO Box 173,
Kingsford 2032
Level 1, Blockhouse, Lower Campus
blitz@union.unsw.edu.au
web: www.union.unsw.edu.au

BLITZ ADVERTISING

Advertising Artwork 12 days prior to publication. Bookings 20 days prior to publication. Rates and enquiries should be directed to Charlotte O'Brien phone: 9385 7331 email: c.obrien@union.unsw.edu.au.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Letters, articles, photos and other printable matter are welcome. Please contact the editor to discuss suitability.

PUBLISHER

Blitz is published each Monday of session by the University of New South Wales Union.

The views expressed herein are not necessarily the views of the Union, unless expressly stated. The Union accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any of the opinions or information contained in this issue of Blitz. Any complaints should be addressed to the Communications Manager, PO Box 173, Kingsford 2032.

PRINTING

Printed by Agency, Seven Hills. Rates and enquiries should be directed to 8825 8900.

BLITZ TEAM 2005

Editor: Ben Smyth
Reporters: Rob Gascoigne, Matt Lim, April Smallwood
Designer: Imogene Tudor
Communications Manager: Marina Spurgin, 02 9385 7731
Advertising & Sponsorship Coordinator: Charlotte O'Brien
Marketing Manager: Donna Wiemann

Special Request

I've received some odd requests while editing this mag, but I was still stunned by a recent email from someone wanting to be known only as On Jai, who asked if there is any place in Blitz for a love poem to mark a one-year anniversary.

The short answer to this is no; it's too short to fit into the contributor's pages and too long to fit in the classifieds. There's no real place where it's appropriate.

Yet despite having every reason to refuse to publish the poem, one question remains: what kind of person refuses such a request?

So here you go, On Jai:

To: Mong^2

*why does a shell sound like the sea
that rushes over me
as i swim beneath the waves
that drift into the ocean
pulling me away
why when i tell u
i am fond of u
u take it in offense
and whisper the words
that are never heard
but written amongst the screen
in a dotted matrix
why is it when i see ur name
pop up on the screen
my mind gets filled with
thoughts to say
thoughts that merely just
are memories of my day
i regurgitate my every move
waiting for u to reply
but ur only answer dwindles
amongst these words of
me
read it
why?
and even tho the moon may float and shadows
be cast softly at night
i still want to tell u these
not because its u i want to please
but because i want to let u know
and let u see
that amongst all my happenings,
i want u to be a part of me.*

Correction

In our Week 6 edition we published an article titled 'I'm not a lesbian and neither is my girlfriend.' Please note that the author of this article was not Clío Gates Foale as listed – the actual author publishes under the pseudonym 'AGF'.

President's report 4

Columns 5

Mooncake 2005 7

The rules of yum cha 6

How to... 9

Lecture guide 10

Sin CSE 11

Environment Week 11

What's On guide 12

Comics 15

Reviews 16

Visual Blitz 17

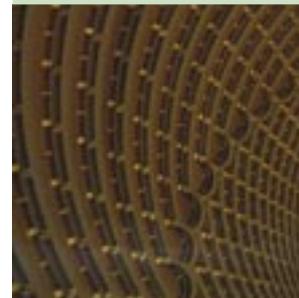
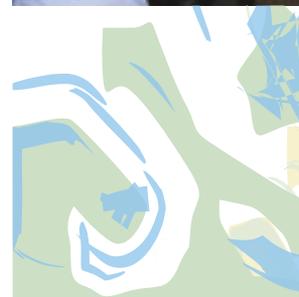
Australasians? 18

Cons and conspiracies 21

Tell it like it is 20

Classifieds 22

Vox Pops 23



Receive a

FREE

Brochure that will help you prepare for your upcoming exams and enter the competition to win One of two 12 inch Apple i books* by rivet-it.com

Tuesday 13 September
Wednesday 14 September
11am – 2 pm

Visit the stall opposite the Roundhouse Outside Union Reception



* Terms and Conditions apply. Details on entry form.



President's report

I have a shameful secret: I have never been to Yum Cha.

And it's not for lack of opportunity either. Truth be told I'm usually not very adventurous with food – studying anatomy as a first year kinda destroyed that side of my appetite. Don't get me wrong, I love food, and I love trying food from different cultures. I guess I just like to have the control over what I eat that only comes from being able to order a meal.

Although, now that I think about it, getting to sit down with nine friends and have food delivered to my table, getting to try a whole variety of different dishes really can't be a bad thing at all.

As you know from the note in your diary for this Wednesday (or if you don't, you'll find out in a few pages time) the Union holds an annual event called Mooncake, which is a celebration of Chinese culture and cultural diversity at UNSW. The central event, which you've probably figured out by now, is a Yum Cha lunch in the Roundhouse. Mooncake Yum Cha 2005 is happening this Wednesday.

Rather than repeat information, check out the article on page six to find out more about the Union's Mooncake festival, and how you can book tickets. Come, enjoy some great Chinese food, and laugh at me as I brave my way through my first Yum Cha experience!

Kirstin Hunter
u.president@union.unsw.edu.au

Cheap Travel

Quick Getaway

Thailand
Summer Break

- Full Moon Party
- Beachfront Bungalows
- Worlds Cheapest Scuba
- Elephant trekking

Flights in NOV-JAN from \$590* plus tax

Come see our Thailand Specialist at

3 Belmore Road Randwick or call on 8374 9922

Flight Centre Limited Trading as

STUDENTFlights

www.studentflights.com.au

02 8374 9922

FREE CALL FREE CALL FREE CALL



*Travel restrictions & conditions apply. Please ask us for further details. Prices & taxes are correct as at 02 Sep 05 & are subject to change without notice. Prices are per person & are subject to availability. Accommodation (if included) is based on twin share unless otherwise stated. Seasonal surcharges may apply depending on date of travel. Additional levies, government charges & other applicable fees may apply & are beyond our control. Additional taxes specific to your flight routing may apply (where airfare is included). Payments made by credit card will incur a surcharge. Based on hostel, 3-4 share accommodation & shared facilities. Service charges of \$10 per one way Domestic airfare & \$15 per one way Trans-Tasman airfare apply to in-store & telephone bookings. FROM SYDNEY Lic No. 2TA002719.

It's strange to admit but one of the most triumphant constants of my life has been an Englishman wearing lipstick. I love The Cure! I've loved them since I was ten years old – most of my life – and meeting them was probably my greatest experience.

They toured in 2000 and I did the psychotic fan thing: I camped out for tickets, saw them both nights and tried to meet Robert Smith, waiting four hours to get a glimpse of him. Progressively, a small platoon of pale men and women, all dressed in black, began to congregate. We milled about, swapping stories.

Then a car pulled up and Robert emerged. Bizarrely, he was wearing bike shorts (not a good look for an overweight man in his forties). I was out of my head with joy but tried to stay cool about it (just). He signed our albums, posed for photos and went inside. We ambled on euphorically when, miraculously, a fleet of cars pulled up and out got the rest of the band! Unbelievable eh?

After the show, my mate and I walked around the side to see them leave. As we were walking around, we bumped into one of the people I'd met earlier. I don't remember her name but I will love her forever (if she ever reads this). She had been given a backstage pass by a roadie and asked us if we wanted to try and sneak backstage.

We made our way through the corridors with her in front. Past the tree-trunk biceps of security and into THEIR DRESSING ROOM! We were terrified that we were going to be killed, but, honestly, it would have been worth it. There I was, having beers with my all time favourite band IN THEIR DRESSING ROOM!

I was too scared to talk to Robert (what do you say to someone you've idealised for a decade? "You're so awesome! How'd you get to be so awesome?"), so I spent much of the night talking and drinking with his parents (seriously). As Robert was leaving, I shook his hand (for the third time) and, desperate to say something unique, I blurted out "Your Dad's really cool". I'm pretty sure that no other fan has ever said that to him (and he was cool). We made our way outside, fans screaming behind a barrier. The rest of the band then decided to go clubbing; I just tagged along. The sun came up that morning while I sat having drinks with the keyboardist, drummer and guitarist.

If there is an afterlife, and I manage to get upstairs, I will be living that night for eternity. But if I do, Robert won't be wearing bike shorts and I'll think of something cooler to say.

Your Dad's really cool

By Rob Gascoigne

Goin' Bananas

By Matt Lim

I'm a banana. Or as some people call it, an ABC (Aussie born Chinese). It means I'm yellow on the outside but white on the inside. I was born an Australian and have lived in Sydney my whole life. I just happen to look a bit different to your 'typical' Aussie.

There are thousands more bananas around just like me. I wouldn't say we've adopted Aussie culture and slang, I'd rather say that we live it. That's all we've known. We love the ocker accent, relaxed attitude and sport. Our vocabulary consists of words such as "Straya", "Cheers mate" and "No worries", as opposed to "Ni Hao", "Cheap cheap", and "Prease".

On the other hand, many bananas - like me - have traditional Asian parents. They are pretty much our only link to the cultural heritage that includes things like Chinese New Year, Yum Cha and haggling. That's not to say we're altogether opposed to the idea. Hell, one of the best things about being Asian is the ridiculous attention paid to food and its consumption.

But bananas find themselves stuck in a third culture, so to speak. While it is still hard for people to describe us as true blue Aussies, neither are we native Chinese, Indonesian or any other type of Asian. In a sense, we are complete foreigners. This can be hard sometimes, especially as a child growing up. It's all too common for banana kids to despise their Asian heritage. I personally know many people who fit this bill. It's the product of growing up with clashing cultures and struggling to identify who you actually are.

Going to a Chinese restaurant looking like I do, only to order in plain English sometimes invites a smirk. Then there are the numerous times where it has been assumed that I neither speak or understand English. An interesting example is when I was working at a call centre and mentioned that I was Asian, much to the surprise of the female caller, who said it was impossible for her to tell.

I'm not having a whinge. Far from it. It's something I thought was important for me to get down in writing. I have as much pride in singing 'Advance Australia Fair' as I do in speaking Mandarin to my grandparents. So if you fit the description of this column, Go Bananas!



Mooncake

Yum Cha festival 2005



FEAST WITH FRIENDS

By James Yau

As an Australian who was born in Hong Kong but started Kindergarten at Granville East Primary, yum cha means a lot to me. It means time with my family. It means time with my mates.

This may startle you but I disagree with the opinions of people like Pauline Hanson: that migrant Australians are relentlessly avoiding integration and forming our own little ghettos. I believe the opportunities for us Aussies who were born in South East Asia to get a sense of our parent's culture are actually few and far between. Yum Cha is one of those rare opportunities.

It is a practise steeped in custom and tradition, but we don't go to 'cha' for that, we go because the food is good and the experience always entertaining. It's about chopsticks and drinking tea in little cups. It's about asking for a knife and fork for the one or two friends you have on your table who are not adept enough with choppers. It's about making fun of those people.

It's about making up new names for different dishes. My friends call fried pork dumplings (hum sui gok) footballs, steamed rice noodle rolls (cheung fan) schloppies, prawn dumplings (har gao) prawn membrane, while my little nieces, Jessie and Cassandra, call pork dim sims (siu mai) rollies. My favourite nickname for a dish, though, is for sago dessert (sai mei loa): we call that one frog's testes.

Cha is about sharing and trying new things. Dishes are small but easily divisible so everyone can try a bit, or in

the case of the acquired tastes dishes - beef surprise and chicken feet come to mind - the dishes are small enough not to share. But heck, cha is no fun if you don't try these odd dishes every now and then. It took me three chas before I could convince my friends to try sago dessert, but now they love frog's testes as much as I do.

So bring a bunch of friends along to Mooncake Yum Cha. It'll be a great way to introduce them to this style of dining; it'll be cheaper as well (the average yum cha meal will cost you about \$16 - another reason why it's so good). If you like it, you might want to try it regularly and start a new tradition: your very own 'cha group'. Just follow the rules on the next page and you'll have a great time.

PS - Oh yeah, remember the Union Discount Book has a voucher giving you 25% off yum cha at East Ocean. Our group has already used three and still have one to go.



WIN !
TWO VIRGIN ATLANTIC RETURN ECONOMY CLASS TICKETS TO HONG KONG
At the UNSW Union's
YUM CHA FEAST
AT THE ROUNDHOUSE THIS WEDNESDAY
With 13 delicious courses, live entertainment and free samples from Lee Kum Kee.

TICKETS

The Mooncake Yum Cha Festival, Wednesday, September 14

Two sittings:

11:30am - \$8 for members
1:00pm - \$12 for members

(non member price for both sittings is \$15)

Tickets available from all Zippy's stores on campus (Blockhouse, CLB, Mathews), Quad Store or Union Reception in the Blockhouse. Tickets also available at the door from 10.30am and 12.30pm.

ABOUT MOONCAKE

The Mooncake Yum Cha Festival is one of the UNSW Union's annual cultural diversity programs. Over 600 yum cha meals are served at the Roundhouse, accompanied by traditional entertainment and gifts for all diners from Lee Kum Kee.

Origins of the Chinese Mooncake festival can be traced to the 14th Century with its links to the Autumn Harvest festival. At the time, China was in revolt against the Mongols and legend has it that information about the time and place of the revolution was concealed within mooncakes and sent to friends and relatives. Today, mooncakes are eaten before the festival day and make meaningful gifts for friends and family. The mooncake tradition brings people together in a spirit of sharing and community.



THE OFFICIAL RULES OF YUM CHA

Compiled by **James Yau**: President, Yum Cha
World Governing Authority*



- Thou shalt stand with the hordes, waiting for the scary lady to read out your table number... in Cantonese.
- Go early to avoid the queues. 10:30am is normally a good time.
- The most Asian-looking member in your cha group must arrange the table reservation or else you risk being seated in 'yum cha Siberia', a place far from the kitchen where the dishes are few and cold. It doesn't matter if their Chinese speaking skills compare to Jet Li's English speaking skills - it's all about appearance. This person must also sit in the best position to do all the ordering. The remainder of the group is encouraged to laugh at this member's inability to actually speak any Chinese.
- Thou shalt bring along a few female friends: they eat less, yet the bill is split evenly.
- Thou shalt bring along a vegetarian: they eat less, yet the bill is split evenly, that is unless they are the type that will order a thousand vego dishes that nobody else will touch with a six-foot chopstick.
- Thou shalt not order Soft Drinks!
- Forks are allowed, but you risk losing much respect and honour.
- Thou shalt not go crazy on the first few food trolleys that rock up. It will leave you with a table full of half eaten dishes and a larger than necessary bill.
- Flirting with the matronly trolley ladies in the pursuit of the best dishes is mandatory.
- Order as many condiments as possible
- Thou shalt not order barbeque meat products. It is cha, not lunch, nor dinner.
- Thou shalt not order fried noodles, fried rice, soup or anything from the set menu. It is cha, not lunch, nor dinner.
- If you are with family, the youngest member on the table must pour the tea.
- Acknowledge the tea pourer by tapping the table with your index and middle finger.
- Thou must accidentally knock over a cup of tea at least once.
- Turn the teapot lid upside-down, or tilt it slightly, when you are out of tea and want some more.
- Double-up orders when prawn dumplings (Har Goa) and pork dim sims (Siu Mai) come around - they are crowd pleasers. Let that trolley pass and it won't return for a long time.
- If you order a dish and no one else likes it, you must finish it.
- If you are going to cha with Asian relatives thou must fight over who is paying for the bill.
- Chicken feet and other items from the 'acquired tastes' trolley are a running in-joke among yum cha staff. "Hey anglo friend, try some chicken feet. It's yummy traditional oriental tucker! My family eat it everyday! No really!" Nobody actually eats any of it.
- Thou shalt not order soft drinks!
- If there are dishes remaining at the end of cha, then 'Wheel of Fortune' comes into play. This involves spinning the lazy-susan and whichever lucky cha contestants ends up with a dish in front of them must eat a serving.
- Drop as much food, sauce, tea or whatever you want on the table and generally make a bit of a mess - it's perfectly okay. It shows the chefs respect, that you're truly enjoying your meal (or maybe it's just fun).
- Most importantly, thou shalt feel free to make noise, laugh, chat, whatever you want. This is no fancy restaurant where everyone needs to be at their best behaviour.

*Governing body may not actually exist.

virgin atlantic 

Mooncake student specials

Virgin Atlantic recently celebrated its 21st birthday and they're giving UNSW students a reason to celebrate too. Sir Richard Branson, founder and chairman, started Virgin Atlantic in 1984. It had always been his long-term vision for the airline to fly to Australia and, in December last year, his dream was realised.

Today Virgin Atlantic flies daily from Sydney to Hong Kong and London. As the major sponsor of the UNSW Union's Mooncake Festival 2005, Virgin Atlantic are offering UNSW students an exclusive Mooncake - Virgin Atlantic student special: return economy airfares to Hong Kong from \$765 and London from \$1538.

You can access these special fares by calling Virgin Atlantic directly on 1300 727 340 and quoting 'UNSW Mooncake'. You can also join the Flying Club (Virgin Atlantic's frequent flyers program) for free and earn double miles until the end of the year. That means you can fly to London roundtrip and get a free trip to Hong Kong!

And students should note: you won't need to meditate yourself into an eight hour trance to go the distance in Virgin Atlantic's economy class, you just turn on Virgin's award winning 'V-Port' entertainment system; over 300 hours of on-demand movies, TV shows, CD collections, travel guides and games. Everything is on-demand, so you can pause, play, stop and rewind whenever you feel like it.

And, with Virgin Atlantic's emphasis on fun, passengers are also treated to novelties such as free ice creams and entertaining amenity kits. Of course, all of your delicious meals and drinks are complimentary.

Richard Branson founded the Virgin brand when he was a student in England and started up a student magazine for distribution on university campuses. Today it's one of the most recognisable brands in the world encompassing air travel, mobile phones, financial services, music stores, and a whole lot more. For more info about Virgin Atlantic check out www.virginatlantic.com.au.



SPORTS UPDATE

WORLD TAIDO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Seven UNSW Taido club members were members of the national team that competed at the World Taido Championships held in Sweden early August. Amongst them UNSW head coach, Fredrik Utbult, who was also the national coach and a referee at the event.

In the Tenkai (teams event) UNSW placed 4th behind the Swedish A and B teams. Sweden is one of the top three nations, so it's a great achievement for UNSW considering Taido has only been practiced in Australia for 8 years.

The UNSW Taido club caters for all abilities, so join a training session or come and have a look at what it's all about.

Beginners:

Tuesdays 7:00 - 8:30pm
Sundays 6:00 - 7:30pm

Others:

Tuesdays and Wednesdays 7:00 - 9:30pm

Venue:

Dance Studios on lower campus

UNSW Judo at the Victorian Open

UNSW Judo travelled to the Victorian Judo Open recently returning with 1 gold (Josh Cook - 66kg) and 2 bronze medals (Daniel Waldmann - 73kg Jr; Kiarn Kelly 57kg Jr). Congratulations to the team and special thanks to Nicholas Waldmann for his unofficial managers role looking after transport, accommodation and video.



UNSW Taido team

NOTICES

Desperately seeking Goal Keeper!

UNSW mens soccer require quality goalkeeper for uni games in brisbane from 25 - 30 September

Contact Jonathon 0410 343 817
jkl15@hotmail.com

EVERY WEDNESDAY 5-8pm
join the **UNSW VOLLEYBALL** club for social and competitive games.
NEW players welcome including exchange students and non-students
BEGINNERS to COMPETITIVE.
Contact Solly 9385 7779 or go to
www.volleyball.unsw.edu.au

Play **TENNIS** in Brisbane at uni games.
WOMEN NEEDED

Join the team for training every Tuesday and Wednesday 7-9pm
@ Da Silva Tennis Academy,
Court Ave Kingsford

Contact Kirin 0405 368 648
kirin@student.unsw.edu.au

Waterski & Wakeboard Club GCM

Get the heads-up on upcoming club events & meet some fellow students who are serious about waterskiing and wakeboarding.

Tuesday 20 September
Sam Cracknell Pavilion
(near main walkway)
7pm - FREE

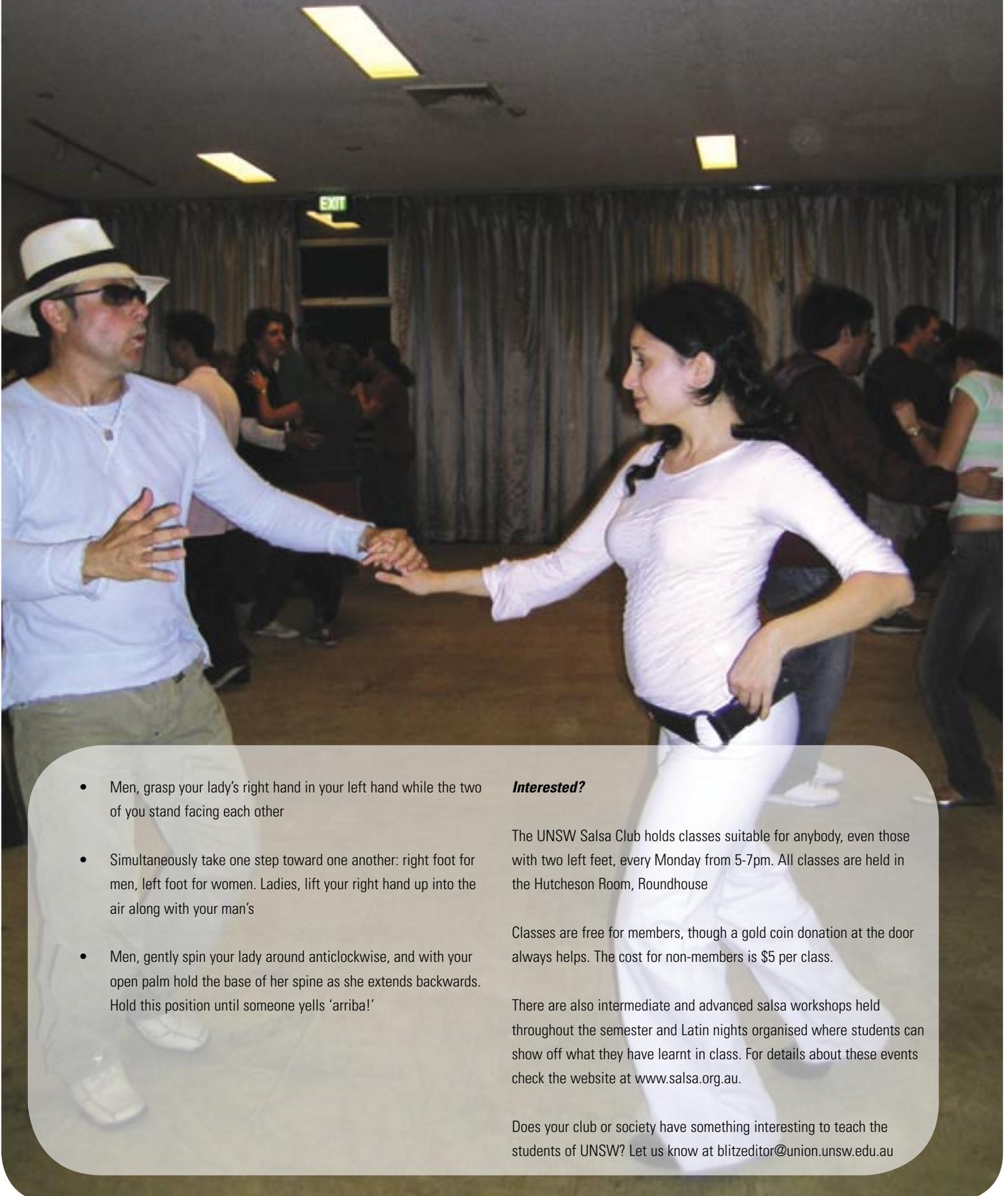
six-a-side
SOCCER

Starting 27th Sept.
Mon, Tue and Wed
nights.

Men's/ Women's/Mixed.
All skill levels.

Rick: 0401 558 707
www.unswsoccer.com

How to... Dance like a Cuban



- Men, grasp your lady's right hand in your left hand while the two of you stand facing each other
- Simultaneously take one step toward one another: right foot for men, left foot for women. Ladies, lift your right hand up into the air along with your man's
- Men, gently spin your lady around anticlockwise, and with your open palm hold the base of her spine as she extends backwards. Hold this position until someone yells 'arriba!'

Interested?

The UNSW Salsa Club holds classes suitable for anybody, even those with two left feet, every Monday from 5-7pm. All classes are held in the Hutcheson Room, Roundhouse

Classes are free for members, though a gold coin donation at the door always helps. The cost for non-members is \$5 per class.

There are also intermediate and advanced salsa workshops held throughout the semester and Latin nights organised where students can show off what they have learnt in class. For details about these events check the website at www.salsa.org.au.

Does your club or society have something interesting to teach the students of UNSW? Let us know at blitzeditor@union.unsw.edu.au



REVUE TO A KILL

The School of Computer Science and Engineering is holding its yearly revue in Week 8 (check the What's on Guide for details). **Matt Lim** had a chat with **Karam, Robin, Matt and Lily**, who are some of the organisers of the Revue, to find out a little more about the production.

So how do you guys choose the main roles?

Any CSE member can apply. They go through an initial screening process, making sure they have enough experience or skills; then after that we go through an election system. We shortlist 10-15 candidates, then we let the members of CSE vote themselves.

What's the name of this year's CSE revue?

Sin CSE.

Will it be based on the movie Sin City? That seems pretty dark.

We went with the theme because it was interesting. Last year, with *Starkey and Hash*, was all seventies: bright, funky and all that. So what we decided to do was turn that completely on its head and go for this kinda 'underground' dark, cool feel to it. The reason why we chose the title as well was to project an aura, because most people have an idea of what 'nerds' are like and we want to show them this other side of what we do.

Although this doesn't seem like a revue we are still very much a comedy show - we'll still very much stick to our traditional CSE humour: witty, occasionally crude and often borderline discriminate - but at the same time with this theme we deal with darker elements as well. So we want to get the audience to think about these themes and we have to present them in a way that's accepted by them while at the same time making it enjoyable, and project this aura of 'coolness' at the same time.

If people are computer illiterate or not down with computer lingo, will they get it?

They'll still get it. We try to structure our show so that there are some elements that maybe computer students will find funny, but it is quite a general show for all types, young and old.

Well, what can we expect?

You can expect humour! Also some very cool videos. We always manage to pull-off some nicely shot videos which are played during the show. This year should be no different.

Ok, I have to end with a nerdy question: what is your online handle/nickname?

Mine is StonedEwok (long story).

Lily: I'm a chick. That's the antithesis to these kinds of things, so I don't have one.

Matt: It changes. Most of the time it is General Lee (Generally, get it?)

Robin: Well, my online handle is Cluponic (computing students should get that one, especially clueless ones).

Karam: Mine's my email address. It was actually supposed to be 'shag_the_best' but I made a typo, so it's 'jag_the_best'.

who cares? environment week at unsw

By Simon Gazey

Numerous surveys have revealed that people want greater levels of health, education, and environmental vitality: in the Department of Environment and Conservation's social research report, *Who Cares about the Environment?: A survey of NSW people's environmental knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours*, concern for the environment ranked much higher than concern for economic growth, heightened by the fact that people were willing to forgo a percentage of their pay to see environmental improvement.

Bronwyn Rice from UNSW Environment Unit is pleased by this. "It's great to see that people share a concern for our environment," she says. "The important thing for us here at UNSW is to turn our concerns into actions for improvement, and the University has recently endorsed a five year Environmental Management Plan to do just this. In conjunction with The Student Guild Environment Week program of planning and activities, we should really start to see how we can all make the connection and make a difference."

It seems that for the dwellers of moulded city landscapes and universities such as the staff and students of UNSW, where things magically arrive and leave again, the connection between day-to-day life and the environment have not been obvious. But they are really there, in all that we do, and increased knowledge and awareness is turning the tide. "The knowledge we gain," says Rice, "can be put to creative design and courageous change in a process that's personally, socially and globally rewarding. The environment is not something *out there* somewhere, it is deeply connected to all that we do."

There are a number of ways people are getting involved. As a precursor to 2006 being a Year of the Environment at UNSW, the students from the Guild Environment Collective, which is open to all students, has organised *Environment Week*: an event staged around the Library Lawn during Week 8. The week is intended to give students the opportunity to attend talks and workshops and sign on to campaigns. The focus will be on UNSW.

Environment Week will include a large collective banner painting project where students are invited to suggest ways UNSW could lessen its impact on the environment. The World Bank Environment Group and UNSW's coalition of sustainability experts, the Kensington Group, will talk on Monday. Also, global and local organisations such as Ethical Investments Australia, Gene Ethics, UNSW Environment Unit, the EcoLiving Centre, Australian Students Environment Network, the Wilderness Society, Greenpeace, Rising Tide and the Greens will be present at the EcoFair on Wednesday.

Don't miss your chance to make a difference.

WHAT'S ON week 8 September 12-18

MONDAY SEPT 12

UNSW Australian Union of Jewish Students - Israel Week Stall

Students can munch on Israeli falafel and chocolate, learn about Israeli culture and listen to Israeli music.

All day
Library Lawn

Table Tennis

That's a paddlin'.
11am
Roundhouse
Free

Environment Week Forum: Education for sustainability at UNSW

Welcome to the first event for Environment Week 2005. This is for everyone who has ever been curious about what's going on with UNSW and the environment. What does education for sustainable development mean? What is UNSW doing to achieve this? Could we be doing more? How can students be more involved? These questions and more will be addressed by a range of speakers including UNSW academics and students.

1pm
Library Lawn
Free

Movie Screening - The Upside of Anger featuring Kevin Costner

When her husband unexpectedly disappears, a sharp-witted suburban wife and her daughters juggle their mum's romantic dilemmas and family dynamics.

1pm
Club Bar, Roundhouse
Free

The University of New South Wales
Union
Yellow Spot Special
WEEK 8
COFFEE REPUBLIC
Buy any Filled Bagel for
\$4.20
USUALLY \$5.15 FOR MEMBERS
FOR UNION MEMBERS ONLY
VALID: WEEK 8, 12-16 SEPT 2005 UNTIL STOCKS LAST

UNSW Law Society Speaker's Forum - Dr Michael Fullilove

Dr Fullilove has worked as a lawyer, a volunteer in the UN East Timor Administration and as an advisor to Paul Keating. He has also provided commentary for CNN, ABC and SBS. Come and hear his unique perspective on global issues.

1-2pm
CLB 6
Free

UNSW Anti-Racism Collective Meeting
The UNSW Anti-Racism Collective is a group of students who work under the auspices of the Student Guild to foster awareness of issues of racism on campus. Some of the campaigns we will be running this semester include a cultural diversity forum on campus and a 'Make Poverty History' campaign (wrist band campaign).

5-6 pm
Student Guild Offices (Level 1, East Wing, Quad Building).
Free

TUESDAY SEPT 13

UNSW AUJS - Israel Week Stall

Students can munch on Israeli falafel and chocolate, learn about Israeli culture and listen to Israeli music.

Quad Lawn
All Day

Table Tennis

Slappy slappy.
11am
Roundhouse
Free

UNSW Chess Club

Do you want to be a pawn star?
Midday-3pm
Quad1001
Members Free, membership \$5

Theatresports

Flex your improvisational muscle.
Midday
UniBar, Roundhouse
Free

Queer Department - Queerplay

A social group for the queer students of UNSW; a chance to meet and chat with others on campus. Snacks

and entertainment provided. More info on www.queer.unsw.edu.au

Midday-2pm
Queerspace, Applied Science 920
Free

Trivia

How many Oompa Loompas were there?
1pm
UniBar, Roundhouse
Free

Amnesty International UNSW - Speak Out

This is a speakers' event on human rights and security. Speakers include Ben Saul, Lecturer from the Faculty of Law. This will be followed by a QandA session at Esme's Café!

1-2pm
Library Lawn
Free

Campus Bible Study talk: Christian spirituality

Do we receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Join us for a talk on Galatians 3:1-14. For more information, visit www.campusbiblestudy.org.

1pm-2pm
CLB 7
Free

U Space - Barista Course

Bookings are essential. Visit the U Space Office in the Blockhouse or email employability@union.unsw.edu.au
3-6pm
Sydney Coffee School: 113 Arundel St, Glebe

The Learning the Lingo Aussie Movie Night

See two classic Australian films while munching on some popcorn and drinking free beer, wine or soft drink in the Roundhouse Club Bar. Bring your friends!

5:30-10pm
Roundhouse Club Bar
Free

UNSW Environment Movement History Night

A relaxed social gathering where you can sit and chat around the fire at the EcoLiving Centre - an example of sustainability in action. Meet the people that have made and currently make up the UNSW environment movement. Share in the history to reinvigorate the present and plan for the future.

5pm
The Ecoliving Centre - 14 Arthur street Randwick
Bring a plate of food to share (if you can)

Pool Comp

Come down to the UniBar for the weekly pool comp and a chance to kick back.
5pm
UniBar, Roundhouse
Free

UNSW Serbian Society

We have had lots of fun times with this club in last few years and it is time to plan another year of activities. We advise all the Serbians and anyone interested to come and attend, as we need your input. We'll also be watching a Serbian movie afterwards. For any further info email unswserbsoc@hotmail.com
5:30pm
Quad 1001
Free

WEDNESDAY SEPT 14

UNSW AUJS - Israel Week Stall

Library Lawn
All Day

Table Tennis

The only sport that gives you splinters.
11am
Roundhouse
Free

Environment Week Eco-Fair

A festive atmosphere of positive chatter where social, political, financial, governmental, and environmental organisations will be present to answer questions and highlight their activities. Get advice from Ethical Investments and Gene Ethics. Talk to the Greens, Cycle for Sustainability and the Wilderness Society. Learn about campus environment issues from the UNSW Green Office Program, UNSW Environment Collective, EcoLiving Centre and the Australian Students Environment Network.
11am-3pm
Library Entrance Walkway
Free

Environmental Collective - Sustainability Workshops

Want to grow delicious veggies in your own back yard? Interested in setting up a worm farm? Want to learn some basic bicycle maintenance? Do you want to know how to use less chemicals for cleaning in your home? Come to our workshops, have some fun and find out how.
11am-2pm
Library Lawn
Free

UNSW AUJS - Dove Release

To celebrate Israel week, AUJS will be releasing doves. Come and have a gander.
Midday
Library Lawn
Free

Library Lawn Band - Trial Kennedy

With unforgettable and unique trademark vocals, addictive melodies, hook laden guitar riffs and a bottom heavy rhythm section, Trial Kennedy are not afraid to discard convention.
1pm
Library Lawn
Free

Mooncake 2004 Yum Cha Festival

Gather your friends and enjoy a yum cha meal served at the Roundhouse, accompanied by traditional Chinese entertainment. Tickets are available from all Zippy's stores, the Quad store and the Union reception in the Blockhouse. Limited tickets will be available at the door from 10.30am and 12.30pm if not already sold out
11:30am (first sitting)
1pm (second sitting)
Roundhouse
First sitting: \$8 members, \$15 non members
Second sitting: \$12 members, \$15 non members

U Lead Workshop - Conflict Resolution

Part 1
1-3pm
The Blockhouse

Bar Bingo

Bar Bingo helps improve your reflexes. It's True!
1pm
UniBar, Roundhouse
Free

Biomedical Engineering Students Society Annual AGM

Come along to the 2005 BESS AGM to vote in your new committee. Send an email to bess@gsbme.unsw.edu.au to nominate yourself or a friend. The following positions are available: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, ASOC Rep, Publicity Officer, UNSWEC Rep (x3), Webmaster and all the year reps.
1-2pm
Seminar Room (Old Common Room), Samuels Building
Free

Table Tennis Comp

The third best thing you can do on a table
4pm
Roundhouse
Free

Trivia and Happy Hour

The ultimate combination: random useless facts and beer.
5pm
UniBar, Roundhouse
Free

Volleyball

Come down and join the UNSW volleyball club this Wednesday at 5pm. The UNSW volleyball club welcomes new players from beginners through to competitive players who wish to join an SVL team. Non-students and exchange students are welcome too. For more details hit the website at www.voll eyeball.unsw.edu.au.
5-8pm
Unigym main hall
See website for costs

Pub Grub

Good food. Good times
5:30pm
Clems, Roundhouse

UNSW Marketing Society - Getting a Job in Marketing

How do you land your marketing dream job? How can you differentiate yourself? What should your CV look like? Top marketing industry recruiters will give out some tips for achieving success in landing your dream job.
6-8 pm
Club Bar, Roundhouse
Free

Rapid Fire Comedy - featuring Kent Valentine and MC Nick Johns and Open Mic

Kent is one of the most dynamic and talented young comics on the Sydney stand-up comedy scene. He blasts his irreverent comedy out to the audience in a highly charged and animated manner.
7pm
UniBar, Roundhouse
Free

Ultimate Frisbee Eastern Suburbs League

Ever wish there was a sport that involved a Frisbee? Well, come to the Village Green tonight to play a couple of games of Ultimate Frisbee. This exciting new sport is

for men and women of all skill levels, combining some of the best aspects of soccer, basketball and gridiron. The UNSW Ultimate Frisbee Club runs a weekly League for players - beginner or advanced. Come along and give it a go!
 7-9pm
 Village Green
 \$30 for the session

CSE Revue 2005: Sin CSE

The guys and gals of CSE Revue are back with a wham-bam musical comedy sketch show, complete with sinister gangsters, gorgeous divas, spectacular videos and everything in between! You would not want to miss out on this! To book tickets or find out more about the show, check out www.cserevue.org.au.
 7:30pm
 Fig Tree Theatre
 \$10

THURSDAY SEPT 15

UNSW AUJS - Israel Week Stall

Library Lawn
 All Day

UNSW Clean Energy Campaign Launch

Come and sign a windmill and help create a campus wide commitment to changing our energy use as a university. UNSW is one of the largest energy consumers in Sydney and because most of this comes from coal fired power stations we are also one of the biggest contributors to climate change. Help stop climate change by calling on the

university to switch to 100% clean energy and reduce its energy consumption at the same time.

11am - 2pm
 Library Lawn
 Free

Table Tennis

Don't jump the net
 11am
 Roundhouse.
 Free

Inaugural AGM for UNSW Gardening Club

For UNSW students interested in gardening
 12pm
 Quad1001.
 Free

Table Tennis

Come on!
 1pm
 Roundhouse.
 Free

Campus Bible Study talk: Christian spirituality

Do we receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Join us for a talk on Galatians 3:1-14. For more information, visit www.campusbiblestudy.org
 1pm-2pm
 Science Theatre.
 Free

UNSW Chess Club

Chess players know all the right moves
 1-4pm
 Quad 1001
 Members Free, Membership \$5

UNSW Law Society Speakers' Forum:

Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty

As Commissioner of the AFP, Mr Keelty is Chair of the Board of the Australian National Council on Drugs and Chair of the Board of the Australian Crime Commission. He is the superior authority on issues of criminal law at the Federal level including drug importation, illegal immigration and money laundering. This is an exciting opportunity for all students to come and hear from the person at the front line of legal issues in this state.

1-2pm
 Ritchie Theatre, Scientia.
 Free

UNSW Ultimate Frisbee Club Training

The UNSW Ultimate Frisbee Club runs weekly training sessions conducted by accredited coaches. If you want to keep fit and have some fun, then give Ultimate Frisbee a go.
 4-5:30pm
 Village Green
 Free for members

Building Influential Generation (BIG) - AGM

If you want to know more about BIG or what we do, come along to our AGM. We are here for a reason and every week we have a weekly meeting to equip us through leadership and networking based on Christian living.
 4pm-6pm
 Quadrangle Building, G-27

Beer Garden Band and DJ Comp

Fresh faces and fresh beats
 4:30pm
 Beer Garden, Roundhouse. Free

UNSW PunkRockSoc Picture Show

Come join us for a night of Kung Fu Records films (directed by members of The Vandals) and pizza. Visit www.punkrocksoc.netfirms.com for more info.
 6-9pm
 D10 G01
 Free for members, others \$4 annual membership fee



PARTY BALL GAMES



e. 20/10/04
 (9/12/04)

Chinese Students Association Movie - Purple

Butterfly

A Chinese take on the old-fashioned wartime spy romance.

Applied Science G07A

6:15pm. Free

UNSW Professional Speakers Club -

Toastmasters

Want to improve your public speaking and/or presentation skills? Come to Toastmasters where you can gain more confidence in speaking in a friendly and supportive environment where you 'learn by doing'. We have ways of making you talk!

All welcome.

6:15pm - 8:30pm

Quadrangle building, Room G034

Free

CSE Revue 2005: Sin CSE

7:30pm

Fig Tree Theatre. \$10

Southern Region Band Comp Finals

See what happens when the Region's best bands step out and compete to be the best band.

8pm

Roundhouse. Free

FRIDAY 16

Table Tennis

Miss this and you'll have to wait three days to play ping pong.

11am

Roundhouse

Free

Jazz In the Beer Garden

Ease out of the week.

1pm

Beer Garden, Roundhouse

Free

Friday Arvo Sessions with DJ Cadell

Cadell laying down the smoothed out beats, a beer garden, and happy hour. Welcome to the Weekend!

4:30 pm

Beer Garden, Roundhouse

Free

Spocksoc Sea Quest DSV Screening

Come join us for episodes of Sea Quest DSV.

There will be a pizza run during the night. Visit

www.spocksoc.unsw.edu.au for more details.

6pm 'til late

Civil Engineering G1

Free for members, \$5 annual membership fee

CSE Revue 2005: Sin CSE

To book tickets, check out www.cserevue.org.au.

7:30pm

Fig Tree Theatre

\$10

SATURDAY 17

CSE Revue 2005: Sin CSE

To book tickets, check out www.cserevue.org.au.

7:30pm

Fig Tree Theatre

\$10

U Space - Bar Skills Course

Bookings are essential. Visit the U Space Office in the Blockhouse or email employability@union.unsw.edu.au

9am-4pm

Roundhouse Club Bar

SUNDAY 18

UNSW Ecoliving Centre presents Spring Choirs in the Garden

Celebrating Spring in the beauty of the UNSW Community Garden, with some wonderful acappella choirs; including Sydney's environmental choir Ecopella, the fantastic gospel sound of The Elemental Singers and the Garden's own Rainbow Choir, and various poets. A huge afternoon tea is served in the marquee, please bring a plate to share.

2:30pm

UNSW Community Garden, rear of 12 Arthur St, Randwick

Gold coin donation and/or bring a plate to share afternoon tea with the community

WANT TO LIST YOUR EVENT IN WHAT'S ON?

It's easy. Just send an email to whatsonblitz@union.unsw.edu.au containing the following information about your event:

1. Event name
2. Organiser
3. Location
4. Date
5. Time
6. Cost
7. Description of 50-100 words. *The description is compulsory!*

You can find an electronic template on the Union website,

www.union.unsw.edu.au

The deadline for What's On is twelve days before (always a Wednesday) the magazine is released (always a Monday)



U Space Report

U Space Launches Artsweek
Last Monday's Artweek Launch consisted of a tasty BBQ and the Celebrity Comedy Debate. Congratulations to the UNSW debating team who convinced us that Big Brother should not be voted off the island.

Special thanks also to the wonderful volunteers who made it happen, to everyone who attended our major Artsweek events and launches, who made themselves a badge or painted a stein; to all of the clubs, societies and university groups who contributed to the week. It goes to show that the arts are alive and well at UNSW.

Remember that the Union Art Prize is open to all students in the categories of 2D (like drawing or painting) and 3D (like sculpture). Entries close October 7 for 2D and October 14 for 3D. See the Union Website or go to U Space or Union Reception.

This Week at U Space

Employability Courses offer the opportunity to be certified as a barista or bar staff at a reduced price. For more information or to register, drop into the Union Blockhouse (opposite the Roundhouse). Places are limited. Contact: employability@union.unsw.edu.au.

Volunteers Needed for Mooncake THIS WEEK!

We need volunteers for the Mooncake Yum Cha Festival from 10:30am to 1pm and/or 12:30 to 4pm. If you help out you get free yum cha meal and a sexy Mooncake T-shirt. If you would like to be involved please email s.plummer@union.unsw.edu.au with your name, email, phone number and availability on Tuesday and Wednesday September 13 and 14.



Blackboard bistro meals

Pan fried barramundi fillet with pine nuts, served on steamed greens with lemon wedges.

Union member \$12.35
non member \$13.70

Balsamic glazed steak with salad greens, spanish onion and roma tomato.

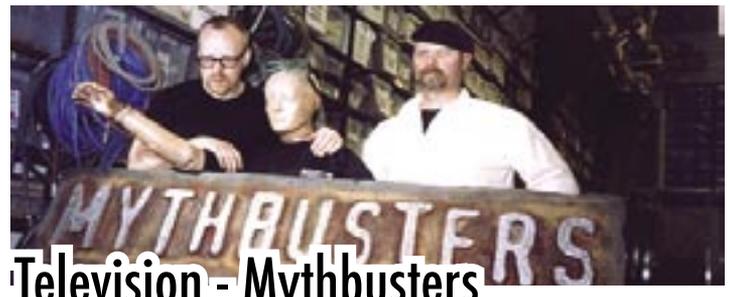
Union member \$12.35
non member \$13.70

Pasta with smoked salmon, capers and spanish onion in a creamy sauce

Union member \$10
non member \$11



reviews



Television - Mythbusters

Despite being on SBS, most audiences would have either heard of or watched Mythbusters. It is the show which answers all those important questions like: can talking on a mobile phone really cause an explosion at a petrol station? This sleeper hit has had positive critical and word-of-mouth feedback for its novel content and style, but has anyone thought to apply the Mythbusting technique on the show itself?

To find out whether this show was truly all that it boasts to be, I found myself tuning into a Monday night episode at 7:30pm on SBS. This particular episode had Jamie and Adam, the show's eclectic hosts, testing three myths: is yawning contagious; does toast always land butter side down; and can a toy car beat a Dodge Viper (powered only by gravity) over a quarter-mile downhill course? Giving away the answers would spoil the intrigue of the show, which is its biggest drawcard. That said, the episodes are cleverly edited and maintain viewer interest throughout the one-hour timeslot.

In the style of the show I would say that this myth has been CONFIRMED: Mythbusters definitely beats anything else in the Monday 7:30pm timeslot. Highly recommended weekly viewing – **Matt Lim**



Music - The Curious City - Modey Lemon

Roughly speaking, when a CD cover looks intriguing, then the music stands a chance of being good. Unfortunately, Modey Lemon's *The Curious City* sits outside this theory.

It's not a *terrible* rock album. The recording sounds untamed and raw, giving the album a gritty, rocky feel. It has a fair share of uplifting rock riffs and bass batterings, and there are the occasional good lyrics, such as "She jumps in the frozen lake and still thinks I'm a cool kid / My tongue tied up in Saturn's rings."

But while there are some enjoyable portions of the record, there are others that sound standard and flatten the overall colour of the songs. In other words, there isn't enough in the album to offer something new and fresh into the spectrum of rock. Also, there is only one calm song, 'Countries', which is situated at the end of the album.

Put it this way: Modey Lemon would be an enjoyable band to see at a local pub, because I imagine they'd play a lively set of generic rock. But their music, at least in this album, isn't exactly album-worthy – **Iain Murray**.

visual blitz



'Stalking' by Steven Gao

"The tallest hotel in the world, located in Shanghai. It's a shame that we had to stay in a dodgy backpacker's hostel while we were there."

Every week, students contribute their artwork to Visual Blitz and every year, Visual Blitz culminates in an exhibition of student work with prizes awarded to the winning entries. If you're in the habit of making creative statements then Visual Blitz is your canvas.

Send your contributions for 2005 Visual Blitz to: blitzeditor@union.unsw.edu.au (Please include a 50 word explanation)



Australia

*This week at UNSW, the most international of Australian University campuses, the Mooncake festival will take place. While Asian values and culture have quite clearly established themselves within Australia, there remains a question mark about how deeply ingrained these values are in Australian culture. Is Australia a part of Asia? **Rob Gascoigne** ponders.*

Nearly a decade ago, the then Prime Minister Paul Keating announced his belief that Australia was a part of Asia. In arguing this, Keating claimed that there were distinctly 'Asian' elements latent in Australian culture. "The word most Australians would very likely choose to describe as a core Australian value is 'mateship'," he claimed in a 1996 speech in Singapore, "and 'mateship' expresses an ethic of communitarianism and mutual obligation which, in other contexts, is called 'Asian'."

Keating's statements raised a lot of eyebrows. Australians have long taken a cautious approach to any integration with their northern neighbours. Indeed, for well over a century Australia tried hard to deny any integration: from the 1850s through to the 1970s, Australian Government discouraged non-white immigration through the White Australia policy.

Bigotry operated at the highest level. Australia's First Prime Minister, Edmund Barton believed that "...the doctrine of the equality of man was never intended to apply to the equality of the Englishman and the Chinaman." In the 1940s, when post-war Australia opened its doors to European immigration, then Immigration Minister Arthur Calwell famously noted that "Two Wongs don't make a White."

Even recently there has been some discomfort in areas of the Australian community about the level of Asian immigration or integration taking place in Australia. In the mid-1990s, the rise to prominence of Pauline Hanson and her One Nation Party raised questions about immigration, specifically that from Asia. In

2005, there has been significant attention directed at the comments of Professor Andrew Fraser of Macquarie University, who has argued for a return to the White Australia Policy due, in part, to the huge proportion of law and medicine graduates in this country

who are Asian-born Australians.

And, of course, the comments by former Liberal party leader, John Brogden about Helena Carr do suggest that even at the highest level in politics there might be a lack of understanding about racial integration.

Clearly, with such a history of discomfort with Asia, Keating's belief that Australia was a part of Asia seems a bit of a stretch. Even if you put to one side the issue of Australia's discomfort with its neighbours, there is the very thorny question of determining precisely what is meant when we talk about something being 'Asian'. It's a difficult concept to master.

Asia is not, as it is so regularly presumed, a coherent whole; it is a myriad of cultures, philosophies, races and languages. There are ancient feuds between different nations that continue to this very day – the recent diplomatic fracas between China and Japan has a history that extends far beyond the Second World War. To refer to particular philosophies like Confucianism or specific religions is to exclude a number of other beliefs. Even geographically, it's unclear precisely what is included. Are nations like Kyrgyzstan (it does exist!), tucked away in post-Soviet north, part of Asia? With these divisions and differences, how is it possible to ever claim that there are particular values or people that are specifically Asian? How can other cultures be excluded?

Despite these difficulties, the idea of 'Asian' values and cultures continue to be invoked. This is true of persons both within and outside of Asia. Former Malaysian President Mahathir Mohammed was a strong proponent throughout the 1990s of the idea that Asian nations - more specifically South-East Asian ones - were united by common values; that it was this communal spirit that allowed groups of Asian nations to form economic and political unions.

It is on the back of a sense of a communal 'Asian-ness' that much of the region's economic and political strength has materialised. It is obvious that much of Keating's interest in uniting with the region extended from a desire to integrate with these economic blocs.

Asians

Indeed, this is an ambition also held – and achieved – by the Howard Government. But it is inaccurate to claim that trade is the length and breadth of Australia's interest in integrating with Asia. There is something much deeper involved.

This deeper push extends from two sources. First, there is the obvious matter of geography. Australians throughout history may have liked to think of themselves as European, but Europe is on the other side of the planet; Asia is next door. It would be difficult, perhaps even impossible, to isolate ourselves economically and culturally from a region that is so close.

The second reason is significantly more important: culturally, Asia and Australia have begun to merge, particularly on our own soil. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Asian-born Australians now constitute six percent of Australia's population. Add to that second, third and fourth generation migrants and the number is even greater. In such a climate there must be some overlap between cultures.

So does this mean that Australia is an Asian nation? Well, it's unlikely. The fact that such a clear distinction can be drawn between Australia and Asian nations suggests that it remains a difficult classification. Dr Mahathir was rarely crystal clear about what he believed Asian values to be, but he was certain that Australia did not share them. That alone must suggest that it is difficult to claim that Australia is an Asian nation but the distinction also remains very clear to most Australians.

This is particularly true in our popular culture. The Korean-American stand-up comedian, Margaret Cho once commented that American films only had two types of Asian characters: IT experts or martial arts masters. It was almost as if, she suggested, they had to justify casting an Asian actor.

Cho's observation might just as accurately apply to Australian television. How many Asian characters do you see on *Neighbours* or *Home and Away* for example? Even if the occasional non-white face pops up, it's notable as an exception rather than a rule. It

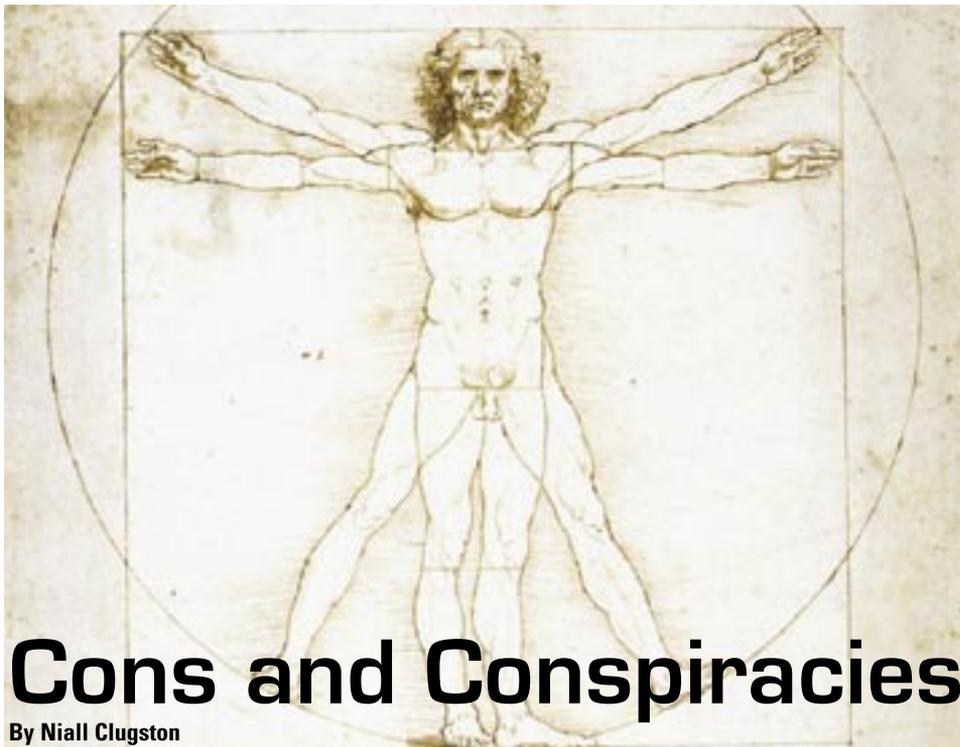
seems truer on a wider-level as well: would we have ever accepted a Vietnamese-Australian *Crocodile Dundee*? There remains a very notable separation between what is Asian and what is Australian.

It remains difficult to argue that Australia is a part of Asia. But while this might be true today, there is no suggestion that it will remain true in the future. In the Twenty-First century, it will likely be Asia (and most likely China) that will be the political and economic engine of the world. This could give Asia a much more extensive cultural force throughout the West. If that happens, it could quite easily diffuse into a culture as geographically and ethnically close to the region as Australia.

Australians might continue to eat with knives and forks rather than chopsticks but remember that the idea of 'Asia' incorporates a range of different peoples and customs. To say that Australia is too different to Asian nations to ever be considered apart of the region is to suggest that Asian nations are themselves all alike and that is not the case. Australia could still merge with its northern neighbours.

Before she became famous for carrying ecstasy in Indonesia, the stunning, angular features of Eurasian model Michelle Leslie appeared on the front of *The Sydney Morning Herald* as the embodiment of what Australians find beautiful. It presents a wonderful ideal. Rather than looking at the 'Asian-ness' of an individual, Australians are shifting toward a more cosmopolitan approach: looking for the hybrid point between cultures. And it is precisely this sort of mentality that might guide Australia's progress. Even if Australians are not Asian (whatever that actually means) as such, there's a wonderful integration taking place. You may grow to see your children living as *Australasians*.





Cons and Conspiracies

By Niall Clugston

Conspiracy theories occur in vast array and variety, multiplying and mutating like viruses. But they usually all have one or all of three logical fallacies at their core:

- *The false dilemma.* A false choice between only two options, ignoring any other possibilities;
- *The argument from ignorance.* This usually involves believing that because a theory has not been proven false it must therefore be true. In conspiracy theories this is one-sided: any gaps in the conventional version are exploited by the conspiracy theorists, but same standards are not applied to their own ideas;
- *The hasty generalisation.* By far the most common fallacy found in conspiracy theories. This is when a conclusion is drawn from insufficient evidence, a pattern induced from a scattering of incidental facts.

In *The da Vinci Code*, the astronomical – or perhaps astrological – bestseller, author Dan Brown puts forward a wide-ranging conspiracy theory about Christianity. Of course it's just a novel, but Brown asserts that's based on fact and apparently many Christians have had their faith shaken.

But here's the false dilemma: either we accept Catholic tradition in its entirety, or else accept Brown's alternative that Jesus survived the crucifixion and fathered the French royal family. In his defence Brown points out that the *Bible's* account doesn't justify the Catholic tradition that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute, but this goes no

way to proving that Mary was actually Jesus' wife! Incidentally, this controversy is beside the point: the 'prostitute story' was adding colour to Mary rather than throwing mud. She was still revered as a saint, not denigrated as a symbol of the 'sacred feminine' as Brown believes. She even has had university colleges named after her in both Oxford and Cambridge!

This 'weird history' is buttressed by arguments from ignorance. There's much that's unknown about early Christianity, about the Knights Templar, about the Priory of Sion (probably a modern hoax), and so on. But Brown takes this lack of knowledge as licence to install speculative gargoyles wherever there's a gap in the solid scholarship. He is acidly sceptical about conventional accounts of Leonardo da Vinci's art, but he treats as reasonable the proposition that da Vinci knew about Jesus' secret life.

Overarching this medieval cathedral of a theory is the hasty generalisation. Brown covers two thousand years, touching the ground as briefly as an expert Twister player. To mix metaphor again, there are plenty of weird facts around, but to try to shoehorn them into a giant jigsaw is paranoid logic!

Of course, Dan Brown is not the first to dabble in conspiracy theories. For example, it is true that Prince Philip is patron of the World Wildlife Fund; it is also true that Queen Elizabeth II is a shareholder of Rio Tinto. But these facts do nothing to prove, as the Citizen's Electoral Council believes, that the Royal Family sits at the centre of a secret financial oligarchy that rules the world, using the green movement as one of its pawns!

Once again, an argument from ignorance is used, this time to impute sinister motives to those running a number of institutions. Of course we can never be sure what really goes on behind closed doors, but that's not evidence of guilt! Again there's a false dilemma: valid criticisms of Rio Tinto are put forward, and we are forced either to defend the company or buy into the CEC's theory. Not many people are buying it, though.

But while they can be amusing, conspiracy theories can also be deadly serious. Adolf Hitler rose to power alleging a world Jewish plot and he wrote about his self-education technique in *Mein Kampf*:

"Each little piece of knowledge thus gained must be treated as if it were a little stone to be inserted into a mosaic, so that it finds its proper place among all the other pieces that help to form a general world-view in the brain of the reader."

The potential for bias and hasty generalisation is obvious. Yes, Rothschild and Marx were both Jews, but this doesn't prove that high finance and Communism are evil twins!

Taking the opposite tack, there's a tendency to dismiss alternative views of the world with the label 'conspiracy theory'. But this is actually another version of the argument from ignorance. Just because things aren't widely denied doesn't make them false; former weapons inspector, Scott Ritter, was branded a nutcase when he said that Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction.

So it's all a matter of being logical, right? Wrong - there's potential for abuse in logic as well. A recently proposed national ID card has provoked criticism over the possibility for invasion of privacy, but perhaps the major concern over the card is the proposal to use it for 'data mining', a technique that finds patterns in a mass of electronic information.

But a computer, though logical, is also paranoid. The fact that you're a pilot who has bought box-cutters might give you the profile of a terrorist. What about the supposed connections between people? Who else used EFTPOS in that café? Who else was in that uni course or tour group? And so on. If the 'six degrees of separation' idea is right, we could all be in a network connected to Osama bin Laden! One in a million chance? Well, that's 20 innocent Australians.

So along with your logic, use some old-fashioned common sense!



Tell it like it is *with Karen Spencer*

Now, I am fully aware that the last thing *Blitz* probably needs is an article about relationships. Chances are I should be writing about something far more pertinent to the needs of the average Uni student, like VSU or the various shades of Post-It notes available on campus.

However, I do believe that a particular relationship I have had the questionable privilege of experiencing paints a scenario that will likely be familiar to many of the students on campus.

We've all been faced with some incredibly beautiful male or female whom we have swooned over and attempted to impress before realising that, in reality, it is they who should have been trying to impress us.

My particular version of this was being asked out by a man who can only be described as the male equivalent of Angelina Jolie, and naturally I wanted very much for things to work out. The problem was this prompted a vital error on my part of not correcting the various blazing examples of stupidity he proceeded to regale me with from the moment we started going out.

There are a few notable examples of the lack of brain that characterised our relationship. I was informed that 'cook' is spelt "...with two zeros, not one." He followed this with a proud announcement that he no longer needed to write down his ATM pin number.

This carried the dual misfortune of making him feel smarter and me look stupider. As is so often the case, his excessive stupidity was accompanied by an equally impressive ego.

An hour after letting me know he was leaving me for his ex-girlfriend he telephoned me (in my tearful state) and informed me that he was building a 'fortress' on his computer. In addition, this particular man-child did many hurtful things to me that I now can only put down to the fact that he was never blessed with an internal dialogue; verbalising the positive and negative attributes of myself compared to his ex-girlfriend is not often appropriate.

After one particularly heated discussion in his car the day after the aforementioned 'fortress' phone-call, things went from bad to worse when *she* called his mobile. In a huff, I went to quickly get out of the car and storm off. I stood up to get out of the car, tripped over the curb, straightened up and banged my head on an overhanging tree, turned around (to the sound of his laughter) and

attempted to lean back into the car to make a light-hearted joke about it and ease my already battered ego, but I misjudged and banged my head on the roof of the car. I am a woman who knows how to make an exit.

To cut a long story short, he persistently called me even after he had gotten back together with his ex. This has recently taken the form of Warnesque text messaging: in my opinion the lowest form of cross-gender communication. I should have cut him off as soon as he started debating whether to get back together with his ex-girlfriend, but I didn't. Why? Well, because he was the male equivalent of Angelina Jolie, that's why.

This is not behaviour that should be tolerated by anyone in a relationship. The moral of my story is this: while it's nice to have an attractive partner, you will find it far easier to sustain a relationship with an individual who can hold a coherent conversation. Intelligence will always trump looks when it comes to the relationship game.

Tell it like it is for Blitz Magazine and get paid \$25. Send your 700-800 word rant to blitzeditor@union.unsw.edu.au.

classifieds

Send your classifieds to blitzeditor@union.unsw.edu.au There is a 60 word limit. UNSW students should include their student

Seeking third-plus generation Australian Born

Chinese for PHD research on Chinese Identity. The interview will discuss family migration history, links with place of origin, sense of identity and belonging, social networks and social experiences. The session will be taped and last up to 1.5 hours. Please contact Lucille Ngan, on l.ngan@student.unsw.edu.au or call 0414 533 022 if you are interested.

Free blood cholesterol test and blood pressure

check for males. Do you think you have a HIGHER THAN NORMAL blood pressure? You must be 18-25 years, a NON-smoker AND have a family history of high blood pressure. Contact Dr. Maria Matuszek in the Faculty of Medicine by email (m.matuszek@unsw.edu.au) with the heading 'cholesterol test'.

Wanted. Male volunteers for a study looking at identifying risk markers of high blood pressure. Non-smoking males aged 18-25 years only. Volunteers informed about blood pressure, body composition and other cardiovascular health variables and any risk of developing hypertension in later life. Contact Kai Huang on z2250349@student.unsw.edu.au or call 93858710 or 0402 269 855.

Can you help build the next Google? Visit http://129.94.108.23/health_searching/info.html. Must have used a search engine before. 30-60 min web-based experiment answering six health-related questions using a search engine. Participants can win one of 100 movie tickets. Contact Annie Lau, at anniel@student.unsw.edu.au, or 9385

9035 or 0431 599 890.

Moving Sale. IBM NetVista PC: keyboard, mouse, speakers, XP Pro SP2, P3 930MHz, 368MB RAM, CD-ROM Drive, 37GB HDD, 4 USBs, LAN, PSTN modem, \$400. Genusis speakers, \$5. 6in1 card reader, \$5. ADSL 4 port modem+router, \$30. 6-plug extension power pack, \$5. 18" ProView LCD monitor, \$100. Casio graphics calculator, FX-7400G+, \$5. Contact 0411 379 991, z3144475@student.unsw.edu.au

Food Questionnaire. Please take part in an exciting research project identifying what is happening inside the everyday Australian kitchen. Contribute to a cleaner, safer and more hygienic community. Go to the web-site www.foo.dhandling.cjb.com; it will take only 5 min of your time.

Conception Day 2005: For Macquarie University students only. Due to the increasing popularity of Conception Day among Macquarie University students, the University's capacity and ability to manage more than the student body has become problematic. As a result they have made the decision to restrict entry to the event to Macquarie University students only this year.

Room for Rent, large bedroom in two bedroom unit at Fairlight (near Manly). \$140/wk. M/F to share with 1 male research student. 10 min to beach, bus stops, Shops. Share bills. Available end of September, four weeks bond. Non-smoker, quiet housemate preferred. Email Chin at z3071731@student.unsw.edu.au.

Chemistry home tutor. Bachelor's and Master's degree of Chemical Technology, from the University of Tuzla, Bosnia. Worked as assistant lecturer at the Organic Technology Department of above university. Tutoring from 2000 year up to now in general and organic chemistry. Cost: \$30 per hour. Contact Cvetko (Steve) Trajilovic on 9311 1875.

Remote Control Airplane For Sale. Never flown, ready to fly petrol plane, 42cc Thunder Tiger Engine, 4ch remote, 53inch wingspan, 50inch long. Does loops and rolls. \$750 new, plus time required to build. Will sell for \$600ono. Contact 0401 049 955. Will email pictures on request.

Sales person required. Casual, with either previous bicycle retail experience or is a cycling enthusiast with a mature outlook for our busy shop mainly weekends. Refs essential. Please phone during business hours, Mon-Fri only, or email woolys@woolyswheels.com.au. Woolys Wheels, Paddington: 02 9331 2671.

Designer required for website and 'Backbencher' magazine, made by The Politics and International Relations Students' Association. Must be student with experience in web design and maintenance, graphic design. An opportunity to gain design experience, work as part of a motivated and dedicated team and create a lasting campus legacy. Contact Josué Castro at z3059120@student.unsw.edu.au or 0411 894 045.

Week 7 Target Nine-letter word: NEGOTIATE



Student Catering
For BBQs, Meetings, Parties
Try our new 'sausage sizzle' deal
Just **\$1 per head!**
Each person gets a sausage, a bread roll and onions.
No minimum order required, delivery on campus is FREE!
Beat that!
www.union.unsw.edu.au/studentcatering
Ph 9385 7714
Union



ROUND HOUSE
invigoration
guarana energy
ENERGY DRINK 330ml
V & Vodka \$5
*Offer exclusive to UNSW Union Members
The University of New South Wales
Union

VOX POPS



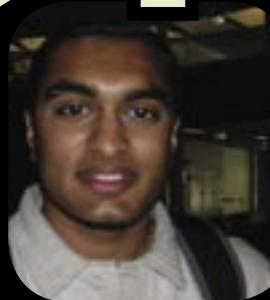
Jocelyn

If you found \$43,000 in a bag, what would you do with it?

I would go buy myself a really dodgy and cheap island to live on

What did you eat for breakfast this morning?

Umm, cornflakes



Ahmed

If you found \$43,000 in a bag, what would you do with it?

I'd invest in property

What did you eat for breakfast this morning?

Eggs



Izaz

If you found \$43,000 in a bag, what would you do with it?

An Integra Type S with VTEC

What did you eat for breakfast this morning?

I had sausages



Ryana

If you found \$43,000 in a bag, what would you do with it?

I'd spend \$30,000 on a Mini Cooper S, black with a white rooftop

What did you eat for breakfast this morning?

A Morning Glory Crepe (Egg, ham and cheese)



Mel

If you found \$43,000 in a bag, what would you do with it?

Are you recording me? I'd spend it on designer clothes and go overseas

What did you eat for breakfast this morning?

Yoghurt



Leannie

If you found \$43,000 in a bag, what would you do with it?

I would buy a new car and save the rest of the money for my trip to Europe for the World Cup

What did you eat for breakfast this morning?

A piece of toast with garlic butter



Howie

If you found \$43,000 in a bag, what would you do with it?

Depends...is it sequential or not? [errr, no] Then I guess I'd buy some energy stocks with it.

What did you eat for breakfast this morning?

A cinnamon donut

Nelson

If you found \$43,000 in a bag, what would you do with it?

Buy lots of crap. [Like?] A really cool jacket, a number of motorcycles, lots of high quality German porn and maybe a whole bunch of exotic lighters, like those jet ones and special ones for cigars...

What did you eat for breakfast this morning?

Grapefruit

Jason

If you found \$43,000 in a bag, what would you do with it?

I guess I'd try to find the owner as well...if I couldn't I'd probably give it to the police. I wouldn't feel good keeping it myself, I have a conscience.

What did you eat for breakfast this morning?

I don't have breakfast, I never wake up in time

Dave

If you found \$43,000 in a bag, what would you do with it?

I'd try to find the owner of it (yeah, right!)

What did you eat for breakfast this morning?

A coffee and a cigarette

CAN YOU THINK OF A VOX POPS QUESTION? SMS IT TO 0407 BLI TZO RIGHT NOW!

USE YOUR NOODLE

HONG KONG from \$765 plus \$221 taxes

For a great student fare, call Virgin Atlantic on 1300 727 340
and quote 'UNSW Mooncake'



economy

- All seats have personal TV screens.
- Up to 300 hours of award-winning entertainment on demand so you stop, start, fast-forward and rewind all the action.
- Quality complimentary meal choices including a vegetarian option and free drinks for the whole flight.



**virgin
atlantic**

DAILY TO
HONG KONG & LONDON

www.virginatlantic.com.au