Share House Horror Stories
Your Guide to Moving
Stupid Cupid
Book Giveaways
BLOW YOUR TRUMPET

Write.
Draw.
Share.

Blitz is the Source’s weekly ‘What’s On’ magazine.

With 11,000 readers, it’s the perfect opportunity for budding writers, artists and designers (or anyone with something to share) to get published.

We want your
• writings,
• photos,
• cartoons,
• cover designs
• puzzles.

Contribute a series of articles or designs over the year, and we’ll make you an Associate Reporter.

Interested?
Send an email to blitzeditor@source.unsw.edu.au
call 9385 7715 for a chat
or come up and see us on
Level 1 of the Blockhouse.
Editor’s letter

by Rob Gascoigne

I don’t know who said it – I think it was GB Shaw but I’m notorious for getting these things wrong – but I remember once hearing that people fear freedom because it brings responsibility. I think that’s pretty accurate actually.

Moving out of home for the first time is an amazing step to take. Finally, finally you’re away from parents and siblings (I don’t care how close you are - eventually people who know you that well will shit you) and you can begin to cut out a huge slab of the world to be your very own.

Freedom!

It’s one of the most important things you’ll do in your life and, chances are, it’s probably going to happen while you’re at uni. In fact, many of the people reading this are going to be going through the process right now. That’s why we decided to put together this edition on moving out.

Despite the initial sense of liberation, moving out can also be a pain in the proverbial. If it’s not the process of moving itself, there are other grievances that will no doubt appear. Be careful about where you are moving and how much it will cost you. It will probably cost you more than you can anticipate, but only if you want to eat.

To give you more of an idea about your legal status when moving, Alex Serpo has outlined your basic rights and requirements. Make sure you know this stuff. Even if you’re moving out with your closest mates – people that you’ve known your whole life – it pays to know what you can and can’t do after signing a lease. And, on that point, we get to the other major issue: who you move out with. It is so, so, so important to have a happy place to live. Trust me on this, if you feel uncomfortable about going back home after work or uni, you should move out as soon as possible. That’s not a home, it’s a hindrance. To give you some food for thought on this issue, Flick Strong has put together a string of share house horror stories.

Liberty is fantastic – and leaving home is one of the most liberating things you can do – but it comes with responsibility.

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 UNSW Source.

The views expressed herein are not necessarily the views of UNSW Source, unless expressly stated. UNSW Source 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 2006:
Editor: Rob Gascoigne
Reporters: Alex Serpo, Flick Strong
Designer: Justin Theng

Communications Manager: Marina Spurgin, 02 9395 7731

Advertising & Sponsorship Coordinator:
Charlotte O’Brien
02 9385 7331

Marketing Manager: Donna Wiemann

CONTENTS:

President’s Letter 4

Riches from Nothing™® 6

A League of Our Own 7

Moving Out 8

Puzzles 10

Snapshot 11

What’s On 12

Stupid Cupid 15

Comics 15

House of Horrors 16

Reviews 18

Visual Blitz 19

The Effects of VSU 20

Ask CONTACT 20

My Home at Uni 21

Classifieds 22

Vox Pops 23
Influence the Source
Student positions now open

The Source has a number of committees which help the Board of Directors to make decisions about the way the Source is run. These committees are made up of Source Directors, Source staff, and student cooptees. Any student can apply now to be a cooptee.

**Commercial Services Committee:**
Oversees the Source’s commercial operations – food and retail, Roundhouse and Roundtable Catering Service.

**Membership Services Committee:**
Oversees the Source’s volunteer programs, student courses, specialised facilities, entertainment, club and society support, and other benefits for the Source’s members.

The Source’s two main committees focus on a specific area of the Source’s operation, and each is looking for three student cooptees. These committees, and their areas of operation, are as follows:

**Commercial Services Committee:**
Oversees the Source’s commercial operations – food and retail, Roundhouse and Roundtable Catering Service.

**Membership Services Committee:**
Oversees the Source’s volunteer programs, student courses, specialised facilities, entertainment, club and society support, and other benefits for the Source’s members.

For more information, visit the Source website (www.source.unsw.edu.au – follow the link in the ‘Latest News’ section), or contact Kirstin Hunter, Source President, on 9385 7724 or president@source.unsw.edu.au.

Applications close at 5pm on Friday 11 March 2006 (end of Week 2).
I have a plan that is going to make me a millionaire, a billionaire. Mega rich. Uber rich. I am going to sell NothingTM®. When people buy NothingTM®, they will get just that, nothing. Boy will people buy it, they will buy it by the truckloads. I will have hundreds of factories making nothing. People will eat NothingTM® and drink it. It will be on clothes, in the movies, on billboards, on the Internet, in shops and schools. It’ll even be in your thoughts and memories, even in your dreams. In short NothingTM® will be everywhere.

Most importantly, NothingTM® will be worth a truckload of money. First I am going to start by placing the NothingTM® trade mark everywhere. You will see it on the television, on billboards, in magazines. It will be on your mobile phone and on popular TV shows, Big Brother will be sponsored by NothingTM®. I will put it on clothes and soon you will be wearing NothingTM®. Everyone will love you for it. Pop Diva’s and Rap stars will appear wearing NothingTM® on MTV and Channel V. Soon you will learn to love and respect NothingTM®. You will associate it with fame, beauty and being popular. Most importantly, NothingTM® will be a symbol of status.

You will save up for the latest pair of NothingTM® sneakers. People will stop you and ask; ‘is that a NothingTM® shirt you are wearing?’ When you answer affirmative, then they will respect you more.

When I reign over my business empire like Donald Trump, after exploiting all those suckers, then I will finally be able to afford that pair of Guchi jeans, that CK shirt and the DNKY leather jacket that I always knew would make me cool.

---

**Riches From NothingTM®**

By Alex Serpo
For as long as I can remember, I have always been a South Sydney fan. Ever since I was a toddler, my father would take me to the football stadium to watch them play. Each weekend he would sit me down with the team sheet and complain to me that Craig Field wasn’t kicking the ball well enough or Mario Fenech wasn’t making enough darts from dummy half. Although I was only five years of age at the time, I still took it all in.

He would insist on buying me a new jersey each year and you could always see the pride in his eyes when I would first put it on. Despite this pride, I was never sure what it was about Rugby League that attracted him but the passion he shared with me for Souths was undeniable. Every time they played he would insist we attend the match, no matter how far away it was. Certain weekends would be adventures as far as Brisbane and as close as Penrith and Cronulla. It didn’t matter where they played, he would always make sure we could get there to watch it.

Rugby League was a game played and supported by the working class. Although in recent years, the game has turned extremely professional, it will never escape its original roots. People are attracted to the game because they can relate to their own team. As clubs come from all different areas, it was tradition that the area you lived in was the club you supported. If you were from Cronulla, then you would support the Sharks and if you were from Brisbane, then the Broncos were your team. It was just the way it worked. It allowed the common people a connection. Rugby League became a success because people developed a feeling of ownership over their football team along with a sense of identity.

Whenever the month of March approaches, all these feelings and emotions rush to my head. I remember every weekend that my father and I spent together watching the boys in red and green run around the park. It seems like yesterday that he would dress me up in my little jumper and take me to the games. I look forward to this new season with as much anticipation as the last and every season that preceded it. My passion for the sport never wavers. This can leave some people mystified, given that South Sydney has not won a premiership in more than twenty-five years. But just like an old habit, my love for the game will never be lost and I will one day dress my little boy up in a red and green jumper and take him to games.
The first and most obvious thing to ask yourself is whether you can afford it. There is a range of expenses to consider: rent, food, utilities, bond, furniture, whitegoods and other miscellaneous expenses. Rent doesn’t get much cheaper than one hundred bucks a week, and even then, you will be living in a cupboard or sharing a room. You should compare the rent with properties of the same type in the same area. Make sure you take into account all the bills you will have. Don’t forget about the phone bill and the electricity bill. Does your landlord pay for your water bill? Most importantly, don’t forget that you will need to buy food occasionally.

There comes a time in everyone’s life when you have to cut the umbilical cord. Sooner or later, you must leave the nest (and your Mum’s cooking) and emerge into the ‘real world’. However, there are some practical things you should know before moving out of home.

By Alex Serpo

One of the things that makes living out of home possible is Austudy or Youth Allowance. If you’re twenty-five and over, you can apply for Austudy. If you’re under twenty-five, you can apply for Youth Allowance. Both are payments the government gives you to make sure you finish your education, in order to grease the giant gears of the economy. To be eligible to get Austudy or Youth Allowance you must meet certain criteria. To find out more, contact Centrelink (www.centrelink.gov.au).

As a renter, you should know your rights. Your landlord cannot discriminate against you. Even if you’re a transvestite voodoo witch doctor and your landlord is a Christian white supremacist, s/he cannot legally deny you a tenancy for any of the above-mentioned characteristics (NB Blitz does not recommend this renting arrangement). If you feel that you have been discriminated against, you can contact the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board (www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/adb).

When you do find a place to call your own, you will be asked to sign a tenancy agreement and pay a reservation fee. But before you sign or pay anything, make sure you have got the right place. After you sign you may lose some of your reservation fee if you pull out. Some things to consider are: is it close to shops and transport? Is it noisy? Is everything in the flat in good order? If the rent is half the cost of much nicer properties in the area and the last occupant committed suicide, you might want to find out more. If everything is in order, your reservation fee becomes your first week’s rent.

“Soon you will start paying rent. It sucks but there are some things you should know.”

You will be asked to pay a bond. The legal maximum bond a landlord can ask for is four weeks’ rent for unfurnished premises and six weeks’ rent for furnished premises with a rent of less than two hundred and fifty a week. If the rent is more than two hundred and fifty a week and the place is furnished, the landlord can ask as much as they like. The landlord does not keep the bond; they send it to Renting Services at the Department of Fair Trading. If there is a dispute over the bond when you move out, it is always up to the landlord to prove any claim on the bond.

Soon you will start paying rent. It sucks but there are some things you should know. Rent is GST free. Your landlord should also cover the property’s local council rates and, in most cases, water. This does not include a landline phone, gas or electricity. Rent can be paid in person or electronically, or through an agent. If you pay rent in person you should get a receipt.

But probably the most important thing about living out of home is trying to ensure that the home stays happy. If you don’t want to go home at night, you’re not living in a happy home. Share houses are often overcrowded, so you will be jammed in with a group of people who could potentially be complete strangers. This can be interesting as you learn more about other people and, as a consequence, yourself.

The most common source of tension in share houses is money. Lay down the law from day one. Be absolutely definitive about when things need to be paid, and who needs to pay what. These should be set in stone. Also, ignore the business-savvy Commerce/Law student who says that everything should be paid at the last minute. It’s a really good idea to pay bills as early as you can.

The next source of tension is often personal habits, particularly between sexes. Consider whether you want to live in a same sex household. If you’re unfamiliar with the idiosyncrasies of the opposite
sex, you may be up for some unexpected tensions. It will take some time to get into the groove of your housemates, be patient and try to adapt, put yourself in their shoes. However, it does help to live with people with whom you share an interest or affection.

Sex will come up as an issue when living in a share house. They are environments that offer a great deal more freedom than a family home. It is universally considered to be a completely shit idea to sleep with a housemate. Relationships within the house will completely change the dynamic. Don’t select housemates on the basis of their sex appeal. It’s tempting but stupid. Likewise, listening to your roommates loud sex noises night after night will get really old really fast. Also, a long queue for the bathroom in the morning will cause tensions. Be open, discuss things, and have a set of rules for boyfriends/girlfriends.

“Sex will come up as an issue when living in a share house. They are environments that offer a great deal more freedom than a family home.”

Student living is generally poor living. Sometimes you will go out, spend a bit too much money, and you may end up short on your rent. There are things you can do, Talk to your landlord or agent about it. If it’s just a one off they might understand. Borrowing money is always an option, but again can be a major source of tension. If you cannot borrow money from a close friend or relative, UNSW provides temporary emergency loans. You can apply at UNSW Student Central (formerly New South Q). If this fails, The Student Guild also provides emergency loans; you should speak to Karla Villamar, the advocacy officer.

You may come to a position where you are simply too poor to afford rent. If it comes to the worst case scenario and you do get evicted, there are things you can do. Boarding houses often provide a very cheap source of temporary accommodation. However some people live in squats. Don’t turn your nose up. Sometimes squatters enjoy better accommodation and location than those paying rent. However squatters have virtually no legal rights. They can be evicted at any time. If you are asked by the owner, or an agent of the owner (who may be the police), to leave and you refuse, you can be arrested for trespass. Also, remember it can be extremely dangerous to live in a condemned house.

More than anything else you should be excited about moving out. It’s a huge adventure and it’s likely you will look back on these days as some of the most exciting and carefree of your life. Enjoy it, live it, love it.

Useful contacts if you have more questions:

UNSW Accommodation Services Central  
Ph: (02) 9385 4985  
www.housing.unsw.edu.au

NSW Department of Housing  
Ph: 131571 (24 hours, 7 days)  
www.housing.nsw.gov.au

Centrelink  
Ph: 13 2490 (Youth Allowance and student services)  
www.centrelink.gov.au/
Across

4. When you move out you miss their food but not their company (7)
6. This abode friend is found in Dreamworld (9)
11. Music often played in dance clubs (5)
12. Some apartments don’t allow these (4)
13. The owner (8)
14. Better than a market (11)
15. These sleepy insects currently plague Redfern and Darlinghurst (7)
18. This chore will make best friends worst enemies (8)

Down

1. This popular musical will cause you grief (4)
2. Cardboard in three dimensions (5)
3. These burly men will do your dirty work (10)
5. It’s good to live near this moving fortified wine (9)
7. Found on ducks and will sneak up on you (5)
8. These small insects can survive a nuclear winter (11)
9. Something hot to do when you move in (12)
10. Something big and cool to share (6)
16. Get this British spy when you move out (4)
17. You can live in this compressed adjective (4)
In Session Two, Canned Laughter, in conjunction with the Source, will be staging a production of the smash-hit musical *RENT* in the Roundhouse. Profits from program sales will go to the Bobby Smith Foundation, funding research into children's hospitals and cancer research. To find out more, Flick Strong sat down with *RENT*’s producer Josh Brandon.

**So what’s the deal with Canned Laughter?**

Canned Laughter was started as an improvisational comedy troupe by me and my cousin Stephen. Our first big play was *Noises Off* at the Fig Tree Theatre. From there it became all about good, affordable entertainment, bringing theatre out there to the local community area. We want people to be able to audition and to come and give us projects as we expand.

**What’s it like working with family? Do you have artistic differences?**

Not yet. Stephen is an honest guy and he hasn’t tried to stiff me out of any cash yet. We wouldn’t have gotten started if it wasn’t for our family, our parents and our cousins and family members who basically got all our stuff off the ground, by demanding people see it and calling up friends who owned businesses and said ‘come on it’s my son, give him $250 sponsorship!’

**Why are you holding a trivia night?**

We’re producing *RENT* in August of Session Two as a co-venture with the UNSW Source. As a production, *RENT* has to be done really well and can’t be done on the cheap, so we’re going to do a fundraiser. In addition to helping us raise cash, it’d be a really good event and a lot of fun. There’s going to be live music, a trivia quiz, lots of activities and different ways to win money. We’re going to have auctions, Dutch auctions, silent auctions and my personal favourite, the invisible auction, in which you won’t know what you’re bidding for!

Canned Laughter is holding their fundraiser this Thursday (March 16) at 7.30pm (games start at 8) in the Kensington Room of the Squarehouse.

---

If you know a person or group that would be of interest to UNSW students and should be profiled here, tell us about them. They should be presently or formerly affiliated with UNSW. Send an email with subject “Snapshot” to blitzeditor@source.unsw.edu.au.
## Monday 6 March

### Ping Pong

11am
Play the game with the silly name!
The Roundhouse
Free

### Amnesty International UNSW AGM

1pm – 2pm
There will be elections for 5 new positions on the executive board as well as discussions on this year’s events.
Quad Room 1001
$5 for membership

### Welcome to New Debaters! UNSW Debating Society

6pm
Debsoc welcomes all students completely new to debating or new to debating at University! No matter what faculty, prior experience, or even if you’re much more than a tad nervous, make sure you come! We will be hosting a demo debate for everyone to watch. Then we'll go for dinner together to chat over good food! More details at www.debsoc.unsw.edu.au; or email debsocmembers@yahoo.com.au.
Law Tower Foyer (not the library foyer)
Free, bring money for dinner.

## Tuesday 7 March

### Ping Pong

11am
Play the game with the silly name!
The Roundhouse
Free

### Trivia

1pm
Why do birds suddenly appear?
UniBar, Roundhouse
Free

### UNSW Chess Club

1pm-4pm
QUAD room 1001
Players of all skill levels welcome. Test your mind, improve your game and enjoy the social atmosphere.
Free for members. $2 for non-members.

## Wednesday 8 March

### DJ Justin Mile (Funktrust)

5pm
In case of uncomfortable silence...just nod your head to the beats.
Beergarden, Roundhouse
Free

### Pool Comp

5pm
Win prizes for playing with balls and a stick
UniBar, Roundhouse

### Happy Hour

5pm - 6pm
The happiest hour of your day!
UniBar, Roundhouse

### Tuesday Night Roast

5.30pm
Just like Sunday nights at home...except on Tuesday, and at Clems.
Clems, Roundhouse
$5

### Library Lawn Band: Abby Dobson

1pm
Come and catch former lead singer of Leonardo’s Bride, Abby Dobson at the Library Lawn
Free

### Bar Bingo

1pm
In Australia alone almost 2 million people play bingo every month!
UniBar, Roundhouse
Free
Thursday
9 March

Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) course
10am - 4pm
The RSA course is a six-hour program with a Certificate of Attainment issued on completion of the course. You will learn the skills and knowledge required to serve alcohol in a responsible manner. The certificate is essential to any position that involves serving alcohol to the public. Participants also receive a Handbook for future reference.
Roundhouse
$65 for members

Ping Pong
11am
Play the game with the silly name!
The Roundhouse
Free

UNSW Chess Club
12pm - 3pm
Come for a quick game. Come for an epic battle. We welcome players of all skill levels.
QUAD room 1001
Free for members. $2 for non-members.

MechSoc AGM
1pm - 2pm
The MechSoc AGM is here so come along and vote or run for the exec for the year of 2006. There will be free food and drink for all who turn up.
ME 405
Free

Beer Garden Band: Tim Ireland
4.30pm
Tim has just recorded his debut album Down in the Well. The loneliness in his songs is balanced by his organic, home grown quality.
Beergarden, Roundhouse
Free

Speechcraft workshop - UNSW Toastmaster club
6pm - 8.30pm
A short course in Public Speaking. This is a program designed for beginners. This hands-on program provides the "how-to" and the practical experience essential for progress. The course is conducted in a friendly and supportive environment dedicated to personal improvement.
Quadrangle Bldg Room 1001, UNSW
Student $95, UNSW Staff $130, Public $160

UNIBUDS - The Evolution of Buddhism Through Time (Chinese)
6-8pm
Each week we have different talks about Buddhism in Chinese given by a Buddhist monk or nun. This coming Thursday, our talk is carried out by Venerable Neng Rong from Hwa Tsang Monastery. Come and learn more about Buddhism. Contact Boon at 0422 866 515 or visit www.unibuds.unsw.edu.au.
Level 3, Squarehouse
Free

Beergarden Beats; Adam Bozzetto (World Bar)
7pm
Take a dash of funk, a good dose of hip-hop, a twist of breaks, shake well, sit back and enjoy.
Beergarden, Roundhouse
Free

Biggest Uni Party Ever! - SIFE UNSW
8pm - late
One of the most massive parties of the year! Leave this date free in your diary! There will be music ranging from Top Forty to House to R&B. To purchase tickets, visit the table outside the Collonade from Tues 28 Feb til Wed 8 March. Make sure you get your tickets early before they sell out!!
Plantation, cnr Darlington Rd & Roslyn St, Kings Cross
$10 presold, $15 at the door

Friday
10 March

Ping Pong
11am
Play the game with the silly name!
The Roundhouse
Free

Iranian Student Association (IRSA) Annual General Meeting
1pm - 2pm
Come along to the third annual general meeting of IRSA. The meeting will cover a report of IRSA activities in 2005 by the president, a financial report of 2005 by the treasurer and the election of new executive members.
Room 1001 Quadrangle
**Blitz Magazine**

**Saturday, 11 March**

**UNIBUDS - Walking along the Middle Path**

7-9pm
This talk will be carried out by Venerable Neng Rong from Hwa Tsang Monastery in English. Venerable Neng Rong is a Buddhist nun; please do not miss this opportunity to learn more about the core teaching of Buddhism—the middle path. For details, contact Adeline at 0404 637 818 or visit www.unibuds.unsw.edu.au. Robert Webster Building Room 256
Free

**UNIBUDS - Buddhist Meditation Workshop lead by Ajahn Sujato**

10am - 1pm
Ajahn Sujato is an Australian Buddhist Monk. In 1994 he left Australia to take higher ordination in Thailand in the forest of Ajahn Chah and lived there for several years. Learn meditation from an experienced guru. Contact Deasy at 0421080504 or visit www.unibuds.unsw.edu.au for details. B9 160
Free

**UNSW Waterski and Wakeboard Club Crazy Weekend**

8am
Unlimited skiing/boarding, accommodation, dinner, breakfast, gear provided. Plus a Saturday night party, all drinks included. Beginners welcome, training provided. You can’t get a better deal than this. For bookings please contact Alex on 0410639627. Cliftonville Lodge Resort
$70 (plus a $10 ref)

**Sunday, 12 March**

**Barista Course**

10:30am - 1pm
Learn the essential skills in making coffee using commercial machines. All participants are issued an accredited Barista Certificate and a free copy of “The Complete Barista’s Guide” training video upon completion of the course. Register at Source Reception in the Blockhouse
$100

**Queue Cocktail Party**

7pm
ID will be checked. The Queue guessing competition will be drawn, so if you had a go at guessing the numbers don’t forget to come along. For more information, contact Kylee 9395-6702
Meet on Library Lawn at 6:30pm for walk down to Queerspace via Security Walk.

**Friday Arvo Sessions with DJ Cadell**

4:30 pm
Dragonfly, Roxy, and Soho regular DJ Cadell start your weekend off right
Beergarden, Roundhouse
Free

**Spocksoc - Battlestar Galactica Screening**

5pm - 11pm
We will be screening Season Two of the new Battlestar Galactica. Dinner is $5 for half a pizza and a drink. Join our mailing list for more details. Visit www.spocksoc.unsw.edu.au
Civil Engineering G1
Free for members, membership $5
Keep piggy smiling

One of the best ways to accumulate small savings consistently is to use the Source Discount Card.

For a 10% discount on most items at Source outlets on campus just have your Discount Card ready.

Find locations of all the Source outlets and opening hours at the new Source website www.source.edu.au

The website also links you to all the cool discounts you can get off-campus including savings on:

- dining
- fuel purchases
- accommodation
- auto
- cinemas
- takeaway food
- leisure activities
- theme park tickets
- theatre ticketing
- car hire
- online shopping
- discount retail vouchers

Every week we’ll feature some of the great new savings and special offers for UNSW students so keep your Source Discount card handy.

STUPID CUPID

By Flick Strong

Cupid has a weird and expensive sense of humour. I am convinced he’s thrown away his bow and arrow in favour of simply flying around and biting large chunks out of people. I kid you not. There has been something in the air recently, with my friends doing very strange and uncharacteristic things. In the space of one week, one announced he was flying to Paris to chase the love of his life, and another spent a weekend in Brisbane chasing a boy.

Why are we so predisposed to these grand romantic gestures? I must admit I am a complete sap. I love it, but flying to France? That’s pushing even my bounds of romance. Although, I must admit I wouldn’t exactly complain if a gorgeous French man turned up on my doorstep!

The most romantic thing ever done for me was my high school boyfriend turning up at school with a giant bunch of roses on Valentine’s Day. This gesture was pretty much lost on me because, for a seventeen-year-old schoolgirl, the humiliation outweighed the romance!

I still hate Valentine’s Day. Its stupid, commercial and this year, the only Valentine I received, was from a gay friend’s boyfriend! The worst thing about the whole day though is the need for couples to up the PDA (public display of affection) ante and become unbearably schmoopy, as if to say ‘ha ha – you’re a single sad loser’.

A recent survey of Australian men suggested that a typical first date costs $340. I’m sorry what? $340? You have got to be kidding me! Well I suppose compared to a two week sojourn to Paris, $340 is a mere blip on the radar, but seriously. Who are these men and where can I find one?

I’m not so good with the first-date thing. In fact I can’t remember the last one I went on but most of the boys I know are lucky to spend 30c on a date, let alone hit the $300 mark.

In the end, France worked out well for my friend, an SMS letting me know that the boy was “every bit as sweet, sensitive, generous and sexy as I remembered. Now if only I could get him back through customs.” Awww. So cute. Now, pass me that bucket…
Share house living can be absolute hell. There are constant disputes over who put the rubbish out last, or why someone managed to flood the bathroom that morning, not to mention the joys of cockroach infestation and hair in the bathroom sink. The horror stories are numerous and, while it will give you hours of endless whinging or, possibly, a career in stand-up comedy, I reckon there's nothing else like it!

by Flick Strong

Share house living is all about freedom. You are the master of your fate and the captain of your soul. It's also about sharing your life with other quasi-alcoholic, coffee-fuelled students. What other lifestyle allows you to bond with someone while running around in your smelly old sneakers, smacking the life out of giant cockroaches? There's a wonderful co-operative vibe as you sit around with a nice cup of Berocca discussing all the drunken adventures of the night before. I've even been known to sit wrapped in blankets and gossiping whilst knitting scarves!

I came to share house living after a couple of years. Eventually, the two hour round trip pushed me over the edge. That, and there's only so much explaining you can do as your parents step over your half-conscious body slumped on the doorstep after a big night out! I mean, you're only young after all, and what's a few (dozen) beers going to do to you, right?

So with freedom in my sights, I bunked up with two girlfriends in a house in North Fitzroy in Melbourne (this is kind of like living in Erskineville, just near Newtown). We were house sitting for three months. The house was amazing, an old refurbished pub, complete with outdoor toilet and a garage with the all time best roof upon which to sit and throw things at strangers!

During the three months, we went through countless cases of warm VB. You read correctly, warm VB. To this day I haven't been able to stomach the stuff. Some mates of ours were working for Carlton United Breweries and could keep us in free slabs. The beer sat in the kitchen, never really quite making it into the fridge to cool down before being consumed. Needless to say our house was party central, complete with loser hangers-on who no one really remembered inviting! I lived on a healthy diet of VB, red wine, Red Bull and cigarettes, a diet I don't recommend if you want to keep your youth or your HD average! The house eventually fell apart when we realised we had to give it back and one of my flatmates started to go a little strange. My theory is too much warm VB!

Everyone has these stories: debauched flatmates, grime, and crazy antics that would make your granny turn in her grave. A friend of mine once lived in a house in which they were constructing the world's largest beer bottle tree, a feat not only of gravity, but also of extreme alcohol consumption. Apparently the modern art installation grew so large in their kitchen that when it came time to leave the house, the easiest thing to do was to leave it there for the next tenants!

Indeed, the flatmate is a strange animal. You can learn the best and the worst things about friends by trying the share-living thing. A close friend tells the story of her current flatmate, who moved into the house straight out of home. This guy has two degrees, and works for one of Sydney’s top accounting firms, yet when he moved in, he struggled to deal with the basic concept of the washing machine and oven. He had managed to turn on the timer on the oven, but alas, missed the crucial step of heat. After two attempts at the oven, mystified by their continual frozen state, the partially defrosted spring rolls were eventually placed under...
the grill and forgotten about. We had a delectable dinner of half burnt, half frozen spring rolls.

As a girl, I have always had a morbid fascination with the unmitigated disaster zone a group of boys can create. Three of my good friends moved into a run-down old house near Uni, complete with backyard garage for a weights bench, beer fridge and stereo system pumping out Khe San.

“Now these boys were never the metrosexual type, but boy did they turn neanderthal in that house!”

It’s as if combining boys, beer and a house meant a regression to the cave man era, complete with public urination, play fights and goon. I could spend all year writing about the crazy stuff I saw happen in that house, (including the ridiculously inane game of kick the soccer ball against the wall to make a mark) but one stands out above all the rest.

Despite their predisposition to peeing in the veggie patch, they did in fact have an outside toilet. It was disgusting. There was never any toilet paper and it looked and smelt as if it was last cleaned in a time when leg-warmers were still cool. One night I turned up at the house and excused myself to use the toilet. Upon entering the cubicle I detected the distinct twinge of smoke. What should I see but the rim of the seat was nice and blackened around the edges. Upon inquiring about this strange anomaly (and convincing myself I wasn’t that desperate to pee) I was informed with great satisfaction that the toilet was blocked so they had decided to blow it up! The best bit is that, apparently, the burning toilet paper hadn’t quite done the trick, so a half can of petrol had also been used!

Despite these stories, share-living is one of a kind. When else can you live the lifestyle that affords continuous drinking sessions, mouldy food and the opportunity to throw CDs and other crap at each other from across the room? It can be one of the most amazing experiences of your life, but be careful, otherwise, you may find yourself in a house of horrors.

Rules for harmonious share-house living:

1. Don’t move in with someone you have a crush on – it only ends in heartbreak (or bond break!)
2. Don’t move in with someone who has a crush on you! (see above)
3. Check out future flatmate’s general appearance and odour. If there’s something not quite right in the way they present themselves, chances are their idea of clean living arrangements might not quite meet yours
4. Mice aren’t good pets (neither are tarantulas!)
5. Just remember if all else fails, a crazy flatmate makes for a great careers in stand-up comedy!

PACK & SEND BOTANY 456 Rannerong Rd, Matraville 2036
Phone Warwick or Tom: (02) 9661 1144
botany@packsend.com.au

Just a phone call away, PACK & SEND Botany represents a new dimension in convenience, service and value. Entrust your freight and packaging challenges to the professionals at PACK & SEND Botany

• Air Freight • Sea Freight • Road Freight • International • Domestic •

We Send Anything, Anywhere!
Book: The Summer Garden by Paullina Simons

The third in its series, Simons’ latest novel draws a final conclusion to the saga that began with The Bronze Horseman. Tatiana and Alexander have survived the worst of World War II and have now made their way to America for a new life. With them they bring their only son, Anthony, and attempt to build a life free from the horrific past they’ve left behind. Alexander’s memories of the Red Army haunt him as he tries to find a job and his place in a civilian society and Tatiana’s stubborn determination continues to infuriate him at every turn. The course of the novel takes us through their family’s life in Twentieth Century America, ending in the present day with a weathered but happy old couple we have grown to know intimately.

For readers of the first and second books, this is a must. It provides a satisfying conclusion to a great story.

Terrance Howard’s performance is excellent and he fully deserves his Oscar nomination. In his first lead role in a feature film, his portrayal of DJay feels very real and is a large part of what makes this film so poignant. Powerful performances by the supporting actors, especially from Taraji P. Henson - who plays DJay’s girlfriend – also contributes a lot to the film.

‘Hustle & Flow’ is gritty and emotional but it keeps a sense of humour that feels very real. This is not just a movie for music fans. Striving for a bit more out life is something that all of us can relate to in someway. It is highly recommended.

David Murray

Simons builds a new story out of the couples’ life after the war and, though it is not as gripping as the first book, it is definitely worth the mammoth trek through all 839 pages. Also a word of warning: if you’ve fallen in love with Alexander (as many of us have) be prepared to think twice.

The Summer Garden is an essential read for any Simons fan. However, if you’re a first to Simons work, start with one of her others or The Bronze Horseman first. They are sentimental, with great characters and a soap opera-like addictiveness.

Karen-Anne Coleman

Reviews

Film: Hustle & Flow

Hustle & Flow follows the story of DJay (Terrance Howard), a Memphis pimp who dreams of a better life for himself and those close to him. A chance meeting with an old friend, Key (Anthony Anderson) spurs him into action and DJay begins to write down his freestyle raps. Together, and with the help of a musician from Key’s church, they begin to transform DJay’s flow into bass-thumping tracks.

‘Hustle & Flow’ is more than just a hip hop film. It’s about uncovering your talents and living up to your potential. DJay’s struggle along the path from the gutter to glory is universal and could easily transcribe into any number of musical genres. He isn’t your stereotypical gangster-hustler, rather a real person who lives a hard life and is trying to get by. You feel a real connection with his plight and genuinely want to see DJay succeed.

Terrance Howard’s performance is excellent and he fully deserves his Oscar nomination. In his first lead role in a feature film, his portrayal of DJay feels very real and is a large part of what makes this film so poignant. Powerful performances by the supporting actors, especially from Taraji P. Henson - who plays DJay’s girlfriend – also contributes a lot to the film.

‘Hustle & Flow’ is gritty and emotional but it keeps a sense of humour that feels very real. This is not just a movie for music fans. Striving for a bit more out life is something that all of us can relate to in someway. It is highly recommended.

David Murray

Giveaway:

Blitz has five copies of Paullina Simons’ The Summer Garden to give away.

This is the magnificent conclusion to the saga of Tatiana and her love for the Red Army officer, Alexander in wartime Leningrad in 1941. Tatiana and Alexander have suffered the worst of the twentieth century. After years of separation, they are miraculously reunited in America. Tatiana gives birth to a beautiful son, Anthony. They have proved to each other that their love is greater than the vast evil of the world ... But in this climate of fear and mistrust, dark forces are at work and they threaten their lives and their family. Can they make a new life for themselves in this new land? Epic in scope, masterfully told, this is a novel of unique and devastating emotional power that spans two thirds of the twentieth century, and three continents.

To win, tell us the name of the first novel in the trilogy completed by this author. Email your answer to comps@source.unsw.edu.au with the subject “The Summer Garden”. Good Luck.
Cockatoo in Flight

This photo was taken from my street. A whole flock of cockatoos were quietly eating leaves in the trees, while I snapped away, them oblivious to my presence. With this one, I quickly followed him with my lens and shot. The camera's motion can be seen in the blurred background.

Visual Blitz

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. Email your contributions (at least 300 dpi resolution) to blitzeditor@source.unsw.edu.au
Contact is a student enquiry and referral desk run by student volunteers. Over the next few weeks, Blitz features some frequently asked questions. These questions might not relate to you at all, but if they do, remember don’t panic. You are not alone in the universe and you are allowed to ask questions – that’s what Contact is here for. Drop into Contact with your inquiry, big or small, we’ll know where you can find the answer.

I’m not sure how to enrol in tutorials:

Most of your enrolment can be dealt with using the www.my.unsw.edu.au portal. Log on to your student portal and follow the directions – it will guide you step-by-step through the enrolment process. You can enrol in most tutorials here, though a few lucky people will need to enrol in tutorials manually. Some schools still figure out tutorials themselves, so if you don’t see the option to enrol in a tute on the web, pop into your school office and ask them where to sign up.

Once I’ve enrolled in my tutorials, I don’t have a clue where to go!

This is where Contact comes in; we have maps, and trained volunteers (who have lists of locations of lecture theatres and rooms). When you enrol in a tutorial, you will usually be given a location and the time for your tutorial on a printout (if you enrol in the tute using my.unsw), or you will have put your name on a list manually, and the room and time will be at the top of that list (if you enrol through a school). Bring that room name to Contact. If you can’t find out the room, don’t panic! Just pop into Contact, and we’ll try and find it for you.

Contact is located on Level Two, East Wing, Quad building. 10am-4pm weekdays during session, or email contact@unsw.edu.au website www.contact.unsw.edu.au.

Contact is looking for volunteers! If you would like to volunteer, drop into the office and pick up an application form. Applications close Friday week 2.
University can be a daunting place for newcomers. You emerge fresh and eager from your High School cocoon into a big, sprawling world of 40,000 students. It’s easy to get lost. Even if some of your friends have come along for the ride, chances are they are doing a scary degree that requires fifty hours of study a week and they’ve got no time for you. Meanwhile, you’re flat out spending your time chasing elusive WAM points, escaping the ghosts of assignment deadlines and an ever-mounting HECS debt.

But there’s no need to fret; you’re now a part of a great adventure and survival is surprisingly simple. New South has a thriving culture of people who are looking for new friends and new things to do. You can recognise them because they’ve formed clubs and societies; no doubt you were bombarded with their endless leaflets and cheery smiles during O-Week.

To give you an idea, let me tell you my story. I’m a computer scientist. That’s like a regular scientist but with less social life and no lab coat. When I got here, maybe two of my friends from high school had carried over. The rest went to USyd because “the campus is prettier”. If only they’d seen UNSW’s computers, then they’d know the truth!

I spent most of my first day here just wandering around, thinking either “this place is so big” or “I am so lost” depending on how close I was to the main walkway. I looked around at all the laughing happy people and realised that having a social life outside of the Internet might not be so terrible after all. So I joined a few societies, got to know people, and this crazy thing happened: I started having lots of fun. Not just that, but I was having fun while doing things I never even thought I’d be capable of. Getting involved made campus my new home.

One group that has helped me a lot has been the Computer Science and Engineering (or CSE) Revue Society. Perhaps I should explain. A revue is a stage production with singing, dancing and sketch comedy. What attracted me to CSE Revue was the sheer shock of a bunch of geeks not sitting in basements, but putting on a two-hour-long stage show to a total audience of about 1500 people.

In movies and TV, you always see doctors and lawyers in the glamorous positions. “Thank you, doctor, you saved my life!” “Thank you, lawyer, you saved my house!” For some reason there’s no “thank you, computer guy, you saved my document!” In fact, the usual role of the computer scientist in movies is to get beat up by gangsters when they can’t hack fast enough. But here was a group of people showing the world that geeks could be glamorous.

So now I’ve been at uni for some years. I’m the co-head of CSE Revue’s promotions team and assistant technical officer for the computing society. I’m a member of UNSW Cheerleading, where I regularly throw people into the air and occasionally even catch them afterwards. You better believe I’m a member of the pirate society, too. But most importantly, I don’t spend my days hunched over a computer alone. Now I do it with friends who are every bit as geeky, fun and happy as I am.

That’s my home at uni.
Classifieds

Want to have a say on how the Source is run?

Applications are now open for student positions on the Source’s committees. These committees help make decisions about how the Source is run. Each one focuses on developing new ideas and monitoring a specific area of the Source’s operation, including Commercial and Membership services. Follow the ‘Committee Co-optee Applications Now Open’ link in the ‘News’ section of the Source website – www.source.unsw.edu.au. Applications close Friday 10 March (end week 2).

Do you know someone who has made an outstanding contribution to student life at UNSW?

If so, maybe you should nominate them for the Source’s prestigious Heinz-Harant award. To be eligible, your nominee must have participated in one or more Source volunteer programs over a number of years. Nominations will be judged on the nominee’s leadership, dedication and overall contribution to the Source and to the UNSW community. For more information, or to download a nomination form, follow the link on the ‘Latest News’ section of the Source website – www.source.unsw.edu.au. Nominations close Friday 24 March 2006 (end Week 4).

The Walk against Want is celebrating 40 years on 12 March 2006.

Oxfam Australia urges the people of NSW to join this momentous walk and raise money to help change lives in poor communities around the globe. To find out more, visit www.oxfam.org.au/walk/wheretowalk/nsw.

Australian Triathlon University Sport Championships

The Mooloolaba Triathlon Festival is a huge event on the triathlon calendar for 2006. To compete with UNSW Triathlon, contact sport@unsw.edu.au or phone 0434618871.

Cheerleading Society Annual General Meeting

To find out more about us, come to our AGM! We’re meeting in front of Sam Cracknell Pavilion, 6pm on Wed, March 15. Contact Robin Chow Ph 0415 109 899

The Greens UNSW AGM

Have your say on the direction of Greens UNSW. We are a new club this year and need all the help and support we can get. Special guest Senator Kerry Nettle will be there! Monday, March 13 at 1pm, QUAD Room 1001.

UNSW Baseball Softball Club

We cater for all player levels. If you are interested in playing please contact Erin on 0404 864 075. For more information, email unswbsc@unswbaseballsoftball.com or check out our website www.unswbaseballsoftball.com.

UNSW Counselling Service course: Inspiring the Thesis (6 week series)

Postgraduate students are invited to attend workshops on postgraduate creativity, relationships with your supervisor, managing stress and overcoming ‘writer’s block’. Starting Tuesday March 14. Register online counselling@unsw.edu.au

UNSW Counselling Service course: Taking charge of fear and anxiety (6 week series)

Understand how anxiety can become a problem in your life and practice skills and strategies to cope with anxiety whilst getting on with what you most want to do. Starts Thursday 16 March 12-2pm. Register online counselling@unsw.edu.au

Students can get an Unwired modem for only $70 when purchased from the O-Week Stall on your campus or at any Co-op Bookshop.
Question 1: What makes a happy home?

Lachlan
1. Dinner whenever you get home, even in the morning
2. Not cleaning the toilet.

Rehana
1. A television
2. Bare feet, feet get really dirty and they make the shower dirty.

Cheryl
1. Lots of mess – providing it’s hygienic mess.
2. When they give you tinea from sharing the shower.

Sayava & Elli
1. Laughter
2. Doing crazy shit at 5:00am in the morning

Isaro
1. Love
2. Complaining, yeah, always complaining.

Michael & Helen
1. A lot of money and a lot of food
2. Incontinence and not brushing their teeth

Jeremy
1. Milk crates, they are so useful, they can do anything
2. Noise in the bathroom

Question 2: What is the most annoying habit of a housemate?

Fajar
1. A home where there is no work to do
2. Someone who does no work at home
(Bonus Question) So you would be your own worse flatmate?
Yes
Want to visit the outback and help a remote community? Volunteer for Outback Assist!

This is a great opportunity for you to go to outback Australia and assist a remote Aboriginal community whilst developing your leadership, organisation and event management skills.

Visit www.source.unsw.edu.au or email outbackassist@source.unsw.edu.au

Volunteer applications close Thursday 9 March 2006

Information Session at 2pm, Wednesday 1 March in the Cougar Club Bar, Level One of the Roundhouse.

www.source.unsw.edu.au