Tokyo Street Fashion
The New Faces of Fashion Design
How to Shop Smart
Peep Inside a Geek's Wardrobe
NOW OPEN
NEW QUAD SUPERSTORE
AT THE COLONNADE
QUAD BUILDING, LVL 1 FACING QUAD LAWN

ART SUPPLIES
STATIONERY
NEWSPAPERS
MAGAZINES
GIFT CARDS
WRAP
GROCERIES
BUS & RAIL TICKETS
PASSPORT PHOTOS

Opening Hours
Mon-Thurs 8:30am - 6:30pm
Fri 8:30am - 5:30pm
Dear Reader

This week’s theme is fashion; expect to see the pages splashed with what’s hot and what’s not. Actually, we won’t be doing anything of the sort. At Blitz we believe that fashion is just one of the many ways that someone can express themselves, and everyone is different. Thus the fashion Blitz aims to celebrate all fashions along with all kinds of people.

To celebrate everyone’s unique style, we have a moving feast of fashion articles. For something exotic, check out the feature on Tokyo Street Fashion, or to get the low down on something local, why not see the other feature profiling two young and upcoming designer’s. There is also practical advice on how to shop from an expert, as well as fashion columns on both the Mardi Gras and Geek fashion.

If fashion isn’t your thing then turn to page 10 to find out about the emergence of Artificial Intelligence. We also have our usual gaggle of reviews, comics, giveaways, and of course, Vox Pops.

Last week saw the biggest number of contributors at the meeting so far this year. However there are still CD’s to give away, free movies and plays that go unseen and heaps of space in upcoming issues of Blitz to voice your opinions. So if you would like to be put on the contributor list email me; a.serpo@arc.unsw.edu.au. I send out weekly emails.

I also mentioned in last week’s editors letter that I am interested in receiving feedback from students about your magazine. If you have any sensible ideas, opinions or constructive criticisms then you can also send them to me at the above address.

Enjoy Week 7
Alex Serpo
Blitz Editor
Chair's Report

As a lover of all things pretty, especially pretty dresses, I was very excited to hear about this week’s theme, fashion!

What is fashionable is vastly different depending on what you’re interested in, but that is the joy of it. This is reflected in most aspects of life; different people have varying tastes and enjoy a range of activities. We hope to promote this diversity at the Arc, and run many programs that will appeal to a variety of students.

For example, if you’re interested in publications, the Arc has two very different opportunities available at the moment. We are currently recruiting volunteers for our unsweetened literary journal. Unsweetened has been produced since 1998 and features a selection of poetry and short stories from UNSW students, in conjunction with a literary competition. The journal is launched as part of the Arc’s annual Artsweek festival (more on that in a minute) and distributed free to students. If you’re interested in volunteering, visit the Arc website, www.arc.unsw.edu.au, and submit your application by Friday 27 April.

The Arc women’s department is also calling for submissions for its Women’s Tharunka edition, which will feature submission on issues including feminism, gender, women and empowerment. The team is looking for articles, artworks, photography, interviews, stories, columns, opinion pieces, reviews, comics, puzzles, recipes or anything else you think is relevant. If you might be interested, or are even just curious, you can contact the Arc’s Women’s Officer Ania Lucewicz at women@rep.arc.unsw.edu.au or call 9385 7650. Submissions are due on Thursday 19 April.

If culture and arts are more your thing, you should consider applying for the 2007 Artsweek Coordinator position. This paid position will have a major role in the organisation, promotion and running of Artsweek, which is being held in Week 5, Session 2. Visit the Arc’s website to read the job description and fill out an application by Friday 20 April.

For those of you who might have done a lot of volunteering, or known other people who have during your time at University, either through the Arc, or its legacy organisations, you should consider checking out the information on the 2007 Heinz Harant award. There will be more information about the award in next week’s Blitz, but in the meantime, visit the Arc’s website to see whether anyone you know might fit the criteria for this prestigious award!

Kate Bartlett
Chair of the Board
University students have a penchant for looking trendy, especially in Sydney. It seems that signing up to a degree also means signing up to an unspoken fashion oath: Thou will strive to look hot, fashionable and desirable on a daily basis (STUVAC excluded).

Unfortunately uni students do not have the financial means or the time to have weekly trips to Westfield. However knowing how to shop can save a lot of time and money and still have you looking in vogue.

One of the best ways to find a great buy is to spend time looking for it. It’s tempting when you can’t be bothered looking or you’re in a rush to buy the first item that looks good on you. But there is nothing more annoying than discovering the shop next door has “the” top for you. You don't have to dedicate an enormous amount of time to shopping, just stick to your favourite precinct and scope the area before making a purchase.

Be realistic. Shopping on a budget will result in fewer tears when the phone bill comes around. Although they’re a killer pair of heels, is it really worth sacrificing the rent money? It took me a while to learn that the latter is more important. Having a new dress doesn’t compare to being able to eat that week.

Be nice to the sales assistant. More often than not they’re trying to help you. Listen to their advice if you feel it’s genuine. If they tell you that everything you try on, including that dress that makes you look like Humpty Dumpty is “nice”, their lying! If they’re too persistent politely point out you are only looking. If you’re pleasant to the sales assistant, they might be inclined to give you a discount, especially if they know you’re a student.

Do not let your friends or the sales assistant pressure you into buying something that you’re not completely satisfied with. You’re the one that’s going to be wearing it after all. Chances are you will regret your purchase once you get home. Ask what the store’s policy on returns and exchanges are, as you do not want to spend money on a dress that you are not satisfied with.

When you enter a shop, don’t just look at everything in one glance and leave, have a solid browse through the racks. Pull clothes out and really look at them. Read the care instructions. Will you have to iron it? Tip: Clothes that don’t require ironing are ideal for the busy uni student.

Don’t become a fashion follower. Create your own style. Just because half the youth population in Australia is wearing skinny leg jeans, doesn’t mean you have to. Accessorising is a simple and cheap way to update your wardrobe. A new necklace, shoes or bag can keep your outfits looking fresh, and still allow you to eat.

Experiment with clothes. Imagine that new dress with boots, heels, tights, over jeans or with a belt. The transformative power of the belt is often overlooked, but it can seriously alter an outfit for the better. Don’t buy a top and end it there, imagine its versatility! Follow Drew Barrymore’s advice "I have fun with fashion. I’m not intimidated by what I see on models. I like to play with clothes and express myself."

Your university years are meant to be experimental. Fortunately being adventurous with clothing is of the less dangerous kind. By the end of your degree you will have instigated your own style and the oath of having to look fashionable will be a distant memory. Hopefully, so will the days of spending your Centrelink payment on an outfit for the weekend.
We all raise an eyebrow at the lack of utility and practicality, and the sheer pretentiousness of pointless clothes. Such a statement bordered on profanity when I spoke to upcoming designers Johnno and Seema from Sydney’s premier fashion school, the Fashion Design Studio at TAFE NSW in Ultimo.

This school boasts Australia’s leading designers as alumni: designers such as Akira Isogawa, Wayne Cooper, Alex Perry and Nicky Zimmermann. Throughout March, designs from the Fashion Design Studio were chosen as part of the Future Directions exhibition held at The Strand Arcade in Pitt St Mall. The garments expressed the students’ interpretation of a fairytale through a dress, or showcased how they would creatively dress an up-and-coming rock star. The designs are ‘couture’, which means that the students’ creativity is allowed free reign before they start working and are constrained by what people will actually buy.

Johnno and Seema arrived at The Strand, wearing what Johnno describes as his daily “clean and comfortable” look. Both are very presentable. He insists that being fashionable means more than conforming to what everyone else wears. Johnno’s rock star costume includes a full length but masculine “man skirt” as part of the ensemble, and reveals his revolutionary fashion style. His courage in designing against the grain was rewarded with critical acclaim from the Sydney Morning Herald.

“Fashion is art in itself,” says Seema, a 28 year old fashion design student originally from Nepal who moved to Australia after growing up in Hong Kong. Her fairytale design grew out of her fascination with the tale of Narnia by C. S Lewis, because “the little girl goes into a wardrobe, has an amazing adventure… but still comes out as a little girl.”

It seems that not only is Seema bringing out the child within us through her designs, but she is also keeping alive her own childhood dreams. She finally pursued her dreams of becoming a designer after first becoming a nurse and dabling around in fashion courses. One can’t help but notice how her strong personality emerges in her designs, from the bold statements of her fairytale piece, to her Amazon warrior woman inspired rock outfit, where she strove to “incorporate the beautiful and powerful sentiment of the warrior women themselves.”

Both designers admit their first week at Fashion school was a daily fashion parade, but this was an effort that they quickly got over. Johnno agrees with Seema’s fashion ideals and adds, “I like the way that fashion makes you feel… you see some people are head to toe in designer clothes but they don’t know how to wear it and look crap… and some people can dress themselves at Big W and walk out with confidence…. ultimately, it’s not what you wear but how you wear it.”

Observation uncovers that the dress is revealing in just the right places. Johnno emphasizes the principle of minimalism. His advice: “Show them what you want them to see and leave them the rest to find later.”

The minds of fashion designers are constantly on the lookout for inspiration. There is the popularly-held view that fashion designers always give that once-over look to every person they meet. I tried to tell myself that I was just imagining the look they gave me at our greeting, but one of them was slightly less subtle than the other. On confronting them about this, the truth was revealed. “Yes, I do check out what people are wearing all the time”, Seema says. Johnno agrees, and adds, “I actually got in trouble from a friend of mine, who I looked up and down when she walked past. She stopped and said angrily to me, ‘Did you get a good look!’ I tried to explain to her that I was just looking at what you were wearing, and I really wanted to see if your shoes matched your bag!”
The glamour of being displayed alongside the boutiques of Alex Perry and Lisa Ho, and being drooled over by poor university students killing time after class, masks the hard work that these designers put into each piece of work. An uneducated eye would have no idea that Johnno hand painted every stripe on his full length organza skirt, which was covered in different shades of red. Seema says she’s often up until 3am working on her designs.

The real world is probably harsher. The average fashion designer works a 55 hour week. It’s a tough business, says Naomi Swalwell, a hand picked graduate of the TAFE design school working at The Graduate, a newly opened boutique store in The Strand that aims to give graduates hands-on experience at running their own business and label. Almost 50% of all fashion designers leave in their 5th professional year according to the Princeton Review, in an industry where their salaries range between US$23,500 to over $105,000.

Every fashion designer has their own reasons for entering this cut-throat business, but essentially, a good designer is a revolutionist. They broaden people’s horizons, through questioning first their traditional thinking about what they can or can’t wear. “Someone’s got to be the first to push the envelope. Someone needs to change their perspective,” says Johnno. Ralph Lauren puts it this way; “I don’t design clothes. I design dreams.”
Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection. Most people have Chlamydia for months, or even years, without knowing it, unless they get tested. Up to 90% of women and 70% of men never show any symptoms. Did you know Chlamydia has increased by 361% in people mainly under 25 years of age?

An impromptu decision to attend the Mardi Gras Parade this year gave me the perfect opportunity to wear leopard print without feeling like Euro trash or an aging pimp. What fashion experiment would or could be condemned in a place where men wear dresses? I teamed a short black empire cut dress with a pair of purple leopard print footless tights and stilettos. After much deliberation and tugging at the tights, I marched out the door with as much self assurance as I could muster.

Some may describe Mardi Gras as a procession of pimped-up vehicles and guys running around in skirts, but a few minutes on Oxford Street and I already found myself filled with envy. These guys were fashionably thinner than I was, had skirts sexier than I did and were balancing beautifully on stilettos higher than mine! Mardi Gras is not just a parade, it’s one big fashion explosion! Fashionistas included a couple in beautiful leather pleated skirts, sexy thigh high boots and satin elbow gloves accentuated with feathered wings – a Mardi Gras must have – posing proudly for clicking cameras. An epitome of elegance in a long green gown complete with intricate rosette detailing that was made entirely of reusable green bags, glided by with the airs of a queen.

Perfect as most looked, what is a party without its fashion victims? Batman made a brief appearance but was limping along in crutches, a very gaunt Santa Claus rocked up on a bike as part of the motorcade.

Mardi Gras is not just a parade, it’s one big fashion explosion! Costumes were made of every imaginable material, with leather, sequins and feathers dominating. There couldn’t have been more feathers, and each participant seemed to be more elaborately feathered than the last. “My feathers are bigger than yours” - the male instinct cannot be stifled. And just like the timeless little black dress, nudity is a classic.
Walk The Village Green –
The Low Down

On April 20 the first Youth Relay For Life in Australia will be held on the UNSW Village Green!

This community event aims to raise funds to defeat cancer and honour the lives of people who have been touched by cancer. In this unique 18-hour event the Village Green will be filled with tents and people as teams camp overnight and walk together or take turns walking around the Village Green with the aim of at least one member being on the track at all times.

Join the fiesta...

As people lap the Village Green they will be entertained by a stella line up of bands playing on the centre stage, include Los Capitanes, soon to be playing at the Come Together Festival; Colobus Antics a very cool funk band; The Schmertmann Experience of 2007 Yellow Shirt Band fame who went off in O-Week playing your favourite cover tunes; as well as performances by UNSW MuSoc and more! Entertainment coordinators David Vallance and John (Stripes) Gnanasekaran have a lot more fun to announce soon!

Through the night there will be fire twirling and circus acts, sports displays, acoustic artists and DJs, food stalls, people fundraising and a multitude of competitions and activities with fantastic prizes to sink your teeth into. On Saturday morning you can partake in an early morning yoga session to stretch out those hardworking muscles, followed by a hearty breakfast.

Event highlights...

The Relay kicks off at 4.15pm on Friday with the opening ceremony followed by the first lap led by Survivor and Carers at 4.30pm. The Candlelight Tribute Ceremony will be held at 6pm to represent hope, to build courage in those fighting cancer, and to remember those we have lost. On Saturday everything comes to a close at 10.30am with the closing ceremony.

Get their early on Friday to set up camp, decorate your tent and get ready for the big night ahead. People can stay for the whole event, camp overnight or just visit!

Get together with ten people you’d like to walk with and register online at www.relayforlife.au/nsw and choose UNSW 2007. For enquiries, to join a team or to help out at the event, email unswrelayforlife@gmail.com.
The 80’s brought us many things, velcro shoes, Weird Al, the mullet, and most important of all, the biggest misconception in artificial intelligence.

Back then, computers were really beginning to come into mainstream usage and with that came the fear of the unknown. Fear of self-aware computers, the fear that one day, they would control everything and destroy us all with that power. We would have to bow to the whims of Pacman or heaven help us, Donkey Kong!

Adam Two (Prometheus) tried to become the anti-Christ proving that you couldn’t let a computer make babies with you. SkyNET was born, and promptly nuked us all to death proving you couldn’t let computers control defence systems. And of course, who could forget H.A.L? He proved that A.I. couldn’t be trusted with human safety in outer space. That was all supposed to happen in 2001! Some odyssey!

However, almost three decades on, computer systems have evolved at an almost breakneck speed. Even in the past, they could never imagine that computers could be capable of doing what they do today. And yet, we find ourselves no closer to an emergence of electronic conscious intelligence. Though there are many projects focused on expanding the abilities of artificial intelligence, there are no projects that are directly invested with the emergence of conscious thought in computers. In fact, a clear distinction has to be made, and that is that A.I. is artificial intelligence and according to some, will never reach a true emergence of conscious intelligence. A.I. is at its foundation is a simple logical algorithm. At the end of the day a computer is a very big and very fast abacus. It can only do what it’s told.

Computers however can give the impression of intelligence by reacting to their users. However these responses are artificial, they only seem to be smart; the system doesn’t actually do any thinking for itself. That is to say that if you ask your computer for a cup of coffee, it knows how you like your coffee because years ago, you told it how you liked it and have had it the same way since. It won’t refuse the order because you have gotten a heart condition from drinking so much coffee, unless of course, you programmed it to. This process will get more complex as the hardware evolves to allow for it, as computers systems allow us to build more complex systems with each generation. Advancement may give an ever increasing impression that the computer actually understands you. They are certainly amazing! But there will never be a clear distinction where, a computer is A.I. one moment, and a conscious entity the next. That is logically impossible as electronic consciousness or the emergence of true identity is almost impossible even to define. Philosophers and psychologists, to this day, are still trying to define what consciousness is in us, let alone create it in a computer system.

In the 80s people believed that emergence was inevitable in the next few years, a new generation has grown up with computers and has understood, right from the start that computers are simple on/off switches and nothing more. They can see that emergence of consciousness is now even further away than ever before. If anything, the younger generation is even more cynical of emergence ever occurring. So with the passing of the old fear of the terminator rising from the ashes of our shattered future to destroy the survivors, we instead take with us a newfound scepticism of what computer systems really are capable of. It could be said that with the passing of fear and with the gaining of a deeper understanding of computers, we lose our hope of what may be just around the corner.

Thomas George
Experience Bali at UNSW

Dave Javan Tjakra

The Indonesian Student Association (ISA) at UNSW or Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia Australia (PPIA UNSW) proudly presents the Indonesian Night Market 2007. Indonesian Night Market (INM) is an annual night market which brings the wonderful and colorful Indonesian culture, traditional and modern music and dance, and all sorts of Indonesian food. This year’s theme is “Experiencing Bali at UNSW”. There are three stages in the area, one is for live acoustic music, one is for a live electric band and the last stage is for the traditional Indonesian music.

Indonesian Night Market will be held on Tuesday 1 May starting at 4.30pm and running until 9pm on the Main Walkway.

WIN!

Walking with the ANZACS, Up for grabs!

Would you like to read this amazing account of our ANZAC heroes and their involvement in Europe during WWI? With ANZAC Day just around the corner, this is your chance to reflect on what these amazing men did for our freedom today.

**In order to win** a copy of “Walking with the ANZACS”, simply email your name, student number and daytime contact number to comps@arc.unsw.edu.au with “ANZAC” as the subject line. Include the answer to this question, “what does ANZAC stand for?”

Support Your Outback Assist Volunteers

Exclusive Movie Premiere Spiderman 3

Tickets on sale at Blockhouse Reception
More information www.arc.unsw.edu.au
**Week 7 April 16 - 20**

**MONDAY 16th April**

**Buddhist Exhibition – Path of Awakening 10am–4pm**
Path of Awakening is a free Buddhist art exhibition open to the public, which portrays the Buddha’s story and the spread of Buddhism after his passing. Held only once every three years by UNSW Buddhist Society (UNIBUDS), invaluable and rare artefacts will be on display for your viewing pleasure. Check out UNIBUDS’s website at www.unibuds.unsw.edu.au or contact Aun at pojdanai@gmail.com for more details.

**Gallery 1 Scientia Free**

**Table Tennis 11am-3pm**
The sport of champions
Main Room, Roundhouse Free

**Arc Queer Boys 12-3pm**
Weekly meeting for queer boys and queer friendly students on campus. Relax, have lunch and catch up with the Queer Department
Queerspace (Chemical Sciences 920) Free

**Circusoc Monday Night Meeting 5–late**
Come and learn some circus skills and meet new people. All welcome!
Physics Lawn, UNSW Free for members

**Puzzle Club AGM 5–6pm**
Ever been puzzled over Rubik’s cubes, metal puzzles, Sudoku? Hoping to meet people who are equally confused? The UNSW Puzzle Club is holding its first ever AGM meeting on Monday, 16th April (Wk7), 5-6pm upstairs in the Roundhouse. Come along to find out what we are all about!

Upstairs in the Roundhouse Free

**Happy Hour 5–6pm**
The happiest hour of the day!
Roundhouse Free

**Capoeira 5–6pm**
Come and get a fantastic workout doing the Brazilian martial art that comes complete with extreme kicks, music, dancing, and acrobatics.
Hutcheson Room, Roundhouse $3 for three classes

**Weekly Debating 6pm**
Join us for a debate about a topical issue – we promise we don’t bite!
Mondays of session CLB Free

**FILMSOC Film Screening 6.30–9pm**
Animation special screening: “Grave of the Fireflies”. Drinks at the pub afterwards
Webster 237 $5 for non members

**TUESDAY 17th April**

**Buddhist Exhibition – Path of Awakening 10am–4pm**
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**Gallery 1 Scientia Free**

**Table Tennis 11am-3pm**
The sport of champions
Main Room, Roundhouse Free

**Arc Queerplay 12–3pm**
Weekly meeting for the Arc Queer Department. Come relax, have lunch and meet other Queers and Queer Friendly people on campus.
Queerspace (Chemical Sciences 920) Free

**UNIBUDS: Lunchtime Meditation and Relaxation 1–2pm**
Find peace amidst your busy day every Tuesday, and discover your calmness within. Whether you are a beginner or practitioner, member or not, all are equally welcome to just drop in! More information at: www.unibuds.unsw.edu.au or contact Alex on 0401 060 394.

**UNIBUDS library, Squarehouse Level 3 Free**

**Trivia 1–2pm**
Beat smart people at their own game
UniBar, Roundhouse Free

**Women’s Collective Meeting 1pm-2pm**
UNSWomen is a social network and policy body for women on campus. Come to participate in discussions, meet other women, or simply enjoy our delicious (free) food! All women welcome!
Women’s Room, Level 1, Blockhouse (Lower Campus) Free!

**UNSW Affinity Club AGM 3–4:30pm**
Election of executive members
Blockhouse Training Room 2 Free
**WEDNESDAY**

**18th April**

**Pool Comp**
5–6pm
Be a shark
Roundhouse
Free

**Happy Hour**
5–6pm
The happiest hour of the day!
Roundhouse
Free

**FILMSOC**
Film Screening
6.30–9pm
Johnny Depp special: Screening of "Ed Wood".
Drinks at the pub afterwards
Webster 237
$5 for non members

**L.I.F.E.**
Leadership, Influence, Faith, Excellence
7pm
If you wanna know the secret to succeed in LIFE, then come and join us to get your questions answered! Please email emily.nogeh@student.unsw.edu.au or contact Aun at pojdanai@gmail.com for more details.

**Buddhist Exhibition – Path of Awakening**
10am–4pm
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**Thoughtful Foods Co-op Opening Hours**
10.30am–4.30pm
The food Co-op is a source of cheap tasty organic food. Work in the co-operative and receive a discount!

Behind the Roundhouse, near Eats at the Round

**Table Tennis**
11am–3pm
Ping pong without the computer
Main Room, Roundhouse
Free

**Mechsoc AGM**
12–1pm
Important decisions for an important society
MECH level 4
Free

**Bar Bingo**
1–2pm
Bingo!
UniBar, Roundhouse
Free

**Library Lawn Band**
1–2pm
Library Lawn
Free

**The Islamic Society**
Talk by Sheikh Umar El Banna
1–3pm
Talk by Sheikh Umar El Banna, followed by Multicultural Lunch.
The Lodge, Level 3, Square House
Free

**Queer Girls Social**
3–5pm
Weekly social group for queer girls. Come along and hangout, meet people, chat.
Queerspace
Applied Sciences – Rm 920
(Also known as Chemical Sciences)
Free

**Ultimate Frisbee**
Training
4–5:30pm
Membership costs $7. Beginners welcome and fitness of all levels.
Just come to have a good time.
Village Green
Free for members

**Happy Hour**
5–7pm
The happiest 2 hours of the day!
Roundhouse
Free

**Ultimate Frisbee Eastern Suburbs League**
7–9pm
League tournament, come a join in or watch. All skill levels welcome.
Village Green
$35-members
$45-non-members

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Village Green
$35-members
$45-non-members

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**Heaven and Hell Party**
May 10
Look out for details!
UNSW is hosting the first-ever Cancer Council Youth Relay For Life in Australia - an 18-hour event in which team members take turns to walk around the University's Village Green. This community event aims to raise funds and honour the lives of people who have been touched by cancer. Team members will be able to enjoy the festival atmosphere created through entertainment, camping and the vibrancy of hundreds of lively people on the track! This event is open to everyone in the community. If you haven't yet formed a team and registered it's not too late! Sign up with ten of your friends online at www.relayforlife.com.au/nsw or come down and register on the night.

For enquiries, to join a team or to help out at the event email UNSWrallayforlife@gmail.com
Village Green
$15 to Register
Matthew Zeremes and Oliver Torr are two upcoming Australian film makers whose latest film Burke and Wills, premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York and received international critical acclaim. Carissa Simons sat down with them in the pub for a chat.

What did you learn from making this film?

O: What we can make work. I'd always had these vague ideas about what is needed and isn't needed in a film. Now I know what you can get away with. You don't have to take forever to shoot a film and you don't need rewrites.

M: I find it really inspiring that we were able to do this, we did it on a small amount of money and not many people said we could. There's a stigma attached to filmmaking. That it's this big, competitive thing and you have to have been through AFTRS or funded by the AFC, and have crew about a hundred people deep. We didn't have any of that stuff. You can do it without that. The more people who do this kind of stuff, the more a diverse and interesting film industry we'll have.

Typically Australian films are ocker comedy, Burke and Wills is much darker and the comedy comes from everyday situations.

O: I guess that's because we come at this from an acting point of view so we do things that we enjoy doing. The directors that work really well with actors seem to produce the most interesting films. I think that's the most important thing, rather than having a really beautiful shot and having someone walk on and deliver their lines like a puppet.

Your production company Cake, has done many plays. Will you be returning to theatre?

M: For me I think the focus is on film. It's reached a point where I really think we should be making another film to follow up on Burke and Wills.

O: You get a lot of creative freedom making a film, you have no one to answer to...then again you have to spend a lot of money on it and we've always pretty much broken even with the plays we've done. But with a film you do get to reach a larger audience as well – and when a film is finished, you've got something. With a play it just disappears. That's the problem with theatre; it's ethereal.

New York Magazine called your film "troubling, almost voyeuristic and a trifle that leaves it viewer scarred". They also said that it "demands to be seen". How do you react to quotes like that?

O: I told you we shouldn't have left the razor blades on the seat! [laughs] I mean this is what Matt and I are really happy to do – to be truthful and not worry about the consequences. Like Matt really was masturbating when he was doing that scene and I was really taking a crap. I mean, you're not going to see it – but you might as well do it, at least it'll be more real. We didn't set out to make a drama or a comedy – we wanted to do everything we could do. I don't think its particularly confronting and Matt and I know each other pretty well. Why not try and get that in front of an audience, and not be like "woah, check it out, here's a fucking searing scene that's gonna burn into your retinas for the next 5 years". Let's just see what happens.

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According to Don Cameron, author of Off the Rack Identities: Japanese Street Fashion Magazines and the Commodification of Style, young Japanese people draw inspiration for their outfits from fashion magazines and which others are dressing in so-called fashionable places, such as Takeshita St and Harajuku St.

For Japanese youth, street fashion isn’t just a way of looking cool; it’s a way to be noticed and to express their creativity in a culture that doesn’t place as much emphasis on the individual. Brian Francisco, who recently returned from a trip to Tokyo, says that Tokyo fashion is “a statement of ‘this is who I am’” rather than simply looking good.

Australian street fashion looks fairly homogeneous, especially around men trying to look “smart casual”. Look around and you’ll see guys in grey suits and white shirts with no ties. Or that horrible shade of man-pink salmon that everyone seems to be wearing nowadays with upturned polo shirt collars. Or some bastard combination of the above.

Despite a desire for individuality, a huge group mentality exists. “You’ll find the different groups of people that dress similarly,” he says. “There’s a fashionista, mainly females, who will only wear mix that in with the propensity for everyone, young women and men, to spend a fortune on their hair and accessories and you get how edgy Tokyo fashion is” says Brian.

One of the largest trends is the Lolita style, which is inspired by Victorian children’s clothing, French Baroque costumes and a touch of Goth. There are four subcultures, sweet, classic, punk and the most popular, Gothic Lolita, which is centred around predominantly black Victorian costumes with a touch of leather or PVC. Sweet Lolita is characterised by white and pastels, lots of lace and accessories such as dolls, lollipops or teddy bears. Classical Lolita sticks to Victorian style fashion whilst punk Lolita combines the Classical Lolita look with punk elements such as safety pins, plaid fabric and chains. Another predominant subgroup is Cosplay, or Costume play, where people dress up as a character from manga, anime, video games or sometimes even as popular Japanese movie or music personalities.

One of the best known fashion styles is that of the ganguro girl, who has a deep tan, dyed blonde hair, white lipstick and black eyeliner on the inner rim of the eyes and white eyeliner on the outer rim. The popularity of the ganguro girl peaked in 2000, but it remains popular in some areas of Japan. According to exchange student Allison, “Imagine black-haired pale-skinned Japanese teenagers trying to look like blonde 1970’s Californian/Hawaiian surfer girls. That’s pretty much what the ‘ganguro’ thing is all about. And you never see a ganguro girl by herself. They always travel in pairs or small groups.” Former Kanagawa resident, Malindi agrees, “It’s not usually just about fashions, it’s about belonging. They can’t actually be an individual or different, but what they can do is join a group that is different.”

Young people dress up and go there to be seen and appreciated for what they present themselves to be. To step outside of their lives as students, kids, coffee shop workers, one of the crowd. The legions of photographers find it endlessly fascinating.

Still, does it count as individuality when there are such strict definitions to what constitutes a certain style? After all, according to Don Cameron, most of the ideas for an outfit come from watching what other people are wearing and popular fashion magazines such as FRUiTS, which give detailed instructions on how to create, or recreate, a certain look.

It’s hard to tell whether young Japanese people put so much time, effort and cash into looking a certain way because they want to stand out from the crowd, or because they want to fit in. Street Jack magazine editor Keichi Abe claimed that “wearing a certain brand shows [a] person’s individuality”. But how can wearing a mass-produced brand, that a large number of other people are also wearing show individuality?

This “collective individualism”, as Don calls it, shows a desire to fit in and stand out at the same time. Japanese street fashion has become relatively well-known outside of the suits and skirts of an older generation whilst also fitting in with others who have a similar sense of style, whether it be Lolita, gothic, or urban combat. “It’s a statement of belonging”, says Malindi, “You’re either in the mainstream or the alternative mainstream.”

But whether they’re trying to fit in, stand out, or something in between, Japanese street fashion is eclectic and exciting, no matter how many people are wearing it. In fact, a group of girls sauntering down a street wearing Victorian corsets and frilled skirts are probably more intriguing than a single girl wearing the same thing.
Music:
Josh Pyke
Memories and Dust
Luisa Lyons

Josh Pyke’s reputation precedes his album latest; Memories and Dust, which debuted on the ARIA charts at number four, the AIR charts at number one, and was number two behind Silverchair on the iTunes pre-order list. Pyke’s first single, Middle of the Hill came in at number 19 on Triple J’s Hottest 100 poll.

The album’s success is well deserved. Middle of the Hill was my first encounter with Pyke, and the rhythmic guitar, addictive melody and story-like lyrics make it a song you could listen to for hours and never get sick of. Middle of the Hill is reflective of the melancholy, yet quietly happy tone that permeates throughout the whole album. Entirely written by Pyke, Memories and Dust, is a collection of beautifully crafted songs. It gives me the feeling of stumbling across a box of faded photographs, feeling sad for what is no more, and then happy you have the memory. The melancholy, yet optimistic feel of the album is even more poignent when you realise the album is dedicated to two of Pyke’s friends who died “way too young.”

Defined by its slick guitar and dual part harmonies, listening to Memories and Dust is at once uplifting and sobering, and definitely worth putting in your collection. Check out www.joshpyke.com to see the quirky video clip of the title track featuring a heap of light bulbs, baby chicks and a hungry baby crocodile.

Theatre:
Parramatta Girls
Vivien Fung

In the 1960s, what was known as the Parramatta Girls’ Home – a detention centre for those guilty of crimes such as “moral delinquency” and “neglect” – was very populated due to a judicial trend towards preventative detention. This practice was aimed at preventing possible misbehaviour rather than punishing or rehabilitating actual misbehaviour. In Parramatta Girls, the audience is presented with the lives of eight women, then and now, who survived their months at the Parramatta institution.

“Survive” is a strong word, but here it is chillingly appropriate. Writer Alana Valentine interviewed over 35 ex-Parramatta girls in order to create the play’s eight composite characters, and the institutional suffering endured by the interviewees gave rise to almost every onstage event and emotion. Within the structure of a fictionalised reunion complete with flashbacks, it would have been easy for the horrific tales – psychological manipulation, guard rape, self-mutilation – to have lost their potency by overwhelming the viewer with negative emotion after negative emotion. However, it is a credit to the writing and the acting that the truths told are effectively recounted in ways both poignant and persuasive. Parramatta Girls brings together skilful acting, writing and directing to give a candid snapshot of the culture of Australian detention. Involving both European and Indigenous Australians and punctuated by frequent humour, to say it is confronting is an understatement (“There was no black and white (was there?)” – “There was only black and blue”). This is an entertaining and enlightening play which mourns for those whose lives were irreversibly changed by gross institutional mistreatment while simultaneously celebrating their courage.

Now showing at the Belvoir Street Theatre (Surry Hills) until 22 April.

Film:
Burke and Wills
Carissa Simons

Burke and Wills is the feature film debut of Matthew Zeremes and Oliver Torr, who wrote, produced, directed and acted in the production. Written over 5 weeks, and filmed over 9 days on a self-funded budget of $26,000 – Burke and Wills is a testament to how talented and driven young Australian filmmakers can be.

The film’s anti-heroes are Burke, a quiet, seemingly gentle young man who keeps to himself, and Wills, a naïve, chatty bloke who is figuring out what he wants to be. They try to be friends, and they almost succeed. The awkwardness of getting to know a new house mate, along with the realities of male friendship and interaction are captured beautifully in long, haunting shots. With Burke’s brooding intensity and Wills’ sweet lack of direction, these two characters balance each other perfectly. These are two young Australian males finding themselves and finding out about each other, something that is markedly absent from Australian films.

Stylistically, the film is breathtaking. Deep focus, black and white film stock and the absence of hand held camera work makes the film unique and poignant. The sound is at times a trifle jarring, but at other moments it creates a perfect counterpoint to what is happening on screen. The dialogue is superb, and allows a richer, darker style of comedy which is rarely seen in Australian filmmaking.

In an industry which focuses on cheap laughs and quick thrills, Burke and Wills reveals a patience which ultimately allows the film to showcase outstanding cinematography and engage the audience with real characters who light up the screen. Burke and Wills opens on April 12.
AND THE WINNER IS...

Nominate for the 2007 Heinz Harant Award

Student organisations have always survived on volunteers, and Heinz Harant was one of the seminal student volunteers at UNSW. He served on the (now) Arc Board for 29 years, before going on to found the Student Guild, which is now the representative arm of Arc. Heinz Harant Award winners have followed in his stead, becoming people who Jeff describes as making the university, “more than just a degree factory”.

Jeff has now been at UNSW volunteering for more than seven years, and has spent the last two years organising O-Week. “Actually the most difficult thing can often be that fact that anyone who has been at uni [for seven years] gets a bit of a stigma talking to people outside the university community.”

So why did Jeff put so much time and energy into volunteering? “A university is supposed to be a place that has a life and culture of its own. If you think of stand-out examples of universities overseas, your Oxford or your Cambridge, it’s not just that they produce outstanding graduates, it’s also that they have these histories and traditions that go back a long time.”

But according to Jeff, the Heinz Harant Award is not just what you put in, but how you work with others. “You tend to find that the people who win have contributed to a number of different programs, but they also look at the way those people have contributed. The way people are nominated is generally through people who have worked with them and given them a good endorsement.”

It’s clear then why Jeff received the award; his fellow O-Week organising team volunteer, Adam Strang, described him as saying “The friendships you make with Jeff are very deep”. This is probably what brought Heinz Harant, or even Jeff, back year after year. Reflecting on the award Jeff says, “It’s really nice getting recognition for volunteering, but the recognition doesn’t change your reasons for doing it.”

To find out more about nominating for the Heinz Harant Award, visit the Arc website.
“It’s not so much style (that influences my decision), as a warning to others” was one interesting reply from a Computer Engineering student. When pressed further about what kind of warning they were referring to, another geek fashionista replied; “It was the first thing I grabbed this morning that wasn’t smelly and gross”. It seems the cliché is true so far.

However, geek fashion also seems to have its own unique semaphore; “World of Warcraft is my life and I like to advertise this sad fact,” claimed a cheerful fellow with the logo of the popular Blizzard online game emblazoned boldly on his shirt. A fashion symbol showing that one has a unique fluency in leet-speak. “I thought it was funny” came the perplexing reply of a student with a mathematical equation in white lettering across his shirt. “It’s not maths,” he continued enthusiastically after he was asked to explain; “it’s dungeons and dragons!” Again, geek fashion is littered with intricate symbols not easily understood by those outside the fold.

There were many interesting replies, many of them causing bewilderment or raised eyebrows. However few students actually admitted to choosing their clothes on the basis of style or comfort, showing that geeks, just like fashion models, suffer for the symbols they like to display. The typical geek will choose clothes that are pre-dominantly black and have perplexing equations or quotes requiring an intimate knowledge of geek culture to interpret.

So the next time you see a geek trundling down campus in what looks to you like a haphazard outfit, don’t judge straight away. Remember while their “all your base are belong to us” shirt may mean nothing to you, geeks cannot understand why you would leave the house wearing shoes that match your bag, or pay more for a top with a name on it.
COMICS

EUGENE!
BY LINUS LANE
www.theunibin.com

MARCUS... YOU'RE WEARING A WIND TURBINE!
EUGENE, YOU MADE IT!

WANT TO SIGN A LETTER ASKING THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY??
BO SOLAR!

HAVING MUCH LUCK?
UH... SURE...

GEE MARCUS...

NOT REALLY. PEOPLE STILL AREN'T TAKING THE ISSUE SERIOUSLY...

THAT BLOWS...

www.arc.unsw.edu.au/contact

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Q&A
THE ANSWER TO ALL YOUR QUESTIONS
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ON CALL 9385 5880
Find Out How Fit you Actually Are

A research study in the Department of Health & Exercise Science is looking for highly fit male and female participants. The study involves three sessions that last about an hour per session. Please email h.webb@unsw.edu.au for more information.

French Society AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the French Society will be held on Wednesday the 25th of April in Morven Brown G4. If you are interested in joining our executive, or just interested in getting more involved in our society, please come along!

Free Health Check, Be Part Of a Medical Study

Are you male (aged 18-25 years), a non-smoker and either South Asian, South-East Asian or Indigenous Australian? If so, have a free health check for blood pressure, cholesterol, blood glucose plus a comprehensive dietary analysis. If interested contact Maria Matuszek at m.matuszek@unsw.edu.au (with the word ‘Glucose’ in the subject heading) or on 9385-8086. Be quick as places are limited.

Cheerleaders Wanted

CHEERSOC - I am trying to gauge interest for a UNSW Cheerleading Squad. Experience in cheerleading, gymnastics or dance would be great but is NOT necessary. It can’t start if I don’t get at least 15 people interested, so anybody who wants to give it a go, email me! Zoe Page: unswcheersoc@hotmail.com

Join the Blitz contributors list

Writing for Blitz is a great way to express yourself, get experience or get a free CD, book or movie preview. Blitz sends out weekly emails for contributors. These emails include themes, available reviews, upcoming events and the meaning of life. To finally know the answer, email blitzeditor@arc.unsw.edu.au and ask to be put on the contributors email list.

International House AGM

International House RESOC AGM will be held in Week 8 on Monday 23 April 2007 at 7:00pm in International House. Review International House RESOC constitution and accept the 2007 executive members.

Buddhist Exhibition – Path of Awakening

You are cordially invited to attend the Buddhist Art Exhibition organised by UNSW Buddhist Society (UNIBUDS). The exhibition runs from Sun 16th Apr to Wed 18th Apr, 10am - 4pm at Gallery 1, Scientia. We also have our Grand Opening Ceremony on Mon 16th Apr, 12:30pm - 1:30pm, where monks and nuns will be chanting. Invaluable and rare artefacts will be on display. The exhibition is free, so come and experience the culture of Buddhism! Visit www.unibuds.unsw.edu.au for more details.

To advertise your classified submit online via the arc website; www.arc.unsw.edu.au. Click on the right hand “Blitz Magazine” link then “submit to Blitz”. Please supply the week you want the classified listed, not the week of the event under “nominate week”. Anonymous classifieds will not be printed, please supply a contact phone number. The maximum word count is sixty words.
**Where did you get the most interesting item in your wardrobe?**

**Lauren**
1. Leopard print high heels from Macy’s in New York.
2. Wearing socks with open-toed jelly sandals when I was 5.

**Chris**
1. Security vest that I stole from a security guard.
2. Dressing up as a girl at schoolies and walking around the hotel.

**Courtenay**
2. I had to wear a pink furry costume as the 2nd little pig in a Year 6 play.

**Nathan**
1. Viagra boxer shorts from my dad’s work (a drug company).
2. I have no regrets.

**Mattias**
1. Jacket from a garage sale.
2. A metallic, mesh vest I wore to last year’s Bad Taste party.

**Veronica**
1. Volcom jacket from an op-shop.
2. Flares.

**Tim**
1. A Viking outfit I make out of op-shop finds.
2. Having a bald cut when I was 5.

**Lindsay**
1. Lee boob-tube from Urban Equipment – I wear it to parties!
2. A disgusting full-body red, black and white panda suit when I was 8.

**What’s your biggest fashion regret?**

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2. Wearing socks with open-toed jelly sandals when I was 5.

**Chris**
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TRIVIA AT THE UNIBAR

TUESDAY 1PM-2PM
WEDNESDAY 5PM-6PM