Editorial

This ladies and gentlemen is the last breath and the last sigh and the last of the last episode of Tharunka for this season that was twenty eleven but even so we bring you a bumper edition in addition to the regular plain old-fashion Tharunka that is brought to you by us anyway on a semi-regular basis so before we get to the show we have a few comments to throw your way then you can get on with the reading or the composting or whatever else it is you do with this which to be frank is certainly none of our business and it is entirely your business whichever business you choose to be in but let us begin at the idea that courses are once again to be cut which is appalling in every way unless you’re not an arts student but even so you should definitely care because slowly but surely UNSW will become nothing more than an empty degree mill with none of the added benefits of being young and at university which is to say we will be like the desolate arctic tundra whilst other places lacking the same corporate sadists we have will be lovely and green and fertile and nice and all and have cool arts festivals and well funded media outlets and a vibrant student political body which is there lobbying for you and for better classes and for better shit in general and so get on that folks and don’t let them do this to us and another thing whilst we’re not on the subject is that if you’re a continuing student next year or know people fortunate enough to arrive on our desolate shores you should direct them toward Tharunka in the capacity of writers and photographers and contributors but most importantly of readers because whilst we have made a few changes next year we’ll only really see their impact next year when we have a group of really smashing student journalists and the like writing cool shit that you won’t care about but anyway we can try that’s what we’re here for and now onto the issue at hand which is the one now in your hand and in this issue not only do we bring you an expanded Short List with a whole bunch of stuff to do not do during your exams but also a section devoted to things to do over summer as long as those things are watching the BBC or constructing a bucket bong or both but if you prefer neither then don’t go away because we also have some interesting prose and poetry, an article on changes in the humanities, we occupy Wall Street and get all Trotsky on you and all our damn regulars including a fucking cool comic from Leah Rigozzi so check it up roll up roll up and have a wonderful break.

Laterz,

Tharunka Editors

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Tharunka acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which the University now stands.

Tharunka is published periodically by Arc @ UNSW. The views expressed herein are not necessarily the views of Arc, the Representative Council or the Tharunka editing team.
It was incredibly disappointing and disheartening to read comments made by the NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione (The Sun-Herald 9/10/2011) effectively putting the blame on women if they are the victims of sexual assault. Scipione’s inflammatory remarks, suggesting that they should avoid drinking alcohol and make a “pact” with their friends to prevent being sexually assaulted could be compared to the Canadian police officer who sparked the SlutWalk protests after making claiming that women should not dress provocatively if they want to avoid being raped.

In fact, Scipione’s comments are worse because as the state’s leading police officer his “suggestions” will receive much greater attention and undo a lot of the work being done by individuals, organisations and educators to stop sexual assault.

Not once in the article does Scipione put any of the responsibility on men, who statistically commit the vast majority of sexual assaults. Too much of the public “debate” around sexual assault is driven by people blaming women for being sexually assaulted and arguing that if only they drank less, dressed less “slutty” and didn’t have sex they wouldn’t be assaulted. Nowhere near enough time or energy is spent educating men about what consent means, how and why it should be actively obtained and what to do if someone they know is either the victim or perpetrator of sexual assault.

Unfortunately, given his prominence, the police commissioner’s comments have set the fight against victim blaming back many years and his stance is a sad indictment on how our justice system views this issue. As a young man and student leader I will always support the rights of women to do and wear what they like and will fight against the perpetrators of sexual assault, not the victims.

Osman Faruqi
SRC President

Will someone please explain to me… what the hell does being queer have to do with polygamy? I was genuinely perplexed as to how ‘Big Love’ (Issue 10, Vol. 57) found its way to the second spot in a Queer edition of Tharunka. Are all queers meant to be polygamous? Or, is polygamy just a basket case we throw under the heading of queer, because it ‘sounds right’? Is it not fundamentally clear that sex and sexuality are two different concepts?

To clarify: holding hands is a part of sexuality; staring your partner in the eyes is a part of sexuality; a hand-job is plain old sex. (Which, might I add, is not exclusive to Queer relationships anyway). Sex is to sexuality, as food is to hunger... they are related, but to say they are the same is intrinsically mistaken.

On the whole, the edition got it right - marriage is key to Queer sexuality, people’s experiences are pivotal, and activism and campaigning, are unfortunately, still a significant part. These things are all a part of the Queer identity and sexuality. But to raise polygamy and imply it is somehow related to being gay is misleading, and frankly, offensive.

No wonder GLBTI people are still alienated. No wonder there is a reluctance to tackle GLBTI issues in schools. No wonder there is reluctance to provide equality of marriage. When Queer is confused with sex then it becomes something foreign - a blanket term for all things sexually taboo; something easy to dismiss as unimportant. Sexuality is actually about love, partnership and so much more than just sex. So let’s not treat it that way.

Adam Smallhorn

I recently heard about the future plans to cut certain courses currently provided by the school of History and Philosophy of Science at UNSW. Suffice to say I received the news with an equal measure of incredulity and disappointment. The fact that subjects of such importance can simply be discontinued is beyond understanding and reflects rather sadly on the priorities of UNSW direction.

As a major of HPS, I’ve found the relatively small sized seminars ideal. Ironically, it was the very reason why I changed my major from History to the HPS. Smaller seminars allow students to interact with tutors more freely and subsequently improve the quality of the general academic achievements. Evidently this is a mutually beneficial state of affairs for students and lecturers, a situation that should be actively encouraged and not looked at as a pessimistic opportunity to cut.

I might also add that the tutorials were designated for this very type of student/lecturer interaction. However, the unfortunate time limit of roughly one hour is simply inadequate considering the intricate nature of the subject. Eliminating and reducing classes due to their limited student numbers undermine and deride the very methodology of teaching philosophy and history.

I would seriously encourage UNSW board to rethink and reverse this rather pitiful decision.

Angry Arts Student

The article at no stage suggested that all queers are ‘meant’ to be polyamorist, not that polyamory is necessarily related to being gay. However, Queer Tharunka was meant to explore and challenge socially privileged constructions of gender and sexuality. Queer Tharunka must also be open to all sexual minorities that are not heterosexual, heteronormative or gender-binary. What leads to Queerness being labeled as ‘sexually taboo’ is not the existence of polyamory within the Queer community but rather narrow mindedness.

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Editors
Students might rightly wonder why Tharunka contains a war of words between two employee unions on campus. It began when we were asked by a Tharunka reporter to comment on the recently finalised enterprise bargaining campaign at UNSW, why the unions were divided about industrial strategies and how the outcomes would affect students.

NTEU members, whom I proudly serve, have argued all along that it was vital to restore job security provisions, taken away by the anti-union Howard government, in the interests of all staff and students at UNSW. At immense personal and financial sacrifice, our academic and professional staff members took industrial action - strikes, stopworks, results bans, rallies etc - to achieve decent agreements that would make UNSW a more equitable place to work and study. While job insecurity has made life much tougher for many UNSW staff members, it has had detrimental effects on students too.

We know you find it difficult to get time with the growing army of casual academics who are only paid to teach for a few hours a week each. We think it possible that many students might complete their undergraduate degree without ever having quality personal contact with permanent academic staff members. Casuals do not ‘play hard to get’ by personal choice, as is suggested by the unnamed tutor in Henar Perales’ article. Often they need several jobs just to make ends meet and, quite rightly, should not feel compelled to ‘donate’ free labour to a wealthy institution like UNSW which has, just quietly, amassed a $145 million surplus in the last year alone. Would you happily work at McDonalds for free, just for the joy of pleasing customers?

Professional staff have been hit hard by job insecurity too, even though students might not see this. As many of you know from your own experiences, casual work is often very exploitative. You feel afraid to speak up in case you lose your job, the money is really crap and insecure wages and hours make it impossible to plan your life. University staff on fixed-term and casual contracts face exactly the same pressures.

Behind the scenes, our professional staff members tell us it is sometimes difficult to plan long-term projects because they are employed only on short-term contracts. As a result, initiatives to benefit students that require time and commitment simply do not see the light of day.

Unlike Ian Lisser, the CPSU’s paid organiser, NTEU members’ lives are significantly affected by the terms and conditions in our enterprise agreements. That’s why we knew it was important to fight against job insecurity until we won. And so we did.

We’re sorry that the CPSU reps bowed out early and accepted inferior conditions, as they have done every round of bargaining to date, but we promise to fight hard to put professional staff conditions on a par with academic conditions in the next round.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the SRC and all students who supported our campaign against the corporate interests that dominate our university and I look forward to working with you all again in future campaigns for decent work and education.

Dr Sarah Gregson
President, UNSW Branch of the NTEU

Personally, as a professional member of UNSW staff and a long-term general staff member of the NTEU, I find the emails sent by the CPSU to general staff nauseating in the extreme. Talk about lies, damned lies and statistics! In them, CPSU refers to itself as ‘The General Staff Union’ and the NTEU ‘The Academics Union’ which is a lie in itself.

I joined the NTEU as it is the ONLY union that represents ALL tertiary education workers. Uniting professional and academic staff together with the common goals of making the working lives better for all tertiary education staff as well as protecting students’ right to a quality education, is why I am an active member in the UNSW branch of the NTEU.

As part of the general staff bargaining team, I can attest to the way in which University management plays the divide and conquer game between professional and academic staff, and the way in which, unfortunately, the CPSU falls for this strategy and indeed plays to it. This old fashioned view in my opinion has its origins in the days where administrative staff members were expected to tug their forelocks to the more highly educated academic. Those days have long gone, as many professional staff members at universities are highly qualified, with Masters and PhDs, choosing to take on administrative, technical and professional roles, rather than academic careers.

It was to the detriment of professional staff at UNSW that CPSU were happy to settle for a lesser agreement without concern for the job security of its own members. I was gobsmacked when the CPSU actively collaborated with UNSW Management to promote an inferior agreement for their members while the NTEU were still seeking improvements to job security and other conditions. There is no point in having grandparents leave when you don’t have a job!

NTEU members at UNSW may not come across as ‘cheerful’, but we are focused on securing the best working conditions for all staff at the University, including our members. This has a natural flow on to all students, who benefit from Professional, Technical and Academic staff who are committed to the institution and to undergraduate and postgraduate students. They deserve to be respected in their jobs, to have manageable workloads and to enjoy the job security they rightly deserve.

Suzan Fayle
Vice-President, UNSW Branch of the NTEU
Tertiary Education Minister Chris Evans instructed his department to drop the requirement for universities to report on their efforts to increase participation of Queer students. His spokesperson told the press there was no strong evidence that the government should offer more scholarships to encourage the study of science at universities. He told the meeting that Australia needed a more strategic approach to ensuring students took the courses that were needed. “Much of the academic profile of our supply side - not all of it - is driven by undergraduate study choices since substantial money follows where the students go, and what they choose to study... But is it in the national interest to leave so much of our intellectual profile to the study choices made by incoming undergraduate students?” he told the council. The government pledged to uncap the number of Commonwealth supported places to encourage universities to expand supply in line with demand.

The Federal Government announced the opening of a new manufacturing training centre at the University of Ballarat, the first in a number of new facilities opened under the Education Investment Fund, targeted at rural areas. The eighteen million dollar institute will mean the University can increase its enrollment of apprentices by a hundred students.

Sainsbury Finance published a groundbreaking report that found a large number of university students were unable to cook, clean, do the laundry, and one in seven couldn’t boil an egg. The hilariously named survey director, Natasha Virtue, said “living alone for the first time with the responsibility for studying, managing finances and making new friends can be a daunting prospect.” She went on to say “but thank god for Sainsbury Finance, because we’re here to help twenty-four hours, seven days a week!” before sniffing more glue and conducting another pointless and condescending survey the Australian was sure to publish for no plausible reason.

Randwick Council committed to a project to clean Malabar Beach by building a diversion for the stormwater pipes that will discharge away from the swimming area. Scott Nash, Randwick Mayor, said Malabar Beach had regularly been identified by successive governments as very poor, and was pleased Sydney Water was cooperating to change this for residents.

Professor Hugman and Professor Flaskas, in the School of Social Sciences & International Studies, were named as Foundation Fellows for the Australian College of Social Work, which was established “to recognise, demonstrate and promote advanced social work practice; set standards for excellence in specialist and advanced generic practice and to advocate through its members for high quality services to influence social change.”

The Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences held their annual Assessment Forum, with the keynote address delivered by Professor Chris Davison from the School of Education. Professor Davison spoke on “overcoming the common challenges
associated with assessments” including suggestions of how to use “assessment banks and models/exemplars, the co- construction and contextualisation of assessment criteria, standardised feedback sheets, online forums for self and peer evaluation, cross-course benchmarking, and technologies to record, student work and stimulate great self-reflection, eg. digital portfolios, feedback via audio-file, use of mobile.”

The Faculty of Built Environment announced the State Government’s Department of Finance & Service had entered into a research agreement to build an Adjudication Research and Reporting Unit within the faculty. They announced the Department would fund the Unit up to $234,000 over five years, to “undertake socio-legal research in the field of security of payment in the building and construction industry.” The founding Director of the ARRU, Michael Brand, said “The security of payment problem impinges on a great number of businesses and on even greater numbers of people. It is recognised as a problem of national significance. The establishment of the ARRU is, I believe, a significant step toward extending the dialogue around this complex and contentious issue.”

Professor David Black, a lecturer at the Faculty of Science, has been elected to the post of Secretary General of the International Council for Science, a “non-government organisation with a global membership of national scientific bodies and International Scientific Unions, which aims to strengthen science globally for the benefit of all humankind.” Professor Suzanne Cory, President of the Australian Academy of Science, congratulated Professor Black and said he “brings to the position a wealth of experience and an extensive international network.”

The National Institute of Dramatic Arts announced a partnership with Carriageworks to present new works and develop dramatic practices. NIDA students will be able to access Carriageworks’ performance, production and exhibition spaces, and will be able to work with visiting artists. In return, NIDA will host Carriageworks’ artists as guests in forums and events on their campus. The first work to be presented as part of the initiative will be Idiot, featuring second year NIDA students and directed by NIDA Artist-in-Residence Max Lyandvert.

Calendar

The School of Languages and Linguistics, as well as the School of Social Sciences and International Studies present two seminars exploring Simone de Beauvoir’s The Second Sex, with a special focus on a new translation and de Beauvoir’s depiction of non-violent relationships. “The Second Sex: A 21st Century Dialogue” will feature translators Constance Borde and Sheila Malovany Chevalier, discussing “A ground breaking exploration of woman as ‘other’, that continues to provoke and inspire, continually and dramatically revising the way women talk and think about themselves.” The seminars will be held November 15, from 2.30pm at Robert Webster Theatre A (G15).

The John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies and the Centre for Modernism present ‘Strange Enlightenments: Flann O’Brien and Modernism’, a conference held on the occasion of O’Brien’s centenary to reanalyse his major works. According to the Institute, O’Brien’s work “has often been held as a ‘post-modern’ novelist, whose ludic and parodic fictions played creative havoc with traditional notions of authority and authorship.” The conference will be held November 11 at Robert Webster 327. For further details call 9385 4772.

The Faculty of Build Environment hosts Dr Catherine De Lorenzo and Dr Nancy Marshall in a talk on collaboration in making public art. ‘Collaboration, Public Art and Creative Cities’ will “identify and analyse a much richer network of relationships within Sydney, where many kinds of players contribute creatively to the successful resolution of the work.” Dr De Lorenzo serves as a cultural advisor to Randwick City Council and was awarded the Marion Mahony Griffin Prize by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects in 2009. ‘Collaboration, Public Art and Creative Cities’ will be held October 28 from 12.15pm at the CBD Campus, Level 1, 1 O’Connell Street. For further information, contact 9385 4800.

Associate Professor Harry Margalit will present a talk on urban consolidation in respect of energy efficiency in a talk entitled ‘Relating Energy Policy and Urban Form.’ The presentation will “sketch the orders of magnitude of urban energy requirements, and their necessary infrastructure, as a way of grasping the energy budget that sustains contemporary urban life. This, in turn, can inform some crucial contemporary questions of energy use: where should architects and planners direct their efforts, and how successful might they be?” The talk will be held October 27 from 12.15pm at the CBD Campus, Level 1, 1 O’Connell Street.

Dr Paul Hogben will discuss architecture in Sydney from the late nineteenth century to the current Barangaroo proposal in a forum entitled ‘Viewing Architecture in Sydney.’ A senior lecturer of architecture, Dr Hogben will consider the issue of the viewing angle - “the positions and angles from which to look at and appreciate city buildings.” The talk will be held October 26 from 12.15pm at the CBD Campus, Level 1, 1 O’Connell Street.

The Faculty of Built Environment joins the Sydney Architecture Festival to discuss the works of Joern Utzon, Richard Leplastrier, and Ashton Raggat amongst others. ‘Post World War Architecture in Melbourne and Sydney: Issues of Place and Ornament’ will be presented by Dr Peter Kohane, president of the Society of Architectural Historians of Australia and New Zealand, and will take place October 24 from
Jim Plume will speak on presenting “a multi-layered learning experience that explored a complex digital representation issue, while addressing the specific needs of the Historic Houses Trust of NSW and necessarily required working with a team to deliver an innovative outcome,” in a talk entitled ‘Multi-Layered Learning in a Digital Collaboration.’ The talk will take place October 25 from 12.15pm at the CBD Campus, Level 1, 1 O’Connell Street.

COFA staff Roderick Bamford and Jacqueline Clayton will exhibit in a show highlighting innovative approaches to traditional craft materials. ‘Hyperclay’ will feature the works of four ceramicists, and include the presentation of Bamford’s custom-built 3D printer. The exhibition will run until January 8 at Object Gallery, 417 Bourke Street, Surry Hills, Tues to Fri 11am - 5pm, Saturday to Sunday 10am - 5pm.

The National Institute of Experimental Arts presents a group exhibition that invites audiences to consider the impact of our everyday actions on our future. ‘Try This At Home’ features works of international and Australian designers including COFA graduates Tessa Zettel and Karl Khole, and is curated by COFA academic Margaret Farmer. ‘Try This At Home’ runs till November 5 at Kudos Gallery, 6 Napier Street, Paddington, Wednesday to Friday 11am - 6pm, Saturday 11am - 4pm.

Second year Applied/Object Design students will feature their works in an exhibition entitled ‘Slow Glow.’ The exhibition will “combine the theory of ‘slow design’ into contemporary lighting solutions for both domestic and commercial spaces” with inspiration drawn from a range of energy efficient lamps and technologies such as LED’s. ‘Slow Glow’ will open November 8 at 5pm, and run until November 19 at Kudos Gallery, 6 Napier Street, Paddington, Wednesday to Friday 11am - 6pm, Saturday 11am - 4pm.

Robyn Stuart presents ‘Breathing Room’ as part of her research into the intersection of conceptual practices and theory in art, mathematics and philosophy. Currently undertaking research into chaos theory and dynamic systems, Stuart travelled to Lake Eyre to investigate the emotional and psychological landscapes in a “volume-preserving physical systems will, after a sufficient length of time, return to a state very close to the initial state.” ‘Breathing Room’ opens November 22 at 5pm, and continues until December 3 at Kudos Gallery, 6 Napier Street, Paddington, Wednesday to Friday 11am - 6pm, Saturday 11am - 4pm.

Andrew Burford and Jason Phu create an observational satire of the traditional Aussie pub environment in an exhibition that will encourage viewers “to interact with the installation and figurative sculpture, and to sit down at the tables and take pictures, as a way to emphasise the spectacle nature of pubs that have recently been in the news.” ‘Down, Under, On The Piss, Up’ explores Australian masculine identity and opens December 6 at 5pm, running until December 17 at Kudos Gallery, 6 Napier Street, Paddington, Wednesday to Friday 11am - 6pm, Saturday 11am - 4pm.
Katia Molino, Rodney Nash and others, ‘Bargain Garden’ runs from November 1 to 5, with student rush tickets available November 5, at Carriageworks, 245 Wilson Street Eveleigh. For tickets and further information, contact the box office at 8571 9111.


‘Return to Sender’, curated by Paul Gazzola and Jeff Khan, presents a collection of eight short dance works exploring the influence of international creative relationships on the practice of Australian dance artists. With works from Alison Currie, Nadia Cusimano, Matthew Day, Atlanta Eke, Jane McKernan, Latai Taumoepeau, Tony Yap and Yumi Umiumare, ‘Return to Sender’ will “provide an insight into the creative collaborations that influence Australian artists’ work, but which take place overseas and are often out-of-sight to their audiences due to distance, geography and expense”, and will run from November 24 to Saturday 26 at 8pm, at Carriageworks, 245 Wilson Street Eveleigh.

stagejuice presents ‘freshly squeezed’, a mixed exhibit of disciplines from theatre, dance, sound, visual arts, films and more. Artists came together over an eight week period to develop new collaborative works and avoid capitalisation, all centred around a common topic, culminating in an evening of short, experimental works. Centred around the theme of smoke, ‘freshly squeezed’ will run from October 20 to 22 at PACT, 107 Railway Parade, Erskineville. For further information or to book, call PACT at 9550 2744. Third year NIDA performers present Pains of Youth, by Ferdinand Brucker, directed by Tom Wright. Written in the 1920s, the piece has come to be “acclaimed as one of the great modern plays about the destructiveness of being young.” Pains of Youth runs October 18, 19, 20, 21 and 24 at 8pm, Parade Studio, NIDA. Tickets are available from Ticketek.

Port, by Simon Stephens and directed by Kristine Landon-Smith, featuring third year NIDA performers is a play that “captures the idiosyncratic details of life, the insecurities of childhood, fraught family dynamics and the wonder and disappointment of young love.” Port runs October 18 - 22 and 24 - 25 at Parade Playhouse, NIDA. Tickets are available from Ticketek.

NIDA second year actors and final year costume and design students feature in Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s Idiot, in a new version by Max Lyandvert. Inspired by the films of Andrei Tarkovsky, this new interpretation uses live video and live amplified sound design to engages the atmosphere and the idea of the novel. Idiot runs October 22 and October 24 to 26, from 7.30pm, at Carriageworks, 245 Wilson Street Eveleigh. Tickets are available from Ticketek.

Jane Wallace Presents

Television always wants to attract the all important market of all important female television viewers. Females really count with TV ratings people. Female television viewers rule television and television viewing, so when Australian television channel, Channel Nine has to choose which television show would attract the most female television viewers on a Sunday Night, they had an easy choice to make.

Would female television viewers prefer the game they made in hell? Would female television TV viewers prefer the Underworld baddies of television TV drama show ‘Underbelly Razor’ with its thousands of crimes, criminals, mafias, murders, prostitution, gambling, Satans, chain gangs, killings, mayhem, merciless beatings, drugs, rapes, violence, sins, hatreds, assaults, and muggings, or would female television viewers prefer the game that they made in heaven?

Would female television viewers prefer a football game of Rugby Union between local country New Zealand and Argentina with all its scrums, line-outs, penalty goals, field goals, penalties, rucks, injuries, replacements, referee decisions, kickoffs, tries, half times, and hakas?

Channel Nine rightfully believes that ‘Underbelly Razor’ is a more female friendly television show than Rugby Union. Adios the Haka! Welcome to the digital television land of Green Acres, Hogans Heroes, MASH, Bewitched, and McHale’s Navy, football!! Thank you very much Channel Nine for the Sunday Night television.

Hell is better than heaven, any night! Even ‘Big Bang Theory’ would be better on Sunday Night than football. Lets put out a contract hit (Underbelly talk) on football once and for all! Lets finish off football on major TV channels now! Females versus football is the ultimate world television underworld war!

Adios Amigos,

Jane Wallace
# Anti-Poverty Week 2011

**16–22 October 2011**

**Help fight poverty and hardship**

## Lead Up

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<td>Social Justice Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>Thu 13</td>
<td>Bake Sale Fundraiser</td>
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## Anti-Poverty Week

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<td>Mon 17</td>
<td>Volunteering Information Session</td>
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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/APW.at.UNSW](http://www.facebook.com/APW.at.UNSW)

www.antipovertyweek.org.au
The stereotype may exist for some that Canada is merely a poor-man’s America, so when a Vancouver-based activist magazine raised the idea of protesting against corporate influence on democracy, not many took note. Drawing inspiration from the Arab Spring movements of 2011, the anti-consumerist publication Adbusters called for a peaceful protest in Zuccotti Park, in the downtown financial district of NYC.

According to Jonathan Field, Tharunka reporter in NYC, the protest has several evolving aims that fundamentally revolve around the current state of social and economic inequality in the USA, and particularly at a local level, NYC, where the disparity of wealth is extreme. Recent statistics showed, in Manhattan, the top twenty percent of earners made thirty-eight times as much as the bottom eighty percent.

Tharunka spoke with Jonathan Field earlier in the week. “People are here from everywhere. I’ve met people from almost every state of the USA, of all ages, races and creeds. Even the tourist buses that pass downtown Broadway on their ordinary sightseeing route have made impromptu stops at the protests. It’s become the latest attraction in the city, the subject of as much finger pointing and camera flashing as the Empire State Building, The Statue of Liberty, or Freedom Tower,” he said.

It was surprising to see most media sources ignoring what are the largest protest of its kind this decade, and it was not until London’s Guardian newspaper began devoting several pages of coverage that the US media decided it was newsworthy. A few days ago, the New York Times began a campaign to recruit Occupy Wall Street activists as on-the-ground reporters, just as a slew of celebrities joined the protest, now in its fourth week.

As the protests spread in the last weeks, a steady list of commentators hit back at what they see as an unproductive and disorganised protest movement. NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg accused the protesters of trying to destroy obs in the city, although he acknowledged his sympathy to some of the complaints. President Barack Obama and the Vice-President Joe Biden both acknowledged the frustration of voters.

These complaints were many, according to the protesters, but were sparked by concerns about the Wall Street bailout in 2008, whilst average Americans dealt with high unemployment and job insecurity alone, without help from a political system many view as corrupt, or at the least, ineffective.

According to Jonathan Field, there are technically no list of demands, despite the protests not showing any signs of dissipating. “Occupy Wall Street clearly states they are not a political institution. People are just angry. I’ve met people who have tens of thousands of dollars in tertiary education debt, and no prosperous job offers. They’ve applied for hundreds of jobs, without even an interview.”

Some protesters spoke of applying for over one hundred and fifty jobs for which they were qualified and experienced for, and receiving only one interview, which they didn’t get. That job paid $7.25 an hour, 12 hours a week, a paycheck Field says is difficult to live on in NYC “People are living paycheck to paycheck. They just want to express how unfair and unjust this situation is for the majority. The most commonly shared complaint by

Occupy Wall Street
By Kylar Loussikian

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the Wall St. protesters is how the 1% have destroyed the opportunities of the 99%,” he said.

The activists march around the Financial District, with the NYPD forced to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in overtime to officers who are not allowed to accept coffee or donuts from the camp kitchen. Instead the officers play Words with Friends on their smartphones, take photos and put them on Facebook and Twitter and talk with the protesters. Many of the Occupy Wall Street protesters say it’s obvious the officers side with them.

However, the situation is still tense, although less so than last week, when seven hundred protesters were arrested after marching across the Brooklyn Bridge. After a police officer warned protesters to cross at the pedestrian walkways and not the roadway, hundreds of activists began chanting ‘take the bridge’ before swarming the bridge. The activist now say police didn’t warn them but tricked them by allowing them onto the roadway, only to trap them in orange netting. Paul J. Browne, spokesperson for the police told the media that warnings were issued, and threatened to release video footage shot by the police to show just that. Whilst the New York Times reported that police regularly tape the protests, it has been the protesters that have used technology, including posting hundreds of videos to YouTube, to support their claim of police brutality.

In the last few weeks, the protests have spread across America, and the movement is set to come to Australia. In New York, Jonathan Field said people had come spontaneously. “People come from all over to join. I’ve had people from Canada asking if they can stay at my house. They’ve come for the weekend just to join the protest.” Zuccotti Park, according to Field, has been turned into a long-term base. “There are thousands of cameras, microphones, Macbook Pros. The whole event is being documented 24/7. They’re going to be there for a while. A media center, a library, a sleeping area, a kitchen.”

Recently, a Facebook event started organising ‘Occupy Sydney’, to be held on October 15 in Martin Place, home of the Reserve Bank. A statement on their website said the group wanted “bank reform, putting people before banks and society before economy, in solidarity with occupytogether.org, Occupy Wall St Australian people, and the 99%ers.”
“Yeah, so basically... we’re all fucked.”

“Uh-huh. Case in point: it’s 3am and we’re at the Town Hall Hotel.”

“Nah, man. Nah. I’m talking about real shit here.”

“You mean exponential growth, overpopulation, global warming, peak oil, plastic in the ocean? That sort of thing?”

“Yeah! That sort of thing... do you know how much plastic is in the ocean?”

“No, not really.”

“Me neither. But it’s a lot. And there’s more and more of it, and it keeps breaking down into particles nothing can digest, and...”

“And plastic’s just one element in the constantly escalating consumption of non-renewable resources. And it never gets recycled, just shipped to India on huge tankers? While we work furiously toward driving ourselves to extinction?”

“...Yeah.”

“Hey, you want another beer?”

“Yeah...”

“Goddammit, I miss being in love.”

By Leigh Rigozzi
Philosophy is dead, declared Stephen Hawking in his new book last year. In Mr Hawking’s view, philosophers have been mulling over the same thoughts for centuries, failing to catch up with science.

He is not alone in this stand. The rivalry between the two disciplines is long known, and if we believe novelist C.P. Snow’s declaration at Cambridge in 1959, then we might think that science and humanities are at completely opposite poles.

Unless we consider History and Philosophy of Science, an interdisciplinary subject as old as philosophy that does precisely this: combine humanities and science.

Perhaps the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dean (FASS), James Donald, had Hawkins and Snow in mind when he decided to cut History and Philosophy of Science from majoring and minoring options two weeks ago.

Perhaps, too, knowing that his staff and students would understand that learning is not a means to an end, he thought it best not to consult them about the cuts.

What do we lose if we lose the humanities of science?

Associate Professor Peter Slezak says HPS explores the great ideas that have existed in the history of Western civilisation.

“HPS provides you analytical thought, insights about the history of ideas, the nature of scientific knowledge and its development, and we are abandoning all these things. As soon as you have to start explaining to people why this is important you know you have lost the battle.”

Professor Slezak ran an public trial of Galileo, which was broadcast as an ABC 1 Compass special last year, called The Trials of Galileo. This program, which turned out to be a success, was an attempt to keep the subject alive.

From a practical vantage point, history and philosophy are important for anybody embarking on a career in science, says New Scientist journalist, Wendy Zukerman.

“I think philosophy is relevant to so many other disciplines, even to the way scientific research is funded. History of Philosophy sets a foundation for how we look at science and categorise it, from biology to chemistry to physics. The more we learn, the more we realise they are integrated.”

A humanities approach to science, she adds, also helps scientists communicate research.

Yet the School of History and Philosophy is not the only one experiencing cuts. The notion that humanities are no longer relevant or conducive to job-finding is neither new, nor exclusive to UNSW.
The idea that universities are somehow supposed to churn out profitable products has become a worldwide phenomenon, if it can be called as such.

Former Associate Professor at Yale University, William Deresiewicz, recently wrote in The Nation: “Knowledge, as we’re constantly told, is a nation’s most important resource, and the great majority of knowledge is created in the academy—now more than ever...It isn’t just the sciences that matter; it is also the social sciences and the humanities.”

And The Chronicle of Higher Education ran a response to the famous column by Thomas H. Benton, titled ‘Graduate School in the Humanities: Just don’t do it’.

At UNSW, the School of Languages and Linguistics suffered especially, with the loss of Russian studies in 2006.

An online petition from the University of Sydney called ‘Save the Russian Department at UNSW’ argued “that Russian language and culture have a significant place in contemporary Australian society...we thus disagree with the possible COMPLETE closure of the Russian Department.”

“We also disagree with the decision NOT to officially inform students, including those who have already chosen Russian Studies as a Major in an Arts Degree.”

But so it goes. Instead the School of Languages now runs a much more profitable, much more vocational option of Russian – English translation.

Professor Slezak says it is part of a top-down managerial climate at universities that implemented very widely, not just at UNSW.

“The worst part is that these things are being run without consultation. Everything is top down and the curricula are being decided without academic staff input.”

Tim Kaliyanda, who recently won a position as President of the SRC, says changes to FASS don’t come up in the biannual Faculty board meetings, but are resolved by the Standing Committee, which excludes student members.

“Students don’t have a voice at grassroots level because they are not involved in the meetings, and don’t have a role in putting things together. A lot of students are keen to get into meetings but they only get called twice a year.”

SRC councillor and Social Sciences undergraduate student, Alex Peck, says program simplification is also affecting politics courses, and the options for majors subjects are reducing from year to year.

“Program simplification looks good at a chancellery level and the faculties have used it as an excuse to cut courses for economic reasons.”

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for students, Joan Cooper, when asked by Alex whether there would be more class cuts, answered that there may be. Unfortunately, Professor Cooper did not respond to this question in time for the issue.

That the humanities do not generate as much money as medicine or engineering is nothing new. But does this make them superfluous? Whatever happened to the prestige of academia?

“If you look at the courses at the postgraduate level at UNSW,” Professor Slezak says, “there are no liberal arts like history, literature, or music.”

Universities, he adds, are of course a business. But “they should not be regarded money-making down to the level of individual courses. The misguided model is that everything has to pay its own way regardless of its intrinsic academic or intellectual value.”

A great professor once told a class full of blank-faced politics students (amongst them, yours truly): It is our duty as parents, and lovers, and friends, to educate our lovers and children and friends. He was speaking in connection to our ignorance about Nobel Prize in Literature winners, not politics.

Education is never in excess, and universities should be the first place to defend ideas. To eliminate the traditional academic disciplines and the great ideas of our culture is, in the words of Professor Slezak, “a tragedy”.

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THARUNKA NON-FICTION WRITING COMPETITION

Competition open to all students enrolled at Australian Universities, word limit 3500 words.

First Prize: $800

Prize for Best Satire Work: $200

Entry $5 Submissions close Monday July 2, 2012.

Post Submissions to: Non-Fiction Writing Competition:
PO Box 173 Kingsford, NSW 2032.
Further details and full entry conditions at: facebook.com/tharunka
Endings

By Cameron McPhedran

Why must you grate me so?
Scrapping, mechanical and
thin like ‘The National,’
I am dismantled by your
hollow words,
Canvases as blank, empty and
industrial as the skyscrapers
looming above us,
We absolve ourselves of care,
Thin lips, ragged expressions,
Our arguments blare with the
incressance of the oncoming traffic,
Flailing signals of discontent,
Angular and intrusive,
Startled, I want to scream,
And then we collapse,
Alone.

Green Staircase &
Brown Temple

By Mark Rodda

In Mark Rodda’s works no two pictures are painted using the
same rules. The application of any dogmatic or systematic
framework is avoided. However, among these allegorical works
and uncouth abstracts are hints of recurrent themes. Romantic
landscapes, oversaturated colour schemes and fantastical
creatures are uniting factors within these works: where dark
but comforting worlds are evoked. Rodda’s diverse interests
and abilities as an artist are evidenced across his painting, film,
animation and photographic works. With his painting, he shifts
effortlessly between precise geometric works to loose, figurative
pictorial planes.

Ronna was born in Tasman and lives and works in
Melbourne. He completed a Bachelor of Fine Art (Painting) at
the University of Tasmania, Launceston in 1994 and Bachelor of
Fine Arts (Hons) at RMIT, Melbourne in 1999. He has held solo
and group exhibitions nationally and internationally.
James Cater, Irina Belsky, Tom Geba, Jack Jelbart, Adam Wagner, Jamie Brew, Kate Farquharson, Cale Leslie Hubble, Brigid Vidler, Adam Stiles, Jasmin Kaleita, David Bailey McKay, Jemima Richards, Thomas Grant, Brooke Boland, Lissette Valdez, Ivana Stab, Emi Berry, Alex Pittaway, Dominic Foffani, Andre Teh, David George, Camilla Palmer, Desiree Conceicao, Seddon ‘Sedz’ Johnston, Keith Yap, Harold Shrum, Leigh Rigozzi, Shaun Khoo, Annie Ly, Rory Platt, Rosie Wong, Raymond Baltas, Will Laren, A Completeeete Wanker and enemies thereof, Jen McLean, Catherine Torrisi, Amy Burton, Tegan Smyth, Michelle Cahill, Henar Perales, Mikhailovich, Lauren Carroll Harris, Jimmy Le, Emma MacKenzie, Hell War, Kimberley Lowe, Tim Kaliyanda, Sarah Frazier, Chally, Bethan Donnelly, Hezy, Jacqueline Palaje, Amber Karanikolas, Anisha Guatam, Tayylor Leon, Emilie Auton, Joan Ross, Sue Pedley, Stella Rosa McDonald, Izabela Pluta, Patricia Assad, Suchita Mathur, Robyne Pacey, Justin Wolfers, Kristyn Glanville, Katherine Buchan, Aaron Anderson, Else Kennedy, Eleanor Chandler, Eloise Kirk, Dave Clark, Amanda Woodwooood, Dominic Bowd, Dakota Lane, Cat Rose, Sarah Langston, Renee Griffin, Alan Chan, Mark Aguhar, Raymond Allotta, Cameron Rowe, and the contributors of Issue 11, Summer Tharunka a big THANK YOU for your efforts in contributing to UNSW’s longest standing magazine in 2011. We couldn’t have done it without you (needless to say!!)…

We sincerely hope all continuing students will invest in our magazine next year and continue its growth. Along with new student journalists, reviewers, a graphic designer and cartoonist, we need the help of others students eager to make a difference to UNSW’s cultural life. Shoot us an email at tharunka@arc.unsw.edu.au and we will find something for you to do, from sourcing advertising revenue so we can print more issues each semester to distributing the hard copies of the magazine around to every last nook and cranny on campus. Have a wicked summer, have lots of amazing adventures but don’t get into too much trouble because we’re longing to see you on campus next semester!! Peace out!
I am at concert and the band is playing one of their more famous hits, people start to clap in time with the music. The clap-along. They’re easy to get drawn into, these clap-alongs, they’re the percussive equivalent of crack cocaine, and the truth is they make a kind of sense: it’s all fun and games and comradely as the clappers enjoy in the moment, contributing in their own small ways to the music, but although the clap-along might seem like harmless fun, those who have seen it, those who have been there, know that its territory is a veritable minefield of social disgrace and spiralling self-consciousness. I hate the clap-along. I feel like it’s a radically condensed treatment to our inevitable mortality. The problem is that like all moments, like everything in life, the clap has to end. I am terrified of being caught in the clap as it ends. This is a real, if underpublicised problem. There’s always someone, clapping along after general participation has waned, clapping like some mad fool to a rhythm no one else hears, and which in fact, now that almost everyone has stopped clapping, we can hear in is no sense in time with the music, or in time with anything resembling music. I’ve been there; I know how it is to be that person stuck in the clap.

The clap has to end see, but when it should end I can never predict. I notice people stopping. I look around, more people stopping, it’s thinning out, I have to stop now, stop before it’s too late. Stop, I freeze, mid clap, hands no less than a twitch away from contact and am awkwardly made to incorporate this pose into some semblance of a half-way plausible and not at all clap-like gesture. The obvious way to circumvent this conundrum is to terminate the clap early into the cycle. To simply cease clapping before anyone else gets wise. If I find myself getting drawn into a clap-along these days and am at least half sober, this is my emergency protocol. I get a few claps out, for civilities sake, and then stop and enjoy in the spectacle of self-consciousness and horror that ensues, having assuredly washed my hands of its taint. I am the clap stopper. The party pooper, harbinger of others’ embarrassment. But do I want to be known as a party pooper; don’t I just want to fit in? Isn’t this what this whole conundrum regards? And there we have it: the tyranny of the clap-along. There are no good or bad ways to deal with it, just shades of concern. This is why I regularly abstain from the infectious allure of its promise.

And but here I am at a concert, not clapping along and having a very good time of it, when the woman next to me, to my horror, is not only drawn into a clap-along, but actually commits to the eminently risky over-the-head clap. This is, so far as clapping goes, the zenith of engagement. There can be no casual backing down from the over-head clap and the strange thing is she doesn’t look reckless. She’s at least twice my age and is dressed in classical regalia of the well-to-do-boho-yuppie set. But here she is, having ditched any pretence of respectability, clapping like she has nothing left to lose. She claps madly away for a minute or two, but for my proximity I can tell that her strength is beginning to fade and her enthusiasm is draining. As people around us terminate their contributions, and as she notices me noticing her, I can tell that she has realised, she is stuck in the clap. She’s fucked. The look on her face now reminds me of a documentary I once watched about criminals on death row, a combination of dread and an acceptance of the inevitable, she has to stop and will be noticed stopping. It will be noticed that she thought she was partying down, that she got into the rhythm and that when everyone else got out of it, she did too; that she’s just a trendy, a follower, a sheep. She will expose herself when she stops; expose the interiority of her self.

But this is okay, no one is perfect and everyone is occasionally frivolous. She can just back down, maybe leave the theatre and get away from the area before anyone notices she is gone. But she doesn’t, she’s too proud. Instead of dropping her arms and resting her faux enthusiasm, she transitions the clapping into an awkward dance routine; a dance were she rolls her arms and throws her hair back. This kind of dancing in an area of the concert hall where no one dances, where dancing is pretty obviously not the order of the day. And she puts her whole self into it. She stoms, taps and continues with this awkward rolling of her arms, which looks a lot like the routine from The Wiggles song Hot Potato, Hot Potato. She is accompanied by a barding man in large wire framed glasses, an accountant if I had to guess, who is just the type of guy who brings an umbrella to a concert on a dry evening, a just in case kind of clap, who now realises that something is amiss with his woman friend/ wife, and actually leans over and asks whether she’s okay. She looks at him, her face pretty clearly communicating that she isn’t, but that now she’s gone this far she’ll have to finish it and he nods gravely and I nod and avert my eyes, unable to watch any longer.

Let this sad story stand as a warning to anyone who doesn’t practise proper precautions when engaging in a clap-along.
Welcome to the Lucky Country?

By Yinggang Sky Ai

It was a sunny afternoon. Mel Fung, 22, and her housemates were having a BBQ party at Bronte Beach. Mel lives in an international house in Sydney’s eastern suburbs. Almost all the tenants are from different countries; Mel from Indonesia, Poom Pukkawat Leesawan from Thailand, and Shukai Lian and Martin Lau from China. The two other guys did not show, one from India, the other one from Singapore.

According to statistics, in 2010 there were 469,619 international students studying in Australia. The top five nationalities were Chinese, Indian, Korean, Malaysian, and Vietnamese. However, because of the cultural and academic differences between Asia and Australia, many Asian students find it hard to live, study and adjust to life in Australia.

Mel is an active young woman. While she ate and joked with Poom and Lian, Martin was quiet. He didn’t speak much and just lowered his head. Martin moved in to the shared house two weeks ago, to study accounting at the University of Sydney next year. He’s currently studying translation at a training school.

“I was an active person when I was in China. When coming here, I feel like my English is not good enough, so I don’t speak a lot,” said Martin. “I had the same problem” said Poom, “even now I am still afraid of asking or answering questions in class.”

Jan Thomas, Manager of Student Development- International (SDI) at UNSW, thinks that international students should be aware of the language assistance the university provides such as language workshops, language exchange programs and the learning centre.

Meherlyn Jussawalla, the director of Diplomatic Relations and International Protocol, UNSW International, suggested international students should try to integrate and participate in different social events where they can meet people from different countries and speak English as their common language. She encourages students to talk to each other in English, even if they are living with people from their own countries.

Besides language issues, international students can easily feel depressed. Martin said he felt so disappointed when he found the life here was not as he had expected. “I have no friends here. I don’t think I can study well here. But I have to stay for I have paid. Now I feel so stressed and upset and I miss my family and home life.”

Mel is also homesick and had been from the moment she’d gotten off the plane. When she went to the UNSW Kensington campus on the first day she felt lonely and helpless. “I really wanted to fly back home that moment,” she said.

A survey conducted by Cambridge International College in 2008 revealed that 70% of respondents had suffered loneliness and/or depression during their time in Australia. Penny Shores, Senior Counsellor of UNSW Counselling & Psychological Services, said that study was probably correct. “The most common problems for international students are culture shock, homesickness, family concerns, academic problems, relationship problems, financial problems, anxiety, depression, physical and mental illness.” She sees about 1900 students in counselling a year, and 25% of them are international students.

Jan and Meherlyn said some students choose not to ask for help from the university as they may be a little reluctant to present themselves. But there are other options. Students can complete an online form within the newsletters sent out by SDI. Currently, 11,000 people have subscribed to the newsletter.

By contrast, Lian is not homesick, because back in China he went to boarding school from the age of 15. However, he has other problems. “I have been robbed three times since I came here in 2009. Now I am a very experienced ‘victim’,” said Lian. Luckily the robber didn’t hurt him, but stole two laptops, a phone and some money.

In June 2008, the Chinese consulate conducted a survey of 100 students. It found more than one in four had been a victim of such crimes. There is increasing concern among international students for their personal safety and well-being following the disturbing attacks on Indian students in recent years in Melbourne. Jan said all students need to increase their awareness of safety. To help students, SDI provides an online safety tutorial, which all commencing students and international students are required to complete.

According to Meherlyn, there is a formalised UNSW Student Safety Committee and it offers night-time walks around the campus. It also makes sure that there are enough lights everywhere at night and that trees are low so that potential assailants can’t hide behind them. “Don’t carry your laptop in your hands. If you are walking at night, don’t wear headphones. And most importantly, trying to walk with another person,” said Meherlyn.
Opinion:
Shelter from the Refugee Storm

By Arzu Cidem, Leeanora Collett and Helen Chong

The High Court of Australia has ruled Julia Gillard’s proposed ‘Malaysia swap deal’ unconstitutional and boat people continue to be smuggled into Australian waters. A local Auburn resident who has been caught up in the political refugee storm is left wondering, why all the fuss?

Maya* sought refuge with her family eight years ago in an attempt to escape from the authoritarian regime of Saddam Hussein. Born in Iraq, her family fled their homeland in search of a safe future.

Living in a makeshift house on the outskirts of the Syrian city of Damascus, Maya’s parents saw no future for their young family: “It was such a place of distress. I mean why would we stay there? We had no future.”

Maya and her family were determined to become Australian citizens and to contribute to Australian society: “Smuggling’ ourselves into the country was the only way to secure a prosperous future. With my father being a doctor and my mum a nurse, we felt like we had so much to offer to the Australian community.”

Maya argues that in a matter of life and death, paying people smugglers was a justifiable decision and that anybody else would have done the same thing: “It’s survival of the fittest, and I apologise for putting this so bluntly but that is the case. If you… had the option to take a direct route as a refugee into Australia, you’d take it up in an instance.”

So if the act is legal, why is the Gillard government so determined to stop boat people? Maya believes it’s a way to answer media hype and flailing polls: “Boat people make headlines, of course they do and this Malaysia solution is an attempt to stop them. It’s cowardly of the Gillard government, it’s an attempt to increase poll numbers and satisfy the thirst of the media.”

Maya believes that Gillard’s proposal and current legislation to stop boat people should be reviewed, as it is a way to answer media hype and flailing polls: “The government should be more accepting of refugees. Especially those who are considered legitimate by the United Nations.”

Federal Minister for Immigration Chris Bowen is determined to implement the Malaysian Solution: “This is where the elegance of the Malaysian transfer arrangement shines through – turning back people in a safe and orderly way and providing a massive deterrent for people considering that dangerous boat journey.”

Critics of the Malaysia swap deal are quick to point out that it hasn’t deterred smuggling operations with another boat arriving earlier in the week.

Despite the criticisms of the Malaysia deal, Maya and those who share her refugee experience are all united by their collective desire: “We just want a place safe from famine, from guns, from militia, from running. We just want to build our lives again, to prosper again and to fit into the place we now call home- Australia.”

*Name changed with permission

The man on the bus growled as he laboured to inhale stuffy state-transit air – staring like a cliché into the abyss of the passing world, the fast-forward pause-play split-screen and the moving lines. It was almost animal. But the earthy thud was caught as if it echoed, as if the stifled wail in the darkened chamber rattled against whatever chains held him fast – Restlessly slow and surprising – Wanting to flee from the frightening and rather off-beat breathy rhythm. His fluoro shoes argued with his bald scalp, but I didn’t comment. The white noise and dull grey of the textured floor did NOT dispute the interruption of their public silence – the ruptured calm of restlessness – But they shuddered in disgust or diversion. I had to run for the train to get to the bus to make sure I got to class On Time that day.. The doors flicked open when the wheels had come to a halt and I went on my way, re-adjusting the shifting fog.

Wednesday
By Katherine Buchan
As a student you’re either poor as fuck or still living at home with your parents, like a lame ass.

This guide should help you make rent when you blow all your pay over a weekend - totally worth it - or save up enough to be one of the cool kids.

A is for Alcohol
Let’s cut the shit, the only reason you’re reading this guide is so you can buy more of it. A is also for AUSSIE BAR, home of the cheapest beer in Sydney ($7 a jug) and even cheaper pub food ($5 steaks).

Aussie Bar, or the Gladstone Hotel, is located at 115 Regent St, about a minute’s walk from Railway Square.

B is for Bar Century
(Yes, another alcohol related tip..) Bar Century is the Holy Grail of George St pubs; $3 drinks, hot backpackers and a $19 a night hostel above it.

Bar Century is on the corner of George and Liverpool St’s, above Hungry Jacks.

C is for the Cycle Re-Cycle Club
Bikes are a great way to keep fit and save money on travel, but they can be expensive. That’s where Cycle Re-cycle comes in, they’re a volunteer group that fix broken bikes and give them back to members of the community. Attend one of their twice a week bike repair workshops, and you could grab one too!

The Cycle Re-Cycle Club meets from 5-9pm on Monday’s and Wednesdays at 1 Phillip St, Waterloo (cnr Phillip and Cope Sts)

D is for Dumpster Diving
Sometimes the only thing standing between you and awesome free shit is the part of your body telling you it’s a bad idea to eat food from a garbage bin. And in this case, it’s completely wrong. Each day supermarkets throw out tonnes of perfectly good food, and it’s your duty to steal it from their garbage bins.

For a quick guide to Dumpster Diving check out www.wikihow.com/Dumpster-Dive

E is for Employment Centre
Not to get a job or anything (LOL!), but these places generally rock a mean free coffee hook-up.

To find your closest Commonwealth employment centre visit centrelink. findnearest.com.au

F is for Flying Fajita Sisters
Get irresponsible on Tuesday nights at Flying Fajita sisters, $3 tacos, and $3 shots of tequila. You should probably just go ahead and write Wednesday off.

Flying Fajita Sisters is at 65 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe. Booking are essential, so phone ahead on 9552 6522.

G is Group buying
Group buying is the new hip internet thing, that lets you scam heaps big discounts on cool inner-city type stuff. I won’t go into the specifics of how it works, but I just bought 10 Whoppers for $2 a pop, WIN! Google “group buying sydney” and you’ll get all the big names. My favourite is scoopon.com.au, but be warned if you sign up for their email list they will email you daily!

H is for Home Brew
Home brew is cheap. How cheap? One dollar per litre of beer, cheap. It costs about the same to make cider, wine, and spirits. If you’re not home brewing, you need to take a good hard look at yourself - you’re obviously doing everything wrong.

KMart sells home brew starter kits for $85, they contain everything you need to make 23L of beer.

I is for Instant Noodles
Because proper nutrition is for yuppies! Seriously though Mi Goreng is cheap and tastes like addiction. Buy it in bulk from your local Asian grocer and you’ll be paying about 30c a pack for those bad boys.

Did you know that make Mi Goreng, Mi Gormet? For the recipe head to www. ifood.tv/recipe/stir_fryInstant_noodle_with_beef

J is for Just Jeans
According to one of my friends Just Jeans gives a lifetime warranty on their jeans. Yeah, that’s right? I know, WTF?! Apparently you’re covered for the whole she-bang; crotch rips, tears etc. So that’s your jeans sorted for life!

Someone please tell me if this is true, or just the most retarded rumour ever!

kieran.adair@gmail.com

K is for Krishna food
Every night between 6 and 6:30 the Hari Krishna’s serve up their magic vegetarian curry at the Newtown Hub. I don’t know what’s in it, but it tastes delicious, and has many vegetables (read: AVOID SCURVY!). Best of all, it’s pay by donation.
L is for the Lansdowne Hotel
No guide to cheapskate Sydney would be complete without a mention of the Lansdowne. Although there are places serving cheaper pub grub, the Lansdowne remains an institution for a reason. Not only does it serve $7 chicken schnitzels, but it’s also a genuinely nice place to enjoy them. The Lansdowne hotel situated on the Corner of City & Broadway.

M is for Magic brownies, cupcakes & other baked goods
Still smoking up like a dope? Save money by baking magic brownies, cupcakes and cookies! Scientifically speaking, this will help your absorb THC more efficiently, leading to a longer, cheaper, and more potent buzz. This ain’t yo mumma’s baking class, if you don’t want waste your time and pot making bad brownies check out www.drugs-plaza.com/recipes_weed_brownies.htm

N is for Not Paying Rent
Paying rent is fo’ suckaz, and yupsters! Sydney has some of the most overpriced real estate in the world, and four people crammed into a 1 bedroom apartment ain’t cool. Squatting however totally is, and you might even save enough money for a down-payment on your future house (jks, hahaha! YOU’LL NEVER OWN PROPERTY!) If you don’t mind living in a dilapidated shit hole, Squat Space has a great guide to squatting in Sydney www.squatspace.com

O is for Op-Shops
The Hope Street op-shop sells clothes for less than it costs to wash what you’re wearing, and Anglicare in Summer Hill sells them by the kilogram. Just think, you’ll never have to pay for laundry again! The Hope Street op-shop is at 91 Forbes St, Woolloomooloo (a few minutes walk from William st). Anglicare Summer Hill is at 105 Carton Cr, Summer Hill, they charge $5 for the first kilogram, and $2.50 per kilo after that.

P is for Pad Thai 5 Dollar
I don’t know if they’re being ironic, but yes that is an actual name of an actual restaurant. Pay $5 and they’ll serve you a mean Pad Thai. Other items on the menu include $5 Pad See Ew, $5 Red Curry and $5 Green Curry (with FREE RICE!). Pad Thai 5 Dollar sits just off Glebe Point rd at 151b Bridge Rd, near the Post Office.

Q doesn’t stand for anything
But seriously, toilet paper is handed to you for FREE in a room, with no cameras, and nobody watching you! If you don’t bag as much of it as humanly possible you need to put this down because we’ll never get along. Seriously, what the hell starts with Q?! If you can think of anything, email kieran.adair@gmail.com and WIN*! *my praise.

R is for RailCorp
You can generally find an open gate at most stations that aren’t Town Hall, Wynyard, or rush hour Redfern... just saying... Seriously, someone invent an app for this already.

S is for Sunday Afternoon at Paddy’s Market
If you are one of those freaks that eats fresh vegetables, then you’ll like Paddy’s Market on a Sunday afternoon. The sellers are looking to get rid of the last of their weeks stock, making scoring cheap veggies easy like your ex girlfriend, bitch. Paddy’s Market is half way between Central and Town Hall, just off George St. On Sundays they close at 5.

T is for Ten Dollar Sangria
Sangria is red wine and fruit, according to my doctor, both of those are good for me. Drinking $10 jugs of Sangria at the Broadway Lounge is a great way to pretend you’re being healthy. The Broadway Lounge is at 166 Broadway, across the road from Mountain St. You’ll need a loyalty card before you can buy the $10 jugs, but they’re free, just ask for one.

U is Used goods on street corners
You know those yupsters living down the road that you hate? Yeah, them. Chances are, every couple of months they’ll throw out some decent swag as they return their X, Y, Z. Grab it, and dump your old stuff on the curb for someone else to take, it’s called the circle of life, get with it. PRO TIP: It can pay to get your electronics checked by a professional electrician before plugging them in. They may have been thrown out for a reason.

V is for Vagina
Grow one of these for all the free drugs, alcohol and sex you want! Someone REALLY needs to invent an app for this!

W is for Work in a CAFE!
It’s simple; work at a cafe, and you’ll never go hungry again! Generally you won’t even need to steal their food, they’ll give it to you for free!

X is for XXX
Cheaper than dating, ‘nuff said! For all the free condoms you can stuff in your pockets, book an STI check up at your local sexual health clinic.

Y is for Your Parents
Unfortunately for them, your parents probably still love you. If you can’t be bothered cooking, or doing your laundry and find yourself coming down with a sudden bout of ‘home sickness’ – do them a favour, and just go with it. I don’t know where your parents live.

Z is for Zero Dollar Steaks
Yes, this exists. And yes, it’s amazing. Thursday night at the Cock’n’Bull in Bondi is $0 steak night. A drink purchase is required, but let’s be honest... you’re probably out drinking on a Thursday anyway.
The Cock’n’Bull is at 89 Ebley St, Bondi Junction.
How to Make & Use A Bucket Bong in 100 Steps

By Ivana Stab

1. Procure a bucket.
2. Procure a saucepan if a bucket is unattainable. A saucepan will suffice; a bucket is recommended for authenticity.
3. Set aside.
4. Procure a large plastic bottle. Two litre bottles are recommended. The lid must be intact.
5. Set aside.
6. Procure a cone piece. A cone piece can be purchased from any head shop and most good tobacconists.
7. Make a cone piece if one cannot be obtained. Rolling aluminium foil into a thick cone shape is recommended. Cutting open an aluminium can to roll into a cone shape is also possible but poses a greater threat of bodily harm.
8. Set aside.
9. Procure a knife. The knife must be capable of cutting through plastic.
10. Set aside.
11. Procure a lighter.
12. Set aside.
13. Procure a pen or similarly shaped object.
15. Procure Blue Tack or chewing gum.
16. Set aside.
17. Procure a grinder. A grinder can be purchased from any head shop and most good tobacconists.
18. If a grinder cannot be obtained, procure a run-of-the-mill kitchen grater.
19. If the aforementioned is also unattainable, a pair of scissors will suffice. Procure.
20. Set aside.
21. Procure a bowl or plate.
22. Set aside.
23. Procure tobacco. Tobacco can be removed from cigarettes or purchased separately.
24. Set aside.
25. Procure marijuana. Marijuana can be purchased from most friendly neighbourhood dealers.
26. Set aside.
27. Pick up the knife.
28. Pick up the large plastic bottle.
29. Cut the bottom of the plastic bottle off using the knife. The amount to be cut off depends on the amount of smoke desirable for inhalation. The less that is cut off, the more smoke to inhale in one take/toke.
30. Set the knife aside.
31. Discard the bottom part of the plastic bottle.
32. Take the lid off the plastic bottle.
33. Set the plastic bottle aside.
34. Pick up the lighter.
35. Pick up the pen or similarly shaped object.
36. Pick up the cone piece.
37. Set aside.
38. Burn a hole in the middle of the lid by placing the lighter beneath the lid and pushing the melting plastic aside with the pen or similarly shaped object until a hole wide enough to fit the cone piece is created.
39. Pick up the cone piece and check if it can fit into the hole created in the lid.
40. If the hole created is too small, repeat step #38 until the cone piece is able to fit.
41. If the hole created is too large, pick up the Blue Tack and stick it around the cone piece to hold it in place and to make the apparatus air-tight.
42. If Blue Tack is unavailable, pick up the chewing gum.
43. Chew.
44. Follow step #41, replacing Blue Tack with chewed chewing gum. Blue Tack is recommended as it can be removed. Using chewing gum to hold the cone piece in place in the lid will make it unfavourable for future use.
45. Place the cone piece firmly into the lid.
46. Set aside.
47. Pick up the bucket or saucepan.
48. Carry the bucket or saucepan to a sink.
49. Place the bucket or saucepan in the sink.
50. Turn on the tap.
51. Fill the bucket or saucepan halfway with water.
52. Return the bucket or saucepan to the preparation area.
53. Set aside.
54. Pick up the grinder or similar but inferior tool acquired for performing the task of grinding.
55. Pick up the marijuana.
56. Pick up the bowl or plate.
57. Grind, grate or chop up the marijuana onto the plate or bowl.
58. If using scissors instead of a grinder or grater, chop the marijuana as finely as possible.
59. Pick up the tobacco.
60. Mix tobacco with the prepared marijuana.
   The amount of tobacco to be mixed varies according to individual desires. The effect will be stronger with less tobacco but is often not a desirable high. Three-quarters marijuana, one-quarter tobacco is recommended.
61. Set aside.
62. Ensure all materials are ready at hand for use – bucket or saucepan with water; plastic bottle; lid with cone piece attached; prepared marijuana; lighter.
63. If any materials are missing, procure them for successful use of the apparatus.
64. Pick up the plastic bottle.
65. Lower the plastic bottle into the water, ensuring that the water never reaches the neck of the bottle.
66. Hold the plastic bottle in one hand.
67. Pick up the lid with attached cone piece.
68. Screw the lid onto the plastic bottle.
69. Pick up the bowl of prepared marijuana.
70. Take a small amount of marijuana out of the bowl.
71. Pack the cone piece with the marijuana.
72. If there is not enough marijuana to fill the cone piece, repeat steps #70 to #71.
73. If there is too much marijuana for the cone piece, remove excess marijuana.
74. Return excess marijuana to the bowl.
75. Pick up the lighter.
76. Light the marijuana in the cone piece by moving the flame over the cone piece in a circular motion.
77. Watch for the smoke which will begin to fill the bottle as the marijuana is lit.
78. When smoke is noticed, begin to slowly lift the bottle out of the water.
79. Keep moving the flame across the cone piece.
80. Continue to lift the bottle towards the water’s surface, without lifting it out of the water.
81. When all the marijuana in the cone piece has burned out, or the bottle has reached the top of the water without emerging from the surface, cease repetition of steps #76 to #80.
82. Set the lighter aside.
83. Slowly unscrew the lid without taking it off.
84. Lower mouth towards the bottle.
85. Remove the lid.
86. Set the lid aside.
87. Quickly place mouth over the bottle to ensure as little as possible smoke escapes.
88. Inhale smoke.
89. Simultaneously with step #88, push bottle down towards the bottom of the bucket or saucepan, without pushing too quickly, and without too much pressure to avoid swallowing bong water.
90. Once all smoke is inhaled, or the bottle cannot be pushed any further without the risk of swallowing water, remove mouth from the lid.
91. Hold the smoke in for as long as desirable and/or possible.
92. Exhale.
93. Ponder existentialism.
94. Make up six more steps.
Startling statistics reveal the world is not coping well with the retirement of the daytime Queen of talk, Oprah Winfrey. A recent study details troubling behavioural patterns emerging in previously law abiding citizens. The report, released by The B.S. Institute in California, has shocked the world.

Only three months have elapsed since the last episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show went to air in the US on 25 May. Since then, anarchy and criminal activity have become especially prevalent in middle-aged women aged 44-65, with similar results appearing in Western countries around the globe. The report—entitled “Daytime Transference: An Oprah Withdrawal”—suggests that Winfrey’s die-hard viewers have turned to crime due to post-traumatic stress.

A lack of giveaways is cited as the main cause to the increase in looting and shoplifting by the suburban middle-aged soccer mums. Dr. Everett McEverett—a prominent researcher from The B.S. Institute—explains that “seeing the live audience members given free items allowed impressionable and vulnerable audiences at home to live vicariously. After the Oprah show concluded, these citizens were propelled off a symbolic cliff and into a canyon of criminal behaviour.”

McEverett believes that the lack of moral televisual presence has also led to other increased criminal activity. Charlene Finkle of Bullock County, Alabama, and three of her nine sisters were arrested and charged for multiple counts of grand theft auto and grand larceny. The sisters allegedly broke into a local car dealership and stole 19 cars with intentions of distributing them to the local elementary school teachers.

Rampant lawlessness evidenced across major metropolitan cities is not the only troubling statistic revealed in the report. Oprah’s departure has led to significant worldwide economic losses, affecting retail store owners most drastically. The stock market is also noticeably affected. Shares in Kimberly-Clark have plummeted, which is believed to be a symptom of the 1700% loss in Kleenex tissue sales.

As the world mourns and grieves the loss of a daytime deity, so too do the owners of companies, corporations and institutions across the globe. But not all are upset. Counsellors, psychiatrists and psychologists in New York alone have reported upwards of $5 million per week in additional revenue.

Here are some other shocking statistics revealed in the report (note that it is recommended one is sitting when reading the findings,)

- An estimated rise of 33% of people aged 14-49 are in therapy in Tasmania, most being treated for what psychologists have named “Oprah-Watch”—an untreatable compulsive repeat viewing syndrome.
- Jenny Craig has reported a loss of 66% of customers in the last few months. A spokesman referred to the trimming as uncomfortable. Perhaps as uncomfortable as seeing former client Kirstie Alley forming her own weight loss company.
- 49,345,431 less tears have been shed on a weekly basis in the Mid-East of the United States.
- Automotives sales are down a whopping 45% over the last quarter. Reports reveal that Oprah’s influence was so grand that anytime she gave away a car, that model would sell out in a matter of hours. This also relates to the global automotive industry, internationally proving Oprah’s car selling power.
- Upholstery businesses claim a significant loss over the last quarter. Businesses reveal that any appearance of Tom Cruise on Oprah always provided for a quick boost in sales. Industry heavyweights say that businesses cannot simply rely on reruns to sustain their futures.
- Book sales are down 1600% thanks to Oprah’s Book Club not being on air. Sales still continue for her previous book club selections, but it is clear that air time for books meant money for the publishing industry.
- 43 published authors reveal that they fabricated their memoirs. Authors were previously closeted and fearful of coming out to the world after seeing writer James Frey harshly reprimanded on Oprah. It was revealed that his memoir A Million Little Pieces was indeed a million little lies.
- 4,379 pairs of eardrums have had partial hearing restored. Auditory nerves have miraculously redeveloped due to a
decrease in average television decibels. This is solely due to the lack of celebrity names being shouted on a daily basis by Ms. Winfrey.
- Each Oprah viewer has saved 48 hours in any given three month period purely based on decreased Beyoncé appearances alone.
- Television recruits Dr. Oz, Dr. Phil and Suze Orman have had their respective shows cancelled. Oprah’s best friend Gayle King has also filed bankruptcy. It seems no one cared what these straight-talking visionaries had to say without Oprah justifying their existence.
- 6 out of 10 women now report having more time and energy to have sex with their husbands. When Oprah aired, the most common reason women avoided sex was that they had to watch Oprah, or they were too exhausted from watching Oprah.

Future forecasts see retailers across the US preparing for the worst. Estimates from the Department of Institutional Christmas Sales (DICS) reveal a predicted loss of 3000% in revenue, with Winfrey’s Favourite Things episodes cited as a leading factor. Reports in the United Kingdom reveal similar findings.

Millions of viewers across the world proclaimed Winfrey as a life changing inspiration. Finkle, interviewed at the Women’s Correctional Facility in Bullock County, noted that “every day at 4pm, she [Winfrey] was there for me. Now … [hysterical wailing and sobbing] I just don’t know how to fill the void.” The survival of Western civilisation joins Finkle in her fears.

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**THARUNKA**’s End of Year Hoedown

The **THARUNKA** Team cordially invites you to come and have a drink with us, to celebrate the end of another year of literary prestige, sculduggery and debauchery.

Get some **THARUNKA** in your day!

When: 20 October, 16:30 - 19:00
Where: The Whitehouse
Osman Faruqi (President)

After two years as President of the Student Representative Council, it’s with a heavy heart that I pen my last Tharunka report. Representing over 45,000 students in the areas of education, welfare and equity has taught me a lot about what life is like for the average student on campus. I’m proud of the campaigns we’ve fought and the wins we’ve had.

It’s not exactly the best time to be a student in Australia. Higher education is massively underfunded, courses are continually being cut, class sizes keep going up and student welfare is inadequate and hard to access. One thing I have learnt over the past couple of years is that students, when we work together, organise and build campaigns, can have an impact on all these issues and more. It can seem like we’re powerless at individuals but we can, and have, changed the way the university runs and have our voice heard on social justice issues as well.

A well-resourced and engaged student organisation is a key part of that. It looks likely, at the time of writing, that from next year students will charged a compulsory fee to fund student services on campus. This should see a revitalisation of student life on campus but all students should be demanding a say in how that money is spent, not leaving it in the hands of university bureaucrats.

I’ve enjoyed my time as President incredibly and it’s been great fun and a privilege to have represented you all for two years. I want to thank the entire 2011 SRC and I wish next year’s SRC the best of luck.

Tim Kaliyanda (Education Officer)

Hey there! Some of you might have come across the Student Services and Amenities Bill (SSAF). Basically, in case you haven’t heard it before, the SSAF is a proposed $250 fee that will be deferrable in the same way HECS fees currently are, and it will be used to fund, as the name implies, student services and amenities at UNSW.

At the moment though, there is nothing in the Bill that ensures any of the money raised through SSAF will actually go to student organisations like the SRC and ARC. Most concerning, however, is that the university could simply use the fee to reinforce its bottom line.

It’s extremely important that students have certainty that their future hard-earned fees actually help make the student experience at university the best in world. Australia’s higher education system is, by any measure, at the pinnacle of the developed world, and it’s time our politicians started taking steps to make it better.

Sarah Frazier (Welfare Officer)

As we reach the end of another year I hope everyone is prepared for their exams and assessments. At this stressful time of year it’s important that students ensure they’re eating well and sleeping enough to get the best out of their bodies. The Welfare Room will continue to stay open during the exam period where there’s free food and a bed.

In the coming weeks I’ll also be writing a submission to a higher education review targeting Indigenous involvement at university. If you’re an Indigenous student it would be great to include your point of view on the challenges attending university in my submission.

Sandra Kaltoum (Ethnic Affairs Officer)

The Ethnic Affairs Collective is hosting a Religious Forum on Tuesday the 11th of October in the Blockhouse (Training Room 2) at 6:30pm. The forum is focussed on Religion and Peace and will feature Donna Jacobs Sife. Donna works for the Together for Humanity Foundation as the Educational Consultant. The Together for Humanity Foundation is an interfaith partnership set up to empower people of all faiths to work together to reduce prejudice and cultivate a more harmonious society.

Participants in the forum will be sharing their own experiences of religion and peace. Light refreshments will be provided. This will be a great opportunity for people with different religious views to understand and respect faith differences. If you would like more information or are interested in participating please send me an email.

Kathy Martin (Disabilities Officer)

The Disability Collective on campus was involved in coordinating Mental Health Week UNSW 2011. We had several events happen and a good turn out. Many people enjoyed the free BBQ with our guest from Australian Rotary Health. Many thanks to everyone who helped out and to everyone who participated.

It is hard to believe that 2nd semester of 2011 is nearly over. So much has happened within the disability collective this year. Already plans are happening for O-week and events for 2012. If you have any suggestions for events for next year please email disabilities@arc.unsw.edu.au.
This is Not Art (TINA)
Reviewed by Cameron McPhedran

TINA is an annual literary and cultural festival held in Newcastle over the October long weekend. It includes the sub-festivals the Crack Theatre Festival dedicated to experimental, fringe, cross-art form theatre and performance; the creative research symposium Critical Animals; the experimental electronic arts and culture festival Electrofringe; and the National Young Writers’ Festival for those involved in both new and traditional forms of writing. This year, the Tharunka Editorial team headed up to Newcastle from September 29 to October 3 to hang out with other student media editors, formally take part in National Young Writers’ Festival events and engage with the wider Australian cultural scene.

On Thursday we took part in a seminar entitled “Sorry, Paper: It’s Just Not Working Out” where the future of print media, particularly in relation to student magazines and niche publications was discussed. In a post VSU context the consensus reached was that although the print runs of student magazines may have decreased, student media is here to stay due to its important historical and cultural place in campus life. However, hard copies are increasingly augmented by digital versions of student magazines or additional revenue gained through advertising. In terms of niche publications, the plurality of the Australian media has been somewhat compromised with several of the young journalists who participated having commented that their magazines have had to markedly cut back or eliminate their print runs.

Subsequently, on Thursday and Friday Tharunka took part in the creation of a student media zine with the editors of Farrago from the University of Melbourne, Woroni from ANU and On Dit from the University of Adelaide. “Zine it All Before” was a monumental 52 page effort collating the best articles, fiction, poetry and imagery from our respective publications throughout the year. The longest spread was a four page sequence dedicated to “how to become a crazy cat lady” which seems to have been the editorial slant taken by a number of our counterparts throughout the year. Some humorous sections included Woroni’s satirical How to Vote Guide for Student Elections, tracing candidates through from “Young Liberal Party member with repressed homosexual tendencies” through to “rabid Socialist Alternative candidate;” and On Dit’s equally tongue in cheek Guide to Write Articles for a Student Publication, placing an imperative on either being a Arts Student or taking much longer to complete your degree than its nominal allocation. However the truest vindication of “Zine it All Before’s” quality must be the evaluation of it by a parent of an On Dit editor, “It reads like you all went out, got drunk, then came back and wrote strange articles.” Definite success!

Besides our involvement in these TINA events, the Tharunka editors were fortunate enough to attend workshops on writer-editor relationships featuring panelists from Voiceworks, Drum, Street Press and the Sunday-Courier Mail and a poetry writing event put on by the Voiceworks poetry editors. This provided participants with useful skills for practicing their writing more often such as writing tandems with friends and poetry collaborations where a piece is constructed among a group, with each writer contributing two lines to the evolving piece. Lastly, on Saturday we sat in on a discussion of the state of Australian TV featuring the ABC’s Dominic Knight and Laurence Leung. This so many sad contrasts being drawn between Australian comedies and dramas of previous decades with those lacklustre ones of previous years. Finally, Knight left the audience with the challenge of thinking of themselves not so much as consumers of Australian culture but potential creators of innovative and inspiring new ideas, as he and his colleagues did with “The Chaser’s War on Everything” following their involvement with underground media while at Sydney University. This seminar brought an end to TINA 2011, but as returning editors of Tharunka next year, Liz, Kylar and I look forward to a bigger and better event in Newcastle next year!

Footloose
Reviewed by Lucy Rose

In the remake of the 1984 ‘Footloose,’ a big city boy moves to a small town where dancing is banned due to a prior dance party ending up with four kids dead. In the first scene, the protagonist, good old Kenny “I been working so hard” Loggins and other motley characters cut loose (no pun intended) in ragged chucks and appropriated leg warmers. From there, the shots widen to girls in skanky denim shorts grinding up on cars and guys breakdancing and so it goes, one travesty giving way to another….

There really is nothing good about this film, and that might still be overrating it. Like too many C-grade American sitcoms, it features way too many 25 year olds playing high school kids. The cheesy wholesomeness of small town Elmore and Dennis Quaid’s severe Reverend Shaw is totally unsettling, and big city boy Ren McCormack (Kenny Wormald) is more ballet shoes than badass. Perhaps it could be a hit for those who like films in the style of “Step Up,” but for the rest of us the money spent at the over-priced candy bar would be of far better use on a six pack for cutting loose at home. This was one remake which shouldn’t have seen the light of day.
Dear Agony Aunt,

My partner is just OBSESSED with computers. He’s always online, downloading some new game or program or some rubbish, and I feel so ignored. I’d be surprised if he noticed if I left – unless I stopped paying the internet bill! What can I do to get him to push my buttons again?

Techno-widow.

Dear Mrs. Bill Gates,

Aside from you two dressing up as a hard-drive and a memory stick, there isn’t much you can do to distract him from his machines. Computers appeal to men on too many levels – they do what they want, when they want, straight away; they constantly stimulate them physically and mentally; they’re pretty and shiny; etc etc. What’s a girl to do?

I’ll tell you what a girl’s to do – time to even the odds. Next time one of his compute boxes is giving you sass, punch it in the screen. Try and compute that, huh bitch! Oh, you wanna update your software, huh? Need some more memory? See how much memory you can hold WITH A DISK DRIVE FULL OF MILO, MOFO!!

You can’t mess around with computers; you’ve gotta keep em in their place, and that place is off your man. Didn’t you ever see The Terminator? Go all Sarah Connor on their asses, before they get heaps buff, and governate California!

Alternatively, you can remind your partner what happened to Steve Jobs – I’m pretty sure that was caused by too much pill poppin’ while they’re doing the cavity searches. No poor, disaffected rap stars like you are just media targets, that’s all. The news outlets are what’s attacking you, not Customs. So all you gotta do is, when you roll up into customs, just plonk a big ol’ suitcase of the MJ right in front of them, say “I ticked ‘nothing to declare’ on the forms. I’d say everything’s fine here” (that’s a coded signal for them), pop em a big old wink so they know you’re in on the deal, and you should get the all clear! Easy, biz-nitch!

Dear Agony Aunt,

I am a reader of palms, a clearer of chakras, a seer into the mysterious realms of the spiritual and the divine – but since I live in Byron Bay, nobody believes that I can truly See! They all think I’m some crazy crackpot, who had too much acid back in the 70s and can’t get off the trip since. How can I show people that I’m the real deal?

Daughter of the Moon and Stars.

Dear Cathy Smith (it never was as glamorous a name as you deserved, was it?),

The truth is, oh seer into souls, that I too can read the Unknowns of this world, and the Other. That’s how I always know the true identities of those who write to me, despite their cunningly disguised pseudonyms. It also lets me know where the cheapest petrol in town is. Still more terrifying, it lets me in on the greatest secrets of our society! Here’s one for you – the burgers are NOT better at Hungry Jacks. They were better at Burger King, but the more sinister cosmic forces of this world could no longer handle that level of taste sensation, and created an inferior duplicate. Do not trust the Hungry Man!

My divinations aside, Cathy old pal, the only way to get people to believe you is to show them what you’re capable of. This means publicity – if you can write horoscopes for a local newspaper, you are GUARANTEED authenticity. Why else would the journalists of a small regional rag have picked you, were it not a sign from the universe of your abilities? It also sets you apart from all those try-hard ads at the back of magazines like Take 5. Those bunch of swindling trollops, they wouldn’t know a star sign if it smacked them in the face! Good luck to you, Ms Smith – I foresee great things in your future. Also a LOT of donuts – go easy on the carbs, Cat.

Dear Agony Aunt,

How do I find happiness in my life?

Dear Reader,

There are several ways;

1.) Take a really long, hot shower. Soak out your aches and pains, then paint your nails in a crazy colour (this works regardless of your sex). Pamper!

2.) Visit somewhere new. A different pub, a new suburb, Italy, whatever takes your fancy and suits your budget. Explore!

3.) Find a nice bed buddy, and spend all day between the sheets making each other feel sexy and special. Orgasm!

4.) Always wanted to write a novel? Paint a masterpiece, or learn to play the mandolin? Why not try it now? Create!

In short, dear Reader, I have spent far too much time reading Eat, Pray, Love lately, so I’m feeling all gooey inside. But seriously, and this is a kick in the teeth for me too – get back to work!! Even if it doesn’t make you happy now, you’ll be happy when it’s done (yay holidays!). Session’s nearly over folks – let’s go out guns blazing! After all, Aunty knows best.

Mystery Hommie.