Church Fucks Women

“Fred Nile is trying to legitimise the idea of abortion being the murder of a person. Which, by his reckoning, would make one-third of the Australian female population murderers”

pg. 9
EDITORIAL

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 3
WEEK 4 / MIDSEM / WEEK 5

Hi there, UNSW students.

I’ll admit that I’m incredibly excited about penning my first editorial on behalf of the 2013 Tharunka editorial team. This year is the 60th anniversary of Tharunka, and the publication’s continued presence and impact on the University of New South Wales community is something for all students to be proud of.

While the current debate around media reform ages on, it’s worth looking at the important role student media plays — in breaking stories that the mainstream media often neglect, training young journalists and editors, and providing in-depth analysis and critiques of the hugely influential public organisations that are universities. I take a closer look at media reform and media diversity (or the lack thereof) in my “Politics, Ice Cream & Gossip Girl” column this issue. What do the Daily Telegraph and Tharunka have in common? Well, read through and find out!

We’ve received a huge amount of positive feedback to the new design. I’d like to thank our amazing designer Jeremy, for his superb work on helping create a publication that is relevant and engaging to UNSW students. I’d also like to acknowledge the work of the past few editorial teams who have reinvigorated Tharunka by making it punchier, more focussed on news and analysis, and giving students, including myself, an opportunity to contribute. Our current editorial direction is certainly driven and influenced by the work of past editors and contributors. This issue is a perfect example of what makes Tharunka such a quality publication. We’ve got our regular columns, a stack of reviews and some amazing art.

Writer and journalist, Antony Lowenstein, tells us what he would do if he ruled the world, Arts student, JK Buckley, shares stories and photos from his trip to India, we review the new SimCity and all our regular journalists are back with hard-hitting stories.

Elena Assargiotis looks at whether journalism students are being adequately prepared for the media industry — she estimates that there are only roughly 800 new jobs in journalism every year, while universities pump out almost 5000 graduates annually.

Freya King explains issues around safety in the taxi industry, while Ammy Singh looks at disturbing developments in the NSW Parliament where Christian Democrat MP, Fred Nile, is seeking to restrict women’s access to abortion.

Tharunka’s continued presence and impact on the University of New South Wales community is something for all students to be proud of.

Enjoy the issue.

- Osman Faruqi

PUBLISHING DETAILS

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Tharunka acknowledges the Bedegal and Gadigal people, the traditional custodians of the land on which the University 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.

March

1 – 30

Living in Harmony Festival, 2013
Sydney CBD, George St
Pretty much the UN embodied in Sydney, the City of Sydney has brought together this festival of multiculturalism, that applauds Sydney’s cultural diversity with a program that includes workshops, panel discussions, cultural days, exhibitions and more.

Cost: FREE

25 – 29

NUTS Presents: The Real Inspector Hound
7pm at Studio One, UNSW
Featuring the delightful acclaimed actress/singer, Sally Horton, and ex-Tharunka Editor, Elizabeth Stern, The Real Inspector Hound, according to the website “Follow[s] the exploits of an inferiority ridden critic and his lecherous partner as they dissect the world of the theatre, and then jump through the hole they’ve just made. A one Act play portraying a three Act play, it will (hopefully) have you in stitches by the end”. Not to be missed!

Cost: $5–$10

27

Law and Justice: Do They Meet? Reflections From A Confused Career
6pm at the Tyreese Room, John Niland Science Building, UNSW
Justice Ronald Sackville, former Judge of the Federal Court of Australia, law reformer and Judge of courts in Australia will approach the topic of whether lawyers deserve the negative reputation that is held by some members of the general public.

Cost: FREE

April

3 – 4

Workshop on Satellite Remote Sensing and Applications
9:30am at the Engineering Design Studio, Level 5, Mechanical Engineering Building
This FREE workshop will explore remote sensing principles and practical applications. Open exclusively to all UNSW students, this workshop also works to give an insight into a course conducted by prominent scientists from the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and little old UNSW during Semester One Mid-Semester break.

Cost: FREE
Register: www.geos.org.au/register

5 – 7

Holi Mahatsav (Festival Of Colour)
11am–7pm at Timbalong Park, Darling Harbour
Attracting crowds of over 60,000 last year, this traditional Hindu festival has become popular with Australians from many diverse backgrounds. Celebrating in the throwing of colours (read coloured powder fight akin to La Tomatina minus the tomato stains) on the Sunday, this will even also host yoga sessions, food stalls and merchandise, dance and cooking lessons, and many other events, such as a version of the Ratha Yatra (a chariot pulling festival where large colourful idols are moved in a procession).

Cost: FREE
Board Directors are women. Currently, only three of the fourteen
tackle systemic and institutional barriers
fear is code for an approach that doesn’t
something women activists on campus
ing any form of affirmative action at all,
the Board decides against implement
a policy will be implemented will be for
by Tharunka, it appears the earliest such
amongst women students, as reported
affirmative action applying to this year’s
ded through Arc channels confirm the only
in negotiations, according to the NTEU.
Branch of the NTEU, Michael Thompson,
strikes are in response to attacks on aca
demics wages and conditions and delays in
management reduces the number of sick
forms of affirmative action at all, and
something women activists on campus
offerings and cut staff.
put and not enough on teaching qual
for focussing too much on research out
Education rankings have been criticised
100 for 2012. However, the Times Higher
in competitive research arenas and you
increases in research funding we’ve won
quality of the students that are apply
ments. “You can see that with the increas
UNSW Vice-Chancellor Fred Hilmer said
survey of 17,000 academics.
reputation” of universities, as measured by a
The rankings were based on the “repu
tion” of universities, as measured by a sur
UNSW ranked in the 91-100 band and
Other Australian universities ranked
the University of Melbourne was
world Reputation Rankings Top 100 List
for the first time.
University of New South Wales
and the University of Queensland
(71-80 band).
The editor of Times Higher Education,
Phil Baty, said the survey was “remark
The more objective and data-based
Times Higher Education World Universi
Rankings also placed UNSW in the Top
100 for 2012. However, the Times Higher
Education rankings have been criticised
for focussing too much on research out
put and not enough on teaching qual
making them redundant for students
looking at which university to study at.

Connect with @tharunka on the Information Super Highway!
Letter to the Editor

It has been reported that 20 per cent of all outstanding New Zealand child support debt is owed by 12 per cent of their clients, who live in Australia (NZ Herald, 28 February 2013 “Unpaid child support hits (NZ)$2.6bn”). Collection of New Zealand debt in Australia is through the “Australia-New Zealand Agreement”. The Agreement is inflexible and is therefore unproductive.

The Australian Child Support Agency initially gave my taxable income details to their New Zealand equivalent. This was done without my knowledge. As such, I could not challenge the accuracy of the information, which I believe was artificially too high.

Once the inflated debt was established, the Australian Child Support Agency then officially reduced the age of my son by 10 years. This was done to allow the debt to then be transferred from New Zealand into the Australian Child Support Scheme. I was later told that this was a normal procedure under the “Australia-New Zealand Agreement”.

Due to different jurisdictions, there is a logistical barrier in being able to review the decisions of these bureaucrats. Once excessive child support assessments are made in New Zealand, many non-custodial parents (both citizens and non-citizens) are then forced into unemployment here in Australia. They are then only able to afford to pay the minimum child support payment (currently $13 per week).

This does not benefit the non-custodial parent, who is unemployed.
It does not benefit the New Zealand Government, which has to make increased social security payments to the custodial parent.
It also does not benefit the Australian Government, which receives less taxation.
It also does not benefit the Australian taxpayer, who has an increased tax burden due to increased social security payments here in Australia.
Primarily, it does not benefit the New Zealand custodial parent and children, who do not receive sufficient child support.
Who does it benefit?
The current system only benefits the 4000 employees who are employed by the Australian Child Support Agency. Unfortunately, this will continue until fairness is brought into the Australian Child Support system.

Regards,
Glenn Daley,
Miranda, NSW
LETTERS TO

Readers’ Praise and Protest

A “Technical” Explanation

Sir,

I am in reply to the correspondence from Arnie III (modestly signing his letter “Arctic Intellectual”) who attacks me for my “perusal” of the Trarunaka work, I am to add, “to add to the knowledge of the reader, I think.”

Regard to the writer of the Orientational Work, I think you will agree that the rate is a bit too fast, and I was surprised at the idea that the Trarunaka work could be read in a day.

First, I would like to point out that the Orientational Work was written after the Trarunaka work, and in fact, was the basis for the Trarunaka work. The Orientational Work is a collection of essays on various topics, including the history of the Orient. The Trarunaka work is a novel, and it is not necessary to read one before the other.

Secondly, I would like to point out that the rate of the Trarunaka work is not fast, but rather slow. The book is designed to be read at a leisurely pace, allowing the reader to contemplate each word and phrase.

I hope that this clarification will help to alleviate any confusion. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

M.E. Shropshire

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Why Lectures?

Sir,

I understand your concern regarding the lack of attention shown by students to the lectures given in the Trarunaka work. However, it is important to note that the Trarunaka work is a novel, and it is not necessary to attend the lectures in order to fully understand the text.

The lectures are given by the author himself, and they serve to clarify and expand upon the material presented in the Trarunaka work. They are intended to be a supplement to the text, rather than a replacement for it.

I hope that this explanation will help to alleviate any concerns you may have. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

J.H. Thompson
The role of the US hegemony is over. Washington no longer controls the world by charm and force. It’s a multipolar planet with countless centres of power. Wouldn’t this be something to celebrate? In theory, yes. But then, all of a sudden, in a long session of the United Nations Security Council, an Australian from Sydney is appointed to the new position of head chief to manage an unruly earth. Unlike the Secretary General, this individual wields real power to bring change. That person is me. After thanking my parents and atheist deities, I give the following speech:

"Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your belief in me. It is an honor to assume this position and I pledge to use it responsibly.

At this time in world history, it’s vital to speak truths that many of you will find unpalatable. The vision for a better world is easy to convey. Who doesn’t want a cleaner and safer planet for our children? But getting there is the challenge and, from today onwards, the following policies will be implemented with your generous consent.

The last centuries have seen countless countries commit genocide and gross human rights abuses. Without serious reparations for the crimes committed, from Britain in the Congo in the late 1800s, America through slavery and Australia’s treatment of its indigenous population, we will continue living in the shadow of these outrages. Without proper compensation for today’s generations, it is impossible to properly progress as a community.

All too often, our leaders talk about human rights as an abstract notion, without realising their populations recognise the hypocrisy at the heart of the pledge. Sales of deadly weapons to the world’s most despotic regimes have never been higher and this will stop. Today, Israel, America, Europe and other leading arms manufacturers will have to find new ways of making money, while nations such as Bahrain and Saudi Arabia will no longer be able to repress their own people with guns assembled in the United States.

We have a responsibility as a connected world to not tolerate and enable injustice in one state while opposing it elsewhere. Applying international law and holding power to account, whether these officials or governments are sitting in Washington, London, Canberra, Tel Aviv, Kigali or Beijing, must be central in the 21st century. Accountability will be served if Syria’s Bashar al-Assad appears in the Hague alongside George W. Bush and Tony Blair.

A just planet also means a sustainable earth. Climate change is real and worsening. Renewable energy sources will be used in all nations as soon as is humanely position. This will, once and for all, reduce the reliance on dirty fossil fuels that are already causing severe health problems in China and extreme weather patterns in Australia, Antarctica, Africa and South America.

Closer to home, Australia’s two-party system is crumbling under its own internal contradictions. With minor differences between Labor and Liberal, and the Greens struggling to assume a larger political role, we should encourage smaller groups, such as the WikiLeaks Party and Pirate Party, to oppose the growing surveillance state.

Tackling the world’s most serious issues requires a robust and diverse media. No one media owner will be allowed to own more than 50 per cent of newspapers, television, online or other sources. Tax breaks will be given to assist new ventures get heard above the often toxic and belligerent mainstream press.

I have only touched on some subjects that I believe must be addressed for the 21st century to avoid the human catastrophes that befell the 20th century. Undoubtedly, you will all have other ideas. My door is always open.

As an atheist Jew, I wish you all the best in your endeavours."

Antony Loewenstein is a Sydney-based independent freelance journalist, author, documentarian, photographer and blogger. He is the author of My Israel Question and The Blogging Revolution.
My Keralan experience: India’s most politically charged state

JK Buckley

Kerala is a state on the south-western tip of India, a state soaked with humidity on India’s oceanic rim. The heat, even in the winter months, is unbearable for the common westerner. Especially if you’ve just stepped off a 25-hour bus ride on India’s notoriously pot-holed roads and have experienced a bad case of food poisoning throughout the night from the Tibetan dumplings you had the day before. The Valleym you took in that first hour of the drive didn’t help, obviously.

But after the first day of noxiousness, you awaken to the rattle of feet and that hazed feedback from the handheld speakerphone. You don’t understand the language, but it’s obviously a rally. You ignore it and go back to sleep. As a foreigner coming from Australia, you really don’t have a vested interest in the event.

That’s until the next day, when you notice the posters damming the authorities for arresting and gooling three “anti-imperialist, anti-corporation activists”, who had tried to stop an arts biennale from going ahead in the town, and the posters with Saddam Hussein’s face on it (for which you will never find an explanation).

It will appear you’re in a different era when you’re driving past numerous factories, auto-rickshaw and bus stands all displaying hammer-and-sickle flags on high metal poles with their trade union initials on the tip. These bewildering political propaganda pieces are common face in Kerala, a state that democratically elected the world’s first communist state government in 1956. Amartya Sen, the preeminent Nobel Prize-winning Indian economist, once said it was India’s most socially progressive state. And, quite obviously, its most politically charged.

It is not uncommon to see an American WWII-style jeep driving around with a massive speaker clunked on top of it, hammer-and-sickle flags in tow, blaring out undecipherable slogans. And the infrequent book store will stock old soviet literature, like “What is Capitalism?”, a book with such classic lines as “Capitalism sprung from the ruins of the feudal society, after germinating within the entails of the feudal system.”

For India, left-wing politics has always been a mainstay on the political landscape. Socialism was embraced by India’s first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and has been always managed to remain a viable and prominent perspective on the Indian economy. There appears to be none of the Cold War stigmatism that prevails in the west. Glancing at various newspapers during my stay, the Communist Party of India still seems to revere the Soviet Union. One long-standing leader of a Socialist party and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu — the state next to Kerala, which covers the eastern seaboard — named his son Stalin after the dictator’s death and, in a recent newspaper article, proclaimed him to be the new heir to the party’s throne. News reports frequently call the self-proclaimed Marxist split of the Communist Party of India a Stalinist party, and have been investigated for internal political assassinations over the years.

It’s fascinating that modern political parties still adhere to a long-defunct political ideology. But, then again, it’s all relative. For example, ask a Liberal what their opinion of a Green would be (they’d call them a Communist, presumably).

It’s a different world in India, a different structure of society to our own. The people of the developing world have more at stake than the people of the developed world, it would seem. Their lives are usually fraught with unknowns; job security, the supply of food, the price of things we may well take for granted here in the west. These daily worries are the fuel for political movements in India.

Students and the younger generations are just as active in daily politics as early generations, and Indian politics has always been cited as one of the most chaotic political landscapes. India’s largest youth organisation is the DYFI, the Democratic Youth Federation of India, the youth wing of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) — CPI (M). The organisation’s official stance is anti-imperialism, anti-capitalism and free education. These are stances the majority of youth in Australia will sympathise with, but they are less likely to hold weekly rallies with a turnout of over a hundred or even fifty. The DYFI has over 10 million members, which is nearly half the population of Australia.

Political apathy in Australia is a problem to which there seems no foreseeable cure, but an extremely obvious cause. Labor and Liberal are at each other’s throats and not many people under the age of 25 really care. Perhaps it’s 21 years of economic growth without a stutter. Our youth haven’t had to suffer at the hands of an economic downturn.

The apathy has been obvious for the last few years and I can only hope that in a few more years we’ll at least have a political climate we can talk about without having to firstly declare how detestable it is. In India, the political scene is plagued with corruption, with a dash of sensationalism mixed in. But, while their democracy may not be working to its best ability, there are still people there who are willing to give it their whole and to fight “the good fight”.

Comparing it to our politics, we come out seeming quite petty and transfixed on. We don’t focus on the grand scale of making our country better and fairer, but on the personalities of a select few that — more than likely — bear no resemblance to most Australians.

JK Buckley is a second year Arts student at UNSW.
Journalism Degree Not Providing Industry Skills

5000 out of the 8000 estimated jobs in Australian media were small newsrooms, often with only a few journalists.

One student, who wishes to remain anonymous, says, "after following the advice of Peter White, I spent more of my time gaining practical experience in the field than studying my theory-heavy subjects. Now it turns out, I am one and a bit weighted-average-mark — or WAM — points under the 70 cutoff to do an internship."

This student has spent time attempting to gain external experience, but many organisations require insurance.

She says, "I am not permitted to count my work as an internship, and finding external work-experience is difficult, as I am not covered by the university's insurance. Only students who are enrolled in the specific MIA3007 or HUMS2000 courses are permitted to use the insurance."

As far as I can tell, there is no radio subject, no television subject, and certainly no real investigative journalism subject. Having just begun my third year in the degree, I expected something more gritty. Instead, I am being bombarded with the same crap as before. My elective and General Education subjects are decent enough, but the core subjects are completely copied from the other years," she says.

The Australian's estimation was that 800 media jobs would open up annually, while mainstream, masthead newspapers in June and July.

The total number of students enrolled in journalism degrees in 2010 were 4750. The industry only employs an estimated 9000 journalists. Compare that to the number of graduate positions available, and it seems most students will not obtain jobs in their field.

Students worried about their job prospects ask for more focus on the practical areas of journalism. Some of these would like to enter television or radio journalism and feel that the skills to do this have not been taught to them. Some suggest a longer degree to cover more ground.

Many are asking for web design and Photoshop skills to be included in the degree. At the moment, subjects which teach these types of skills are only available as media electives or free electives, which are limited in nature.

The permanent lecturers who teach in the journalism degree have had some experience in the field and a few are still practicing freelancers, giving them skills relevant to the current media landscape.

Louise Ravelli told Tharunka, "all of our permanent staff have had different kinds of experience in print media, in TV and online — Helen Caple is a photojournalist ... the tutors who are employed casually usually come directly from the industry.”

Some students, however, don’t believe this is happening, with some comment that the degree is backdated and doubting whether the specific skills they are learning are applicable to their futures in journalism.

Senior lecturer and Course Convenor for several first and second year courses, Dr Peter White, believes that the degree does prepare students for the current media industry. He says that it comes down to core skills.

Ms Ravelli supports this, saying, "It's about identifying the fundamental skill sets that apply more generally ... and I think if you were aiming to train people for one thing, it would be so narrow, none of them would get a job."

The degree teaches the fundamental skills of journalism, as judged by the lecturers. The most fundamental is considered to be communication through writing, as well as for various genres and media types. Most of these however, concentrate on the traditional forms of print journalism. In addition, students are taught research and investigation skills in their first year.

Although students feel they do not learn relevant skills, staff insist that there is an adequate amount of practical work in the degree and they encourage students actively doing more.

Students are given an opportunity to do a Media internship program in their third year, in addition to being able to do an Arts internship from the second.

Dr White told Tharunka, "we would encourage and support to the best of our ability those people doing work experience ... we can supply, which is often crucial, workplace insurance for people.”

He says that practical experience is "absolutely essential.”

Despite this, students still find it very difficult to find internships in the industry and sometimes to juggle these commitments with the demands of paid jobs and university.

According to Dr White, most students acquire paying jobs through internships and work experience.

He says, "Getting work in the media is all about networks, about contacts.”

This is another reason students panic, as often they don’t have the appropriate contacts to get an internship in the first place, and, as with paying jobs, there are limited positions available.

Follow me @ twitter.com/Eleni_Assa

News

Elena Assargiotis

University of New South Wales Journalism students are unsure of where their degrees will take them. With an estimated 800 jobs opening up annually for almost 5000 graduates, they say that the degree does not teach a broad enough range of skills and it concentrates too heavily on theory.

The degree at UNSW is relatively new, with the first round of graduates finishing at the end of 2011. The university has not been able to provide the number of graduates who obtained jobs in their field, although the former Media convenor and one of the founders and architects of the degree, Louise Ravelli, says she has followed the activity of a few graduates who she knows have found jobs in journalism. However, some of these have been in the Public Relations field.

The industry is notoriously difficult to get into, and students often complete two or more internships during university in order to obtain enough experience to find a job. A shortage of graduate positions means that the application process is extremely competitive.

In March last year, The Australian reported that “at best, one in ten journalism students will find employment in the mainstream media.” But this figure was revised later in April, the new estimate was a mere 30 per cent.

In this scenario, graduates who want to be successful in finding a job need to have an edge over others. Presumably gaining external experience during university in order to obtain enough experience is extremely competitive.

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Are you a journalism student? Tell us your experiences. Drop us a line via email, Facebook or Twitter.
Proposed Foetal Rights Bill May Turn Abortion into Murder

Ammy Singh
Follow Ammy @ twitter.com/ammyed

A controversial bill proposed in NSW Parliament by the Christian Democratic Party (CDP) leader, Reverend Fred Nile, has sparked debate surrounding the dangers of affording foetuses “personhood” status in the eyes of the law.

The Crimes Amendment (Zoe’s Law) Bill 2013 seeks to “establish a separate offence for conduct causing serious harm to, or destruction of, a child in utero”, effectively attributing foetuses at all stages of pregnancy with personhood status.

The proposed legislation draws its name from Zoe, the child of Brodie Donegan, a Central Coast woman who was eight months pregnant on Christmas Day in 2009 when she was hit by a driver under the influence of drugs.

The injuries suffered by Donegan as a result of the accident led to Zoe being stillborn. However, as the law does not recognise foetuses as persons, the driver was not charged with Zoe’s death. Existing NSW law defines harming a foetus as an aggravated assault against the mother. Donegan and her partner have since proposed the creation of a new category of grievous bodily harm to acknowledge the injuries and deaths from violent crimes suffered by foetuses capable of being born alive.

Ostensibly introduced to “meet the anguish of women” such as Brodie Donegan, Reverend Nile’s version of Zoe’s Law extends the protection of foetuses to all “pre-natal or in-spiriting of a woman”, allowing foetuses personhood status from the moment of conception. If adopted, Zoe’s Law would make it possible for a person to be charged with manslaughter if they cause a woman to lose her baby.

However, in a New Matilda column, the Greens MLC, Gate Faehrrman, has expressed concern with the potential for such a law to abrogate the rights of pregnant women. “Although Zoe’s Law is nominally not an anti-abortion legislation, its impact would be devastating for women’s rights in a state where abortion is still criminal”, Nile disagreed, pointing to the bill’s exception for medical procedures consented to by pregnant women, such as abortions.

“This is an area where we ought to be looking at compassion and keeping the criminal law well away, except for those extreme cases where, for example, a person deliberately assaults another person who is pregnant,” he said.

Disagreeing with the existence of foetal personhood laws in their entirety, a UNSW student who has undergone an abortion procedure, and wished not to be named, told Tharunka these laws are unnecessary, and will disproportionately affect young women by entrapping in statute foetal personhood.

As a young woman who will likely face the brunt of any abortion restrictions caused by this bill if it were to become law, this doesn’t sit right with me at all,” she said. “It’s pretty clear Nile is trying to use this law to legitimise the idea of abortion being the murder of a person, which would make one-third of the Australian female population murderers by his reckoning.”

Get something to say about this?
Comment here: http://bit.ly/Y01ER4
Or tweet us @tharunka

Nile, and I’ve never had any communication with his office. We don’t want loopholes for a bill to be further amended to limit abortions — and that’s what my worry is about Fred Nile’s bill.

“It’s very similar to the submission I put into the [NSW Parliament Review of Criminal Law on Death of Unborn Children] in 2010, but he’s changed a few words to cover an entire pregnancy and also negligence. I think he has definitely decided to manipulate what happened to us for his own agenda,” Donegan said, adding she was not aware until November 2012 that Nile had constructed a version of Zoe’s Law.

Inspiring otherwise, Nile told Tharunka, “my bill completely represents Mrs Brodie Donegan’s concerns, which is why I drafted this bill.”

However, the introduction of Zoe’s Law to NSW Parliament this session is expected to be accompanied by a series of more overtly anti-abortion private member’s bills presented by Fred Nile, drawing into question these remarks.

Among these bills are proposed laws which would require pregnant women to view a foetal ultrasound and undergo counselling before proceeding with an abortion, while another would require medical practitioners to tell pregnant women that abortion causes pain to the foetus. The bills mirror emerging laws in several US states which limit abortion access to pregnant women.

Foetal personhood laws such as Nile’s proposed Zoe’s Law have also gained increased traction in the United States. Over 38 states have introduced foetal homicide laws, which create a separate legal status for the foetus, acknowledging its personhood from the point of conception.

In Australia, foetal personhood bills have been introduced into the state parliaments of Western Australia and South Australia. In addition to Nile’s proposed bill in New South Wales, In Queensland law, a foetal homicide bill affords similar personhood status to foetuses.

Immediate past president of the Australian Lawyer’s Alliance, Greg Barns, told ABC News these laws are an imposition on the justice system.

“This is an area where we ought to be looking at compassion and keeping the criminal law well away, except for those extreme cases where, for example, a person deliberately assaults another person who is pregnant,” he said.

Disagreeing with the existence of foetal personhood laws in their entirety, a UNSW student who has undergone an abortion procedure, and wished not to be named, told Tharunka these laws are unnecessary, and will disproportionately affect young women by entrapping in statute foetal personhood.

As a young woman who will likely face the brunt of any abortion restrictions caused by this bill if it were to become law, this doesn’t sit right with me at all,” she said. “It’s pretty clear Nile is trying to use this law to legitimise the idea of abortion being the murder of a person, which would make one-third of the Australian female population murderers by his reckoning.”

UNSW SRC Women’s Officer, Amber Karamikolos, agreed. “This is a thinly veiled attack on safe and legal access to abortion by Nile. The argument that this is somehow divorced from Nile’s views on abortion is ridiculous and has the potential to throw abortion laws into the air ... It more than suggests that ‘life’ and rights should be recognised from the point of conception, which is very dangerous.”

Donegan told Tharunka she wished to avoid such a situation arising from Zoe’s Law. “We just want a fair and practical law and if it can’t be done without encroaching on abortion law at the moment, then we’re just not interested in supporting that.”

“I also believe it wouldn’t be worth collaborating with [Fred Nile] as I don’t trust him ... I believe he does want loopholes to be able to slowly work towards an abortion bill and I refuse to have any part of that, and I find it offensive he’s named his bill after our daughter without asking our permission — not that we would have given it.”

“It’s pretty clear Nile is trying to use this law to legitimise the idea of abortion being the murder of a person, which would make one-third of the Australian female population murderers by his reckoning.”

“We just want a fair and practical law and if it can’t be done without encroaching on abortion law at the moment, then we’re just not interested in supporting that.”
Taxi Driver Safety Questioned

Freya King
Follow me @ twitter.com/freyaking

The national website for one of Australia’s most in-demand service industries reads: “Workers can predict that they will be assaulted at least once every three years ... it is comforting that there is only one murder a year.”

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“We do it because we haven’t got any other options. It’s the ideal occupation for a young person trying to make a start when they haven’t got any English skills”
I don't want to be a betrayer of my generation, I know some nifty people of my vintage that make me extremely proud to be a Gen-Yer, but be it in the over-priced alcoholic slushies or the question-able dumplings, festivals increasingly seem to have a habit of bringing out your inner-douche. Or what my grandma refers to as the “riff-raff”, which is odd, considering the term is associated with those from a lower socio-economic level and tickets alone are around the $150 mark.

Bare with me, dear Tharunkites, whilst I extrapolate. The day before Future Music Festival took place, Google had the third most searches for the word “ecstasy”, apart from the day before new years and Australia Day, both nationally and statewide. So, unless South Australia has something going on that they’ve failed to tell the less shit states (it’s the festival state, after all!) I’m going to draw a tenuous link and propose that Future makes you take drugs.

This does not bring me to my next point at all: don’t get me wrong, I think women should be able to wear whatever the hell they want, whenever the hell they want and not be judged by unfair gender-assigned stereotypes. A woman is never “asking for it”, and her choice of garb does not indicate an invitation.

But if you wear a strong bikini top to a festival, you are an idiot. If you are in a mosh pit, flimsy string ain’t gonna keep your girls in place, sheerly due to all the jumping whilst being rammed up against other people. Wardrobe malfunctions aren’t isolated to the Jacksons. Festivals and not posing, string does not cut the mustard. The same goes for thongs. You will and should lose them.

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Above Artworks by Emily White

Opposite Artwork by Hee Yeon Kim, 3rd year Bachelor of Architecture Studies

Submit your Art for the next issue.

thurunka@arc.unsw.edu.au
S
omebody once said that these would be the best
years of our lives. Uni years. I’d like to say that if
were the case, I’d probably say goodbye right now.
I’m sure that many of you would be able to relate to
the three-jobs, full-time-study, family-in-another-city
situation. Throw into the mix a completely unsatisfying
love-life, and I guess that’s just about the picture of a
20-year-old student’s life. Sure, we can shake things up
a bit with alcohol and other questionable substances
and maybe a bit of casual sex here and there, but when
it all boils down, the pure magnitude of what we have
to deal with the morning after a bit of release barely
makes it worth the distraction.

To get a bit of time off, we have to call three bosses
and juggle things around. And that’s if we’re lucky
enough to have enough work to live in this city. Throw
into that mix being an editor of a publication and
trying to unwind by playing a few gigs, and you’ve got
yourself a catastrophic lifestyle. Some people I know
still manage to have time for a rewarding, romantic
relationship. I’d like to know how they do that, but I
don’t have time to pick up another class.

As lovely and distracting as pursuits of the starry-
eyed and passionate kind are, I don’t know if I’ve got
much schedule time left. I was lamenting this fact this
morning over breakfast. My housemates seemed to be
confused as to what I actually wanted from a boy, if I
were able to hook one.

I wasn’t asking for much. Someone to always be
on-hand for my free time between assignments in the
early hours of the morning. They’d be on their own
a lot, so maybe they could clean my room when they
got bored. I think it would be distracting to have them
actually in my room 100 per cent of the time, so maybe
they could chill out in the pantry — it’s walk-in, don’t
worry. Hopefully I’d find someone who liked grocery
shopping, and they could probably make inventory of
what’s in the kitchen — maybe even stock up a bit. I’d
provide the funds, of course.

I love the nitty-gritty of getting to know someone,
but that often leads to the distraction of emotional ties.
My housemate kindly offered to get to know him, so I
would be free to spend my emotions on other things.
Ideally, they wouldn’t mind this dehumanising behav-
ior. Ideally, too, they would be a good cook.

I realised, somewhere around this point, that what I
was really after was a man modelled almost entirely on
the old-fashioned housewife mould. I also realised that
it might be a bit ambitious to expect to find this perfect
relationship of mine. I’m still toying with the idea of
copying and pasting this document into a personal ad
on OkCupid and uploading a photograph of my pantry,
so I’ll keep you updated.

Have any tips for a well-balanced lifestyle while bat-
tling the uni blues? Write in to us at tharunka@arc.
unsw.edu.au!

Ray by Day

A Very Playful Column Indeed

Lily Ray
Follow Lily @twitter.com/lilydray

Nominations for Election to the UNSW Academic Board &
Faculty Boards Now Open!

Nominations for election to the UNSW Academic Board
and a number of Faculty Boards are now open!

The Academic Board is the principal academic
governance body in the University. It decides what
degrees and programs the University and votes on things
like School and Faculty closures and mergers.

Two undergraduate and two postgraduate students
are to be elected this year for two-year terms on the
Academic Board.

Faculty Boards decide the strategic direction of the
Faculty and bring together staff and students for
important discussions around budgets and course cuts.

The following positions are open for nomination for Faculty Boards:

Arts and Social Sciences
6 x Students

College of Fine Arts
2 x Undergraduate students
2 x Graduate students

Australian School of Business
3 x Undergraduate students
3 x Postgraduate students

Medicine
2 x Undergraduate students
2 x Postgraduate students

Built Environment
4 x Students

Science
2 x Undergraduate students
2 x Postgraduate students

For more information visit http://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/elections/
Politics, Ice Cream & Gossip Girl

Media reform and censorship:

Osman Faruqi

Follow me @ twitter.com/ox_f

Stephen Conroy as Joseph Stalin.

I actually think that was the highpoint of Australia’s recent media reform debate.

The Daily Telegraph’s representation of the federal Minister for Communications as a dictator, as well as the quite literal comparison of his proposed reforms to Stalinism was a classic example of lobbying overreach. But has it worked? The Daily Telegraph, along with all its stable mates, The Herald Sun and The Australian (all owned by Australia’s largest media conglomerate, News Ltd) are viciously opposed to the federal government’s plans to tighten regulation around print news.

The media industry and the federal government have one thing in common - they’re both in crisis. The debate around media reform and regulation needs to be viewed through the prism of the current print and news media context. Circulation is rapidly declining, journalists are being sacked en masse, the shift to online isn’t bringing in enough revenue and the media market continues to consolidate, reducing diversity.

These issues combined with a view within the government (of which there is much evidence for) that the News Ltd papers, owned by Rupert Murdoch, are set on destroying the government and all the progressive things it stands for; have driven the media reform bandwagon to where it is today.

I actually think that the government’s proposed reforms, described by Crikey’s Bernard Keane as “minimalist”, are fairly inconsequential to the broader debate but they’re worth taking a look at to highlight just how completely over the top most of the reaction has been.

Conroy has proposed a national public interest test for media mergers, which requires mergers between large media companies to be assessed on whether the reduction of media diversity is worth the “public benefit”, a new print and online regulatory framework. The framework requires the industry to demonstrate that it is actually self-regulating the way it claims, and a “Public Interest Media Advocate” whose role it will be to assess the capacity of self-regulating industry bodies.

As you can see, most of the changes have to do with ensuring that newspapers and online news outlets are actually adhering to the standards that they currently claim to be meeting. The “public interest” test has attracted much criticism, mainly from large news companies who stand to benefit from a lack of market regulation. However, very few of them have pointed out that the same test exists in both the United States and the United Kingdom, and it hasn’t hampered the drive to merge all that much.

All it takes is a quick glance at what’s actually on the table to realise how ludicrous comparisons to Stalin and Pol Pot are. The irony is that Australia once did have a quite restrictive news censorship program, aimed mainly at minimising internal dissent during World War II and the Cold War, implemented by Robert Menzies and administrated by Rupert Murdoch’s father, Keith Murdoch.

Despite The Daily Telegraph’s total misrepresentation of the actual reform proposals via their Photoshop job on Conroy, the incident was still interesting due to the reaction it provoked from supporters of media regulation and the fact that it, and the broader campaign against Labor’s reforms, seems to have worked.

To pass the reforms, Labor needs the support of the independent and The Greens in the lower house. Despite quite vicious attacks on key independents like Rob Oakeshott and Tony Windsor by News Ltd papers, they both appear likely to scuttle the plan on the grounds that the government hasn’t given them enough time to review the legislation and they are concerned about press freedom.

So it seems that the hyperbolic campaign of trying to link minimalistic regulatory changes to the threat of gulags has actually worked.

Perhaps it’s not that surprising that the federal government managed to alienate virtually every media outlet and political entity in the country over reforms that were, rightly or wrongly, portrayed as being about “censorship”. After all, freedom of speech is something all journalists hold dear, regardless of the political persuasion of the company they work for.

What is more surprising, and disappointing is the advocacy of censorship from some on the progressive side of politics who see it as a tool to “balance” the political debate in Australia. When The Daily Telegraph made its Conroy/Stalin comparison, some commentators argued that this was evidence enough for the need for media reform — presumably the kind of reform that would prevent publications from printing silly and misleading parodies.

In this situation, supporters of media reform have correctly diagnosed the problem — a media landscape controlled by powerful and sectional interests, hostile to the certain political views, but they’ve come up with the wrong solution in the form of increasing state control and regulation over journalism.

No matter what your politics, principles like freedom of speech shouldn’t be something up for negotiation. A newspaper reaction to the horribly unsophisticated Daily Telegraph might be tempting, but once you hand that much control to the state and legitimise targeting news outlets for their political views, you begin to see the acts of basic foundations of a free society.

As I said earlier, I’m not suggesting this is where Conroy was proposing to go with his limited reforms, far from it, but it is clear that using the power of the state to smash institutions like News Ltd is something many on the progressive side of politics would like the federal government to do. My issue with this strategy is that it fails to recognise the motivating factors behind publications like The Daily Telegraph and assumes that, because they are “newspapers”, they have an inherent need to publish fair, factual and balanced information.

In reality, all newspapers are published by corporations and thus are required to maximise profit for the shareholders who own them, regardless of fairness and balance. This inability to understand the basic market reality in which our society operates is incredibly frustrating in regards to the debate around media diversity.

If we can’t have censorship, then we should at least advocate for more “diversity” in media ownership and argue progressive proponents of media reform. With 70 per cent of Australia’s newspapers owned by News Ltd, a company obviously hostile to the progressive agenda, again you can see why this idea might be tempting. But what does “media diversity” actually mean?

Even if you force divestiture of News Ltd’s assets or prevent them from buying anything else, it still requires an enormous amount of capital to run or establish a newspaper. What “diversity” really means is that, instead of one rich, old, white man controlling Australia’s newspapers, we’d have three or four. While we might have technical diversity of ownership, it’s hard to see this translating into diversity of views. Gina Rinehart is a good example of this. While her foyer into print media has been met with controversy, it is actually an example of media diversity.

It’s only the Packers, Murdochos, Rineharts and Palmers of the world that have the ability to establish and run newspapers in the current market framework.

If you have any doubt that these “diverse” media outlets wouldn’t be equally as hostile to the progressive agenda as News Ltd, Jeff Sparrow from Overland convincingly argues: “The right-wing press — its sexism, its conservatism and, yes, its inanity — forms part of the landscape against which any reform project defines itself. A progressive candidate will inevitably receive constant visits from Murdoch’s flying monkeys; by definition, a successful campaign necessarily involves countering Tony Abbott’s grisly Hallelujah chorus on the op-ed pages.”

So if not censorship and if not state-sanctioned diversity, then what? Well, the first thing to do is accept, as Sparrows says, that any attempt to fight for progressive reform in Australia is going to meet resistance from powerful corporate interests, including those who own the media. So there isn’t a quick and easy way to dilute the power of the corporate media, at least not in a way that doesn’t fundamentally reshape society in a way that begins to ignore corporate interests.

The question of “what to do” is something I’ve spent a long time grappling with. Whenever I argue with my fellow progressives and lambast their support for media diversity, they say “Well, what’s your idea, then?” The best I can come up with are suggestions on how to establish news outlets that are accountable to a cross section of the population, not just corporate shareholders, and contain genuinely diverse views. Student media is an example of this. Student newspapers are published by student unions that receive their funding from student fees. There aren’t the commercial pressures that can so often lead to a paucity of rigorous analysis a la The Daily Telegraph. On a larger scale, trade unions both in the United Kingdom and in Australia used to own newspapers and radio stations. While they were obviously biased to a pro-labour point of view, that doesn’t matter too much when the bulk of the corporate-owned media is biased towards a pro-capital perspective. It certainly makes more sense to have competing sections of the media landscape with different perspectives than attempt to foist “balance” onto particular publications.

The federal government could play a role in fostering genuine media diversity by offering substantial grants for independent media outlets. This could include community radio and online publications.

None of these things in isolation will “fix” the problem we have with the media industry in Australia, and they’re complex and difficult to achieve. But when principles like freedom of speech are up for grabs, it’s worth spending time thinking up clever solutions than giving into desperate measures like censorship that might come back to bite us.
SimCity

Game Review by Osman Faruqi

The game that convinced me to become an engineer is back, in its best rendition yet. The SimCity franchise is a massively popular city-building series developed by simulation powerhouse, Maxis, also responsible for the most popular game franchise of all time — The Sims.

The original SimCity was released in 1989, and while it received critical acclaim, the series really embedded itself in the consciousness of modern gamers with the release of SimCity 2000 in 1994. SimCity 2000 added a three-dimensional viewing perspective and gave players much more control over the necessities of city building and planning like roads, water, utilities and public services.

SimCity 2000 was the first iteration of the game I played. Luckily enough for me, it was installed on the computers at my primary school and I spent many a rainy day lunch ensuring that I had electricity and water flowing to all my different buildings and I had gotten the balance between residential, commercial and industrial zoning just right.

The new SimCity manages to keep all the basic elements that made the earlier versions so enjoyable — basically the ability to create your own dream city with the look and feel, economy and style entirely determined by you — while adding more complex tools that allow you to micromanage the game's new population and resource management system.

There's limitless scope in determining what your city looks like and how it runs. The game mechanics are easy to grasp (if you can build your own city, you're guided through a short but incredibly useful tutorial), and within half an hour you can have a fully developed city that's buzzing along and generating enough revenue for you to build fancy extensions to your hospital or university.

The first city I built had its industry based around a large coal mine in the centre of town. To offset the environmental destruction I was causing to the rest of the world by exporting harmful fossil fuels, I powered my city entirely on solar and wind power. I also tried to build up more public transport to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. At the same time, I was juggling the concerns of my citizens who were petitioning me for better public services like education, health and law and order. For someone with significant delusions of power — controlling the levers of an entire society is pretty damn fun and rewarding.

One of the most significant new elements in SimCity is its multiplayer functionality. Cities no longer exist in isolation but are all part of "regions". Each region contains between three and sixteen different cities that can either all be controlled by you or by other players. Cities can link up and trade resources leading to a much more dynamic and realistic form of gameplay.

The game doesn't have a definite end-point, cities can trundle along indefinitely and, given how long I played SimCity 2000 and the more recent SimCity 4, it's hard to see me getting bored of building new cities anytime soon. If you're someone who's complained about Sydney public transport (everyone), terrible planning (everyone), unsustainable resource consumption (most people), or you just like the idea of building a city and then destroying it in a meteor shower (yes, disaster mode is back!), then SimCity is for you — get building!
Waxahatchee
Cerulean Salt

Album Review
by Dylan Chalwell

Please allow me to begin by stating the obvious: Waxahatchee is not Waxahatchee’s real name. It’s a pseudonym, which is a fancy way of saying that Katie Crutchfield had the self-awareness to recognise that people would struggle to take someone with her last name seriously, no matter how good her music. It’s not a surprising conclusion, given that if self-awareness were iron ore, then Crutchfield would be too busy sipping cocktails on her private island in the Bahamas to make music. Let’s be glad that this isn’t the case, because then we’d miss out on this beautiful application of the formula self-examination + confession = catharsis to ordinary moments of disappointment and regret. Crutchfield’s enviable ability to avoid esoteric self-pity and subliminal encouragements to set up that hammock — drums and bass in most songs. Given that the average arts student could create a pretty passable facsimile of Crutchfield’s 2012 album quicker than you can say American Weekend, this is a bold move.

One of the immediately obvious results is that some of these songs are the most agreeably upbeat I’ve heard in a long time. If you’re a fan of Waxahatchee, this is a good move. You’ll also appreciate that Crutchfield swapped her acoustic for something with a bit more oomph. Good for her (and us); the result is glorious. In the night when someone wolf-whistles at him, and he responds by whistling back. Suddenly, the entire hall is filled with whistles and other various bird calls, and the room is transformed into a menagerie. It’s the kind of bizarre, dreamlike moment that could only happen at a Tallest Man on Earth concert. Joined on stage by his wife and fellow musician, Amanda Bergman, the two sing a cover of Paul Simon’s Graceland as an encore, their voices harmonising perfectly. It is truly a testament to his talent when Matsson, a raspy folk singer from Sweden, can get a standing ovation at the Opera House worthy of a long-lauded rock star. While he may not literally be the tallest man on earth, he definitely stands tall in the musical world.

Some housekeeping matters: Did I mention that it sounds fantastic? Did I mention the fuzzy guitars? Did I use the words “intimate” and “raw” and “intimate” enough? I believe so. Good. Please listen to this album. It’s fantastic.
Amour

Movie Review by Stephen

Honesty is the best policy, right? I’d always thought being brutally honest was better than saying the truth with bells and whistles, but after watching Michael Haneke’s latest film, Amour, I’m not so sure anymore. There’s one thing I am sure of, however: the German author didn’t let his audience off easy in this Oscar-winning flick.

The crux of the film can be summed up very simply: Amour tells the story of an elderly French couple in their dying months. Retired classical music teacher, Anne (Emanuelle Riva) suffers a series of strokes that render her almost completely physically immobile, leaving her husband, Georges (Jean-Louis Trintignant) to look after her, which he does so willingly and without complaint, catering to her every need, whim and footstep. They design to shut the world and even their daughter, Eva, out of their small Parisian apartment, in an attempt to cope with what is happening. This simple premise is explored deeply, showcasing the couple’s love and devotion to one another.

Anne’s death is foreshadowed in the film’s opening scenes, an end we almost sadistically come to hope for throughout the movie’s duration. This hope stems from Haneke’s affronting, and sometimes even disturbing, portrayal of the couple’s pain and suffering. Nothing about the movie feels contrived — the performance by the two leads is flawless and the way Haneke hastens to the mid shots, for. The only warmth here stemmed from Georges unwa need to be glimmers of light, which I was left searching to completely engage in a story as sad as this one, there is something missing. The film has no score and instead it relies on the raw emotion of each scene to carry us through, which is a brave move and one that worked. Our own minds about what is being played out before us, is the cherry on top. The first track, Before Your Very Eyes, isa fast-paced whirl of percussion, synths, bass and guitar; with Yorke wailing ethereally over the top of it all. The combination of Yorke’s voice and the steady bass line who one feel like the band have dragged you underwa ter. The second track and first single, Default, has more of a distinct melodic line almost reminiscent of a 90’s video game theme song. Yorke’s signature style is just as beautiful and surreal as ever as he makes heavy use of reverb, the percussion a throwback to Radiohead’s 2007 album, In Rainbows. Ingenue is a slower track, the sound of dripping water providing percussion and continuing the underwater feel to the album. The song, while com plex, feels a little repetitive at times. If Ingenue is repeti tive, however, the following track, Dropped, is anything but. One of the highlights of the album, it showcases the band’s dynamic range — Flea’s bass lines are engaging and the percussion is varied and intricate. The structure and pace of the song provides a needed break from the slightly repetitive styles of the previous three tracks. The introduction of horns in the first half of the album is the cherry on top. The second single from the album (and alternate name for Radiohead’s 2003 song, Myxomatosis) is the perfect combination of Flea’s absorbing bass and Yorke’s choral vocals. Reverse Running and titular track Amok are solid closers. They’re both similar in style to the first half of the album, but Amok introduces some beautiful piano lines that make you wish the instrument was fitter on the film sooner.

All in all, Amour feels like a showcase of the band’s incredibly rich and dynamic technical skills as opposed to a testament to their ability to write good songs. Whilst these skills are outstanding, it’s just not enough to lift the album to the five-star masterpiece it should’ve been. Amour For Peace is available now via XL Records.

Sydney Wine Festival — “Sydney Cellar Door”

Event Review by Leaonora Collett

With the end of summer looming, there was no better way to spend a lazy afternoon than in Hyde Park at the Sydney Cellar Door Wine Festival.

There were people milling around everywhere, stalls, picnics, people with wine glasses half full (or half empty depending on how you look at it). Arguably, the main reason why Sydney attends this festival is to taste the rich and beautiful wines made in New South Wales. It is not hard to see why Sydney-siders come back annually; not just for the wine, but also for the festival. How was the wine?

Well, with my new Cellar Door wine glass and my five tokens, I took on New South Wales’ finest. In my nov ice opinion, the spread that the stalls had on show was extensive. A number of the wine estate representatives spoke passionately about their full-bodied, fruity or soft flavoured wines, convincing you to taste and buy. The amateur wine drinkers tried everything and the more mature tasters tried their palettes at a Merlot or a Verdelho. Almost every store had a Sauvignon Blanc, a Semillon or a Chardonnay each blend considerably different to the last. Some stalls boasted a particular wine blend or a particular year, but I think in the end it came down to whether or not you drink red or white. I ordered the white, my friend ordered the red and we tried it all. I would be lying if I said we weren’t tipsy by the time we left the festival, but, as students, I think that was only natural.

One could also argue that the main draw card for the festival was the atmosphere. There were hundreds of people who looked like they were just enjoying the buzz, the excitement of the whole festival. Hyde Park was filled with a combination of laughter, conversations and music from the bands that played. A reggae band, who played on Sunday afternoon, were quirky and fun, with bow ties to match. Lovely company to the rich reds, the soft whites and the cheeses we tried.

The makeshift streets of the festival were lined with people drinking wines as well as tasting baked goods, restaurant appetizers, delicious cheese and salted meats. It was a lovely surprise to see people carrying around pizza boxes, which were actually filled with prosciutto, brie, goats cheese, fresh mozzarella and crisp bread. I thoroughly enjoyed the selection of wines and appetizers, and now eagerly await next year’s festival. Perhaps I’ll actually buy a bottle.

If I could be so bold as to recommend some wine and cheese...

In a white: “Fume” by James Estate, which is a mix of white Semillon and a Sauvignon Blanc. In a red: Cherry Tree Hill’s “Cabernet Merlot”, which had a deep-bodied flavour with a fruity aftertaste.

In appetizers: any meat and or cheese assortment by “Salt’s Meats and Cheese”. 
THE SRC ARE YOUR ELECTED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES — YOUR VOICE ON CAMPUS!

SRC President
Ross Willing

At the end of Week One, we celebrated International Women’s Day. It’s incredibly important to recognise the importance of women in leadership positions. In my last couple of years’ involvement in student representation, some of the most inspiring people I have met have been women.

Hopefully, by the time this is published, Arctic will have passed an affirmative action policy for the Board. Regardless, I’d encourage any woman involved in student life at UNSW to put your name forward.

If you’re a bloke reading this and don’t think this is all that important, or you feel discriminated against, I have a simple suggestion: next time you talk to a strong, ambitious, intelligent woman, ask about their experiences and make your own judgement.

Also, a quick shout out to the women’s collective, who provide an excellent safe space as well as support for women in crisis. Not to mention the extraordinary advocacy work they do!

Co-Education Officers
Lauren McCracken & David Bailey-McKay

This week, UNSW students will be participating in the National Day of Action. This year’s theme is “Where is our education revolution?”. We are marching from UTS to Town Hall to protest the fact that our education is under attack. Funding is decreasing and fees are going up. HECS, when first introduced, took only eight and a half months to pay off; now we’re struggling to pay off crippling debt for over a decade. And the same politicians who are raising the cost of your degrees got theirs for free.

This is a chance for every student across Australia to get their voice heard for a quality education. In Sydney, we will be joined by students from USyd, UTS and TAFE.

The SRC is organising a free breakfast on the Scientia lawn from 10am. From there, we will be heading to UTS at midday. The rally will start at UTS at 1pm and we will march to Town Hall from there. We will also be lecturing bashing and posterig next week.

So, come along and have your voice heard when it comes to your education!

Co-Education Officers
Lauren McCracken & David Bailey-McKay

Womens Officer
Amber Karinikolas

So far, the Collective have been busy having feminist discussion as usual, but we’ve also started planning events and campaigns for the year. We’ve got lots of lovely new faces, so everyone’s also been busy socialising.

- Members of the Wom*n’s Collective attended the UN Wom*n’s International Wom*n’s Day Breakfast celebrations on 8th of March. The breakfast is a fundraiser initiative run by UN Wom*n and ticket sales went towards their critical services program for wom*n experiencing violence in Papua New Guinea. It was great to hear from so many inspirational wom*n from all over Australia (including Julia Gillard) as well as Papua New Guinea. The rally for International Wom*n’s Day was the day after, and the Collective members got to march and show our UNSW pride alongside other young feminist activists, including USyd and UTS’s Wom*n’s Collectives.

- If you’re female-identifying and wish to get involved with the Collective, shoot me an email at womyn@arc.unsw.edu.au.

Ethnic Affairs Officer
Charlotte Lewis

This year is going to be an incredible year, as I’ve probably mentioned before. I met up with the Sikh Students Association to help them run a great event in Week Five of this semester. It’s great to be able to lend assistance to ethnic clubs who may not be as well known as other clubs.

Other than that, the “Give Racism the Finger” campaign is still going strong, with a few people showing signs of inter-

Indigenous Officer
Jacob Hyland

Session One is starting to get underway and is going great! We are getting ready for Close the Gap on the 24th of March, and I am excited to see new faces coming along and saying hello. The next YARN will be held later on in session and I am preparing to talk about culture. It would be great to see you there!

Feel free to contact me at any stage at indigenous@arc.unsw.edu.au

Also, take a look at edition two of Nun Gili news on their website, www.nunugili.unsw.edu.au

Cheers,
Jacob

Students with Disabilities Officer
Joel Wilson

Hi everyone! As this is my first report since the Disability Awareness Campaign launched, I would like to thank everyone who helped out and participated in the eye-opening events on offer, such as the Blindfold Challenge and Wheelchair Basketball. The insight gained from the Q&A panels topped off the day and provided a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about disability advocacy. I’m proud to say that, over the next few days, we will be launching a new and improved Students with Disabilities website page! This will now include articles detailing “A Day in the Life” of a student with a disability and information about the “Smash the Stigma” Mental Health Campaign and Disability Service Audit. I recommend you check out our website to keep up to date with the events and programs we will be running throughout the year. If you would like to get involved in any of these events, please send an email to disabilities@arc.unsw.edu.au

In response to the concerns raised by a number of students about the change made to the note-taking service for students with disabilities, I would like to acknowledge that the university’s Disability Unit has stated that its ongoing commitment to support students with disabilities remains. The unit is also happy to respond to any questions or concerns you may have, or you can send me an email at disabilities@arc.unsw.edu.au

As the glitter and hairspray wares away from the amazing night of Mardi Gras, and as the hangovers for many dies away, the collective was thrown back to reality with shocking footage of brutality that occurred towards our community. For those who are not aware, there have been many videos and press releases surrounding the issue of police violence on the night of Mardi Gras. The queer community decided to come together in a snap action. Facilitated by one of the national queer officers, Cat Rose, the snap action demonstration was held in a common stance against police violence. It was unfortunate that the community was gathering under such circumstances, but the compassion and response was overwhelming.

In other news, the National Day of Action is fast approaching. UTS, UNSW, USyd and UMaq collective officers have come together to form a stance against education cuts, forming the pink block. Education cuts are often targeted towards women’s/gender studies and queer theory. As a response to this, we urge all members of the community, regardless of your gender or sexuality, to get involved in the NDA. If people want more information, or want to get involved, please don’t hesitate to contact us at queer@arc.unsw.edu.au

Co-Queer Officer
Amelia Kerridge & Dean Mattar

Other than that, the “Give Racism the Finger” campaign is still going strong, with a few people showing signs of inter-
Until next time Enviro Compadres, stay environmentally conscious.

Genius, I know.

Anyway, for those of you who are interested in joining the Ethnic Affairs Collective, or just want to chat, email me at ethnic@arc.unsw.edu.au

Jeremiasz Sieczko
Environment Officer

A big thanks to everyone who attended the first Enviro Collective Meeting this year! It was great to see so many students interested in making positive change on our campus and beyond. There are so many things we can do to make our university more environmentally sustainable and the Enviro Collective is working to make these happen! The issues that face our campus environment include our university using less than 5% renewable energy, the generation of large amounts of disposable food container waste (like coffee cups!), the carbon footprint of our transport to uni, and many more - if you think of any others, share them with us!

On top of working towards improving our campus environment, we'll make sure we have a good time while we're doing it! Getting involved with the Enviro Collective is a great way to meet a bunch of fun, like-minded people who want to make positive difference. So you should most definitely come join us! We meet every Thursday at 12pm in the Blockhouse. You can find out more info about the Collective and the Enviro Department at facebook.com/UNSWEnviro.

Until next time Enviro Compadres, stay environmentally conscious.

PGC President
Josh Yen

The PGC has had a busy couple of weeks welcoming new postgraduate coursework students at inductions across campus. It was lovely to meet many of you at the Pro Vice Chancellor, ASB, Built Environment, COFA and PASS welcomes. We handed out newly completed PGC Flyers, detailing all of our contact details and planned events for the rest of 2013. Email us at info.pgc@arc.unsw.edu.au if you'd like an electronic copy.

Our Vice President and Research Officer hosted and attended the all-day Council of Australian Postgraduate Association’s (CAPA) recent SCM, reviewing their activities and setting their direction for the next year. A motion was passed to encourage different politically-aligned postgraduates to work together. Our President also contributed to CAPA’s submission to the SSF Representation and Advocacy Guidelines Review to improve this important legislation.

The Research Officer’s “PGC Featured Researcher Video” project is coming along well. His team is in the process of finalising a third video and looking forward to producing more. Visit the PGC Research Officer webpage for more details and to learn how you could be featured.

The International Officer also welcomed new students, and had three top tips for sharing:
1. Whether you’re a coursework or research student, always start your research and your writing early
2. Make the most of UNSW’s facilities: The Learning Centre, Library staff, Arc, SRC and PGC are all here to make your experience at UNSW great
3. Make daily backups of your work, and save on multiple devices.

The Equity Officer has continued to work with the Coursework Officer to develop guidelines and potentially new policy documents for coursework students. After analysing current student guidelines, the Coursework Officer has determined that only two documents are specific to postgraduate coursework students. These are: Structure of PG Coursework Programs Policy, and Structure of PG Coursework Programs Procedures. Neither of these documents cover the possibility of coursework students undertaking research projects. The Coursework Officer will be spending the next few months focussing on the development of better policies and procedures to specifically address research projects.

Funding sources are currently being investigated for the “Student Wellbeing” project,

which the Equity Officer is involved in.

The Events Officer has been busy planning and implementing all of the amazing events for you that will take place over the rest of the year.

Our next event is an Easter Egg Hunt! Join us at 12pm in the Physics Courtyard on Thursday, 28th March, 2013. Hope to see you there!

SDC Convenor
Andrew Roberts

For those who don’t know, the Student Development Committee (SDC) oversees support that Arc provides to clubs and societies, volunteer programs, courses and some events. This year, I am the Convenor of the SDC.

We’ve been busy so far, with some important procedural changes relating to clubs. The most exciting of which is the implementation of a provisional affiliation status for clubs who submit all their re-affiliation documents on time and in order. I am confident that provisional affiliation will prove extremely beneficial, allowing clubs to do what they do best — running great student activities — while paperwork is processed. You can see the rest of the changes to the document on the Arc Clubs Resources website: www.arc.unsw.edu.au/clubsresources.

We always love to hear from you if you have any issues, problems or exciting ideas! Feel free to contact me directly at sdc.convenor@arc.unsw.edu.au
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Extinct animals

by Leigh Rigozzi
Crossword by Jim Fishwick

Across
8. Skyfall singer gets help in South Australia (8)
9. United Nations curl open (6)
10. Imprison Nicholas (4)
11. Site of study demonstrated that it hasn’t gotten better (10)
12. 99 repeatedly the French Icy Pole (6)
13. Meatiest preparation, I guess (8)
15. Wonderful right in moralising (7)
17. Said farewells, eventually? (2,3,2)
18. Queens following sceptre and stroller (8)
20. Obey commercial in this place (6)
21. Drink a blue cocktail, holding wood (10)
22. Make fun of de reason you go to de fairground? (6)
24. Jockeys are Spooner’s chicken in dots and dashes? (8)
25. Fold, disguise, recase (6)

Down
1. Craved an explosive progressive (8)
2. Terrible TV show finds new angle: exploitation (4)
3. Round number? (6)
4. Bring and take away organ (7)
5. gardens melt on salt corrosion (9)
6. Welcome odd creep in performance (6)
7. rise, beast! Snoop about controlling others (8)
8. Taste test, digesting 24-down internally, is hanged lightly? (10)
9. Crime author, digesting 24-down internally, is hanged lightly? (10)
10. 24-Down becomes on the level (4)
11. Fold, disguise, recase (6)
12. Average speed is reasonable (8)

Morphemez by Josh Philips

So, Sen. Stephen Conroy is a fascist. And a Stalinist, apparently. It is absolutely the time to panic. Media oligopolists’ freedom from ‘intrusion’ is an enshrined right of the populus of the modern, liberal democratic state. La libre communication des pensées et des opinions est un des droits les plus précieux de l’Homme. And the people best equipped to inform and lead the people are presumably those who are willing and able to pay for it, right? Next they’ll be capping campaign funding. Or organising moderated leadership debates. The leader of the Australian senate, our city on a hill, is constructing a medieval Star Chamber to quash free speech.

Now to cut through all the crap, let’s take a look at censorship:

From the verb, censere, meaning judge/rate/opine/assess, the censorés were Roman patricians tasked with, firstly administering city censuses (for tax purposes), and also with autonomously supervising the ‘public conduct and morality’ (regimen morum) of the citizens. They had complete and unchecked authority to render judgements upon (and strip the citizenship from) anyone for offences from not getting married to keeping a horse in poor condition.

It’s definitely this autocratic, incontestable comtnotation that makes us so uncomfortable with the concept of having our culture and language restricted by an appointed body that reckons it knows what’s good for us better than we do. The image of banned (or burning) books is a hugely poignant symbol of the intentional destruction or suppression of knowledge from a people.

But media standards and regulation is probably a different beast. The auspicious quotation that I pretentiously left untranslated at the beginning of this piece\(^\text{ii}\) even has a wee caveat appended, which seems, perhaps, to acknowledge the limitations to this otherwise vital democratic precept:\(^\text{iii}\)

\text{\textit{Vive la revolution!}} (If you actually do this, send it in to Tharunka. Best’un gets a free coffee from the library. I forgot to mention that last week.)

solutions to last issue’s:
lawn. I forgot to mention that last week.

Dear Agony Ibis,

Why is shit so expensive on campus? Like the food, the gym, books and stationery?

— Skint

Dear Skint,

As you may know, UNSW is a top-tier university and, as such, the studenthood is largely wealthy and privileged. This means that the university knows they can make lots of money from mainstream, overpriced food and stationery chains. Why have a local business making juice for $3 when we could have a Boost that charges the better part of a tenner for a branded cup? No sense in that at all. I’d tell you to just eat cake, but I think we have to wait until second semester for the contentious Max Brenner!

Agony Ibis

Dear Agony Ibis,

Why did you steal my food when I wasn’t looking on the Library Lawn with your friend?

Stealing is not nice, you know! It took me a week to save up for that Stockmarket tuna salad…

— Skint

Skinter,

Firstly, I think there is something in the vicinity of a trillion ibises on campus. That you were able to recognise me is quite unlikely. It was probably a completely unrelated bird. And anyway, you might also have noticed that we ibises are rather unprepared for the hunting-and-gathering lifestyle. The Wikipedia page describing us states that we eat fish, frogs and other water creatures, as well as insects and other garbage. UNSW is sadly bereft of most water creatures, and the insect situation is less than ideal. No one can quite make their mind up about whether we’re a pest or a vulnerable species, and I’m sure that most animals with such a questioned existence would be on the fence about stealing food.

I maintain, though, that it wasn’t me.

Agony Ibis
Hey Hilmer!

OUR EDUCATION IS NOT FOR PROFIT

Join the fight against course cuts, fee increases and deregulation.

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION
Wednesday, March 27th

Marching from UTS to Town Hall at 1pm
UNSW contingent leaving from Science Lawn at 12pm