

## STUDENTS OPPOSE VSU



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# BLITZ

## BLITZ MAGAZINE

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## Editor's Letter

'VSU is about choice' is a powerful argument based on a noble ideal – an ideal capable of much good. But what happens if we cling to ideals when it is so plain that in reality they will make us all worse off?

In the case of VSU, what happens the moment you apply it, the moment you ask 'The choice of what?' What happens is this seemingly unquestionable argument looks a whole lot grubbier, more zealous and more like a very bad idea.

By giving us the choice - in the name of choice - of whether to spend or not to spend, we will be worse off. Make no bones about it. People, being people, will not spend, no matter the benefits. As a result we will permanently lose services, and the shining knight of private enterprise will not charge into a market that barely runs for a third of each year. We will learn less. We will have fewer opportunities. Barring some seachange philosophy that having less makes you better off, it cannot be argued that VSU will make universities or students any better off. A bulk of VSU supporters will agree with this.

So what are we left with? What choice do we have? We have the choice to do nothing and to have less – nothing more. And this is hardly noble. This is hardly aspirational.

This is, however, still a disconcerting problem. On one hand we have a powerful ideal that is capable of much good and on the other the full knowledge that it will be damaging. We might ask ourselves how we reconcile this, but I have a simple suggestion: reality wins. Surely, no matter how glorious the concept sounds it must give way to practicality.

Even the soundest concept has exceptions. Lots of exceptions. We encounter them every day and we solve them every day. And this does not make us bad or foolish people. What does make us foolish is to cling to an ideal while staring in the face of resounding evidence that it will be detrimental to us all; to mistake that ideal for the truth.

If there is an argument for VSU, choice is not it.  
-Ben Smyth

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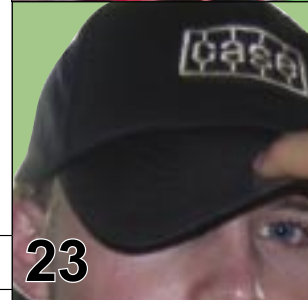
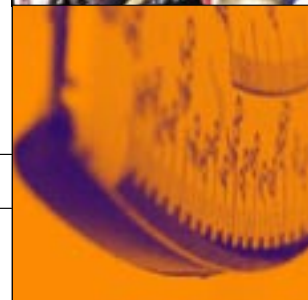
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## VOX POPS





**Bats** by Nadege Bryan

*"Outside Khao Yai National Park, three hours east of Bangkok. It was nearly dark, the sun was setting and we placed ourselves in the middle of a deserted field to watch thousands of rare wrinkle-lipped bats and Himalayan ribbed bats flying out of some nearby caves. It was amazing. one second it was all silent, the next second there was this kind of humming..."*

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

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

# President's Report

By David Hume



Dear Members,  
I've never started one of my reports with a quote, except for quotes of myself. But this week I thought I'd start with something from Winston Churchill

who, when discussing democracy said "The best argument against democracy is a five minute conversation with the average voter." This week you have your opportunity to prove Churchill wrong and engage in your democratic right to vote on your own campus in the Union elections.

Before you pick up *Blitz*, you will surely already have been accosted by someone wearing a fluoro coloured shirt, promising to provide free parking in Kensington (and the rest of the world) and lower taxes and better services. The person will probably have a bad slogan like 'Whom, Hume?' or 'Vote big. Vote Bosko'. If you're like many students, you'll probably lie and say that you've already voted. If you do that, then you're as bad the people Churchill was talking about.

The Union provides most of the non-academic services on campus: food, retail, entertainment, grants to clubs, the Unibar, courses, yellowshirts and a whole lot more. As a result, the elections this week for Directors of the Board of the Union, will have a major effect on the way that this university operates. This is particularly so because of the threat of VSU for next year.

I urge you to inform yourself about the candidates and vote. Check out the posters, read the pamphlets, talk to the candidates and their helpers and have a say. Don't think that it's just an annoyance, because it's an annoyance which could mean the difference between having clubs for grants and not, or having a kebab shop or not, or, at a broader level, between having a vibrant and welcoming campus community and not.

If you have any questions about the Union elections, feel free to email me on [u.president@union.unsw.edu.au](mailto:u.president@union.unsw.edu.au)

Cheers,  
Dave

# U Space Report

## Short Film Workshop

What makes a short film work? Is it the punch-line you didn't see coming? The unfolding of character over just a few minutes?

Find out on Wednesday, May 18 when award-winning scriptwriter David O'Brien's workshop takes you through the nuts and bolts of good writing and how it can surprise your audience and subvert their expectations.

This hands-on workshop will be run in Beam's Club Bar from 4-7pm, with David sharing all the tips he's picked up from twenty years in the industry and then a chance for you to put that into practice in small groups, to share ideas and be inspired to write your own film script.

Thought provoking and dynamic, with the SmartArts film exhibition following straight after, it should be an awesome night!

Time is running out to register, so email Minnie at [m.maitra@union.unsw.edu.au](mailto:m.maitra@union.unsw.edu.au) by Friday, Week 10.

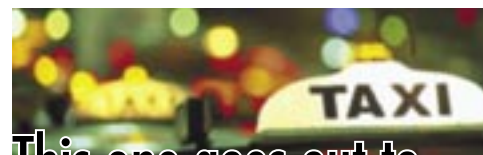
## Literary entries due for the unsweetened journal and Literary Prize

There are only two weeks left for you to get your entries in for UNSW's literary journal! Part of the Sydney Writer's Festival in 2002 and 2003, *unsweetened* has been a celebration of talent, creativity and diversity on campus since 1998, with wide distribution in libraries all around Sydney.

Entry forms are available from U Space, CONTACT and the Arts Faculty office. Completed entries should be handed in to U Space. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to see your work published and win great prizes.

The Literary Prize is proudly sponsored by the UNSW Bookshop.

For details, email Minnie at [m.maitra@union.unsw.edu.au](mailto:m.maitra@union.unsw.edu.au).



# This one goes out to the cabbies

By Matt Lim

Taxi drivers have been given the short end of the stick. They are commonly perceived as rude, ignorant and scam artists. Even worse, a lot of the time they are treated as lower class citizens, simply because they are driving us around. This is just not on.

I hardly ever catch taxis, but on the few occasions that I have, it has been a pleasant experience. I tend to strike up some friendly banter with the driver and most of the time they are more than happy to chat with me. The other night I was talking to Houssein who has been a taxi driver for four months now. While he doesn't exactly love his line of work, it's a job he works damn hard at and gets paid an average amount.

All taxi drivers have their stories. Most of them involve horrid passengers. Passengers who run off without paying is something that happens fairly regularly to every taxi driver I've spoken to so far. The crap thing is, there's not much they can do about it, even though it's straight-out robbery. Houssein tells me that most of the time fare evasion is *planned*, and one of his mates was stabbed for trying to get his fare. How sick is that? Drunken fools attacking a driver because they didn't want to pay him. What's wrong with people?

Most of the problems come from intoxicated passengers who act like they have a right to treat everyone else like dirt. This makes Friday and Saturday nights somewhat of a paradox to taxi drivers. They are the biggest money-earners from potential fares, but they're also the nights drivers dread. Not only do drunks not pay, but they do things like vomit all over the backseat of the taxi, which naturally has to be cleaned up by the driver. Hearing these stories can really change your outlook.

It's time to appreciate those who do seemingly menial and unglamorous jobs. These people are doing the kind of things we hate to do; for this they deserve at least the same amount of respect as any other person. How often do you see a taxi driver or cleaner give you attitude the same way a stuck up brat working in a retail store does? Personally, I've never wanted to punch a cleaner for being rude. Perspective is a wonderful thing, but I'll save that topic for another column.

# VSU and You

*The Higher Education Support Amendment Bill 2005 is expected by the Howard Government to pass through the Senate after July and come into effect on January 1, 2006. This bill states that universities must not require students to become a member of an organisation or be required to pay for any non-academic services unless they choose to use them. This means, among other things, that students would be able to choose whether or not they wish to pay union fees, hence the term Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU).*

*Opposition to this legislation has been vocal, as has support for it, and discussion of its merits and flaws throughout the university and wider communities has been at times heated. To give you a better idea of the arguments for and against voluntary student unionism, Blitz has invited a supporter of VSU and an opponent of VSU to explain the principles behind their opinions and also to describe their vision of what university life would be like under VSU.*

***T***homas Tudehope is an advisor to Liberal MP, Malcolm Turnbull, and Secretary of the UNSW Liberal Club. He is a supporter of VSU. We ask Thomas what are the principles behind his support for VSU. The following is the opinion solely of Thomas Tudehope.

I support voluntary student unionism for a number of reasons. Firstly, I believe in freedom of association. I believe that no one should be forced to join a union, just like no one should be forced to support the Balmain Tigers, if they don't want to. A laughable example you might say, but so is forcing students to pay five hundred dollars a year in activity fees when they rarely see any return.

While I would consider myself an active university student (I manage to attend all my classes, which is unusual for an arts student), there are many students who rarely engage in the services offered by the Union or the Guild. As Brendan Nelson, Commonwealth Minister for Education, Science and Training correctly pointed out, why should a single mother studying nursing part time pay for someone to join the mountaineering club?

Secondly, I believe in effective representation. Throughout my three years at university I have continued to ask myself what true representation is. Non-compulsory Guild elections dominated by far-left political groups, some funded by the Communist Party of Australia, are not true representation and quite frankly I am not sure that they are representation at all.

Indeed, I have had my taste of student politics,

enough of a taste to scald the lips, churn the stomach and quash the mind. The National Union of Students (NUS), for example, provides a clear reason for the introduction of voluntary student unionism. In 2002 I attended the NUS national conference in Ballarat. NUS is meant to represent all students nationally, yet the Australian flag was not allowed on the conference floor.

If we are to further examine the National Union of Students it is not hard to see how far misrepresentation has gone. In 1997 NUS made a six figure donation to the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. A year later they made another six figure donation - this time to the Communist Party of Malaya. And last year NUS gave the Australian Labor Party \$220,000 to campaign in marginal Liberal seats, the same marginal seats that overwhelmingly delivered the Howard Government its fourth term in government.

***What effect do you think VSU would have on university life if it was implemented in its current proposed form?***

Firstly I would like to point out that under the proposed model of voluntary student unionism, students can still pay their student union fees and become members if they choose. Come March next year, I will be very interested to see exactly how many students elect to pay their student fees. My guess is that it will be somewhere in the vicinity of 1.2% to 1.8%. That roughly equates to about 600 enrolled students. Why will this be the case? Because unions fail and have failed to offer clear incentives for students to become members.

Many students, mainly the radical ones, have tried to suggest that services will no longer exist on a campus after VSU is implemented; as I walk around campus I am continually confronted with signs saying "This service will not exist under VSU." This is blatantly false, and the Guild in particular should be severely reprimanded for misleading students. Next year services will still exist, however they will not receive any subsidies from the Union. Will the services disappear? Absolutely not. For those of us who live in the real world, we are all too familiar with that wonderful term 'private enterprise'. Private enterprise will fill the void created by subsidy free services. Indeed it is already happening.

Admittedly, many aspects of university life will be altered under voluntary student unionism. However I would suggest such alterations will be for the betterment of students.

Sporting clubs are one aspect of university life that will change under the proposed model of voluntary student unionism. The Sports Association in particular have been very vocal in their claims that sporting clubs will suffer greatly. This is a myopic view of voluntary student unionism. It comes back to that question of why the majority should fund the activities of a minority. Next year, members of the AFL Club, the Underwater Club, the Abseiling Club and the Rugby Union Club, to name but a few, will have to fund their own sporting activities. Memberships to these clubs will no longer be subsidised by the Sports Association. Is this unfair? Is this inequitable? Hardly.

**D**avid Hume is President of the University of New South Wales Union. He opposes VSU. Blitz asks David what are the principles behind his opposition to VSU.

The VSU legislation is objectionable on the basis of the following principles:

*UNSW is a community.* Universities are more than just a classroom or a 'degree factory'; the breadth of university education derives from the quality of its community services. University campuses must be welcoming and enjoyable, and the success of this depends on a community sustainable only through the contribution of all students.

*Communities have the right of self-determination.* Universities have the right to say that non-academic services are essential to what it means to be 'a university'. They should also have the right to charge people entering the community for the provision of those services. This is the nature of all the communities that surround us: all tiers of government, RSL clubs, private schools and more all charge fees to community members for the provision of services.

*The Government's stance sends fundamentally contradictory messages to universities and students.* On one hand the Government says that universities should attract international students, cater for disadvantaged students, make degrees more flexible, encourage a healthy lifestyle and prepare students better for the workplace; on the other hand the Government wants to remove the means for universities to do this.

**What effect do you think VSU would have on university life if it were implemented in its current form?**

If VSU is introduced, this university will be a very different place when you turn up next year, as most non-academic services simply can't be offered under VSU. Fundamentally, VSU will push universities toward being bland

institutions that offer only a degree on a piece of paper and nothing more. This is because VSU will have a drastic effect on all the services that provide the fabric of the university community.

You might ask that if these services are so essential, won't students voluntarily pay for them? *Recent history shows that students won't.* A similar model of VSU was introduced in Western Australia in the 1990s. On average, only 15-20% of students were prepared to pay for non-academic services. Because of the terrible effects this had on university communities, the WA Government rolled back the legislation.

Does this mean that students just don't want campus community? It doesn't for three good reasons:

*Human nature.* People generally don't pay up-front fees for services even though they get value for money in the long run. Extensive economic research shows that people make irrational decisions when confronted with short-term versus long-term economic dilemmas: people will put off 'pain' in the short-term, even though it means more 'pain' in the long-term. Applied to community services, this means people will irrationally not pay a one-off fee, even though they would gain value in the long-term.

*Many university non-academic services are public goods.* How would you stop people who haven't paid for non-academic services from using the Mathews student lounge? Or from listening to a band on the Library Lawn? It just doesn't make sense – many non-academic services are non-excludable (or excludable only at a very high cost). This leads to a basic 'free rider' problem, resulting in a reduced incentive to pay for community services.

*The value of 'community' is non-quantifiable.* It is difficult to quantify and 'bring home' the value of community to people, making it difficult to market to money-conscious students. This is magnified by the problem of free riders.

There are some other arguments often put forward for VSU and I'll look at them quickly:

*Myth:* Compulsory non-academic service fees violate the right to freedom of association.

*Fact:* Freedom of association refers to the right not to be forced to be a member of an association. No student is currently forced to be a member of an association; if a student wants, their fee can be directed to a university fund.

*Myth:* Provision of non-academic services at campuses is inefficient and wasteful.

*Fact:* The organisations providing non-academic services are subject to all ordinary financial controls, performance indicators and accountability mechanisms of major corporations. Often they focus on service (rather than a narrowly-defined concept of efficiency or profit), as would be expected from not-for-profit community service providers.

*Myth:* Non-academic service fees are a barrier to entry for disadvantaged students.

*Fact:* Community services are essential for disadvantaged students. Legal and welfare advice, in particular, is absolutely vital and funded through non-academic service fees. If anything, the solution here is for the Government to allow non-academic service fees to be included in HECS.

VSU is not just about the student organisations – the Union, Guild, Sports Association and PGB. It's not just about whether you like these organisations or the way they're run. It's not just about whether you get annoyed that your fees go to sporting fields you don't use or subsidised coffee that you don't drink. It's about universities and the fact that they simply won't be able to provide anything other than a classroom. Ultimately, VSU is an attack on the idea that universities are communities where you can make friends, discover more about yourself, develop life skills and a network of people you will know for your entire professional life. If you do think that this is your university, then I urge you to oppose VSU.



# Blues 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner

**7pm Friday 27 May 2005**

**Roundhouse, UNSW**

**\$55 stud/ \$70 other  
(incl. 3 course meal & drinks)**

**RSVP: Helen or Sophie by  
13 May on 9385 4880**

**Individual and table bookings  
accepted.**

## congratulations...

To William Hamlyn-Harris, current Ben Lexcen Sports Scholar who has been selected to represent Australia at the World University Summer Games in August in the Javelin event.



Class size: max 20

Venue: Village Green on campus

Contact: Bruce Frame - 9385 6034

Included: Students must have appropriate gear and proper running shoes. Water and towel also required. Price includes race registration fee.

### First Aid Course

This course is run by the Royal Life Saving Society and has both theory and practical sessions on which students will be assessed. It includes such topics as: The Role of the Rescuer, legal liabilities, CPR, management and treatment of bleeding, burns, fractures, diabetes, asthma, epilepsy, anaphylaxis, head injuries and other related topics. The course is Workcover and VETAB approved.

Course 1: Saturday and Sunday 9th and 10th April, 8.30am - 5.30pm

Course 2: Saturday and Sunday 14th and 15th May, 8.30am - 5.30pm

Costs: Current students \$70, Staff \$75, Non Students \$80

Class size: 20 - 30

Venue: Hut B11B, near Gate 2 on High St, lower campus.

Contact: Bruce Frame - 9385 6034

Included: Certification by Royal Life Saving Society, Statement of Attainment, instruction & assessment, bandage pack and learning resources. Comfortable clothing should be worn for practical sessions. Writing material may be required for note taking. Lunch **not** provided.

## what's on...

### Waterski & Wakeboard Club GCM

Students can get the heads-up on upcoming club events and it's a perfect opportunity to meet some fellow students who are serious about waterskiing and wakeboarding.

Tuesday 17 May 7pm, Sam Cracknell Pavilion, Free

### City to Surf Training

The UNSW Athletics Club will again be offering this popular and professionally run 10-week training course. The course is conducted in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and the program consists of two supervised training sessions together with a tailored weekly training program.

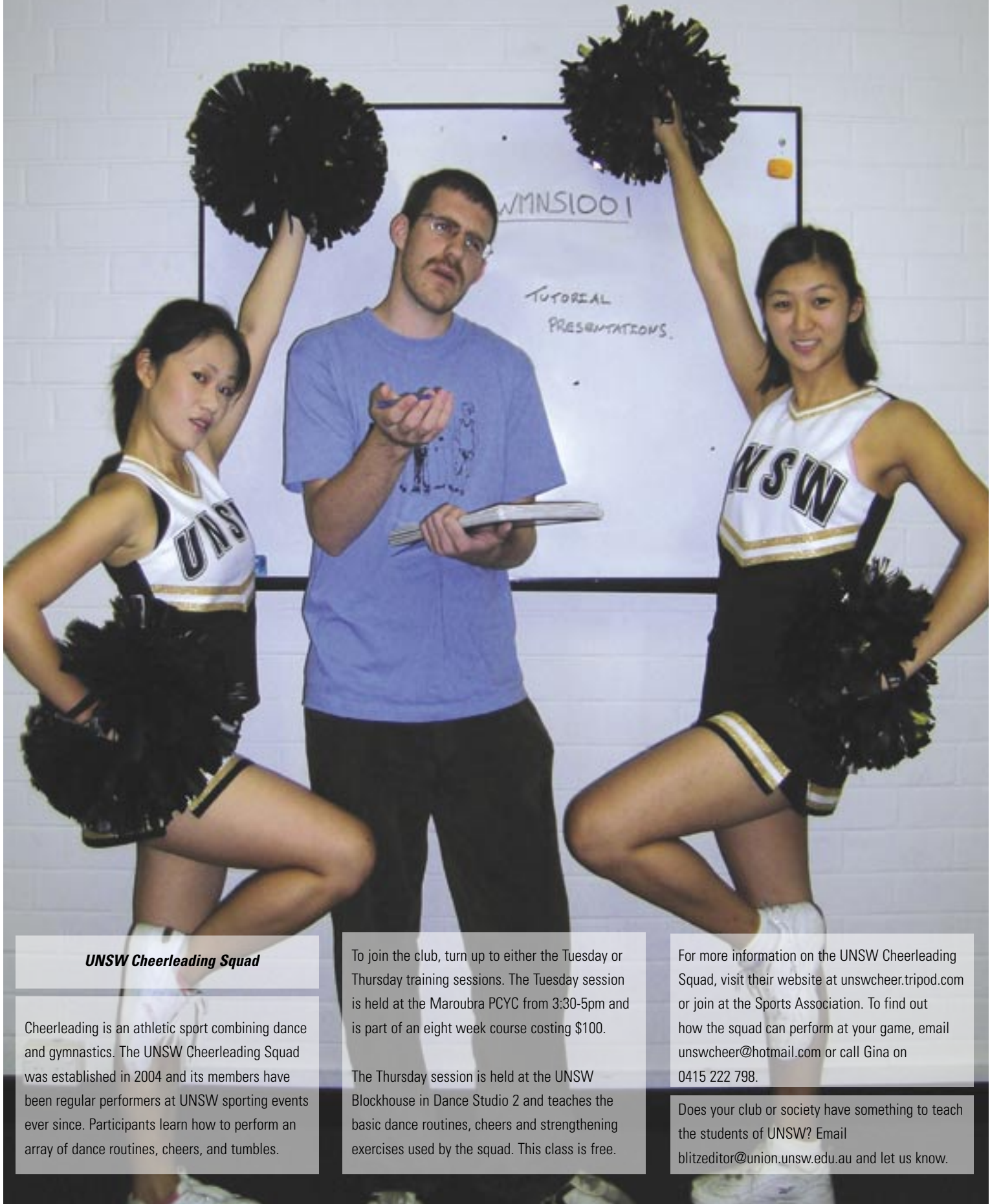
Course time: Monday and Wednesday nights from 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Course dates: starts on 6/6 to the 10/8 - race day Sunday 14th August

Costs: Current students \$100, Staff/ other students \$105, Non Students \$110



# How to... ..show your support



## **UNSW Cheerleading Squad**

Cheerleading is an athletic sport combining dance and gymnastics. The UNSW Cheerleading Squad was established in 2004 and its members have been regular performers at UNSW sporting events ever since. Participants learn how to perform an array of dance routines, cheers, and tumblers.

To join the club, turn up to either the Tuesday or Thursday training sessions. The Tuesday session is held at the Maroubra PCYC from 3:30-5pm and is part of an eight week course costing \$100.

The Thursday session is held at the UNSW Blockhouse in Dance Studio 2 and teaches the basic dance routines, cheers and strengthening exercises used by the squad. This class is free.

For more information on the UNSW Cheerleading Squad, visit their website at [unswcheer.tripod.com](http://unswcheer.tripod.com) or join at the Sports Association. To find out how the squad can perform at your game, email [unswcheer@hotmail.com](mailto:unswcheer@hotmail.com) or call Gina on 0415 222 798.

Does your club or society have something to teach the students of UNSW? Email [blitzeditor@union.unsw.edu.au](mailto:blitzeditor@union.unsw.edu.au) and let us know.

## Your Guide to Nolleperioden : the Swedish O-Week

The Swedish university O-week originated from the church in the 16th Century. Laced in tradition, these parties, competitions and activities continue for 2 weeks annually. Here are snippets from my exchange in Luleå.

Arctic Circle (100km away)



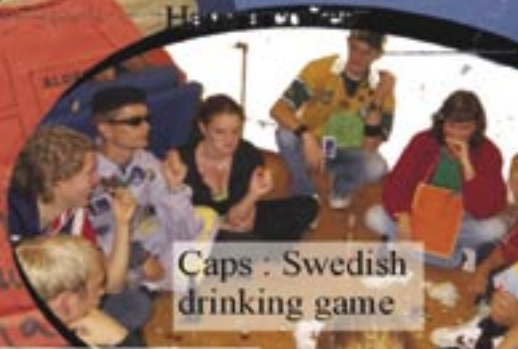
Hej  
Hejdå  
Tack  
Tjena, läget?  
Vad heter du?  
Jag heter....  
Jag vet inte.  
Du är söt.  
Jag gillar dig.  
Hej snygging!  
Jag är vilse!  
Inga bekymmer!  
Fika

Bye  
Thank you  
Hey, what's up?  
What's your name  
My name is...  
I don't know.  
You are cute.  
I like you.  
Hi there gorgeous!  
I'm lost!  
No worries!  
Hej



**Surströmming** : The famous Swedish fermented herring. The can swells from the gas produced during fermentation and it stinks!

**Nollebricken** : The A4 size nametag is worn constantly. If lost, the penalty is to wear a cardboard box, keyboard or this bike tyre as a Nollebricken for 2 weeks.



Caps : Swedish drinking game

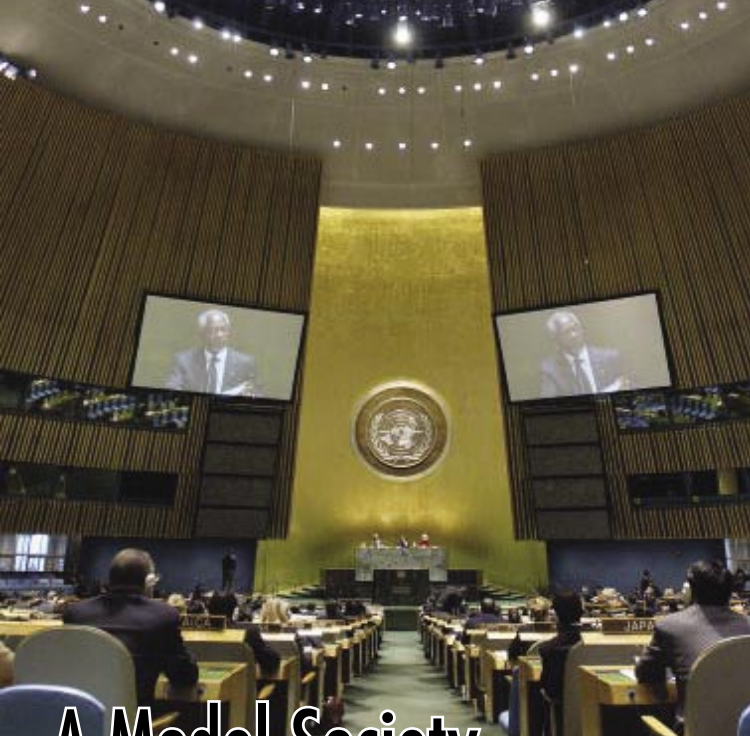


**Phörsare** : Equivalent of Yellow Shirts, constantly wearing sunglasses

In July, the sun rises at 2am & sets at 11pm.



**ÖPH's** : The always stern, always serious Nobles and Generals. They march around uni wearing tuxedos, sunnies, berets, sashes and stuffed animals on their shoulders. Bow your head when they march past, a sign of appreciation for organising Nolleperioden.



# A Model Society

The Asia-Pacific Model UN Conference will be held during the mid-semester recess from July 11-15. Allison Corkery is the secretary of the UNSW UN Society and Secretary General of the event. **April Smallwood** talked to her about the event and what it's all about.

## What is AMUNC?

It's a huge conference that will test peoples' ability to think critically about international issues. Those involved will work closely in their group to develop possible solutions for current global issues. The idea of a mock UN started here at UNSW in 1995 and we haven't hosted the conference since. The theme for this year is *Participation in the Global Community*. It's going to be held on campus in Scientia, Mathews and CLB. There will be people coming from all over the world. We weren't expecting such a big turn out but unis all across Australia have students attending and we've got people coming from NZ, the US, Ghana and the Philippines. There'll be about 500 people altogether.

## What goes on?

Basically, for the duration of one week, all delegates will become a representative of their allocated country and will then be sitting on a committee who together will participate in furthering their country's interest. Everyone will be in discussion with their committee and on the last day everyone will come together to read out their resolutions.

## Why does the conference aim to model the UN?

People have this idea that the UN is this big abstract entity and don't really know what goes on there. By role-playing what goes on, those involved will have a better understanding of what goes on and possibly why decisions are made the way that they are. It's also very rewarding to understand what it's like to actually be in a position where you have to represent and cater to your national interests.

## Do you have any UN members come and watch the conference?

They don't come along to the committees, but throughout the week they visit to take part in the careers forum and the international advocacy workshop. Their presence gives delegates the chance to talk with different NGOs. The UN Society at UNSW is probably one of the most well established ones in the state. We have a good reputation with the diplomatic community and

professionals. It also helps that people like to talk about what they're doing.

## What other activities or events can students become involved in?

We often hold drinks and discussion evenings or debates on various world issues and we have a series of diplomats who come in for an event called Country Perspectives where every few weeks a diplomat or a consulate comes to speak about their country.

## What does the UN Society do for the global community?

It's not so much what we do, since we kind of see ourselves as more educative in that sense; we're not just like a PR mouth-piece for the UN. We're actually independent and impartial in that sense. I guess we just try and create a space on campus where people can learn more about the UN and also provide the chance to express their own opinions and critiques as well.

## Do current members hope to work for the real UN some day?

I think some of them do. Providing that kind of network seems to be a good starting point, since the UN is a relatively small organisation on a global scale. Their overall budget has been said to be less than that of the Tokyo fire department. The society is here to spread the message that there are other things you can do in order to be in the global community besides working for the UN or DEFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade).

## Do all kinds of students take part?

The UN shouldn't be something that only arts and politics students are interested in; it's actually a highly interdisciplinary organisation. It's also got subsidiary organisations within it. We have a few academics in the membership. Last year we did an event on shrinking water resources and we had 70-80 engineering students come along. Development work like that requires people with skill, not solely politicians who can talk about it.

## What current international issues are being discussed?

This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN, so there's a lot going on with that. They're possibly going to change the structure of the UN's security council. In 2000, some countries agreed to adhere to eight Millennium Development Goals, some of which were to eradicate extreme poverty by the year 2015, improve women's health and tackle HIV and poverty. This September the UN will come together to track the progress of such goals. It's also the international year of Microcredit, which is where banks give very small loans to people in third world countries to buy things like agricultural tools. \$100 to a small community makes a big impact on boosting their economy.

## What about someone with zero awareness of international affairs? Can they join?

Well, the UN is made up of various bits and pieces that fit together and it's not just about politics; having an awareness of global issues really does affect everyone and how they interact globally, whether they're conscious of it or not. I don't think people should feel intimidated by joining the society. A lot of people think that people in our UN society must know so much but we really don't! That's why you would join, to learn more. The message is that having a global consciousness is important for everyone no matter what you end up doing with your life.

For further information or to attend AMUNC this July all you need do is register on the website [www.amunc.net](http://www.amunc.net). To join the UN Society visit [www.unsociety.unsw.edu.au](http://www.unsociety.unsw.edu.au).

# WHAT'S ON week 10 may 9-15

## MONDAY MAY 9



### Monday movie screening: *Garden State*

A depressed young man returns to his hometown after a nine-year absence to attend his mother's funeral. Comedy-drama starring Natalie Portman and Ian Holm and written and directed by leading man Zach Braff.  
5pm, Beams Club Bar, Roundhouse, Free  
Next week's movie....*National Treasure*

### Rapid Fire Comedy - With MC Dave Jory and Anthony Mir

Dave Jory & Anthony Mir will be your entertainment for the night! Caustic & biting, Dave Jory has been stalking the comedy stages of Sydney for the past year. Mir has worked as a writer for Australia's funniest including Wendy Harmer's Morning Crew, The 50 Foot Shot, Hotline & Tutti.  
7pm, Beams Club Bar, Roundhouse, Free



### Studio Four presents Monday Night Live

Studio Four's weekly comedy workshop is open to all. MNL is an opportunity for all of us to laugh and practice comedy in a friendly, informal environment. Improvised theatre is a great way to build quick wit and self confidence. Take some time out of the middle of your week to make a fool of yourself with the rest of us.  
5:45-7:30pm  
Roundhouse beer garden  
Free

## TUESDAY MAY 10

### Free Roundhouse Trivia

If you put on flip-flops backwards, does that make them flop-flips? Find out.  
1pm  
The Unibar  
Roundhouse  
FREE

### Theatresports

If you're one of the fortunate ones who has a class break during this time, then we suggest you use it. Theatresports is a team based improvisation shindig. Teams are told what challenge or event they will be competing in and any other information they will need to complete their improv literally seconds before they have to perform. Presented by UNSW's Studio 4, you'll soon realise how you too can be knee-slappingly funny on campus. Watch and participate in this battle of wits, every Tuesday.  
Midday-2pm  
Roundhouse

### Christian Students Uniting- Bible studies

1-2pm  
Quad 1049

### Kingsford Legal Centre Seminar - Your Rights as an Employee

This is a seminar run by the Kingsford Legal Centre to provide information to students regarding their legal rights as an Employee.  
Training Room 2, Block House  
1-2pm  
Free

### Movie Re-Screening - Garden State

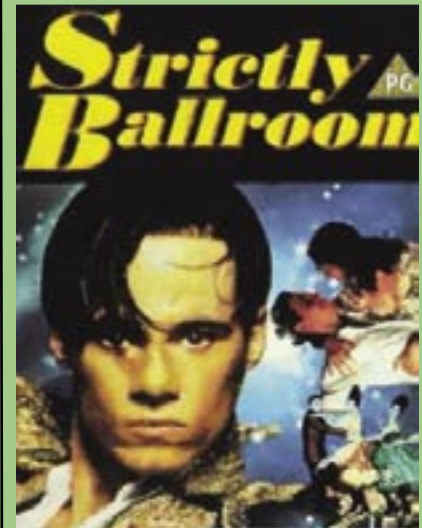
A depressed young man returns to his hometown after a nine-year absence to attend his mother's funeral. Comedy-drama starring Natalie Portman and Ian Holm and written and directed by leading man Zach Braff.  
2pm  
The Unibar, Roundhouse  
FREE

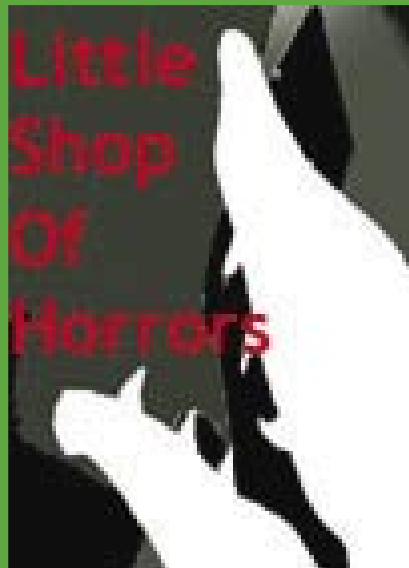
### Pool Comp

Come down to the Unibar for the weekly pool comp & a chance to kick back  
5pm  
The Unibar, Roundhouse  
FREE

### Learning the Lingo - Aussie Movie Night

Learning the Lingo is having an Australian Movie and Trivia night. Strictly Ballroom will be followed with some Aussie trivia and games. There will also be popcorn and drinks.  
6.30pm - 10pm, Beams Club Bar, Free





**Theatre - Little Shop of Horrors**

It's everyone's favourite boy-meets-girl-then-plant-eats-everything musical! Seymour is a young man who works in a flower store. He spends his time doing menial tasks and dreaming of the shop assistant, Audrey. He manages to create a carnivorous plant that feeds on human flesh. Seymour and his secret plant become good 'friends', But the plant needs food to grow, and convinces Seymour to do some pretty horrible (and hilarious) things. The off-broadway cult hit has been restaged for 2005 at UNSW. With great music, puppetry and an excellent cast, this is a show not to miss.  
 Figtree Theatre  
 8pm  
 \$13 concession, \$15 adult

**Library Lawn Band - Jamie Hutchings**

The Bluebottle Kiss front man brings us his much loved vocals and guitar to the Library Lawn. Need we say more? A really good way to spend the afternoon.  
 1pm  
 Library Lawn  
 FREE

**Christian Students Uniting - Bible studies**

1-2pm  
 Quad G054

**Bar Bingo**

Bar Bingo helps your reflexes. It's true!  
 1pm, The Unibar, Roundhouse, FREE

**Christian Students Uniting - Bible studies:**

3-4pm  
 Quad G041

**Trivia**

Where is the Treasure of the Sierra Madre?  
 Find out.  
 5pm  
 The Unibar, Roundhouse, Free

**Happy Hour**

5pm, The Unibar, Roundhouse  
 Cheap Drinks

**Pub Grub**

Cheap Grub & Beer What more could you want mid-week?  
 5:30 pm, Clem's, Roundhouse, Cheap Grub

**Outback Assist Trivia Night**

The Outback Assist program is in its pilot year and involves sending a team of volunteers to the Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa Aboriginal Community - 70km south east of Alice Springs) to assist in a number of projects during the Session 1 break. The team of fifteen volunteer UNSW students will be assisting the community by building a fence with the local community around the sports oval and also helping the Women's Centre, Art Centre and Public Health Centre. The program is run almost entirely on the fundraising efforts of the volunteers.  
 Beams Club Bar, Roundhouse  
 7:30-10:30pm  
 \$10 per student or \$15 non student

**Theatre - Little Shop of Horrors**

Figtree Theatre  
 8pm  
 \$13 concession \$15 adult

**THURSDAY MAY 12**

**U Space - Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG) Course**

Registration must be finalised ahead of time at Union Reception.  
 10am-4pm  
 Blockhouse, Training Room 4  
 \$65 for Union Members

**Resistance AGM**

Against War? For refugee rights? Interested in international solidarity? Want to get involved and organised with other people who want to change the world? Come along to Resistance's AGM, find out what we're doing, and help us get affiliated!  
 Midday - 1pm  
 Quad 1001  
 Free

**Christian Students Uniting AGM**

Christian Students Uniting is a progressive Christian group on campus which encourages critical engagement with the biblical text and with contemporary social issues. Join us for a fresh perspective!  
 1-2pm, Quad 1001, Free

**WEDNESDAY MAY 11**

**Pottery Studio Inductions**

Pottery is one of the most enduring materials known to humankind. It only takes 15 minutes for Eliza or Tony to induct you into the rules and regulations of the Union's pottery studio. A science and art in itself, the world of ceramics can transport you a million miles away. Potter your way into history today!  
 Between 12-2pm  
 Level 2 of the Blockhouse  
 Free

**Table Tennis Comp**

Paddlin' the school canoe? That a paddling.  
1pm  
The Roundhouse  
Free

**Adam P**

Come down to the Beergarden and start your weekend early with the sounds of Adam P  
4:30 pm  
The Beergarden, Roundhouse  
Free

**SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) - Enterprize Challenge Final**

Come and watch the finals of the SIFE Enterprize Challenge and see which team takes home \$800 in cash and prizes. All participants and all students welcome! Refreshments provided.  
Keith Burrows Theatre  
5.30-9pm  
Free

**Food Science Association Trivia Night**

Calling all Food Science Students – Come to the annual FSA Trivia Night. Great fun, great food and great prizes to be won! Hope to see you there!  
G07 - Food Science Building  
6pm  
\$5 – includes food and drink

**Theatre - The Real Inspector Hound**

This year New College presents a production of Tom Stoppard's The Real Inspector Hound - "A good clean play without a trace of smut." So if you are interested in a night of fun, laced with wit and frivolity, or a night of mind-bending intrigue, then New College's Inspector Hound is for you.  
New College On Anzac Parade  
7:30pm  
Students/union members \$7  
Non-union members \$10  
For bookings call 93811750

**Theatre - Little Shop of Horrors**

Figtree Theatre  
8pm  
\$13 concession \$15 adult

**FRIDAY MAY 13**

**Crab Racing**

Kick start the weekend with some random fun!  
5pm  
The Unibar, Roundhouse  
Free



**Happy Hour**

5pm, The Unibar, Roundhouse, Cheap!

**Friday Arvo Sessions featuring DJ Caddell**

DJ Caddell will be spinning some smooth sounds to drive you into the weekend  
4:30 pm  
The Beergarden, Roundhouse, Free

**OXFAM Jazz Night - The Flavour of Cuba!**

(Highlight)  
Oxfam UNSW is holding its fourth annual jazz night fundraiser. The Oxfam Jazz Night features some of the most prominent and esteemed jazz musicians on the Sydney music scene. This year's jazz night will feature swing followed by latin and Cuban jazz – hence the title. Come along and sit back, relax and appreciate the fine music, or put on your dancing shoes to swing and salsa the night away. All proceeds to Oxfam Australia.  
The Roundhouse  
8pm, \$15 for Students, \$20 for non-students



**Theatre - The Real Inspector Hound**

New College On Anzac Parade  
7:30pm  
Students/union members \$7  
Non-union members \$10  
For bookings call 93811750

**Theatre - Little Shop of Horrors**

Figtree Theatre  
8pm  
\$13 concession \$15 adult

**SATURDAY MAY 14**

**Band - Anthrax**

New York's own Anthrax has an unmistakable signature style and distinct sound that breaks musical, cultural and political boundaries - influencing a myriad of bands throughout the spectrum of musical genres for twenty years. Don't miss out on the triumphant reunion of these legendary speed metal icons!  
Doors Open 8pm  
The Roundhouse  
\$61  
Tickets available from Ticketek, [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au)

**Theatre - The Real Inspector Hound**

New College On Anzac Parade  
7:30pm  
Students/union members \$7  
Non-union members \$10  
For bookings call 93811750

**Theatre - Little Shop of Horrors**

Figtree Theatre  
8pm  
\$13 concession \$15 adult



# TUESDAY - SATURDAY

## *Pulp Fiction - The Play* - Exclusive to UNSW

From the people who brought you *Noises Off* and *12 Angry Men*. See Quentin Tarantino's cult classic brought to the stage for the very first time. See Jules, Vincent, Mia, Marsellus Wallace, The Wolf, The Gimp, Pumpkin, and Honey-Bunny. Don't miss out!

8PM

Studio One

\$10 for students, \$2 discount for first two nights

**Get Week 11 Blitz and you could WIN one of 10 Apple ipod minis and one Apple ipod photo worth \$499!**

Here's how:

Simply present your Week 11 Blitz to the customer service hostess near Centre Court at

**Royal Randwick Shopping Centre**  
Belmore Road, Randwick  
between 11 and 3 p.m. daily

You'll receive a FREE scan and win entry form. Check instantly to see if you've won an **Apple ipod mini**. Then place your entry form in the barrel for the **Apple ipod photo** draw at 3 p.m., Sunday May 29.

For more chances to win make a purchase of \$30+ at any Royal Randwick store.

Tom Stoppard's

# The Real Inspector Hound



Week 10

**Thursday 12th, Friday 13th, Saturday 14th**

7:30 pm

New College, UNSW, Anzac Parade

Students \$7, Non-Students \$10

For Bookings Call: 938 111 750

New College  
Student's Association



Proudly Supported by:

# WANT TO LIST YOUR EVENT IN WHAT'S ON?

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

1. Event name
2. Organiser
3. Location
4. Date
5. Time
6. Cost
7. Description of 50-100 words.

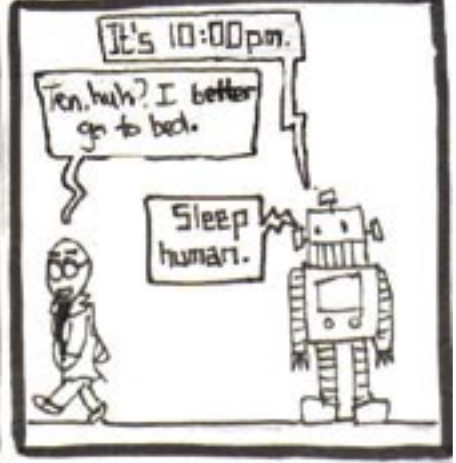
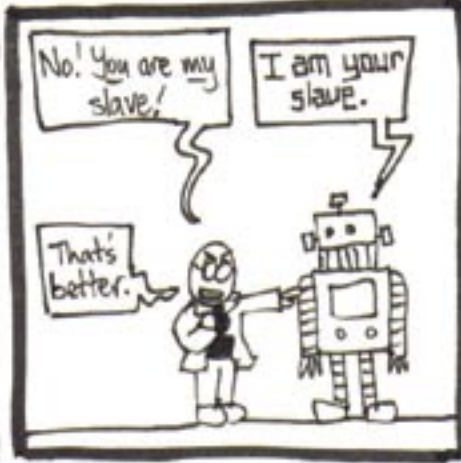
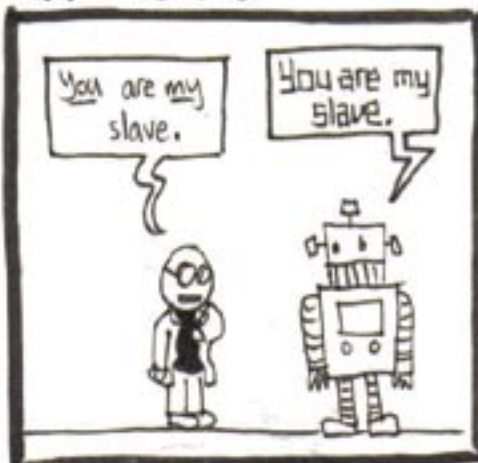
*The description is compulsory!*

You can also find an electronic template on the Union website, under 'Blitz', 'What's On Template' heading.

[www.union.unsw.edu.au](http://www.union.unsw.edu.au)

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

## WHO'S THE BOSS?



e. 04/10/04  
(04/10/04)



The idea must occur to every stoner at some stage in their life that the act of recording their wiped-out, vague, stuttering conversations and setting them to music would open a vast mine of comedy gold that must be unleashed upon a grateful world. Fortunately for the world, most stoners have nowhere near the amount of cash, drugs or motivation to make this happen.

Quasimoto is one exception. His album *The Further Adventures of Lord Quas* is 26 tracks of half-tunes and sound-bites, all thrown together without regard for continuity or sense. At one moment Lord Quas will be rapping in his high, nasally voice about "...gettin' more ass than toilet paper." Another will feature random voices talking about, well, I'm not exactly sure. In between all this some music might break out, but not for long.

While it might appear that making no sense from second to second is a disadvantage, it must be remembered that in the state of Quasimoto's desired audience, a second can be an awfully long time. Perhaps the album's true genius might lay in a state of mind, but 26 tracks would be an awfully long time if it didn't.- **Ben Smyth**

## KT Tunstall - Eye To The Telescope

New and upcoming young artist KT Tunstall is a Chinese-Scottish delight. Her name is actually Kate but she prefers KT as it has "...a bit more attitude". Her debut album, *Eye to the Telescope* is impressive. With a mellow and familiar sound, KT Tunstall could be taken for a mix of Norah Jones and Tori Amos. She plays her music and writes her songs, something very few of her age can boast these days.

Her lyrics come with a tone of modesty and each song is deeply heartfelt. The choruses are simple and slightly catchy but not in a bad way. She has an earthly individuality to her sound and most of her songs reminisce of failed love and calm waters.

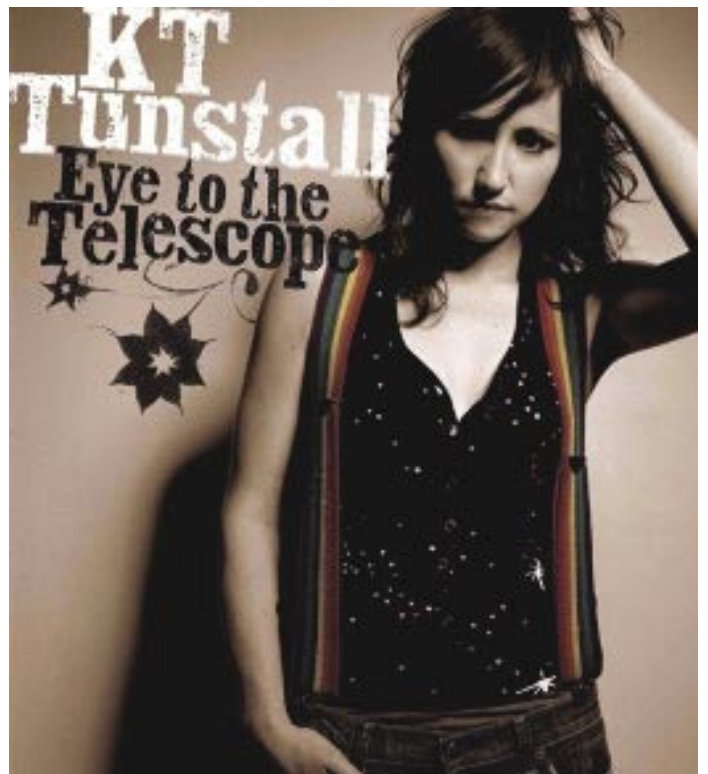
"My songs examine and explore little specific emotions or situations or stories," she explains. "They're kitchen table songs, like a conversation between me and one other person." Tracks such as 'Another Place to Fall' and 'Under the Weather' are easy listening and ensure that this girl has got the goods. 'Heal Over' is a ballad about moving on, about learning to get over the past and mend. If you're into soft rock and a Capella sounds, get your ears ready for KT - **April Smallwood.**



Jin broke out of obscurity in the US after performing on the music video show *106 & Park*, where he lyrically battled and defeated challenging freestyle rhymer seven weeks in a row. Not long after, he was signed by the Ruff Ryders label, and...well, the album title says it all.

Those who have seen or heard some of Jin's performances will agree that he is indeed a talent. The problem is that Jin hasn't translated this into a quality album; *The Rest Is History* doesn't have that live energy. Most of the problem comes down to poor production. The backing beats for some tracks seem amateur and boring. There is hope in tracks such as 'Love Story', 'Thank You' and 'Cmon' which allow a more personal insight to the rapper, but his most well known single, 'Learn Chinese' is actually one of the weakest.

*The Rest is History* is an average debut album. At times it seems that Jin is trying to play on his title as "The only Chinese rapper in the game," more than his talents. There is definite potential, but unfortunately it doesn't get a chance to stand out - **Matt Lim.**



**Blitz has five copies of KT Tunstall's latest single, 'Black Horse and the Cherry Tree', to give away.** To win, rearrange the letters in the following phrase to form a new phrase that has been used in this edition of Blitz: **INSTANTLY UNVIRTUOUS DEMON**

Send your answer to [comps@union.unsw.edu.au](mailto:comps@union.unsw.edu.au) with 'Blitz Week 10' as the subject.





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## 2005 ELECTION OF FOUR (4) ORDINARY MEMBERS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES UNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

### Rehana AHMED

Hi, I'm Rehana Ahmed. Since starting university as a part-time Commerce student in 2004, I have been involved with a variety of clubs and associations that are a part of UNSW and I have seen first hand the benefits, opportunities and potential of student organisations – if given proper direction. This is particularly an issue for part-time students such as myself, for whom the opportunities are less obvious simply because we are not on campus as much as an ordinary student.



I believe all students have a right to student services. University is about more than just a degree - it's also about the vibrant student life and culture that organisations such as the Union provide for. The Union must have an active board ready to combat VSU and its negative ramifications. We must preserve student services and ensure that regardless of what happens, student life is never destroyed.

### Kate BARTLETT

I am a third year Arts student and have been involved with the Union from my first year at University. I have taken part in many of the valuable volunteer programs offered by the organisation and am currently a member of the Food and Retail Committee. My aim in running for the UNSW Union Board is to contribute to the organisation that I feel has offered me many opportunities throughout my degree. I feel that it is important to maintain a financially viable institution should Voluntary Student Unionism come into place and will work hard to ensure that. Other policy objectives of mine include making it easier for students to pay their fees by providing options such as repayment schedules; more varied entertainment and social options for students; and providing more opportunities for students to increase their skills going into the workforce to ensure better employment.



### Belinda BENTLEY

Hi my name is Belinda, but feel free to call me Bel. I am 19 and a second year Science/Arts student. So I guess I'm going to be here for a while. The reason why I am running for Union Board Director is not because I think I can make one dramatic change but because I care about the direction of services for students on campus and I think I can make a genuine difference. Like many students, I choose to work hard to get through Uni and when I come onto campus I want to be able to have access to things that I need from day to day. At the end of the day, it is your choice as students to determine your own needs. Vote for me to ensure that what we need as students is what we are going to get and nothing less.



### Josh BRANDON

As a student for four years (Media/Communications), active in campus life (Student Theatre, Law Revue – directing this year) and a volunteer for many of the Union's programs (Yellow Shirts, Anti-VSU Campaign, among others) – in addition to serving on its Finance Committee – I believe I can best ensure that the Union will continue to thrive as the community centre of Campus and respond even more to the needs of its members.

My proposals include:

- Making the \$2 coffee trial permanent
- Better feedback avenues, such as one-on-one student consultations with Board Directors.
- 8 cent photocopying and other money-saving measures for members

Importantly:

- Students need a voice in the governance of their organisation, and someone who will listen and respond to them.
- With VSU on the horizon, we need experienced people – knowledgeable in the operation of the Union – to see it through the challenging times ahead.





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## 2005 ELECTION OF FOUR (4) ORDINARY MEMBERS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES UNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

### Andrew O'LOUGHLIN

Do you often find yourself asking, "where are all the superheroes on campus?" "Why is HackASS the only Superhero on campus?" "Why don't I have a caped crusader to escort me at night?"



The Union has failed to deliver when it comes to making UNSW a Superhero friendly campus. Instead of promising promises that cannot be delivered on, like "shaking up" The Union, making The Union more "accountable" and "responsive to student needs", I – Hac- I mean Roo (Andrew O'Loughlin), will push for the following changes.

- Gimp masks sold on campus
- XXXtra large condoms to be distributed. The well endowed have been discriminated against for too long.
- Pay the fines or bail applications of Superheroes in their service of UNSW.

Remember, I – Ha- Roo (Andrew O'Loughlin) am the only candidate endorsed by HackASS UNSW's favourite (and only) Superhero and Stuntmaster extraordinaire.

### James YE

Hi guys! My name is James Ye. I'm a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Commerce/Law student. Uni has so much more to offer than just a degree! Uni is about campus life, whether it's soaking up the sunshine on the library lawn, lighting up the dance floor at the Roundhouse, or participating in your favourite club or society.



The Union is the centre of campus life. It contributes hugely to the social life of students through drinks and parties – but the Union is more than just fun and games – it's about developing students personally through volunteerism and other programs. The Union faces many challenges in the near future with the introduction of VSU, it's even more important now for students to represent students on the Union Board to ensure it never loses sight of why it exists – working to organise events and provide services FOR student needs.

We can do better.



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## 2005 ELECTION OF FOUR (4) ORDINARY MEMBERS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES UNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

### Steve<sup>2</sup> LEGG

Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) is a considerable threat to the UNSW Union. When similar legislation was introduced in Western Australia, student organizations only managed to recoup between 6 and 33% of the fees under a compulsory system. Student fees represent around a third of the Union's current revenues. The Union will need to investigate alternative sources of funding such as sponsorship or cost cutting through reduction of subsidies and service levels involving considerable restructuring of Union activities.



Whilst Treasurer of the Union we have:

- conducted cost/benefit analysis of the organization
- reviewed operation of the Union's commercial services department
- investigated alternative fee structures
- budgeted for V.S.U. under differing scenarios

If re-elected I will:

- drive alternative revenue raising through sponsorship, external catering and commercial operation of the Union's food and retail outlets;
- push for restructuring of internal Union services (HR, accounts, IT, Building) to reduce costs.

### Shahid MAJEED

Faculty

Commerce and Economics

Education

BSc. (Mathematics) – {1993 – 1995}

MBA (Marketing) – {1996 – 1998}

MCOM (Advanced Marketing) – {2000 – 2001}

MCOM (Professional Accounting) - {2001 – 2002}

MCOM (Organisation and Management) – {2004 – Current}

Diploma of Market Research – {2004}

Experience

Student Counselor (The Science Academy) – {1995 – 1996}

Internship (HSBC) – {1998}

Associate Consultant (IMDC) – {1998 – 1999}

Customer Service for RTA (The Austwide Group) – {2000 – 2003}

Student Relations Officer (Faculty of Commerce and Economics, UNSW) – {2003 – Current}

Positions/Distinctions

President (Commerce and Economics PG Executive Council) – {2003}

PG Student Rep (Commerce and Economics Education Committee) – {2003 – 2004}

PG Student Rep (Commerce and Economics OHS Committee) – {2004 – Current}

Founder ("FINE" PG Peer Mentoring Program)

Founder (Commerce and Economics PG Executive Council)

Winner (The FCE Dean's Award for Service)

Nominee (UNSW Alumni Graduated Award)

Memberships

Member - Australian Institute of Management

Member - Australian Marketing Institute

Member - Market and Social Research Society of Australia



# Tipping the Balance

by Rob Gascoigne

**O**n July 1 of this year, the terms of half of the representatives in the Australian Senate will end and those Senators elected in last October's general election will take their seats. What is unique about this incoming government is that the Coalition will now have power over both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

For 38 of the last 43 years, the government of the day has not had a majority in the Senate. The last government to have the luxury of a bicameral (having two legislative bodies) majority was Malcolm Fraser. If you are twenty-two years old or younger, this is an event that has not occurred in your lifetime.

What this constitutive difference between the Lower and Upper Houses has generally meant is that a government, in order to pass

legislation, has had to make agreements and compromises with non-government Senators. When a minor party or an independent Senator has had the 'balance of power' in the Senate, they have had a lot of influence over the legislation being moved through the chamber. In 2000, for example, the Australian Democrats struck a deal with the government in order to pass the GST; certain concessions were made and the government's proposed tax gained a Senate majority and became law.

The need for governments to make these sorts of concessions has, on occasion, proved a thorn in the side of the government of the day. Prime Minister Keating once dismissed the Senate as "unrepresentative swill" because it forced compromises from what he believed to be the 'legitimate' government – the majority formed in the House of Representatives.

Keating's difficulties have been shared by other Prime Ministers, not least of all John Howard. Howard has had a lot of difficulty in moving a number of his proposed reforms through the Senate, such as the Government's proposed reforms to Student Unionism. But come July, the Government's problems in the Senate will be reduced. The need to make deals with independent or minor party Senators, or compromise on a particular policy platform, will evaporate and the Government will, within the limits of the Constitution, have a free hand to do what it likes.

Whether you think this situation is good or bad will depend on your own approach to politics. Even if you're not a supporter of the Coalition, you might support strong government. But, no matter what your stance on the operation of government, you've got to wonder what

# It's a major gear shift if you think about it: protesters will have to target the representatives who are forming policies, rather than aligning themselves with those who are opposing them.

changes the government will put in place without any institutional restraints acting on it.

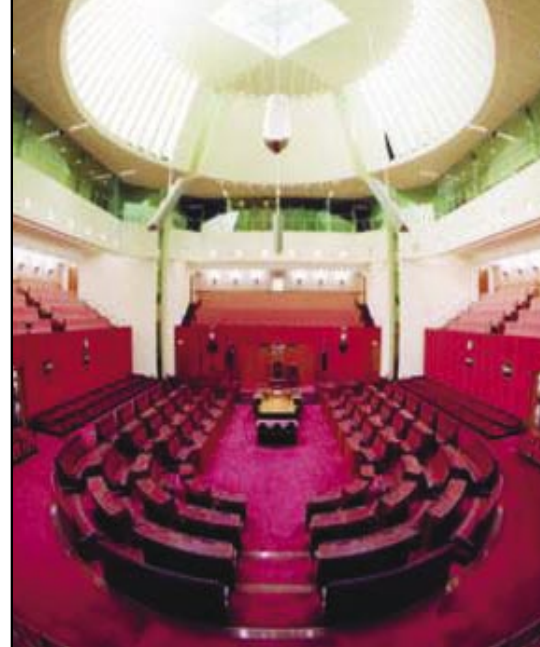
In the past, governments that have had a bicameral majority have not made many major reforms. This has apparently been one of the principle criticisms made of the Fraser government of 1975-1983 from within the Coalition. John Howard was Treasurer in that government and it can be confidently assumed that he has very clear ideas of what could have been done with that opportunity. It's unlikely that he will let this chance pass him by. Moreover, there's a lot of pressure on him now from groups that have given both financial and political support to the Coalition to ensure that they use this opportunity to make some major changes. If ever there was a time where the Howard Government was going to implement a major reform agenda, this is going to be it.

The potential implications of an unfettered government are self-evident. But perhaps what's going to be most interesting is how, in the next three years, opposition to the Government's agenda will operate. Senator Kerry Nettle, Greens Senator for NSW and UNSW Alumnus, has some very clear ideas on this. "In the past, people that have disagreed with government policy have been able to make three phone calls: to the Greens, Democrats and Labor," says the Senator, "but now the only way to influence legislation ... is if Coalition backbenchers are made aware that the concerns in their electorate are so great that they themselves will start to feel uncomfortable about pursuing that agenda."

If there is going to be opposition to the Government's reforms it will have to be conducted outside of Parliament, in the hope of influencing Coalition Senators. The only checks on the executive's power will come from within the governing Coalition itself. It's a major gear shift if you think about it: protesters will have to target those representatives who are forming policies, rather than aligning themselves with those who are opposing them.

Senator Nettle goes on to point out, however, that protesters who take this course of action will have to be strategic about it. "People from regional communities tend to hear the voices within their communities more strongly," she says. "In the current debate on VSU for example, talking to Senators or members who cover areas that rely on a regional university - and a lack of university services meaning a lack of services and employment for the whole local community - could have a really significant impact." Politics will be conducted now, not by those with common interests, but by those who strategically approach their opponents.

No matter who you are or what you do, the change in the constitution of government is going to affect you. The impact is likely greater if you consider that most of the people reading this will be entering the workforce full-time within the next three years. Until the next election, Australian politics will operate in an entirely new manner. If you're in favour of this, it will mean a change in your appreciation of government. But, if you're opposed to it, it's going to mean that you will have to rethink the way you approach politics - the way you play the game. It's going to be an interesting three years.



## Things you should already know: A brief crash-course in Australian parliamentary politics

Candidates for Australian Federal Government stand for election every three years. Potential members in the House of Representatives stand in a particular electorate (a geographical area with a size determined by its population. There are 150 electorates). Potential Senators run for representation within a state or territory (12 per state, two per territory). Candidates can stand as independents, but most are members of a political party.

The term of a Senator is six years rather than three. This means that at each general election (excluding a double-dissolution), only half of the seats in the Senate are up for re-election.

The party that gains the most seats in the Representatives forms government. The persons that lead the government form the executive cabinet, which determines the government's policy direction. Note that the existence of political parties is not a requirement of the Constitution; technically Australia could be governed with nothing but 226 independent representatives and no Prime Minister.

A proposed policy is presented to the House of Representatives in the form of a 'bill'. The bill must be passed by majority through the Representatives before it moves on to the Senate. If a majority of Senators agree to pass the bill, it goes to the Governor-General who gives it royal assent. It then becomes an Act and a binding law.

When a minor party or individual has the balance of power, it means that the major parties do not have enough votes to pass or reject a bill on their own. In this situation the vote of this minor party or independent is the decisive one.

**Research participants wanted for a one hour group decision-making experiment in SISTM, UNSW.** Each participant will be compensated AU\$10.00 (either movie ticket or gift voucher). Requirements: undergraduates at UNSW with good command of English. Email Patrick Shi ([z3042404@student.unsw.edu.au](mailto:z3042404@student.unsw.edu.au)) by providing your email address, tel no., name & gender. Please indicate "Research Participant" in your email subject.

**unsweetened submissions.** *unsweetened* is looking for submissions. Entries close Friday 27 May, Week 12. Prizes of up to \$400 in book vouchers available to winners in Under-Grad Fiction and Poetry and Post-Grad Fiction and Poetry. Submission details available from U-Space and the Union website or email [unsweetened@union.unsw.edu.au](mailto:unsweetened@union.unsw.edu.au).

**Can you help build the next Google?** Visit [http://129.94.108.23/health\\_searching/info.html](http://129.94.108.23/health_searching/info.html). People who have used a search engine before are invited to participate in a 30-60 min web-based experiment to answer six interesting, health-related questions using a search engine. Participants can win one of 100 movie tickets. Contact: Annie Lau, at [anniel@student.unsw.edu.au](mailto:anniel@student.unsw.edu.au), or 9385 9035 or 0431 599 890.

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**Selling something? Buying something? Need a flatmate? Single? Studying at UNSW? Penniless?**

Even if you are unlucky enough to be all of these things, you can solve them at the same time by putting a classified in Blitz! It might look something like this:

"Can't buy me love - but you can buy my 1989 Mitsubishi Lancer, powder blue, automatic, some rust. Will sell to, and subsequently spend the proceeds on, the right girl who is not afraid of commitment and can move in with seller after March 3. Buyer must also study at UNSW and be willing to car pool, as seller will no longer own transport."

Okay, so you can have separate classifieds if you want. The best thing is that if you're a UNSW student the classifieds are free for non-commercial use. Just email your classified to [blitzeditor@union.unsw.edu.au](mailto:blitzeditor@union.unsw.edu.au) no less than twelve days before (always a Wednesday) the magazine is released (always a Monday).

**Crossword Answers for Week 9:**

Across: 1. SINCITY; 5. ZIMBABWE; 7. PINK; 10. BRACELETS; 13. INFLATION; 15. HOSPITAL; 16. HITLER; 17. POLLOCK; 18. BETTEDAVIS. Down: 2. INDIGNANT; 3. TOILET; 4. EBAY; 6. BADABAGAN; 8. MEATLOAF; 9. ESCARPMENT; 11. PHILOSOPHY; 12. POOR; 14. PLATYPUS.

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# VOX POPS

...prowls for some food



**NICK**

**What are you eating?**  
Wedges

**Are they any good?**  
They're alright

**Any other favourite places?**  
I don't usually eat on campus



**TAGY**

**What are you eating?**  
Pasta and Garlic

**Is it any good?**  
The bread is alright, the pasta I could cook better myself!


**Any favourite places to eat on campus?**  
Not really. Sometimes upper campus because most of my classes are up there.

**NICK**

**Do you come here often?**  
Yeah, fairly regularly.

**What are you eating?**  
A California roll with wasabi and soy

**How's the value for money?**  
It's OK. Fairly standard pricing

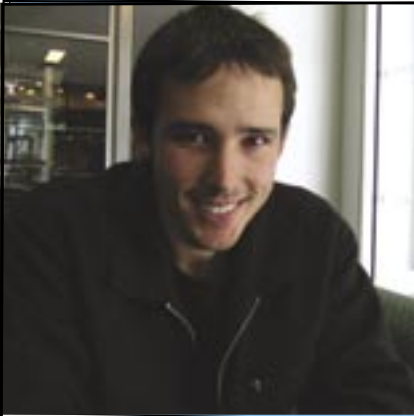



**JOE**

**What are you eating?**  
Hamburger and chips

**Is it good?**  
It's pretty good, yeah

**Any other places you eat at Uni? How's the value for money?**  
Anywhere with food really, doesn't matter. It's pretty good, it's pretty big.



**LAURIE**

**Do you come here often?**  
Yes

**What were you eating?**  
Turkey sushi with soy sauce


**How's the food? Any other favourite places?**  
It's good. That place next to the...it starts with a C....Colonnade! That's it.

**JOE**

**What are you eating?**  
Hamburger and chips

**Is it good?**  
It's pretty good, yeah

**Any other places you eat at Uni? How's the value for money?**  
Anywhere with food really, doesn't matter. It's pretty good, it's pretty big.



**EMMA**

**What are you eating?**  
A chicken chilli burger and chips

**Is it good?**  
Umm...yeah it's alright

**Do you have any other favourite places to eat?**  
Not really.

**NANCY**

**Do you come here often?**  
Yeah

**What are you eating?**  
A beef kebab

**How is it?**  
It's great!

**Any other favourite eateries around Uni?**  
Sushi at the Roundhouse and the bagels at the Coffee Republic



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