

the western onion
UWS student newspaper

2005 Semester 1 Issue 1

"Quantity not Quality"

50% of Economics and Finances Classes Cut

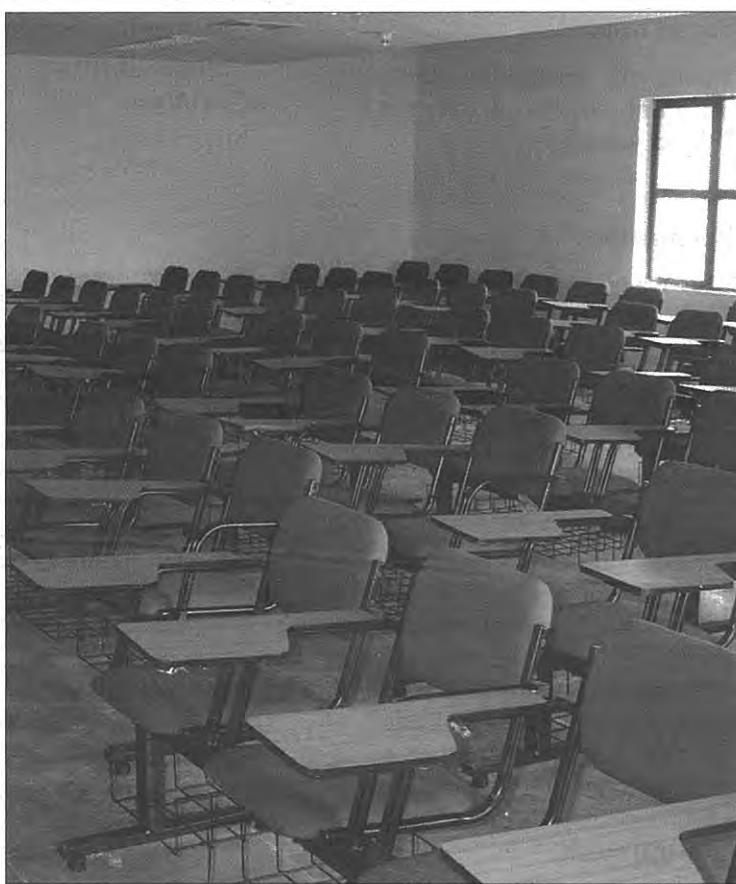
By Fang Lu

Students in the School of Economics and Finance will return to uni this week to discover that 50% of their tutorials have been cut. Instead of weekly tutorials they will now only have fortnightly classes.

The decision was made three weeks before semester started without consultation with staff and they are understandably annoyed. Michael Rafferty, a lecturer in the school said the decision was **"blatant cost cutting."** The change has no academic benefit, in fact it will be severely detrimental, according to Mr. Rafferty.

"We have half as much time with students as we did before, so we can't get through as much work. We have been told to 'adjust our courses according.'"

Staff have also been instructed that they are allowed to spend a maximum of 40 minutes per semester assessing each student. This leads to a



Getting a seat won't be a problem 50% of the time

dumbing down, Mr. Rafferty said.

"It takes 20 minutes to mark an exam, so that leaves 20 minutes for the entire rest of the semester. It basically means no essays whatsoever. The problem is, essays teach the writing skills that students need. When you're in the workforce, no one asks you to do a multiple choice test."

Mr. Rafferty said that the changes are debasing the course. "In each subject you're only learning half as much as you used to. **It really**

Continued page 4

New education course to 'pump out graduates'

By Luke Fomiatti

UWS has recently won several grants to continue their innovative approach to higher education. One of the ways they are doing this is by new Bachelor of Education degrees which will dramatically increase the quantity of teachers graduating from UWS.

University spokesperson Bob Dawkins told *The Western Onion* **"We realised that the current teacher shortage actually has nothing to do with the shit pay and**

conditions that teachers have, and is in fact due to the too high standards to which we hold them. Our new programme will pump out graduates like nothing ever seen before. We have a target of doubling our output to 1200 per year."

Now graduates can get a Bachelor of Education that will satisfy the NSW Department of Education by passing 120 credit points worth of subjects instead of the normal 320. The thinking behind this is that everyone who has a degree already knows high school maths,

Continued page 4



Students are enthusiastic about the changes to the education degrees

Letters

Queen

I read with horror the article in your last issue 'QE2 calls for legalisation of cannabis, incest'. My dismay was increased however when I discovered that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II did not in fact mention either of these topics in her Christmas address as you reported.

Our monarch has a proud history of speaking against drug abuse. While in the 'anything goes' 60s some wags spread stories of wild all night 'saturnalias' in Buckingham Palace, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE. Secondly, I have never heard the Queen advocate anyone else adopting the royal practise of 'keeping the blood pure'.

You must apologise for these wild and unsubstantiated accusations against someone who, unlike those involved in this newspaper, spends all her time working for the benefit of mankind.

A. Albert Witherthroe
Arts II

Frogmore does have WMDs

Yawn. Yet another lefty, commo hate-filled tract ('Frogmore House has no WMDs everyone'). It doesn't

matter how much you rant and rav [sic] because the vast majority support our Vice-Chancellor, our Prime Minister and our President. This newspaper is futile.

George Liu
Business IV

Letters page

Everybody knows you ma4ke [sic] these letters up. It's just lame.

Name withheld by request.
Education I

333 Bus

What is going on with UWS? The 333 station-uni shuttle bus at Parramatta has been cancelled! This bus provided an essential service by making it easy(er) for students to get to uni by public transport.

Cancelling the bus will mean even more cars on the roads and the already chockers car parks, students getting further into debt buying these, global warming caused by the burning of fossil fuels and the government participating in further wars to make sure we still can.

Go on, write us a letter

Tell us how much you love *The Onion* or otherwise.

We reserve the right to publish anything we get and write sarcastic comments after it.

Be sure to include your degree as this week's letter writers so kindly have. (If you write something we don't like you will be hunted down and killed. This is so we can find you.)

Letters can be sent to uwsonion@yahoo.com (observant readers will notice that this is the same place that all other submissions go to).

Josephine B. Styrge
Health Science III

Editors respond:

Thanks for yesterday's news. Uni admin sold us out over the 333 bus years ago.

Helpful tips

The Wednesday February 8 Penrith Press's 'Money' column was up to its usual standard of providing totally useless information. Paul Clitheroe advised readers to 'do as the rich do' and save or invest 30% of our income.

Maybe Paul doesn't realise it, but saving 30% of an income of \$200 000 is a lot easier than saving 30% of the average student's income of \$15 000. Also, whereas putting aside \$60 000 a year will turn in a decent amount pretty quickly, \$5000 a year really doesn't add up to that much.

To 'do as the rich do', you actually have to be rich.

Tamara Robinisque
Equine Studies II

VSU

I hear the government is planning on bringing in voluntary student unionism. This is fantastic news. From now on we won't have to pay fees that pay for useless services like childcare and fund extremist political causes like the ALP.

Jarred 'Muffer' George
Ag III

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Fine Arts II

All Full Up

So I hear UWS is offering 10000 new students places this year. Where do they expect to put them? Already we have to get chairs from neighbouring classrooms just so we don't have to sit on the floor (which is apparently a violation of the occupational health and safety rules). With so many new students, those other rooms will be filled as well, and not have any chairs or desks to spare. Will we be looking at our classes through the window next?

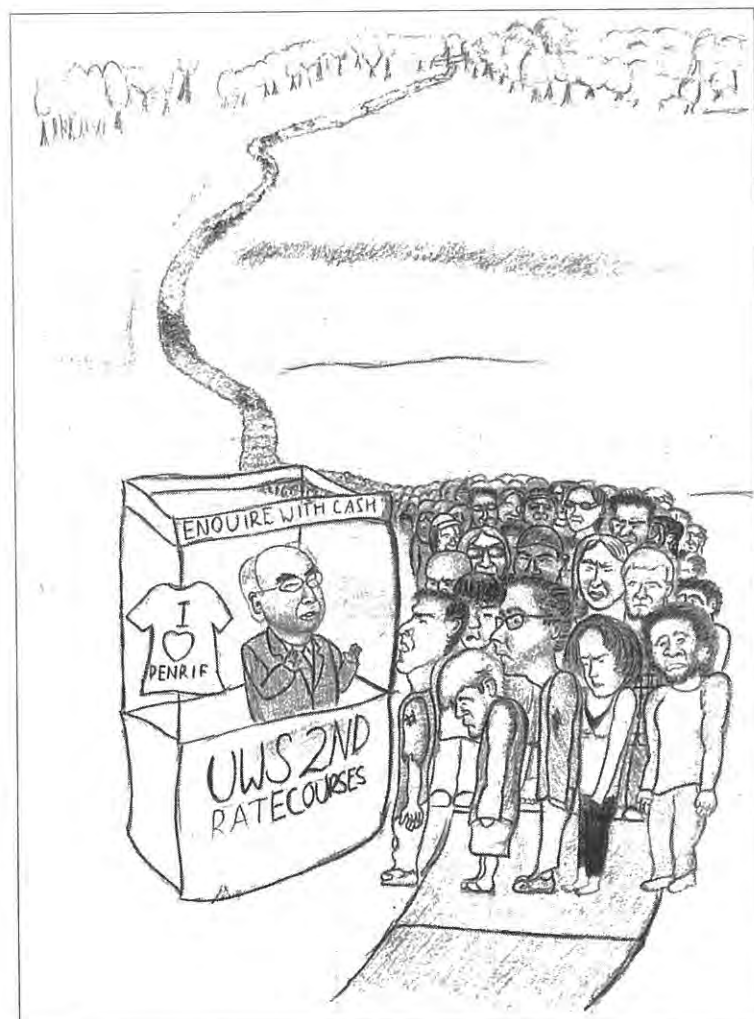
Sonja Miko

UWSConnect

I think it is outrageous that UWS has taken over all students' bars and cafes. These have been paid for over the years by students' money. What right does the uni have to seize them, US government in Iraq-style?

No doubt next they'll be privatised and charges will go through the roof as already shaky service hits rock bottom.

Boris Khrushchev
Science / Law IV



The Western Onion

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The Western Onion is published by the UWSSA Interim Board. The views expressed in articles in *The Onion* are the views of their respective authors and not of UWSSA or *The Onion* unless so noted. They may however be the views of Janice Reid, we don't know.

Students and others are invited to submit articles and photos to *The Onion* at the email address above. We do not pay for submissions but may be able to reimburse for costs.

"Jan Won't Listen to UWS Staff"

By Jennifer Jack

An early 8 am barbecue set the scene for a serious protest outside the Chancellery at the Werrington North Campus on



You can tell it's an academics' protest when the apostrophe is in the right place



Vice Chancellor Janice Reid did not attend the protest

February 16. This is the third time in a row that members of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) have camped outside this building, awaiting the arrival of the UWS Board of Trustees. Their cause - unfair treatment of staff at UWS and how this treatment is affecting university life for all staff and students.

As a first year student I was unaware of the issues facing my soon to be teachers at UWS and what the NTEU involved. The NTEU represents staff in all Australian universities. They therefore have a strong focus on the needs of students for quality education and their banners at the protest reflected this. "UWS Executive Out", "Dumb Down Subjects To Pay For Administration" and "Our Earned Reputation Deserves Fair Pay And Conditions" surrounded the entrance to the Board meeting.

The Board of Trustees is placing a huge amount of stress on our university staffs' shoulders in terms of decreased funding and increased workload. They have taken funding from research and teaching activities and have expected staff to maintain the same professional standards. Staff are campaigning to convince the Board of Trustees to pay attention to the crisis that is facing the academic and general staff at UWS.

Robyn Moroney, President of the UWS NTEU Branch said "We are hurting so badly that we cannot provide the sort of quality of teaching and research that we are capable of and that students require."

Another issue that is facing not only staff but also students is parking. Members pressed the arriving Board members to do something about the conditions of parking at UWS and on how the parking policy had been breached by introducing fees without consultation.

The members of the NTEU are set to fight on these issues and in doing so create a brighter long term future for the university.

UWS Richmond Emergency Accommodation Closed

On Monday February 7 the UWSSA board voted to make permanent the closure of the emergency student accommodation service at Richmond campus. The closure came amidst concerns that the service was not up to a professional standard and that the association may therefore be legally liable for breaching its duty to students using it.

There were also allegations of mismanagement and suggestions that the majority of students using the accommodation were not in fact in emergency situations.

The service was established by the now defunct Hawkesbury Students' Association in 2001 to provide help to students in situations of domestic violence or other dire

circumstances by providing low cost accommodation until they could find a permanent place to stay.

UWSSA board member Amber Jacobus said, "it's a shame that we are unable to continue providing this service as part of the student association's brief is helping the most vulnerable."

"However, this decision in no way means that we have turned our back on students with accommodation problems. Our caseworkers are happy to help anyone who doesn't have a safe place to stay by giving out details for a range of community and government run emergency accommodation services."

"Anyone in this situation should speak to their campus student association."

Globalise Justice - Not War and Poverty!

Third Asia Pacific International Solidarity Conference

Easter — 24-28 March, 2005
Ashfield Boys High School, Sydney

Keynote speakers:



Stan Goff, US military veteran, with a son in Iraq, and now campaigner with the Bring Them Home Now! movement against the US occupation of Iraq.



Dita Sari, former political prisoner, Indonesian labour leader and anti-globalisation campaigner and winner of Asia's Nobel Prize, the Magsaysay Award.

Plus activists speaking from

South Korea * the Philippines * Aceh * West Papua * Palestine
Indonesia * Pakistan * Bangladesh * Turkey * Mauritius * India
New Zealand * United States * Europe * Latin America

Bookings phone (02) 9690 1977 or email <apisc2005@bigpond.com>

Organised by Green Left Weekly newspaper
in association with Action in Solidarity with Asia and the Pacific (ASAP)



Editorials

On Friday January 28 the UWS Students' Association board voted to establish, for the first time ever, a newspaper by and for all 40 000 students across the 6 UWS campuses. While not exactly historic, this decision does mark a turning point in the existence of UWS as an institution.

The Onion will become part a long tradition of student publishing in Australia. Over the years these papers and magazines have focused critical eyes on universities and the society in which they exist. Several editors have been gaoled for their willingness to upset polite company.

We don't aim for anyone to be thrown in gaol but we do want to follow their example of not just reflecting reality as we see it, but challenging and shaping it. In the most banal way, the very act of founding this paper reflects these ideals. We chose to produce a paper for the entire uni rather than individual campuses, not because we think this reflects the reality of students' UWS experience, but because we aim to broaden these and in the unity of all students find a new strength to fight for our interests.

On the other hand, the name *The Western Onion* is totally meaningless. Go figure.

Regardless, this paper will only be successful in so far as it is genuinely the voice of UWS students. With this end in mind our doors are wide open to contributions of articles, photos, cartoons, fiction, poetry and whatever else may strike the fancy.

UWS was created by struggle. Nowadays the federal ALP likes to claim credit for the idea of a university in western Sydney but in 1987 Labor Education Minister John Dawkins said he opposed it because it would be a 'second rate university'. It was only through the efforts of students, staff and the community that UWS exists at all. However, eighteen years on, Dawkins's vision is in danger of becoming a reality.

First and foremost, the blame for this rests with this and previous Federal Governments. The Labor Government of the early 90s refused to provide sufficient funding to create self-contained universities in different parts of the west, instead forming a bureaucratic 'federal' structure. This pales in comparison though to the levels of neglect and outright hostility achieved by the Liberals. They have given us a higher education system where students pay more than ever before, but get significantly less. Our infrastructure is crumbling. Students are crammed into overcrowded classes run by overworked lecturers. If you want a job in academia, forget it, there's hardly money to pay current staff, let alone hire more.

The government now wants to destroy student organisations around the country as one of the few voices of resistance to this situation. They couch this in the language of choice they call it voluntary student unionism. What underlies it though is a conservative authoritarianism the Government doesn't like what we're saying, so they're going to shut us up.

Despite being hated by the Liberals, UWS administration is no friend of students. More than 50% of the UWS budget is spent on administration rather than education. Their response to the funding crisis has been to slash courses and staff while spending more on advertising, hoping that increased student numbers will solve their problems.

This is no solution. The people of western Sydney demand a quality education. They are not satisfied with the 'second rate university' that the UWS admin is turning us into.

We can fight against both the Liberal Government and those who run UWS, and we can win. Last year, students successfully campaigned to stop the uni raising fees. Every new student would right now be paying 25% more had no one bothered to run that campaign. When students organise together and with staff they can reshape the university.

We are now in a situation analogous to 1987. We need to totally change the direction of higher education in western Sydney. We need to recapture the fighting spirit that built UWS.

science, English and so on so all they need to learn is how to teach it.

"Some naysayers say that you need to learn how to teach as you learn what you are going to be teaching as it influences how and what you learn. This is just nonsense," said Dawkins. "It is the same kind of logic that says you need choice over your electives."

The new graduate entry Bachelor of Education will not only produce more teachers, it will also produce them faster. The old undergraduate-entry degrees took four years to complete, the new ones only one year. The six-subject-a-semester study load will keep students busy, according to Mr. Dawkins. "They'll have no time for wasting on protests, kids, jobs, and so on. We're about education at this uni."

"There'll also be less chance for students to develop an ongoing relationship with staff. Under the old system students would see most staff about three times at various points throughout their degree, allowing staff to see their progression and help them with any long term problems."

"Under the new system all subjects with the same lecturer will be done in the same semester, limiting chances of unnecessary contact and any relationship other than that of commodity buyer/seller developing. This will be most helpful when we want to restructure the school, as we frequently do, which always necessitates the sacking of some staff."

"In such a situation we certainly don't want students feeling they should 'support'

those staff."

Rumour has it that UWS intends to stop teaching secondary education at Bankstown and stop teaching primary education at Penrith. However, Mr. Dawkins was quick to deny this. "That would be putting financial imperatives before the wellbeing of our staff and students and the wider western Sydney community. We would never do such a thing."

Staff are reportedly ecstatic about the changes. In fact, they are so happy with the university administration that they refused to speak to *The Western Onion* on the record for fear that their comments may reflect badly on those staff who were not quoted.

Vice Chancellor Janice Reid stated that the changes will have no effect on the proposed Medical School.

Public transport group formed

Residents of western Sydney have formed a group to campaign for better public transport. Western Suburbs Commuters in Defence of Public Transport spokesperson Alistair Dickenson said that the collapse of Westbus shows the urgent need for action around public transport in the west.

"What we and the [Westbus] drivers want is for Sydney Buses to step in take over the running of public transport in Western Sydney," Mr. Dickenson said. "We want to turn around this trend of privatising everything. What we need is public ownership for public service, not private ownership for profit."

Subjects cut...

Continued from page 1

should be half the credit points."

"You can't say that our course is the equivalent of a course from, say, Sydney uni. They've always had better facilities like libraries but now they also have significantly more face to face teaching time."

"Actually, our degrees are moving closer and closer to TAFE qualifications."

Economics and Finance are just the beginning though. So far, only schools with financial problems have been targeted for these radical reforms. However, the fact that this is happening with University Executive approval signals that it is a trend that is likely to continue.

"It's the approach of a second rate small business," Mr. Rafferty caustically remarked. "You have cash flow problems so you cut the level of service."

"No one holds them accountable. They don't have to justify their pet projects to anyone. They spent \$4.5 million building a new Administration building at Werrington North campus and no one says a word."

"With these changes, they're relying on students not worrying, thinking less classes is better. What students need to realise is they're effectively only getting half a course."

Notes from the Prez...



Bernard Busooa - He's not actually the President (we don't have one at present), he's a very naughty boy

2005 looks to be a year of anticipation and expectation. It will be a big year for the Student Associations of UWS.

With 2004 behind us it seems that we are at the dawning of a new ERA. Gone are the old Student Associations like PPSA, CSA, BSA, MSRA and HSU. Now we can say hello to UWSSA and UWSSConnect. The University Administration has indicated that they would like 2005 to be a time of moving forward to provide more and better service to our students.

Happy to oblige to such a request, UWSSA are going to be providing better services than ever for the Students of UWS. We are going to be fighting for the rights of ALL students (regardless of gender, ethnicity, religious beliefs, sexuality, whatever) and ensure that ALL students can learn in a safe and positive environment.

We ask the University (which now owns all of the catering facilities across UWS) to do the same. UWS is now charging more for the provision of catering outlets than it ever has before (a whopping \$6million in student fees in 2005) and for that we expect that the quality of service matches the cost.

We are also at a time when the administration has taken drastic and unprecedented steps in its rearrangement of UWS courses. Some courses have disappeared altogether, some have been drastically modified and some have been reduced in size or moved to different campuses.

If you are among the 20,000 students who are going to be affected through the course of your degree by these changes then we would like to hear

from you. Don't just sit back and take cuts to your course; if you're not satisfied with ANY service within the university make sure that your voice is heard. Come and speak to your local SRC office bearer for more information.

The SRC of UWS passionately believe that ALL students are entitled to a quality degree and a memorable and worthy University experience. We believe that UWS has the potential to become a world class University, renowned for both its high quality of teaching and learning, and also for its respect and fair treatment of all those who enter its walls.

But this can only happen if the students take action and continue to help us help you to right any wrongs that are important to you.

As for me, this first-ever issue of *Western Onion* is as much a farewell as an introduction. I will not be serving a continued term as President for 2005.

It has been a pleasure serving the students of UWS over the past year. We survived what I think were the toughest times as far as student representation is concerned. I will ensure that the turbulent history of Student Organisations at UWS is not forgotten but I will be taking a back seat to younger and fresher leadership. I implore the new leaders of the student movement to remember that we got where we are by immense effort and passion, and I can only hope that this high level of energy and enthusiasm is maintained. I also hope that your journey from this point on is as rich and instructive for you as mine has been for me.

Yours in Union,
Bernard Busooa

UWS United Nations Society

By Lisa Dale

The UWS United Nations Society is one of UWS' newest and fastest growing societies. With over 170 members the society was established to provide a network for the promotion of a awareness and understanding of International Affairs including the United Nations within UWS and other Sydney universities. The society's main role is to encourage students to actively participate in international affairs through participating in discussion groups and attending guest speakers, social events and conferences. The main aim of UWSUNS in 2005 will be

to equip and prepare UWS delegates for the annual Australian Model United Nations Conference (AMUNC), which takes place in July. The conference provides a simulation of the United Nations where students directly participate in diplomacy by representing a country and committee. The conference is a life changing experience and this year UWS is attempting to field one of the largest and most equipped delegations.

If you are interested in joining or finding out more about UWSUNS go to www.uwsuns.org or email info@uwsuns.org. For more information about AMUNC 2005 visit www.amunc.net or



email info@amunc.net. For more information about the UN please visit www.un.org.

Joining UWSUNS will give you an opportunity to explore the world of international affairs and diplomacy as well as meeting people with similar interests. UWSUNS is always looking for committed students who would like to get more involved with the running of the society and organising events. If this is you please contact info@uwsuns.org.

UWS Film Co-op

The UWS Film Co-op meets every Monday at UWS Kingswood campus in U building, UG-43 at 5:30pm and provides a forum for those who enjoy watching pertinent, educational and entertaining films from the four corners of the globe. It also provides the opportunity for filmmakers to present their work to an audience and to benefit from feedback during discussions after the screening. UWS Film Co-op members include students, filmmakers, academics and film appreciators whose co-operative efforts have made the film co-op a continuing success.

The UWS Film Co-op's free screenings are offered to all and encourage friends, family and colleagues along to share in the unique experience of watching profound or thought-provoking cinema not offered at the local multiplex. The only pre-requisites for

membership are enthusiasm, passion for cinema and a willingness to participate in lively debates about film and its production. The UWS Film Co-op promotes UWS student work and local filmmakers by screening short films and animated works prior to each feature.

Memorable events over the last two years include guest speakers Tom Zubrycki ('Molly & Mobarak'), Khoa Do ('The Finished People') and Juan Salazar ('De La Tierra a la Pantalla'). The controversial screening of Larry Clark's 'Bully' in 2003 sparked much-needed debate on campus about the Australian Censorship Board's decision to ban Clark's latest film 'Ken Park' and generated a lively discussion about the prevailing laws that censor cinematic works in this country.

UWS lecturers Peter

McGregor and Philip Emery and a number of students conceived the idea for the Co-op in April 2003 in order to develop a much-needed film culture at Werrington South and Kingswood campuses. After the inaugural meeting of the UWS Film Co-op on 25 April 2003 a film programme was created and films began screening in May. Due to the success and growing enthusiasm during the initial screenings, film co-op members who nominate favourite films of every genre and nationality have compiled the seasonal film programmes.

The UWS Film Co-op aims to screen films of relevance to those who appreciate cinema, to encourage discussion and debate about film and film production, to offer support to students and amateur filmmakers, to showcase indigenous talent and to develop a 'film culture' on campus.

To find out about the UWS Film Co-op's new and exciting Autumn film program for 2005 and to confirm venue, time and day, visit www.uwsfilmco-op.vze.com

Programme fliers will be available at Werrington South and Kingswood at the start of semester.



UWS Queer Collective

By Olivia Noto (2004 Penrith Queer Officer)

University is a less safe place for some students than for others. Australian research about young people has found that schools can be very unsafe for students who are, or are perceived to be, gay, lesbian, or bisexual. A national report on the sexuality, health and well-being of same-sex attracted youth conducted in 1998 found that:

13% had been physically abused

46% had been verbally abused

Nearly 70% of this abuse had happened at school, by other students (60%), friends (10%) or teachers (3%)

Although studies specifically regarding Australian university students are difficult to come by, discrimination of queers unfortunately continues to be a problem on campus.

That's where the UWS Queer Collective comes in.

It is our aim that 2005 will see EVERY campus have a safe Queer Space, a working Queer Collective and assigned Queer Officers.

WHAT IS A QUEER SPACE?

A queer space is an autonomous space for queers (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, intersexed, questioning people etc). It is a place where safety is assured. Easy access should be guaranteed. Queer books and resources should be readily available. Whether you just wanna sit and chat or work on the next campaign, the choice is yours.

Why isn't there a straight place, you ask... There is. It's called Earth.

WHY HAVE A QUEER COLLECTIVE?

Your student association acts much like a workers' union. It provides a voice for students, by students. So those affected by homophobia organise

together (as the Queer Collective) to fight for queer rights on campus and student association provides support.

WHERE WE'RE AT NOW:

In 2004 Penrith and Parramatta joined forces to create their Queer Collective called 'Divertuality.' A Queer Space is currently located on Penrith (Werrington South) Campus, in building BNG13. (Conditions apply for access, but we're working to get a more ideal location.) Parramatta campus is currently negotiating a Queer Space near the River Bar. Bankstown is planning to get a Queer Space, Campbelltown has one (though it isn't ideal and there is no working collective on campus). And homophobia seems to reign supreme on the Hawkesbury and Blacktown campuses, where no Queer Spaces or Collectives have been established so far.

HOW TO BECOME A QUEER OFFICER?

This is a poor state of affairs across all six campuses, and more campaigning for Queer issues is vital to ensure safety for queers on campus.

You can help make campus a better place for queer students by joining (or in some cases, starting up) your own campus' Queer Collective.

With your help, 2005 WILL see a Queer Officer on EVERY campus. The candidate (who must identify as queer) will be elected by their collective, and be the voice for queer students in the student association. Plans to have a UWS-wide Queer Officer (presumably one male-identifying and one female-identifying) are being negotiated now.

There are many positions up for grabs, so join your Queer Collective today!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact your Student Association for more information on UWS Queer Collectives and keep an eye on these pages for upcoming events.

2005 TOOHEYS NEW EASTER CARNIVAL

University LAWN PARTY

WEDNESDAY MARCH 30 EMIRATES OAKS LADIES DAY ROYAL RANDWICK

The University Lawn Party will be the hottest place to be this Easter Carnival at Royal Randwick. Emirates Oaks Ladies day on Wednesday, March 30, will come alive on the Leger Lawn. All of Sydney's major Universities are participating in this huge party. It will be a great opportunity to catch a glimpse Australia's greatest thoroughbred action from a private party zone, amongst friends and counterparts.

WHAT'S ON OFFER

All inclusive beverage and entertainment ticket will entitle you to:

- Racecourse admission - \$25 (over 18 year olds)
- All inclusive beverage package (including beer, wine, soft drinks and sparkling)
- Live entertainment all day by

AFTER THE FALL, ROCKET SCIENCE ELEVEN LIVE

- Food voucher
- 7 University named marquees
- Trackside private party zone
- Competitions and giveaways
- Private food and betting facilities (food additional charge)

COST: \$79.95 per person (inc. GST)

BOOKINGS
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4 DAYS TO PLAY.
DAYS TO RECOVER.

A Guide to the Typical UWS Experience

By Lema Samandar

As you walk through the gates of the University of Western Sydney for the first time, you ask yourself what these open green fields with half a dozen buildings will offer you besides a degree. But there are many other questions you will ask yourself that will be due to the stress and confusion of getting started at uni.

You might drive into the quiet Werrington South campus and hope you haven't turned up to uni on the wrong day. Or wonder why the cafeteria still sells cherry coke when the rest of Australia stopped selling it a

year ago. Or visit the Allen library at the Kingswood campus and think that maybe the word 'library' has a different meaning at university. Indeed uni life is very different to your more structured high school days and UWS offers an experience like no other. So as a third year student who learned the hard way, I have some wise words for those in their first semester at UWS.

Firstly finding your way to class could prove a challenge. If you cannot find BB13 then just ask someone. But when they tell you you're standing in front of it, it's best just to walk in and not look back. For those

male students who would rather miss their class than ask for directions, if you're lucky you can find a rusted and outdated map on each campus.

You finally do make it to class but worry about the four-hour gap you have between classes because registering on Platform Web took five hours of your life, which you'll never get back. There are two things you can do. Either you can keep your tutorials and use your four hours wisely by doing your unit reading, researching for your essay and playing pool at the bar. Or you could politely e-mail the tutor of your favoured tutorial and ask if you can there are any



vacancies for you in that class.

You could also choose the bolder approach of turning up to a tutorial and asking if there is room for one more. Some tutors are more lenient than others but they also have to consider occupational health and safety rules for class sizes.

If you have work commitments, you can help your chances of changing tutorials by providing a letter from your employer.

By week two you should have located your classes and worked out your timetable. You now dream of making lifelong friends, enjoying the social life that UWS offers and doing well in your studies. Trying to make friends at uni is a lot like making friends on the first day of year seven. Everyone is eager to make as many friends as possible because they fear getting partnered up with the teacher or eating Krispy Kremes alone in their four-hour break. So learn from your year seven days and don't rush into inviting people to your birthday party just yet. You will settle in with the right people in time and since UWS campuses have smaller and friendlier populations, you should eventually get

acquainted with just about everyone in your course.

But if you hope to meet people like-minded through joining a society, you should be careful of what you sign up for. While you toss up between joining the Young Liberals or the left-wing UWS Education Collective just remember to join something that interests you.

Uni should be a fun experience but also remember that you are there to get professional qualification for future employment. In other words you want to at least pass your subjects. The best way to do this is to go to at least 80 per cent of your lectures and tutorials and do your unit readings.

Meanwhile the 3000-word final essay is due in a week and you haven't started because you're a last minute person. It is however very important to get all the research done weeks in advance and at least have thought about an argument. Just don't forget to return your library books when you stagger into uni the next day with a caffeine-pickled brain, it will cost you a dollar a day for each overdue book!

See you on campus!

Do You Know...

What it feels like for a girl?



By Ange Gillepsie

So many of the readers of this article will be the new crop of first year students and it is only a short stroll down memory lane for me to remember that nervous and uneasy feeling of my first days at university.

Settling into the uni lifestyle can be challenging for all students, but **as a female there are a few more confronting issues to be faced.**

Back when I was a first year I remember spending the best part of fifteen minutes trying to give 'the hint' to a group of male students that my friends and I were not interested in their advances; a process which began with a polite "No

thanks" and ended with a more abrupt "Just piss off".

I know that this example is a mild case of the harassment many female students face on campus, but that does not make it any more acceptable.

Well, what can WE do to resolve this problem? I believe the resolution of most problems lies in education. For example if John Howard lived one day as a female student, I'd bet that he wouldn't screw us the way he does! So UWSSA and the UWS Penrith Womyns Collective have come up with a fantastic and splendiferous idea.

Penrith campus will be hosting magnificent celebrations for International Women's Day. The theme for these

celebrations is "RESPECT - Find out what it means to me".

The first event will be held at on Tuesday 8 March, which will include a free BBQ, a forum on issues facing females at uni, nationally and internationally and a free self-defence workshop (for female-identifying students only).

Thursday night, 10 March, will be the big-ticket event, with a concert held in honour of International Women's Day at the Swamp Bar. Sydney punk rock band Skulker will be headlining and all female-identifying students will be admitted for free.

And for dedicated feminists we invite you to head down to Town Hall on Saturday, 12th March 2005 to join in the annual International Women's Day Rally, where there will be inspiring speakers and great entertainment.

All of these events are aimed at promoting the partnership that both genders need to be active in to ensure equality within our society. It is not only a female-identifying student's role to assert her equality, but also for male-identifying students to advocate respect and parity for their female peers.

It is the right of all students to study and socialise in a harassment free environment.

This is the first of a regular column exploring issues that affect women. If you would like to contribute, email uws womynsco@yahoo.com.au

DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL

WHAT ARE THE LIMITS?

A special forum organised by the School of Law featuring:

Justice Michael Kirby - High Court
Michael Head - UWS School of Law
Harland Koops - Henry Davis York

A discussion of issues surrounding recent High Court decisions on the detention of asylum seekers without trial, notably the cases of Al-Kateb and Al Khafaji

6-9pm Tuesday, 15 March
Lecture Theatre 1, Campbelltown Campus
All welcome

As the New Year Begins...

By Jesse Gardiner

The beginning of the uni student vacation after a busy spring semester heralds in a great many things. For many of us, the three month break provides a significant opportunity to work or seek employment in order to pay off the fee and textbook debts that seem to accrue throughout the year, or to at least prepare for the coming year's worth of payments. For those lucky enough, the break provides the opportunity to do a bit of travelling. While for others, the break provides the perfect opportunity to catch up on missed TV not to mention the feast of sport viewing pleasure to be had during the Australian summer.

For those of us involved with a Christian group on campus, such as **Campus Bible Ministries** or **University Bible Studies**, perhaps one of the highlights of the student vacation is the opportunity to attend the National Training Event (NTE), the annual national conference run by the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES). Held at the Australian National University, the conference provides students with a unique opportunity to gather together to study God's word and prepare for a short mission in partnership with churches in QLD, NSW, VIC and the ACT.

In 2004, from 4-12 December, some 900-1000 staff and students from universities around Australia including staff and students from UWS Hawkesbury, Blacktown, Campbelltown, Parramatta and Penrith campuses came together for the event, the theme of which was "Evangelism: The Heartbeat of God." (Give it a minute's thought and it seems less cheesy than at first glance).

As we look to begin a new year of gruelling university study, I thought it might be helpful to draw on two ideas raised at the conference:

- (1) That university is and should be more than just a stepping-stone to a 100k-plus salary; and
- (2) That the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not something to be ashamed of or kept to oneself but is something truly worth sharing with others.

That university is more than a place of (potentially high wage-earning) job qualifications, is a concept that



We don't know what this is a picture of. either...

may be foreign to us as students. Universities have a history of being first and foremost places of individual learning and growth. It seems sad then, that we've come to the point where university is not valued as an opportunity for personal growth and learning, but rather is seen as a laborious three or four year task, the rewards of which are some how tied up in the pride of being university educated and hopefully the large salary this education will deliver. Indeed, the fact that we are able to partake in a higher education should in itself be enough to arouse thankfulness within us and a desire to make the most of that opportunity to grow.

The second point to have been raised by the conference was that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a message not to be sat on. Rather, it is something truly worth sharing with **all people**. This finds no better expression than in the words of Paul, the Apostle: "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes..." (Romans 1:16).

For me, the response to these reminders is self-examination and reflection. With what attitude do I approach my studies at university? Am I thankful not only for the qualifications I am receiving, but also for the opportunity to learn and grow the opportunity to broaden my understanding of life and its people? And do I see the Gospel of Jesus Christ as powerful to save, and truly worth sharing? Finally, my hope is that for many of us, any rekindled desire for uni to be a place of personal learning and growth will not only translate into a renewed appreciation of secular academia, but will also translate at least in some part

into a desire to delve into the riches of God's word, the Bible.

For more information on campus Christian happenings please inquire on the following numbers:

Bankstown: 9773 6574
Blacktown: 9852 4115
Campbelltown: 4647 2394
Hawkesbury: 4578 4197
Parramatta: 0402 732 790
Penrith: 4736 4880

<http://www.cbm.org.au/>

<http://www.afes.org.au/>

Would you like to be involved in the production of this paper?

All students can be!

To find out how, attend one of the following information sessions:

Bankstown: 10am March 10
Students' Association

Campbelltown: 2pm March 10
Students' Association

Parramatta: 1pm March 7
PAUWS Building

Penrith: 12pm March 9
Students' Association (Kingswood campus)

Richmond: 2pm March 15
Students' Association

Alternatively just read page 2 for details

Calling Queer Girlz!

By Olivia Noto

A new fun and exciting program is now underway for lesbians and bisexuals under 26. ACON, the Aids Council of NSW (Surry Hills) presents 'Ins & Out,' a peer education group for same sex attracted young women. Participants are being asked to sign up now!

The program is free and commences March 2005. It operates one night a week for six consecutive weeks. A closed group of about 10-15 girls will engage with fellow group members discussing a range of relevant topics; such as challenging homophobia, learning safer sex and harm reduction practices, discussing different types of relationships and connecting with the extensive gay community.

"The group will be a great opportunity for young women to **meet other women who identify as lesbian or bisexual,**" says Volunteer Co-Facilitator Siri.

"ACON is broadening its

range of groups for queer females this year," says Senior Lesbian Health project worker Mahamati. "Ins & Out is just one of the incentives undertaken by ACON that specifically targets the girls."

All queer women; lesbian, bisexual or questioning, are welcome to attend this exciting yet thought-provoking group. "We want to see a diverse range of women.

Whether you're out or not, butch or femme. Everyone's welcome to participate," says

Mahamati.

How to get there?

The street address is 9 Commonwealth Street, Surry Hills. If you catch the train, get off at Museum Station (cnr of Elizabeth St and Liverpool St) and look out for the huge American Express building. Just above the American Express sign is a gay rainbow flag! That's us!

If you would like to participate in this project, call Mahamati on 9206 2084 or email mmahati@acon.org.au



Al Qaeda Does Not Exist

"In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act"

George Orwell

The first reference in an Australian paper to 'Al Qaeda' is an article in the 1998 August 30 South Australian Sunday Mail, in US papers it is two days earlier. This seems strange for the world's most terrible and best organised terrorist organisation which we are told has existed since the late 80s.

Three weeks earlier, on August 7, suicide bombers had detonated large bombs outside the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, killing hundreds. Not long after, two men who admitted involvement in the plot, Mohamed Rashed Daoud Al-Owhali and Mohammed Odeh, were taken into custody by the CIA. They claimed to be part of an organisation called Al Qaeda, led by Osama Bin Laden, which had authorised and planned the attacks.

When the trial of the Al-Owhali and Odeh got underway in 2001, the US government also wanted to convict Bin Laden, who they believed to have been behind the attacks. However, they had no evidence for this whatsoever, so they decided to use legislation and precedents aimed at combating the mafia to put the entire Al Qaeda organisation on trial.

The problem was that previous 'criminal organisations' that had been prosecuted using these laws had clear memberships and centralised, hierarchical structures, Al Qaeda did not. It was more an idea and a strategy than an organisation.

*The Power of Nightmares:
The Rise of the Politics of Fear*
Produced by Adam Curtis
Review by Luke Fomiatti

Bin Laden, having lost faith in the ability of the Islamist movement to overthrow the regimes of the Muslim world and build true Islamic states, called for dramatic attacks on the United States in the hope that these would impress and mobilise the Arab masses. He became the focus of a small group of disillusioned Islamists who were attracted to his radical strategy. However, he was very much on the fringe of the movement, allowed to tour the camps in Afghanistan and preach only in return for large cash donations.

This real Bin Laden, who did not even use the words Al Qaeda, was not what the Americans needed for their case. They relied on the testimony of Jama al-Fadl, a former associate of Bin Laden on the run for stealing large amounts of money from him, to paint a picture of a vast terrorist network that had an organised network of control, headed by an all-powerful Bin Laden. This was a dramatic picture that still shapes how we see Al Qaeda, but it bore little relation to the truth.

As Jason Burke, author of *Al Qaeda*, says in the film, "the idea that Bin Laden ran a coherent organisation with operatives and cells all around the world of which you could be a member is a myth. There is no Al Qaeda organisation. There is no international network with a leader, with cadres who will



A display of force for the western media... The 'holy warriors' surrounding Bin Laden were hired for the day and told to bring their own weapons

unquestioningly obey orders, with tentacles that stretch out to sleeper cells in America, in Africa, in Europe."

Lies = Fact

After September 11 though, critical voices were lost in the stampede by the media and the US Government to blame Al Qaeda, an organisation that they themselves had constructed in a New York courtroom only months before.

Amidst the hysteria over the rise of the "most dangerous terrorist organisation the world has ever seen", no one stopped to consider that the only information we had about Al Qaeda came from either governments or the terrorists themselves; the two groups with the most to gain from its exaggeration. In fact, many of the claims of both parties are demonstrably false.

In late 2001, during the invasion of Afghanistan, the US government claimed that the headquarters of Al Qaeda was located in the mountains of Tora Bora, near the Pakistan

border, in a huge underground network of caves fitted out, James Bond supervillain-style, with ventilation, years worth of food, communication systems, defence mechanisms, tunnels for storing tanks and secret exits. When the Americans actually got there, they found some small caves where fires had been lit and ammunition stored.

In June 2002 American Jose Padilla (aka Abdullah al-Mujahir) was arrested entering the US. We were told he was intending to detonate a radioactive 'dirty bomb' that could poison an entire city. He has been detained without charge ever since as an 'enemy combatant' despite having neither a bomb, nor a specific plan when he was arrested. You could be forgiven for thinking that a 'dirty bomb' was something extremely dangerous that someone would have to be pre-emptively locked up before they could even come up with a plan to build one.

In fact, the US military in the 1950s investigated using 'dirty bombs' but gave up when they realised that the amount of radiation released was so small that someone could only be seriously injured by it if they remained at the detonation site for months on end. The US Government's own Nuclear Regulatory Commission's



What the US Government said was in the Afghan mountains
Source: Times of London

Right: what they actually found there - some empty natural caves where ammunition had been stored and fires lit

Source: BBC





This map showing countries where Al Qaeda is active was removed from the US State Department website in early 2004 without explanation

website says that there is far more danger from the panic created by the idea of a 'dirty bomb' than the bomb itself, which is largely harmless.

A vicious cycle has developed. Governments put out wild stories with no factual basis, which the Islamists are quick to verify (gaining through myth and fear the power they wanted but never had as a political movement) and which the media reports without bothering to check. **Egged on by the media and aware of the power that fear gives them, politicians produce ever more extravagant tales of worldwide conspiracies, rogue states and weapons of mass destruction.**

But few stop to ask why the Homeland Security Advisory System's threat level has never been lower than 'elevated'.

A Myth to Believe In

Curtis sees the root of this bizarre situation in late 1940s America.

Leo Strauss, a professor at the University of Chicago, believed liberal democracy and ideas of individual freedom were undermining the social fabric. He said the country needed powerful and inspiring collective myths to bind the people together, give them something to believe in.

However, in his own time Strauss's ideas were not popular. In the heyday of post-war liberalism the idea that society was steadily evolving towards greater freedom for the individual which would in turn provide the greatest collective freedom was widespread. Strauss's view that society needed to be fooled by myth and religion by an elite seemed totally out of touch.

By the early 1970s, however,

with the American establishment and society seemingly unable to cope with the social upheavals of the time, many of Strauss's students and admirers formed a group in Washington which became known as the neoconservatives.

The group, including Paul Wolfowitz, Francis Fukuyama and William Kristol, allied themselves with the most right wing members of the Ford administration Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney with the aim of putting Strauss's ideas into practise.

The myth they created and sought to popularise was that America had a manifest destiny in the world, to be the one country that would consistently stand up for freedom and democracy wherever they were threatened. When they allied themselves with fundamentalist Christianity in the early 1980s, the ideological core of the George W. Bush administration was created and the foundations laid for the war on terror.

The Politics of Truth

In recent years films critical of the war on terror, big business, Bush, fundamentalist religion and the 'axis of evil' that together they represent have become something of an industry. However, few mount a frontal assault on the fundamental assumptions of contemporary politics in the way that *The Power of Nightmares* does. Even *Fahrenheit 9/11* takes for granted that Bin Laden is some kind of terrorist mastermind who must be hunted down. This freshness alone makes *The Power of Nightmares* worth watching.

What makes *Power of Nightmares* so successful though is that Curtis makes his argument so persuasively. His use of interviews and archive footage, complimented by well-researched histories of the Islamist and neoconservative movements,

make *Power of Nightmares*'s central theme hard to ignore. No one who watches the film will ever be able to hear the words 'Al Qaeda plot', 'sleeping cell' or 'terrorist training camp' and take them at face value again.

One important criticism of the film must be made though; that Curtis almost totally avoids discussion of economic factors and their interrelation with the ideology of the neoconservatives. It is not necessarily a coincidence that Strauss's ideas gained prominence in the 1970s when the post-war economic set-up had unravelled, as opposed to the 1950s when the US economy was going strong.

Curtis himself has replied to this criticism. In reply to a BBC viewer's question he writes, "The neoconservatives and the Islamists believe that ideas can fundamentally change the world. In the neoconservatives' own words: 'Ideas do have consequences.'"

"The reality is that both the neoconservatives and the Islamists became powerful and influential because of the power of their ideas and I wanted to make a series of films that explained the roots of these ideas and how they were taken up, simplified and distorted."

Fair enough. Nevertheless it does sometimes feel like something is missing.

With that proviso then, ***The Power of Nightmares* is a film that deserves to be seen by everyone who's been subjected to four years of 'war on terror' propaganda.** That is, it deserves to be seen by everyone.

The Power of Nightmares: The Rise of the Politics of Fear was recently shown on BBC2 in the UK.

If you missed it, it will be shown in three parts at UWS Parramatta on a date to be announced.

A low quality version of the video and a transcript are available at <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/video1037.htm>, high quality versions are available through peer-to-peer file sharing systems.

Hopefully the ABC or SBS will have the courage to broadcast it one day.



By Lema Samandar

Ten years ago the mobile phones was a product so scarce that it was only seen in the hands of yuppies and sometimes used as an emergency device. **Today mobiles have become for young people what shoulder pads and stone washed jeans were to the youth of the 1980's.** But unlike the unfortunate eighties fads, the mobile phone is a becoming a permanent trend and the telecommunication companies are targeting the youth market more heavily than MTV.

As a consequence of the market pressures the mobile phone is not merely a device to make phone calls. It is now used to seek status amongst social groups and has become an important part of young people's social lives. According to an annual study from the Teleconomy research firm titled "Me, My Mobile and I," **mobile phones are so entrenched in people's lives that one in four admitted that they could not live without one.**

Nadia, a trendy twenty year old owns a Nokia 6600 and is aware of the importance of owning the latest in mobile phone technology. She says she wouldn't buy a phone as often as she buys the latest fashion in clothing. "But if your phone is out of date than you're kind of out of fashion",

she says. While Tim, a nineteen-year-old university student who currently owns a Nokia 8250 is planning to update to a newer model within a month. "If mine is the crappiest phone within 50 meters I am going to do something about it. I'm not going to get me the badass phone so I can rule, but if it's too old compared to others than you don't look good", he says.

While a phone may work perfectly fine, the pressures of updating is most influential with young people, who are not only targeted by the advertisements but are endlessly trying to outdo and impress their peers. Osman, a twenty-three year old mobile phones salesman says that he understands the social needs of his young customers when updating their phones. "New features like multimedia message service, camera and video calling usually attracts young people because they feel that they should keep up with technology to show-off", he says. Osman lists the camera feature as the number one reason young people are attracted to the latest models. Many young people among the mobile phone conscious circles also rate the camera phones as the current seal of social approval.

Because mobile phones have become such a personalised item, **owning a 'brick' such as a Nokia 3110 is like owning an old Volvo.** Indeed the mobile has become much like owning a car. It is becoming more expensive; an average colour

Continued on page 14

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UWSSA: Past to Present

A non-illustrated history of the creation of your UWS-wide Students' Association.

By Ben Chapman

There are several people who can tell this story and all of them will tell different versions of that story, with different anecdotes and with different people being corrupt as hell and not caring about the students and so on and so forth. But someone very wise once said history is told by the victors and I guess you could probably already guess that if I'm sitting here in the new association writing an article about how it was created that I am a victor.

As some of you would know last year a lot of student services were cut back in our old campus associations. These old associations had names like CSA, BSA, HSA and PPSA. The services collapsed because about two years ago the university said that instead of having separate campus students associations they wanted a combined UWS wide association. Up until this point everything seemed fine. Why not have UWS wide student services? It would make things better, students would have better services, it would be better for everyone, right? The problem was that **the university wanted to control the process, control all of the money and separate the organisations into a business that ran food and bars and a welfare association that ran clubs and societies, welfare caseworkers, political lobbying and so on.**

Once the university had let this little cat out of the bag things only got worse, not only did they want to form a business they wanted it to get most of the money. Now it may seem like common sense but a business does not need 6 million of your dollars to be able to run. Businesses are supposed to run at close to a profit with a bit of your student fees going into subsidise cost

and make sure businesses are open when students need them - not just when they are making money. Needless to say perhaps, but 6 million dollars is a hell of a lot more than that.

Students would be robbed blind if all that money went to the business. The welfare, clubs and political association would get not much at all, meaning those services would collapse. I personally had wanted to investigate the possibility of getting a paid Bulkbilling doctor service for students. All of this now seemed lost. **You can see that there is a problem here; the university was trying to force us to go to them and beg for money.**

Now the primary function of the welfare association is to help students when the university screws them over. By making trouble for the uni we make them accountable when, for instance, they cut lots of courses without telling students, put on parking fees (for new students parking has been free since the university started, the fee you pay this year is new) or act stupid. We hassle the university and make problems for them and so far we have done a good job of it. **However if we are begging the university for our budget at the same time as we are making trouble for them, well you can see what happens, we stop making trouble to get our budget but the main reason we need the budget is to make trouble, a perfect 'catch twenty two'.**

Now to be completely fair, the university wanted to engage in this process because there had in the past and in some cases the recent past, been corruption in the organisations. Not from

anyone who is currently involved but from people, unsavoury people who did take advantage of their position. The university at the beginning may have had some if this in mind, however by the end of the process their own conduct had far outstripped any corruption that may have existed in previous associations.

So the university tried to evict us from our buildings. They tried to get corruptible staff and students to sign on to achieve their money-making goals. Then we threw stuff back at them, we challenged their evictions and won in the Supreme Court, we tried to stop their corrupt students, we protested, lobbied politicians, we fought really hard. **Several board members and staff started to go bald and get cancer because of all the stress.** In the end we didn't win everything but we won enough. We got a decent budget, we will be able to provide services, and with a new UWS wide association things will be better than they have been in the past.

So what is the moral of this non-illustrated and very brief history? If students want associations that work for them, that provide top-notch services and make the university and government accountable on their issues **they need to get involved.** You need to get involved, because it is regular hard working, caring students like you, who make the uni and even perhaps a little bit of our world a better place to live.

Note:

There is a far more technical version of this story that has dates and quotes, and a lot of stuff that can bore you to tears. You can get this version by dropping into our offices and speaking to some staff and even some of the student reps who were there who saw it all and lived to tell the tale. But more importantly don't just stop in to talk about the past - drop in to talk about the future. Just to be a little bit more cliched, there no UWSSA without "U".

Jargon Explained

UWS Students' Association (UWSSA)

Runs campaigns to defend students' rights, has caseworkers who help students with problems with the uni bureaucracy, supports clubs and societies (including social sport), puts out this newspaper

Gets 20% of your student activities fee (\$36.40)

Run by a board of students centrally and on each campus, all elected in general elections every year. 70 in total after elections

Board meetings are open to all students

Owned by all students collectively

Students have the final say

UWSConnect

Runs the shops on campus (except the co-op bookshop) and competitive sport

Gets 80% of your student activities fee (\$145.60)

Run by a board of 7 students or recent graduates elected every 2 years and 7 university appointees

Board meetings are closed

Owned 50% by UWS and 50% by UWSSA

UWS has the final say

JAUWS

Japanese Animation University of Western Sydney

What is JAUWS?

Japanese Animation UWS (JAUWS) is an anime society. JAUWS screens episodes and movies from a variety of genres of anime at Parramatta and Penrith campuses several times a week during university semesters.

What is Japanese animation?

Japanese animation, also known as anime, is a diverse and entertaining genre of animation. With many sub-genres ranging from samurai to 40 foot robots todrama and comedy. Japanese animation is story driven. A story is told over a fixed number of episodes. This contrasts with American animation, which tends to be episodic. Also unlike American animation, **Japanese animation tends to involve more complex and adult oriented themes.**

Why join JAUWS?

There are plenty of reasons! We screen anime that has not aired on television or been released on DVD in Australia and is still new in Japan. Several times a year we run marathons, where you can sit and watch

more anime in one day than you probably should. We also hold various club events, such as picnics, gaming days and eat outs. Members are primarily UWS students, however membership is open to anyone interested. Membership is really cheap at \$5 a year. That's cheaper than going to the movies or renting a few videos!

For more information please visit <http://www.jauws.org.au>



One Month in Beijing

By Justin Liew

My first good look at China was the inside of the toilet bowl at the Beijing International Airport. The accumulated nausea from 13 hours of flight was joining the rancid airplane food in my stomach to yank the poker machine lever on my digestive system. Seven hours earlier I was wandering the bleak floors of the Kuala Lumpur transit lounge like a disembodied soul. Deserted and close to midnight, the place resembled some dimensional rift in Greenwich Mean Time where travelers browsed Cuban cigars and duty free perfume before the next jump to lightspeed. Alone and disheveled, these are the times when you vow never to set foot on a plane (or outside your front door) again.

For some reason I notice the toilet is unusually low, barely touching my knee and the next few hours become a jetlagged collage of such details. Polished black marble in Customs. Chinese characters. Potted plants. I emerge in Arrivals. A Buddhist monk wrapped in orange is praying to a fire extinguisher and this woman in a parachute jacket is holding a piece of cardboard with my name. She's a lecturer from the Renmin University of Beijing, where I will be studying Chinese (Mandarin) for the next month. We meet, exchange greetings and head to the taxi stand.

Time now: 5am. Temperature: -10 degrees. Renmin University (*Renmindaxue*, or Renda for short) lies northwest of Tiananmen on the city's edge. As the taxi speeds towards Renda, high-rise billboards advertising mobile phones emerge from the distant gauze of pollution. Beijing is just like it appears on SBS: the archetypal Asian metropolis. Soot-stained buildings frame the multilane, testaments to Chinese reliance on coal power and heavy black bicycles flutter through the traffic herd like iron sparrows. Although we are inside, the air smells of petrol and everywhere construction cranes raise their tessellated necks to the sky. Change of engine pitch and the taxi

shudders up Third Ring Road, orbital belts looping above our heads like the rings of Saturn. It's very cold. **Does it snow in Beijing, I ask.** Yes, comes the reply, **but you really shouldn't eat the snowflakes.**

Arriving at Renda, I stay up all night watching Channel [V] and begin my classes the following morning. I have three subjects: *hanyu* (reading), *kouyu* (speaking) and *tingli* (listening), totaling fifteen contact hours a week. Mandarin is one of the most difficult languages in the world. Add to this China's educational fondness for heavy exams and I was prepared for the worst. We were constantly tested with dictation/vocabulary exams, presentations and dialogues. Even so, the pressures of education didn't seem to phase some of the others. One English guy hadn't been to class since October and another group was in Thailand when the mid-semesters were announced.

But the world beyond the classroom would pose the greater linguistic challenge. University students often talk breathlessly about the cosmopolitan novelty of studying overseas and 'being in a foreign environment.' But **when no one around you speaks English it can be pretty fucking**

scary. The Beijing accent, that florid cocktail of slurred endings and local slang, seemed impenetrable to our

foreign ears. And everyone spoke so *fast*. With my fractured Mandarin I realised the importance of communication, not just as a means of conversing but as an ingredient of human dignity. **If you can't communicate, you can't establish your presence. You don't exist.** You can't bargain, tell jokes or ask for directions. You have no idea what you have to do for homework and you're too freaking embarrassed to ask. On the plus side, the sheer humiliation of not being able to read a menu was fantastic motivation to study harder. By the last week I could feel my *Zhong Guo hua* beginning to solidify itself although I'm far from fluent. I got really good at using hand gestures though.

When the weekend came around, I escaped Renda with the other UWS students, Jocelyn and Luke, for a bit of sightseeing. Every Saturday morning we'd catch a taxi from the *dongmenr* (east gate) into the heart of the city. We'd wander the streets all day, just letting the ebb and flow of this foreign environment wash over us. Little girls would sell flowers in cellophane while legless beggars watched from the footpath. A ninja strike team of black-suited salarymen lounge by the newsstand, smoking their cheap cigarettes. A woman in white fur answers a phone whilst riding her bicycle. Beijing, I decide, is a city of contrasts.

We do the tourist thing and visit canonical sites like Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, Summer Palace... We went to the Temple of Heaven and watched elderly Chinese in thermals doing aerobics and *tai chi*. I buy a Tintin comic in Chinese from the Xidan bookstore and eat dumplings at Wangfujing. At night, we'd go clubbing. After dinner at the campus noodle bar, **we'd trawl the bars and**



A *beijingren* contemplates Kunming Lake

ideas.hip-hop.films.change

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2005

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SPECTRUM

nightspots between Wudaokou District and the Workers' Stadium, **getting shitfaced on the equivalent of \$20 AUS.** We'd stagger out of bed on Sunday morning, do the laundry, check the e-mail and be completely refreshed by Monday for another week of wholesome learning.

There were plenty of foreign students around from countries as diverse as Mongolia, France, Russia, Bangladesh, Norway and Vietnam although we didn't converse as much as I would have liked. Despite what McLuhan said about the global village, people tended to stick with their own nationalities rather than socialise across cultures. Amusingly, this meant that we were often surrounded by Americans although Jocelyn did a good job of attracting large numbers of horny African men. After a night of studying, you'd wander downstairs and chat with whoever was in the foyer at the time. Smoking, as a conversation starter, proved essential and the cheap Yanjing beer flowed so freely I never had to buy a drink.

By the third week we were getting bored of the so-called 'historical' places. Beijing felt more like a second home now than a tourist attraction and we were slowly returning to our healthy Australian habits of buying shit and getting wasted. That weekend, we visited the Hongqiao Markets, perhaps the single largest repository of



The Chinese love their grass

useless crap in Beijing. Imagine rows of bobbing Chairman Mao statues and cigarette lighters shaped like the Little Red Book and you get the idea. We went to the Silk Alley next. This was like a little bazaar in the snow, selling leather jackets, (fake) jade necklaces and pirated videogames at ridiculously inflated prices. Around us, locals eat meat on skewers while the hawkers haggle and tug at our sleeves as we pass.

Our time passed quickly and before I knew it I was standing with my luggage on the *Liuxueshenglou* steps at 5am. It is the 29th of December, exactly one month after my arrival. Yesterday I sat my final exam and today I am leaving Beijing. I hear the crunch of tyres on snow as the black taxi arrives and good morning driver sir could you take me to the airport please? It's certainly cold this morning. No, I'm not Japanese. And yes, Beijing was nice actually, very nice, thank you. Yes, I really must return some day...

Love in the Fast Lane



By Crystal Hew

Sought for love online but disappointingly found yourself confronted with suitors who didn't look anything like their online profile picture? Advertised in the personals only to receive answers from married men, immature sleazes, tightwads, or dribbling geriatrics?

Got 'set up' with someone by well-meaning family or friends and spent the entire date calculating how to make the great escape? Wasted time, money and whole evenings chatting up people but just didn't feel 'that' connection?

Speed Dating can potentially put an end to these dating dilemmas. First developed by an American rabbi in 1998 as a way of helping young Jewish men and women meet spouses of their faith, speed dating has since become the latest craze, attracting singles from the US to the UK, and finally now Australia.

The popularity of Speed Dating down under is definitely on the rise. Rosti

Zacharias, from Australian Speed Dating service Fast Date said, "The industry certainly has grown. When we started over 3 years ago, there was only one other outfit operating in Melbourne. Today, a web search turns up an array of speed dating organisations all over the country. Fast Date has now seen some 15,000 singles come through our system."

So, how does speed dating work?

Firstly, sexy singles hop on to a Speed Dating website and pay a registration fee, which is usually under \$100. This price varies, depending on the organisation you pick to register with. Details, such as times and dates of events, are on the websites.

The venue selected by the organisers is usually an upmarket bar in the Sydney CBD. The organisers can close off an area of the bar, use the function room, or sometimes even take over the whole venue exclusively for Speed Daters. An equal number of males and females gather

there, which is usually 25 of each gender. You are each given a scorecard, a pen and a badge with a name and number on it.

The women stay put, while the men rotate, spending three minutes with each female, chatting and trying to impress over drinks and assorted nibbles. A bell rings, piercing the excited, buzzing atmosphere.

Time for suitor rotation! Each participant ticks the people they want to see again on a score card. At the end of the night all the cards are collected, results collated and within 24 hours, potential matches (i.e. folks who both ticked "yes" to meeting each other again) are emailed with respective contact details. The rest is up to you...

What's fantastic about this process is that you don't have to face the fear of embarrassing, upfront rejection. Rhod Roberts, founder of LittleBlackBook Speed Dating said, "What's great about Speed Dating is the

anonymity. You don't have to admit to anyone that you're interested in them. You just merely tick 'yes' on the match card. Everyone is there for the same reasons so there is less embarrassment about talking to people who want to know who you are."

Most of the events are for the 24-42 age groups, but there are events that cater for older and younger age groups. Generally age range is limited for any event to a maximum of 10-12 years.

Speed Dating is safe as it is in a controlled environment. Roberts said "It's no different to a night out in a bar except you get to talk to everyone there."

You will never be bored on a Speed Date and it's a great confidence booster for the shy hard-to-break-out-of-the-shell types. Speed Dating is of course not just a cattle ranch for potential partners. You can make fantastic business contacts and friendships. Just think of it as extending your social circle!

Some people have complained that limiting a date to just a few measly minutes is too short a date.

Joseph Forgas, a social psychology professor at the University of NSW, said eight minutes was a shallow judge of a prospective partner. He said that dating decisions made in that time will be based on superficial qualities. "I am sceptical that you can know anything meaningful in that time when everyone is on their best behaviour and trying to put forward the most attractive person they can. Everybody can be nice for five minutes."

That may be true, but in the words of a friend, "It only takes one sip of wine to tell if it's a good bottle."

Besides, your Speed Dating experience will give you the invaluable knowledge of working out what kinds of personalities, qualities and looks you are instantly drawn towards, thus increasing your chances of making the perfect match. It's defiantly a voyage to self discovery!

Go on, live life in the fast lane. Give it a go. You've got three minutes to decide.

To register for your own speed dating experience, check out www.fastdate.com.au, www.littleblackbook.com.au, www.events4singles.com, www.fastimpressions.com.au or search for 'speed date' in Google.

Lazer RUNNER

click here for sound

17 First Ave BLACKTOWN www.lazerrunner.com.au

Here's Johnny



Prime Minister John Howard on hearing that George W. Bush would be dining on "meat and three veg" during his 2003 Australian tour

Luke Fomiatti reveals how badly Australia fucked up last election.

It's not really news that John Howard won a large minority of votes in the federal election last July. With the Senate in his hands, the Liberal Government will have more power than ever before.

I guess most people reading this probably did as I did and went to an election party that had sort of died by about 10pm and then went home to sulk. (Or not?)

Then again, you could be one of the 1 750 000 people who voted informal, didn't vote at all or aren't even enrolled. Who can blame you? The thought of a Latham/ Beazley/ Gillard/ Rudd/ Whatever government doesn't exactly inspire a teary nostalgia for what might have been.

Anyway, the bottom line is Australia's got itself another Liberal (it's as much a 'coalition' as the 'coalition of the willing') government.

So what does this mean for us?

**Good Times Ahead
(if your name is John Howard)**

"We do not intend to waste the opportunity that has fortuitously and unexpectedly come our way" John Howard, December 11, 2004

Already on the agenda is 'increasing productivity' by taking away various legal protections for workers. Little Jonnie wants to make it legal for small businesses to sack staff without reason and make further cuts to the unions, making it even harder for them to do their jobs and fight for worker's rights.

While not official government policy (yet?) an influential group of government backbenchers is calling for massive, George Bush-style, tax cuts to the rich; dropping the top tax rate from 47% to 30%. If implemented, that

would mean big cuts to government spending. Never fear, these are already in the pipeline.

Education

It's easy to see that higher education generally and UWS specifically will be worse off under Howard. From this year, most new students (although not at UWS, thanks greatly for the efforts of the UWS Education Collective) will be paying 25% higher fees than students who enrolled in 2004. UWS students won't be paying more, but the university's funding has been slashed. The administration is using this as an excuse to slash courses and force more students into already overcrowded classes. Soon there won't be a spare chair in the next room you can fetch back to class.

The Liberals also want to bring in Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) to silence the critical voice that student unions represent. Don't let the name fool you; you'll still have to pay your student fees. But under VSU they'll be under the control of the university rather than students and criticism of the government won't be allowed.

Social Issues

It's fair to say that Johnny will continue to push his conservative social agenda, fucking things up for everyone who isn't just like him. Restriction of access to abortion and 'fathers' rights' reforms to the family law are possibilities. Although numerous international studies have proven that it is the capabilities of parenting, not the structure of the family, that play a role in child development, Howard still claims that "it is in the best interest of the child to have both a mother and a father." Wrong again, Johnnie.

Australia recently abstained on a motion in the UN Commission on Human Rights affirming the principle of non-discrimination based on sexual

orientation and last year Liberal and Labor together passed a law banning gay marriage.

We can expect more of the same.

The Indigenous:

Not satisfied with the abolition of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) as a national voice for Aboriginal people, Howard has muted further 'reforms' to indigenous programmes. So far the main idea seems to be a return to the paternalistic policies of the 1950s and 1960s, for example making welfare contingent on communities banning alcohol.

Media

With the massive support provided to Howard by the Murdoch press (and not just seven out of the nine major Australian papers had editorials on election day calling for support to the Liberals) it's no surprise that he's looking to repay the favour. Our 'outdated' cross media ownership laws are soon to be relaxed, leading to even further monopolisation of the already bland and monotonous Australian television and print media.

The full privatisation of Telstra will no doubt also be happening soon.

The "War on Terror"

Howard plans more military interventions into 'failing states', modelled on that in the Solomons, whose aim is to prop up the same neo-colonial regimes that caused the 'failure' in the first place. Smart.

The Australian Defence Force budget is to be increased so as to allow greater cooperation with the militaries of Asian countries, recalling the discredited 'cooperation' programme with Indonesia's Kopassus Special Forces, which helped sustain a brutal military dictatorship and occupation of East Timor. And

don't get me started on the mess in Iraq or the certainty that we'll have traumatised refugees locked in concentration camps in the desert and on small Pacific islands for the next three years...

He'll also be giving more power to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (secret police) to install listening devices and carry out wiretaps and allow secret evidence in 'terrorist' trials.

Welfare

The government has plans to make welfare unavailable to large numbers of the community. They are especially targeting the elderly. Because we're experiencing an aging population, the government thinks it's 'unsustainable' provide pensions. The first step towards dismantling the aged pension will be through the carrot of tax concessions to encourage people to keep working after turning 65. Sooner or later though, the stick will be brought out.

Health

Health is another area targeted for 'reform'. The point of the Medicare 'safety net' (where doctors get paid more for bulk billing concession card holders) and the increase in the Medicare rebate is to get more people used to paying to see a doctor (as it will be increasingly unaffordable for doctors to bulk bill anyone other than concession card holders as the payment they get from government decreases). They are also increasing the private health care rebate to people aged over 65. These measures pave the way for increasing privatisation of health costs in the future.

Trade

Further trade liberalisation is on the way. If the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement is

anything to go by, this will be bad for everyone except the biggest businesses.

Fuck the 'Mandate'

People (mainly the conservative press and politicians) are saying that Howard has a mandate and he should be allowed to run with it. But when did we get a chance to vote on whether we want Telstra privatised (69% of people oppose it), or whether women should be able to have an abortion when they want one (80% support), or whether the power of big business should be curbed (60% support)?

In fact, recent surveys show most people oppose the agenda of the government. They trust neither the press (81%) nor political parties (67%).*

If you're part of the majority of people who oppose the increasing domination of society by big business, the replacement of values of social solidarity and community with narrow individualism and disengagement from the world and a politics that reflects this - do something about it.

This year, more than ever, we need to fight.

*All figures taken from Newspoll and Australian Survey of Social Attitudes 2003.

Would you like to advertise in The Western Onion?

Advertising is free for student / community groups and events, for details email uwsonion@yahoo.com

All others for policy and rates email k.carrol@uws.edu.au

Go West!

Life is...different there

By Sophie Zdenkowski

"I love a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains..." You may be aware that this famous line was once written by Dorethea Mackellar, but did you know she was referring to a little place called Gunnedah?

They say travel writing is the best gig in the journalism biz, but I think this is highly dependent on the location that you get to report on. I'm currently in Gunnedah. Not a beach is in sight and not one of the six local pubs knows how to make a daiquiri; not exactly the tropical oasis I would have opted for when choosing a holiday destination. However there is one saving grace. I have found the one café in town that knows how to make a good coffee. The owners of 'Redgum' thankfully are aware that a barrista (spelt with an 'a') is not an occupation associated with a court of law, and quite frankly I think I'll be needing my caffeine fix to get through this confronting experience.

Gunnedah is located in northwest NSW, about a 50-minute drive west of

Tamworth. There's a population of about 10 000 spread out across the shire. It's mostly rich farmlands but there are patches of native forest in the area. These patches happen to accommodate the largest population of Koalas found in Australia. Tourism caught on to this statistical gem and Gunnedah is now known as the Koala Capital of the World!

So the question begs; why would a young student choose to spend five weeks of her summer holidays in Gunnedah? Well I managed to secure an internship with a national public relations firm that specialises in rural and regional clients and it's based you guessed it in Gunnedah.

I've got to say, **I was more than a little shocked when I stepped out of the office on the first day and actually witnessed a tumbleweed roll past my feet.** Inside the building I could not be more connected with the outside world. Phone, fax, email, we have it all. But one foot out the door and you knew straight away just how remote this

"Koala Capital of the World", but neither koalas or busloads of tourists are apparent on the main street, below



place is.

For a little known country town it must have a few drawcards up its metaphorical sleeve. The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr John Anderson, calls it home. Recently even Hollywood has shown an interest and wants a slice of the rural action. A US production company is importing 300 people to film parts of the new Superman movie here. In March 2005, Gunnedah will become the reinvented 'Smallville', Superman's hometown.

Locals have a good sense of humour and will freely make light of their small town existence. They even let me in on an insider's tip; "Save the weekly grocery shopping for the weekend because the best place to go on Sunday is Woolworths!" The reason being is that Woolworths is the only place open on a Sunday. Everyone goes there, and so it turns out to be a good place to socialise and more importantly it's air-conditioned! Trust me, most summer days in Gunnedah you will be looking for any excuse to dwell in the frozen food section just that little bit longer.

It's been over a month and I'm still not used to the heat. Being in the communication business I might describe the weather as quite balmy. But the locals will tell it to you straight; "It's just too f*#king hot".

The heat aside, I've gradually acclimatised to this small towns' ways. I don't have to do a double take **every time a truckload of sheep, piled four stories high, rolls down the main street permeating the air with that very distinct odour.** Instead of going to the movies, I sometimes go for a horse ride after work and I've even had my first lesson riding a motorbike! I've given farming a go, and blistered my hand trying to water a crop of cotton. I also discovered that in bad times cows are often the

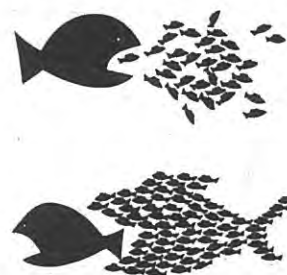
best listeners because they always have time to spare and they don't gossip about you when you leave the paddock! I've learnt the value of a good sunhat and at the end of the week when our office closes an hour early there's no better place to be than across the road at the old bowling club, drinking cheap beer and

chatting about plans for the weekend.

So while this country life has pushed this urban girl out of her comfort zone on more than one occasion, the initial shock is starting to fade. I'll admit that maybe Ms Mackellar had a good point; Gunnedah is a special place after all.

"My class got cancelled" "Uni is boring" "I got to my tutorial 5 minutes late and there were no seat so I had to leave" "My lecturer told me he'd pass me if I did him a 'favour'" "A group of students told me they don't like 'my type' on campus" "I think user-pays is a terrible principle to base a society on" "I think imperialism should only exist in history books"

Don't agonise, Organise!



Get involved in your Students' Association branch:

Bankstown	Blacktown	Campbelltown
Building 1	TBA	Building 2
9772 6488		4620 3188
Parramatta	Penrith (Kingswood)	Richmond
ENa (temporary)	N Building	K3
9685 9284	4736 0232	4570 1700

Continued from page 9

screened phone with camera will set you back \$700 and going on a plan could result in enormous debt. Personalised accessories such as ring tones and phone covers don't help your wallet either. Similar to cars it also gives people independence, especially young people whose long love affair with the telephone has been shifted to mobiles.

Fifteen year-old Sandra says that though her over-protective parents bought her a mobile so they could keep track of her and for emergency use "it gives me more freedom from my parents because they don't have to know who I'm calling and when I'm calling them", she says.

But the mobile phones gets praised most for the convenience when getting lost and for making it easier to

organise social gatherings. Fearing ostracism by friends is the main reason young people are so attached to their mobiles. "People have their phone on 24 hours a day. They are frightened of missing a call because to not be available is to cut oneself off from one's social network," says Professor Michael Hulme, chairman of Teleconomy.

It seems as though **owning a mobile phone is like taking a highly addictive drug. One emergency mobile when you are twelve and you're hooked for life.** But as mobiles become more advanced, more expensive and hipper than ever, could you ever go cold turkey? Or is your mobile controlling your life?

VSU=Silence

Don't Lose Your Voice

By Amber Jacobus

Thinking back to my first year at uni, I wasn't really concerned about what went on outside of my timetable. I commuted to uni four hours a day, I worked three days a week and I studied for the other four days. Why would I care what my Student Association did for me? Then I found out that my degree had been cut... No discussion, no negotiation, it just happened. I was so angry, I wanted someone to listen and I wanted someone to help me fight. All I could do was ask flustered questions of my course coordinator. I got the expected reply "mumble mumble... streamlining... university more efficient... better this way". Better for whom? Unsatisfied I turned to my Student Association, the only organisational body that cared or had any resources to assist me.

As I became increasingly involved in UWSSA (UWS Students' Association) and the fight against the degree cuts, I realised my story wasn't unique. Courses and subjects were being deleted all over UWS. I found it appalling that students and staff members alike were being kept in the dark about what was happening to their area of study and the only organisational body that was mounting a fight was the Student Association. Later I discovered the Federal Government's plans to impose VSU (Voluntary Student Unionism) and I was horrified. VSU would see the decimation of funding to student organisations (such as UWSSA) that was providing me, a normal student, with the representation I needed to fight for my right to study.

VSU would see the removal of the Student Services Fee that must be paid each semester. This fee provides UWSSA (the provider of welfare and advocacy services) and UWSconnect (the provider of

food outlets and sports events on campus) with the funding to operate services for students.

HECS rates were not raised as a result of a blockade organised by students and the Association of a meeting of the UWS Board of Trustees where the fee was set to be increased by 25%. This victory ensured that UWS maintains one of the lowest HECS rates of any university in Australia in 2005 and new students this year directly benefit from this

sometimes student organisations are critical of the Federal Government and particularly its decisions relating to higher education. By imposing VSU, the Coalition Government is making a direct attack on students' rights to voice political dissent. Unions nationally are gearing up for the fights of their lives this

body.

In Western Australia and Victoria, VSU has already been implemented to the detriment of both the students and the university. Professor Millicent Poole, Vice-Chancellor of Edith Cowan University in WA recently said that VSU had "lead to some fairly significant problems for the University Administration. The university has had to dip into its own resources to provide some of the social, cultural and sporting facilities that students want, so it's a burden on us in terms of providing very real facilities that enrich student life". UWS has a funding crisis of its own and is not in a financial position to offer additional help to student services. This means that there could be a real chance of services simply not being available at all should student organisations be starved of funding, e.g. no bars, no food, no sport, no welfare support or student advocates.

Although it may seem like a drag to pay your Student Services Fee each semester, the benefits far outweigh the cost. Every time you eat cheap food at uni, enjoy a free barbecue, drink subsidised beer, want funding for your club, society or collective, play sport, need financial or legal support or you need someone to help you appeal your grades, you are enjoying the benefits your Student Services Fee has provided.

Of course, VSU not only affects students, but also the hundreds of staff members employed to work in the coffee shops, gyms, bars, retail outlets or as student advocates or counsellors. VSU could see them all out of a job.

It is in every student's interest to get involved in the fight against VSU this year. Don't let the Government silence you or your union, get involved and help preserve your right to a collective voice.

**Solidarity vs Dog Eat Dog
Collectivity vs Individualism
Organisation vs Disarray
Learning vs Uncritical Absorption
Left vs Right
Action vs Apathy**

**To remove the experience
of unionism from the lives
of the youth is to ensure
smooth future
subordination**

**Quiet Students = Docile Wage Slaves
Fight Back
Resist Revolt Riot Rebel
No VSU**

This fee also allows students to organise campaigns that affect students on campus (such as against the degree cuts) and also around issues relating to education, environment, women's, queer and social justice. The funding allows students to organise their own campaigns and run events that make campus a safer, engaging and enjoyable place. Last year

campaign. This is an example of why students need to be supportive of their union and fight against the proposed introduction of VSU. It is absolutely necessary to have a united student body that can speak out against decisions that adversely affect our education.

Campaigning for student rights can also mean that

year and it isn't any different for Student Unions. VSU would not only affect students' ability to organise on campus, but also nationally as the National Union of Students (NUS) could face possible extinction in a VSU environment. This would leave students without national networks or a national lobbying and campaigning

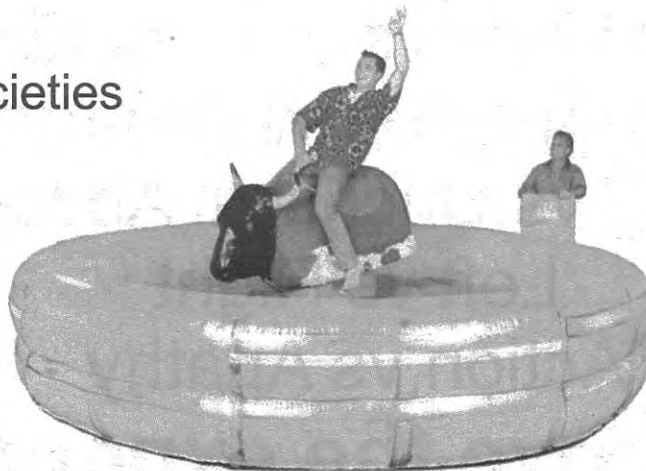


Welcome Week

To welcome everyone (back) to uni, UWSSA presents a week of fun filled entertainment



Penrith Campus
Monday February 28
Kingswood
Heaps of Clubs and Societies
Live Music
Horizontal Bungee
Mechanical Bull
Free Snow Cones



Bankstown Campus
Tuesday March 1
Clubs and Societies
Music
Jousting
Bouncy Boxing
Snow Cones

Blacktown Campus
Wednesday March 2
Student Association Stall
Music
Jousting
Bouncy Boxing



Hawkesbury Campus
Tuesday March 1
Clubs and Societies
Free BBQ
Mechanical Bull
Horizontal Bungee
Popcorn

Campbelltown Campus
Wednesday March 2
Clubs and Societies
Music
Sumo Wrestling
Horizontal Bungee

Parramatta Campus
Thursday March 3
Clubs and Societies
DJs
Performance Artists
Mechanical Bull
Jousting
Snowcones

UWS Dance Party
Wednesday 9/3
Roxy Nightclub
69 George St.
Parramatta
Free entry for students

Win tickets to the
Tooheys Uni Lawn Party
(ad on page 5)
Email k.carroll@uws.edu.au and tell us
why you deserve to go

[YOUR EVENT HERE]
Would you like to announce your
event on our 'whats on' page? Just
let us know...

international
Women's Day
celebrations

♀
RESPECT
find out what it means to me

skulker
fanesky

swamp bar
8 pm
THURS 10.03.05
FREE
admission for uws students