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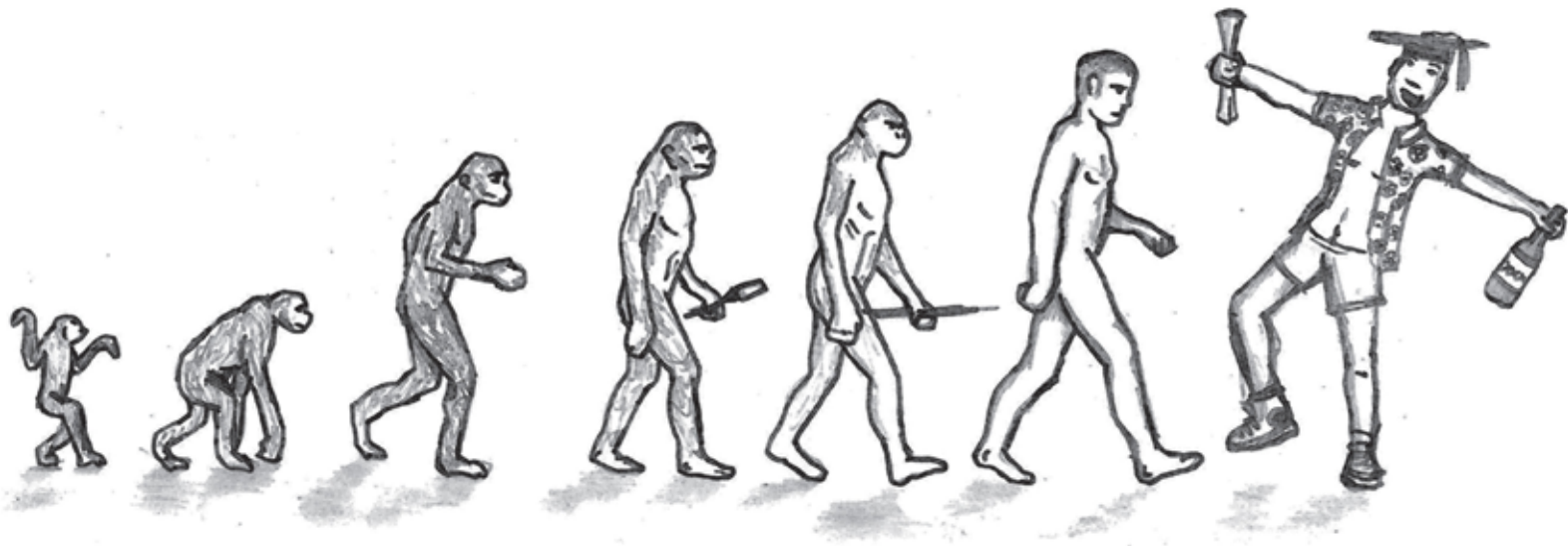


The
Destress^o
Edition.

#4
—
'09

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so Get Involved.

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illustration by Jamie Gonzalez.

Degree°

Issue 4

Letter



Spring Session • Monday 28th of September 2009

Ed

Welcome to our fourth and final issue for the year. Degree has come a long way from its initial birth. Two media nerds came together one obsessed with pictures the other with words. With lots of phone calls, countless emails, a never ending to do list and more than a few bumps along the way Josh and I have managed to pull through a magazine that we hope fills the void that was created with the demise of The Western Onion.

We couldn't have done it without all the help and support from students and tutors who stuck by us and put in their hard work.

Now Degree is in its terrible two's (magazine years) and it is time for new people to come in to carry it through 2010, all I can say is that it is going to be exciting next year as Degree continues to grow and develop.

So sadly I bid Degree farewell and set it free, I will still be lurking around keeping an eye out like any loving mother but it is now time for me to give up my reigns.

Goodbye, Degree. Adieu. Aufwiedersehen. Gesundheit. Farewell.

by **Ashleigh Dollin**



ADVERTISERS

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ad.degree@gmail.com

Oh boy, our first letter to the editor! We were just bubbling with pride and joy when this note drifted into our inbox the other day. All those 3am slogs for the deadline justified at last- what a humbling peak for all of us here at Degree°!

To Mr Sam Cook

I read you article: "Lol' is not a dirty word...but it should be" in "The Hive" newspaper today.

As much as I enjoy reading about those damn crazy kids of today and their poor use of the English language, I noticed some grave problems in your article.

Now I'm not an English student but if the aim of the article is to convince the reader not to use LOL it has been poorly executed.

Firstly, your one and only argument is that LOL is not a word but an acronym. It is difficult to determine if you dislike it in writing or in speech but it is perfectly fine to use LOL in both contexts, I mean you and I would use UWS and I think you would agree that ACT, NATO, USA is quite acceptable in both written and speaking contexts.

Secondly, you make out the fact that LOL is an acronym but fail to give it the correct styling by labelling it 'Lol' rather than LOL in the title itself.

Finally, in the article your first statement contains "PS2" which is in direct contradiction to what you wrote in your ninth paragraph. (or do you prefer it to be PST or Play Station Two)

Looking forward to your next article,
D.Muzzatti

Thanks for the tidbit of truth, Muzzatti ol' Pal. We all know Degree° can do with a bit of it, here and there! All the best for the future, and remember D-Town, as the great Bill Warren would say from time to time, keep watching the skies.

Degree° Team

Degree° is produced by



One Eighty, UWS' Student Media Network.

As a student magazine our currency is your commitment. We seek writers, journalists, illustrators and photographers or anyone with a focus in media and publications. We need you for Degree, but we want you for other student media projects. The student voice at UWS is a babble, spread far and wide across the campuses. Help us, join Degree°.

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Thanks so much!

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"Printing the news everyday."

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Degree° is an exciting new magazine for the students of University of Western Sydney. It aims to represent all students equally. Mixing factual, creative, visual and written content with the aid of students from all campuses.

DISCLAIMER

Views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of our lovely authors and not necessarily of Degree°, The Student Organisation or UWS. Degree takes no responsibility for any offence caused by the opinions expressed in this publication.

Degree° Dates for this Spring

Labour Public Hoilday • **5th of October**

Stu Vac • **2nd - 6th of November**

Examination Start • **9th of Novemeber**

End of Semester • **30th of Novemeber**

Off the Wall

Wrap up

by **Julia Khoury**

A group of budding designers showcased their creativity at the University of Western Sydney this week.

The professional fourth year, Bachelor of Design students based at the Werrington South campus splashed their talent around the university and produced a range of unique and vibrant murals.

The event titled 'Off the Wall' served to promote the design course and attracted various audiences.

Organiser of the event and Course Advisor, Samantha Edwards-Vandenhoeck said, "The students were briefed to design a series of panels that reflect a kind of identity for the studio and also to provide the opportunity to collaborate with students in other years."

The 'Off the Wall' project consisting of 12 students involved the imaginative aspect of design, which included themes such as Willa Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.

"Part of the point of doing this is to make the students aware of what's going on in fourth year and make it something they might like to be a part of," she said.

UWS student Angelina said, "I love it and I think it is very creative and a good opportunity for the designers to express themselves."

"I know some third year students who are having doubts about doing fourth year and I think that this helps them see what it's all about," she said.

Student designer, Simon Gleeson produced a mural featuring an Oompa Loompa with its mouth wide open and a rainbow projecting from his head.

"It's actually meant to be a metaphor for opening your mind," he said. "It's just to let everybody know how much fun it can be and that it's not just all theory and a bit more interesting than it looks," he said.

The project commenced three years ago when trying to design a dedicated design space and visual identity studio for professional fourth year students.

Ms Edwards-Vandenhoeck said, "I find it really fulfilling. You find students having fun, talking, they connect and relax. I just like the sense of community it creates, and it's a kind of energy to get you through the last few weeks of semester."

"It creates a sense of community on campus, all the design students across the years get together and do something," she said.

The project is one of the many studios run by with an altering theme each year and the murals installed throughout the university. "It provides a visual presence for the campus," she said.

Ms Edwards-Vandenhoeck states the uplifting nature of the project as the students are due to finish their degree in six weeks time.

"It is probably their last opportunity before they finish their degree to do something spontaneous and free," she said.

Simon, a Central Coast resident, emphasises the course content being more practical than theory based. "I got to like it to come all that way. This course is definitely up there for me. It gets a lot more hands on and interactive," he said.

"It gets better as the years go on and I think that's what people don't understand. They think fourth year is going to be the same as the third and second year," he said.

"Hopefully next year we get a bigger intake of people doing the fourth year," Simon said.

Ms Edwards-Vandenhoeck echoes his opinion, highlighting the university's leading design program.

We have a range of academic staff, technical staff and administrative staff who have a diverse range of skills. We offer so many different kinds of things to do with design and I think it is a world class program now, we're just a bit isolated that's all," she said.

"I hope that this project will make more people aware of what's going on at UWS creatively," she said.



Photos by **Chinny Buraga**

Stressed?

Destress NOW!

by **Ashleigh Dollin & Joshua Crowley**

The team here at Degree know all about stress, in fact we know it a little better than we wish we did. Stress is like a nagging little sister always there lurking in the background and when you are reaching breaking point (i.e. deadline) she gets louder and louder and starts jumping on your bed and throwing your books and toys around the room.

So to battle your nagging little stress-ter here are some tips that our talented Mr. Joshua Crowley came up with (after embarrassingly admitting he's read quite a few de-stress tips over the years by spending too much time flicking through HIS little sisters Girlfriend magazines.)

Picnics - nothing less stressy than making animals out of clouds and eating jatz with friends. And if it's one thing our campuses have, it's lots of open space to lay around and stare at clouds.

Shower - Productive and soothing- feel like you're doing something. Take in deep breathes the moisture in the steam cleans the air.

Breathing - Sometimes we get so busy we forget to breathe, 5 long breaths is a nice way to focus and keep the stress down. Though ironically, a paper bag and a lack of Oxygen can help just as much.

Sex or Similar - Sex can nullify almost anything important, especially projects or exam anxiety. SO a quick/well paced sideways shuffle is a nice prelude to any study session.

Thinko - It's like a smokeo- but without the cigarette. Step outside, swear, drink coffee/tea and just stand on the spot for 5 minutes and complain to your study partner or co-worker. It's a de-stressing and cancer free activity.

Pray/Reflect - Pray, I don't do it- but I know a lot of people do and for them them it works. So respect that and use it if it works for you. In my opinion though, any kind of self reflection is valuable. So just taking the time to sit in the sun and just have a big think about what is stressing you out and brake it down into smaller tasks you can work through.

Singing - take your mind off your study notes and spend some time launching your high notes. Making music is both consuming and expressive, helping you to forget the stress. Also, if you're really bad a laugh or two can be shared with friends, helping to de-stress others (aren't You considerate!).

Handstands - handstands are a awesome way to change your perspective on life. If you can't rationalise why you feel the need to hold yourself up on your palms just so you can cope with stress, you could probably not worry that much about whatever you're stressing about- right? Besides, a quick rush of blood to the head has been good for everyone, though perhaps not Marie Antoinette.

Sleep & Eat (in that order) - Had time to grab a bite today? Late night cram turn into a study session by Sunrise? Your body has very few demands- all things considered. Treat it right and you'll feel alright. 6-8 hours + 3 square meals. That should be easier to remember than your study notes, right?°

Tangy Tahiti Sizzles with Passion

By **Nirvangni Nand**

A pleasant gust tousles through your hair. A placating silence falls upon your surroundings. The palm leaves murmur something in your ear. The waves itself sound like they are quenching their own thirsts by guzzling down water. The birds mingle with each other in a distance.

Clichéd, but always appreciated.

You know that feeling that you get when you walk into a place and just know that there's "love in the air"? Well for those of you who don't know that feeling. Destination: Tahiti.

The Tahiti Islands are the largest islands in the Windward group of French Polynesia, located in the southern Pacific Ocean. The Islands have a population of 178,133 inhabitants. The capital city is Papeete, on the northwest coast.

The islands of Tahiti have something for every traveller – sugary, white sand beaches, vibrant marine life, rugged mountains and a colourful history. Whether you want a private island picnic near Bora Bora or a canoe delivered breakfast in your over water bungalow, Tahiti is the ultimate South Pacific island paradise.

World class snorkelling and diving in Tahiti is one of the South Pacific's best-kept secrets. With hundreds of dive sites throughout the islands, divers can choose from the amazing drift dives, oceanic drop-offs, sunken ships, and lagoon dives with infinite marine life.

The world-renowned shimmering gleam of Mother Nature's most perfect gem can only be created in Tahiti's warm lagoon waters. Commonly known around the world as Black Pearls, each Tahitian Cultured Pearl ranges in size and shape and the colours range from the darkest black to glistening shades of green, blue, bronze, aubergine, or even pink.

With a rich past, Polynesian songs and legends have bestowed this famous South Pacific island many names such as: "Great Tahiti of the Golden Haze", "Mounting Place of the Sun", "Land of the Double Rainbow", and "The Gathering Place".

Legends describe Tahiti-Nui and Tahiti-Iti as a great fish that swam away from the sacred waters of Hawai'i, now known as the lagoon shared by Raiatea and Taha'a.

Also, did you know that the word 'tattoo' originated in Tahiti? The legend of Tohu, the god of tattoo, describes painting all the oceans' fish in beautiful colours and patterns. In Polynesian culture, tattoos have long been considered signs of beauty and in earlier times were ceremoniously applied when reaching adolescence.

The beauty, drama, and power of today's Tahitian dance testify to its spirit in Polynesian culture. Extravagant dance is accompanied by traditional musical instruments such as thunderous drums, conch shells, and harmonic nasal flutes.

Fancy a bit of shopping while holidaying in Tahiti? Then feel free to discover the treasure chest of products created by the hands of Tahitian craftspeople working with wood, stone, plants, and cloth. Tahitian products are found throughout the islands at local stores, in markets, and at the artisan studios.

Each of the many islands of Tahiti is a tiny paradise. Some isles are crowned with jagged peaks soaring magically out of the ocean in an explosion of green velvet while others appear as if gracefully tossed upon the ocean – barely floating above the breaking waves.

The invigorating Islands are gateways to bliss, boasting with world-class resorts, spas, fine dining, unique restaurants, nightclubs, vibrant markets, pearl shops, and boutiques. Enjoy the perfect place to do everything or nothing at all. Jump in the lagoons by diving, boating or explore the islands by safaris, hiking, or shopping. Celebrate your new life together or a milestone in your relationship with romantic resorts, peaceful villages and miles of quiet, pristine beaches. Embrace and share in the warmth and welcome of your Tahitian hosts whose love for their islands is seen through their music, dance, and vibrant flowers.

Towering over the pacific like a proud and royal queen, Tahiti is just the word – the world's definition of paradise.°



News

Online News Consumers Beware

By Liza Hawa

Everything in life has a price, and the same will soon be said for online news. A new proposal to charge for online news will set you back a further \$5 a month if Rupert Murdoch's plans go ahead.

Murdoch's decision to end free online news follows the presentation of the media conglomerate's annual results. And those reveal a massive drop in profit: News Corp suffered a \$3.4 billion loss last year, due to steadily declining advertising revenue in light of the recession.

The online payment system is now set to counter this development. His plan to charge users for all news delivery from News Corp, one of Australia's biggest online news sources, will go ahead within the next 12 months. "The digital revolution has opened many new and inexpensive distribution channels but it has not made content free. We intend to charge for all our news websites," said Mr. Murdoch previously.



Illustrations By **Jamie Gonzalez**

News Corp is the parent company of the publishers of The Australian and The Daily Telegraph, news.com.au, among others, in Australia and The Times, The Sun and News of the World in the United Kingdom.

Online news delivery has also affected the circulation of newspapers. Many agencies run websites that offer the same content without the cost of buying a newspaper every day. Hence, people are increasingly turning to the internet for their daily news updates. However, will consumers be forced to pay to read their online news in the future?

In a recession such as the one we are in, no one wants to pay more than they have to. Ending free access to news could drive many online readers away and discourage online advertising at a time when more marketing budgets are shifting to the Internet.

Jonathan Este, Director of Communications with the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance says that consumers will ultimately see value for their money as quality journalism comes at a price. "News costs money to produce. The advertising dollars have disappeared, and the economic models no longer exist for the journalism industry," he said.

In 2007, the New York Times scrapped their online paid service, which charged readers to access its archives and top columnists. Despite attracting a substantially large number of subscribers the resulting revenues were too low for it to continue to be sustained.

Currently, only the Wall Street Journal Online (WSJ) charges a fee for online access through digital subscriptions. But the model is a mix of paid and free content. The WSJ allows free access to political, arts and opinion coverage, blogs and certain breaking news stories.

Although corporate news services may charge for online content, government funded news sources such as the ABC or BBC will still offer news free of charge. Research company, Roy Morgan Internet Monitor, reported a number of 1.050 million visits on the abc.net.au/news at the beginning of 2009.

Mr. Este points out that Mr. Murdoch will not be the first or last to try and find a way to charge for online content. "Over the next few decades we will see many experiments. Some will fail, and some will succeed."

Know the News?
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Late Night Feeding Frenzy



By Kelly Martin

In recent months, there has been a state-wide push to close licensed venues earlier and to enforce curfews that refuse patrons entry after 2am. The purpose of these curfews or lockouts was to reduce violence like stabbings, glassings and brawls that occur in and around pubs and clubs. But with the rise in popularity of 24 hour or late trade fast food stores, street violence is again on the rise, as highly intoxicated patrons gather to eat, and subsequently fight.

In Richmond, in Sydney's west, street violence in late trade restaurants has the local police and council worried. A 2008 report prepared by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOSCAR) shows that since 2004, alcohol related assaults have increased by 15 per cent in the Hawkesbury area.

Senior Constable Enman from Windsor police has placed the blame firmly on 24 hour fast food outlets. "Most brawls occur in the early hours of the morning," he said. "At that time, everyone gets a bit hungry, especially when they've had a lot to drink, then someone looks at someone the wrong way and suddenly violence breaks out."

Richmond is also home to a residential campus for university students. With almost four hundred residents, aged between 18 and 25, many of them frequent the local night spots, and have witnessed countless brawls. Nursing student, Stacey Wright, 22 says, "There are always fights out in the streets. People end up standing around drunk, pigging out on fast food, and before you know it, someone's on the ground bleeding. It's sad, but you almost get used to it."

However, not everyone wants to see late night fast food trade end. For the local kebab shop, Friday and Saturday nights are when the store does the best business. They depend on the trade from patrons exiting the local pubs and nightclubs which close at 3am. For them, recent efforts made by police to petition the council into restricting trading hours for venues like the Richmond Star Kebab House comes as a severe blow. Helen Bozkurt, who owns the Richmond Star Kebab House in Windsor Rd says that they are being unfairly blamed and subsequently punished for the drunken behaviour of some of their customers. "It has nothing to do with us. People are going to do what they want. If they get drunk, act stupid and get into fights, that's not our fault." Mrs Bozkurt, who runs the store with her husband and two sons, said, "We're just a family trying to make a living."

The fight to trade continues for the Bozkurt's and others like them in Richmond. In the meantime, NSW Police have prepared a report on street violence, which is currently before the council; with the intention of ensuring food outlets like the Richmond Star Kebab House are forced to close earlier. Senior Constable Enman believes "reduced trade would certainly benefit the public."

Opinion

Head 2 Head - Is Society too tolerant?

H2H- For By **Tammy Lawlor**

So last student night I spent the entire evening in some guys granny pants and an oversized pirate shirt. Rather than being kicked out for inappropriate attire, and a complete disregard of RSA policies, I ended up swapping my belt for a necktie -Is this a reflection of my sexual promiscuity or, our own desensitized society?

Sure we live in a world where gay marriage is illegal, childhood alcoholism is brushed aside and racial intolerance is a celebrated part of sports slurs (anyone seen a monkey on the pitch lately?). But really how isn't society a mass of disengaged, apathetic lunatics? Can anyone else suggest a better justification of the Iraq war to give our Grandkids?

People say apathy is destroying culture, breeding indifference and clearing the way for a complete police state. But I laugh at such youthful folly. Anyone with even the smallest divergence from the norm will know that this kind of social environment is one that would make any child of Aquarius weep tears of joy. For you see the less people care about others, the less they wish to know about what you do with your life. Hence the growing appeal of asphyxiation cyber societies?

As an arts student I've conditioned myself to an open-mindedness that borders brain dead. As such, I've realised that I can capitalize on this social phenomena. See, as a teenager I was under the impression that society would only accept me if I fit a specific mold. This ended in a terrible mess of school ground politics, jock boyfriends and one terribly American pie-esque moment involving a blow up doll and an oven. But the truth of the matter is that society really doesn't care what you do, as long as you don't get political about it. And it is due to this awe-inspiring revelation that I have become an accepted member of my community. Perhaps that membership is held under the title of "outcast", but it is an integral role within my community nonetheless.

For were society intolerant of deviation, how could emos have ever achieved complete domination of Castle Towers? Why would the dodgy kebab nightcap solution prevail? And most importantly Who would sleep with sweaty drunk chicks when everyone else has crept off to better horizons? This student contends that Nietzsche has become oh so main stream that 'herd mentality' has been replaced with a non-plussed approach, one which involves, well not caring really.

It follows then, that while the Poms have their stiff upper lips, and Buddhists save face by not shaming their family, us Aussies have developed our very own approach: "uber-tolerance"... It's the reason a naked man chained to a phone-box on a Monday morning in the cross stirs little more than a snigger. The reason the 'chicken dance' will be an eternal wedding day dance hit. The reason binge drinking is the medical condition teenagers idealise. Uber-tolerance, if you don't get it try catching the first train to Penrith on a Sunday morning.



H2H- Against By **Zerah Gallardo**

Some of you reading this have the audacity to be entertained by things considered "taboo" or unacceptable in our society, whether it be Tarantino style violence or the off religion or race joke. The others of you either try to suppress your laughter in order to appear moral and civilised, or are what is known as 'intolerant'. Frivolous humour in poverty, paedophilia and sex can't be seen by everyone, but really, this is what tolerance comes down to; our ability to accept differences within members of society.

Measures are still taken in order to protect society. Movies still have ratings, radio versions of songs are still censored, and google safe search is always there as an option. People live their lives as they deem fit, and shouldn't have to abide by someone else's orthodox opinion on how society "should" be.

If you don't like what's on TV, change the channel. If you don't appreciate that 25% of Internet searches are pornography related, filter your internet. If you don't like what you see, turn away, (that's what she said). Do your own thinking, but you can't expect your judgement to be that of those around you.

Tolerance is a two-way street. So long as the behaviour of others doesn't harm society, why not? This isn't the 1960's anymore. We're moving away from that, but some are just moving faster than others. This is the 21st century, where prudence is no longer tolerated, and freedom of expression is no longer limited. We all know that we're not the Brady Bunch style conservative, happy-go-lucky humans we wish we were. We're all different. We all have issues. We're all messed up in one way or another.

This doesn't mean that we're completely free from responsibility. We keep the murderers and rapists off the streets and enforce road rules. But if the behaviour doesn't directly affect or harm you, then what's the big deal? Why not sport that outrageous flamingo hat you've been dying to wear, tell that hilarious holocaust joke and just dare to be different?

Let others do what makes them happy, even if you don't approve. Because if you really think about it, there are probably annoying things that you do, other people have to "tolerate".

The issue isn't that society is becoming too tolerant. It's that we're adjusting. We're coming to discover that we're all just as twisted and perverted as each other. And maybe, just maybe that's okay...

Got an Opinion?

Wanna go **Head2Head?**
editor.degree@gmail.com

The Not So Hidden Agenda

By **Claire Sundin**

I hate mobile phones. They are the bane of my existence: always ringing, always needing to be charged.

When mobile phones first came out into mainstream society everyone was so excited. "Oh look, now I can call people while I'm in the middle of a field with no fixed phone lines! Isn't that impressive?" Ok, melodramatic I know, but I'm sure you get my drift.

When I got my first mobile phone I thought it was the coolest thing, it was the 'must have' item and I was part of the elite group of kids in my year at school with a mobile phone. I distinctly remember thinking "Ha ha, sucker, you think I'm going to use this for 'emergencies'..." My poor parents', trusting me with that phone was a poor decision indeed.

As I've got older and I've come across more situations I'd rather ignore and conversations I'd rather avoid, the mobile phone has come to represent the enemy. These days' being in constant contact is as much an annoyance as it is a convenience.

As much as I dislike my mobile phone I cannot bring myself to turn it off, what if someone tries to call? They might actually have to wait for a reasonable time to talk to me rather than the ungodly hour of 7am. What kind of a world would we be living in if that was to happen?

So, my phone hates me at the moment, freezing, having conniptions at random moments, that kinda stuff. I took it to the Telstra shop, finally fed up of its temperamental behaviour, and the girl asked, "do you turn it off?" Silly girl, who turns off a mobile phone these days? Apparently phones can get overloaded with information if you don't give them a rest, yeah, I'm not buying it either, so anyway, I gave my phone a rest every day, it still isn't working.

Turns out my phone isn't overworked, it just hates me and needs to see a real phone doctor rather than the people carrying clipboards at the Telstra shop (why do they carry them anyway?). Now common sense says 'the sooner you send it off to get fixed, the sooner you're phone is working again and you can continue sending too many texts'. The slave to technology in me says, 'but then you will have to use your old phone. There will be no moving backwards here! We shall struggle on!' Seriously, two weeks with an older phone will not kill me... but why take that chance?

In a recent study involving 8,000 people, conducted over 11 countries it was found that 1/4 of people would rather lose their wallet rather than their mobile phones and that 2/3 of respondents slept with their phones nearby. Another study found that it takes the average person two hours to realise their wallet or purse is missing, but only half an hour to realise their phone is M.I.A.

"Telephone, n. An invention of the devil which abrogates some of the advantages of making a disagreeable person keep his distance." Ambrose Bierce °

Illustrations By **Jamie Gonzalez**

Happy 20th UWS

UWS is almost as Old as most of us!

by Luke Madden

It was in January of 1989 when UWS first opened its doors to students, opening campuses in and around Greater western Sydney. Under the University of Western Sydney Act of 1988, the introduction of the institution allowed Hawkesbury and Nepean to cater for students, making way for a revolution in tertiary education. One thing to note is that UWS was first named 'Chifley University' by the Australian Labor Party in 1987, after the former Prime Minister Ben Chifley. However, after much consideration, the Australian Liberal Party renamed it the University of Western Sydney and the dream of knowledge was alive.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Rhonda Hawkins said such milestones are significant, when it comes to providing a quality education for university students.

"It is gratifying to reach our 20th birthday having achieved as much as we have. We are increasing student satisfaction rates, highly sought after courses that meet the demands of the region, world class research centres that are dynamic, and engage in research relevant to the region, and a college – UWSCollege that provides another mode of access to higher education via alternate pathways."

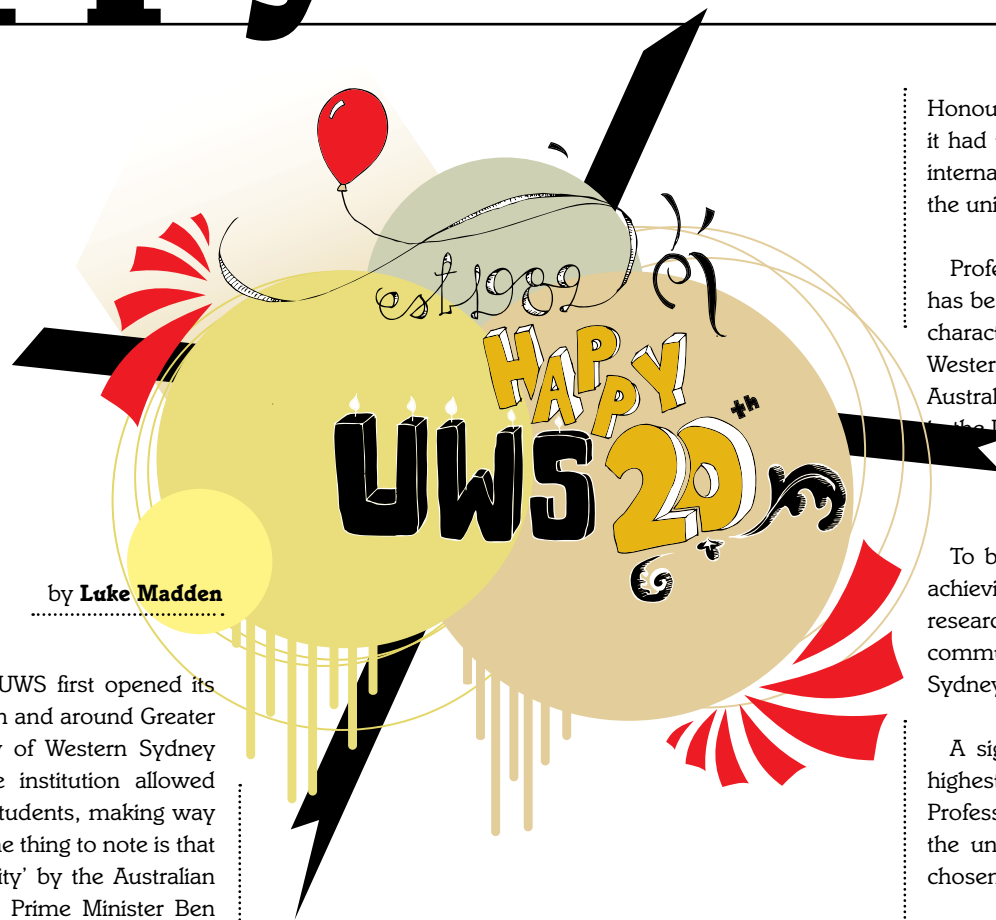
As the university evolved, so did the structure of the institution. In 1998, the then Vice-Chancellor (WHO?) called for a major overhaul of the university, allowing it to operate as a single multi-campus institution, rather than a federation. The multi-campus saw the university migrate to Bankstown, Blacktown, Campbelltown, as well as Hawkesbury, Parramatta and Penrith. As a result, campuses at Nepean, Macarthur and Hawkesbury ceased operations as cost cutting and restructuring took place.

Professor Hawkins reveals the restructuring of this transition would see the university grow stronger, even in times of hardship. "When you merge various organisations, as we did in 2000 with our three federated members, it is inevitable that there will be difficult times and bumps in the road during the transition.

"We are a very young university and therefore don't have the wealth and resources of other, more established universities, such as the 'sandstones'.

"This coupled with funding meant that we had to make do on a much tighter budget, but as a result have developed a flexibility and ingenuity that other universities don't have," the Deputy Vice-Chancellor said.

At the turn of the century, UWS experienced some criticism from the Federal Government in 2003, when the then Member for Lindsay, Jackie Kelly criticised the university for the management of the institution, stating courses as a topic of debate. It also saw a former NSW Senate Minister, the



"I've learnt a lot. Sure it'll take time to build a reputation, but it's not about that, it's about providing quality education"



Honourable Diane Beamer defend UWS and the restructuring it had undertaken. UWS stood tall on the issue, introducing international students and promoting the diverse nature of the university in the western Sydney area.

Professor Hawkins believes growth in the Greater West has been the focal point for the university. "A very important characteristic of UWS is our special relationship with Greater Western Sydney. More than most other universities in Australia, we have a commitment to our region as embodied in the University's mission" she says:

To be a university of international standing and outlook, achieving excellence through scholarship, teaching, learning, research and service to its regional, national and international communities, beginning with the people of Greater Western Sydney.

A significant milestone in 2006, saw UWS ranked third highest in first preferences among NSW universities for 2007. Professor Hawkins says it is a definite sign of prosperity for the university, allowing students to pursue study for their chosen careers.

"Ranking highly in first preferences is a sign of the University's health and attractiveness. It is very pleasing to see this happen as the University has dedicated time and resources to ensuring that the student experience is a positive one.

"This helps us to gauge whether we are meeting the needs of our students. We are dedicated to ensuring equity of access to educational opportunities for students, and we believe we are making great headway in achieving this," she said.

As UWS has evolved, so too has its involvement in student lifestyle and communications. In 2004, uwsconnect was introduced, providing a range of social, sports and recreational activities, enhancing university spirit and identity through campus culture. Two years later, the university introduced TVS (Television Sydney) to its stable, broadcasting around Werrington South campus. UWSCollege, which opened this year, is the newest addition to the fold, located at the old Blacktown campus.

Third year student Tara Farrugia believes the university has made a positive impact on her time at the university. "Being a relatively new university, it's able to provide the newest resources. Many courses have a very practical component. "I've learnt a lot. Sure it'll take time to build a reputation, but it's not about that, it's about providing quality education," she said.

Journalism student Sam Cook adds student interaction has also led to the university's rise in studying at UWS. "I've made great friends here. There's a great social attitude – everyone bands together, outside of class it's pretty relaxed and friendly".

As for the future, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor is confident UWS will deliver quality education and services to students in the Greater West for another twenty years and more. "We look forward to UWS continuing to go from strength to strength, growing and flourishing and providing high quality education, particularly to the students of the Greater West.

"The staff of the University are dedicated to providing educational opportunity for our students and we believe our offering and the environment in which they are taught are second to none in terms of commitment, dedication and enthusiasm."

Photography by Daryl Orillaza
Illustration by Maya Brasnovic

Music

Letters of Carnage

By **Alexandra Lazcano**

Out of the depths of the Sydney's Inner West, Letters of Carnage are tirelessly working on their act to blow Sydney's metal scene away.

Forming in early 2008 by guitarist Henry Chiem and Emmanuel Christies better known as Maz on bass the band searched for the best metal musicians had to offer. They added old friend Michael Gonano as the bands drummer and recruited Ben Willis as the bands singer after finding him on the music website FasterLouder. The final piece of the puzzle was Luke Johnson on guitar, "Luke was found 12 months ago on a guitar forum and we have been writing and rehearsing together as Letters of Carnage ever since."

The eerie band name was conceptualized by Ben Willis on vocals, "I came up with [the band name] when watching a documentary on the French Revolution and it refers to the letters sent between the revolutionaries and civilians describing the violence going on at the time."

Reflecting this is the bands lyrics speaking of politics and religion, "Most of the songs I write revolve around the hypocrisy of religion and politics. I use these as my main topics because these are things I feel strongly about and it makes it easy to write aggressive lyrics that the metal crowd can relate to" explains Willis. But this band is far from the preachy; unlike most bands these days.

While their lyrics are relatable they aim to revolutionize the subgenre their band fall into, melodic death metal. This genre is also known as Gothenburg metal, refers to its origins in Gothenburg Sweden. True to its name it contains more melodic guitar riffs, melodic solos and more comprehensible lyrics with the traditional growl in the vocals.

Letters of Carnage integrate styles that aren't traditionally used in melodic death metal in order to achieve a fresh sound. "The idea behind the style is to keep the intensity of death metal while at the same time utilizing complicated melodies and ensuring the drum rhythms have a groove to them and not just the constant blast beats of traditional death metal. The biggest defining point to melodic death metal is that the vocals need to have as much clarity as possible while still sounding heavy and aggressive" says Ben Willis.

This sound is partially credited to the bands member's backgrounds, "Our drummer Michael comes from a prog-rock background so we'll often use synchaptated rhythms and tempo changes and my vocals have a very thrash metal feel which is more raw and aggressive."

They hope that this mesh between genres will appeal to fans of the many sub categories that heavy metal has.

Metal fans will be able to catch Letters of Carnage in late October, early November in the many pubs of the Inner West.°

www.lettersofcarnage.com



Letters of Carnage



Maniac



Jake & Shawn

Introducing... Maniac

By **Kaiti Reeves**

Something with Numbers frontman Jake Grigg and The Matches frontman Shawn Harris have teamed up to create a project to be known as Maniac. I was lucky enough to catch up with Jake just before the last Something With Numbers tour of 2009/2010.

Kaiti: What provoked you and Shawn to collaborate?

Jake: Shawn was over here with his band touring. He ended up staying in Australia for an extra week and decided to crash at my place. We were bored and tried to write a song together. The rest is history in the making.

K: On MySpace, the genre is described as "Concrete / Jungle / Idol". Please explain?

J: Well we have trouble trying to put a label on our music so those three words seem to be the closest match.

K: Judging by the preview on YouTube, there are loads of different instruments and lots of layers. Will it be possible to emulate this on stage? Will there be a backing band for live shows?

J: Yes there is a lot of different instrumentation. We will have a band. We also plan on entering the crowd in a canoe over a backdrop of a chrome island.

K: How did you come up with the idea of the blog and covering the number one song of the week?

J: Well we are so eager to get our music out there, but we have to wait for the right timing and for our album to be completed. Shawn lives in Boston and I live in Sydney so to once again cure the dread of boredom, we thought it would be a great idea to show the public what we sound like without giving away any of our original work. And it's extremely fun.

K: There are a few really random videos on the blog of you and Shawn dancing crazy and playing dress-ups. Do you guys really do things like that when you're together or is that purely to entertain yourselves while apart?

J: Dressing up is the best part about this act. We both made a promise to each other that anything goes. There is no such thing as no. Wait until you see our on stage costumes...

K: When are you expecting the album to be ready?

J: At the end of October we should have about 25 demos. The album will be out sometime in 2010.

K: Will it be similar to any of the Something With Numbers or The Matches albums?

J: No. Not at all. There are no crash cymbals and hardly any guitars. Lots of glockenspiel.

K: Does Maniac mean that "this [tour] will be the last time" for Something With Numbers?

J: No. I'm going to put all of my efforts into Maniac for the next year or so, then SWN will tour again.°

Check out Maniac's blog at

www.1thisweek.blogspot.com

In a Band? Get a Profile!
editor.degree@gmail.com

Your Paper. Your Degree°

spaa
Fringe

The voice
behind film
& TV.

Spaa Fringe Festival 09 Free ticket Giveaway

It's not what you know it's who you know right? Well if you're a bright eyed and bushy tailed film maker to be, Degree° might very well have the networking opportunity for you!

SPAA Fringe, the brainchild of Screen Producer's Association of Australia (SPAA) is a two-day forum for emerging filmmakers to gain knowledge, be inspired and evoke innovation within the film industry.

Why do you want to be at this conference? Well for networking of course. SPAA Fringe brings together top industry professionals and Australia's rising talent from all facets of the film and television industry to share their experiences and expertise, offering insight and creative direction.

Currently in its 11th year SPAA Fringe09 will be interactive and practical says its director Gaylee Butler:

"SPAA Fringe is where filmmakers gain insight, knowledge and all important contacts. Foxtel, with its impressive purpose-built facilities, is the ideal location to fulfill these objectives. This year, Fringe will be highly interactive and practical."

The program includes workshops, roundtables, one-on-one sessions, film screenings and, social networking events. (yay facebook).

Degree is proud to offer one lucky reader a chance to have a piece of this apple by offering one free ticket to the two-day conference, valued at \$200.

So what do you have to do to win the eh hem... golden ticket? No don't run out and buy boxes of Wonka Bars all you have to do is send us your favourite movie or TV quote. We know it's that time of the year which means you don't have much time or energy on your hands so we've made it nice and simple.

Just Send them in to

editor.degree@gmail.com

by Wednesday the 14th of October and the winner will be notified on Thursday 15th of October and then they'll be rubbing shoulders with the big wigs on Friday and Saturday! Too easy.

Dates: Friday 16th & Saturday 17th October, 2009

Location: FOXTEL Television Centre North Ryde, Sydney

Website: www.spaa.org.au/fringe

Tickets: (02) 9360-8988 or register at www.spaa.org.au



Comp closes Wednesday the 14th of October.

spaa
Screen
Producers
Association
of Australia

spaa
Fringe
16th & 17th October 2009

Student



Fundraising Authority under the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991

2009

The 24 Hour Fight Against Cancer Incorporated is holding their 5th annual 24 Hour event which will be held on October 17-18 at Campbelltown Athletics Stadium at Leumeah, and we would like you to join us in forming our own team to help raise money for the cause.

The Fight against Cancer helps raise much needed funds for the benefits of cancer patients in the Campbelltown Macarthur region. All money raised is given to the Macarthur cancer therapy centre at Campbelltown hospital and palliative unit at Camden.

Our aim is to raise awareness and funds and we are inviting you to join our UWS team of students to participate in this fantastic fun filled weekend. We have an opportunity to be

part of this great annual event in helping them to raise funds for cancer. A fun filled day with various interactive activities, with something for everyone such as entertainment, games and opportunity to stay overnight. Registration is \$15 provided with a t-shirt and cap.

There are great benefits for those UWS students that participate in the event to be a volunteer which is always something to include in resumes and a great opportunity to support a great cause.

For more information please go to the official website at

<http://24hrfight.org.au/>

Contact Caroline Casse and Natalie Carpena at casse_carpena@hotmail.com or 0413 593 294

Tough Times for Graduate Job Hunters

by **Andrea Gavrilovic**

It seems the odds are against us. The latest unemployment figures combined with the effects of the economic downturn, including widespread hiring freezes and layoffs, have brought questions about employment prospects for university graduates out into the open.

Last month's Labour Force figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics have again revealed a rise in unemployment. The national rate has hit 5.9 percent, with a loss of 16,000 full time jobs in July. In addition to the crisis on the jobs front, The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations reveals a 9 percent increase in university graduates in the last seven years. This prompts the question; is there enough room to accommodate the new graduates in the workforce?

Clare Holmes is completing her final year of a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree at the University of western Sydney. Despite achieving commendable marks and a University degree at the end of it all, she is worried about what her future career.

"I've spoken to many people who have graduated last year, and are still looking for work", says Clare. "I know many that had to look outside their field and settle for positions that are below their qualifications, because that's the reality nowadays."

Paula LaRocca, human resource co-ordinator at Webster Holdings, is familiar with the job availability crisis for new graduates. She says Webster Holdings is recruiting less people than around two years ago.

"It's no secret that a lot of companies have been downsizing in the last year or so, and I've spoken to a number of University graduates who can't seem to find employment," says Ms

LaRocca. She also adds that it is also a matter of panic, and qualified workers who have experience are willing to work for less money to pay the bills and survive in the face of the global recession. "There isn't the need to employ University graduates, when someone more experience is willing to work for the same money," says Ms LaRocca.

Worldwide, it seems other countries have been experiencing the same problem. Reuters reports that a university degree is not longer enough to secure Chinese students a job outside the factories. China has been experiencing a rising tide of degree holders from its fast expanding universities, with a lack of new jobs to accommodate them. At least three million are still reported to be looking for work.

Nevertheless, some UWS students are still optimistic about entering the workforce next year. Milena Pozder, a fourth year Bachelor of Design student, says her visual communication course has given her the right experience for a variety of design jobs. "We get to do a lot of work experience within uni. I've designed posters for a number of events, including Final Sessions, and the Publications subject was a great experience where groups of students compiled a whole magazine."

Steve Rawling, the career education consultant from the University of Western Sydney, also has high hopes for future graduates. While he recognises that the bigger companies in NSW and Victoria have cut back on recruitments in the last few months, he claims students should not lose hope yet. "There has been some impact of the global economic crisis; but it is certainly not a huge impact... Recruitment is happening across the board and there is a lot of opportunities for graduates."

Mr Rawling says that teachers and public workers are highly sought after in NSW and the best advice for undergraduates is to take early action and plan for the future.

Parking Fees set to increase

by **Alycia Gawthorne**

"UWS Parking is a joke" reads one of the seven Facebook groups dedicated to UWS parking. The university has recently announced that parking fees for students and staff will increase in 2010.

In 2009 the price of the yellow student permit increased by more than fifty per cent from \$49.50 to \$75. Next year the price of the yellow permit will rise by a further 2.6 per cent to \$77. This is in line with the board's decision last year to increase parking fees in line with the consumer price index.

"UWS students and staff continue to pay the lowest parking fees of any university in Sydney" said Professor John Ingleson, Acting Vice-Chancellor, in a statement released to students on 11 September. However for many students it isn't the price increase that concerns them, it's the lack of adequate parking available for students who have purchased the permit. This is particularly evident to those who have ever tried to find parking at the Parramatta campus.

"It's completely unreasonable to expect students to pay for parking that isn't even there. I have to park on the north campus and wait for a bus, because there aren't any spaces on the south [campus]" said Eric who attends the Parramatta campus.

"Over a calendar year, yellow permit parking fees still equate to less than \$1.50 a week for students" said Professor Ingleson. However this equates to \$2.75 a week for those of us who actually prefer not going to university during the semester break.

Reviews

Watch

Up follows the story of Carl who when forced with eviction, decides to literally take off (with the aid of 20,000 balloons) and travel to South America to fulfil a promise made long ago. Carl is a cranky, cranky old man with a nose that wouldn't look out of place as a bicycle horn. But things in life rarely go as planned, and (from a scripting point of view, very conveniently) he finds himself with an extra passenger, the roly poly eight year old cub scout, Russell.

The age range of the characters in Up (8 to 78) appeals to audiences beyond those years, as does the resulting unlikely friendship, when the two go through thick and thin on their South American adventures. But like all kid flicks the symbolism seems to be underlined a little too obviously (for example the house symbolising the past). And while the positive messages can be a bit overwhelming for those above the age of make believe, there are still touches of cynicism found, particularly in

Up
Pixiar/ Pete Docter
Out Now
Reviewer : Shanthi Benjamin

the villain character, Charles Muntz.

The most memorable part of Up is the 'relationship montage'. The four-minute 'dream sequence', in which a young Carl meets his wife, and goes through the ups and downs of an adult relationship. Those brilliantly directed heartfelt four minutes made my paid ticket worth it.

Critics are applauding Pixar's apparent homage to the 'Chaplinesque era of film', most notably, the 'relationship montage' which mirrors that in Citizen Kane. It has been so well received that Up opened this year's Cannes Film Festival. But the simple appeal of Up isn't its use of black and white film reel nor glimpses into film past. It is the premise. How many times have you looked at balloons and wondered if, just if you could get enough, would you fly away?°



Read

I first heard about Mia Freedman when my love affair with weekend newspaper pullouts was in full swing. I picked up the Herald's Sunday Life Magazine and saw the face of a smiling young woman talking about the cons of excellent sales people. I was smitten with her, I'd found a Sunday love to replace Saturday's Good Weekend's Maggie Alderson. From then I religiously read her column and discovered that I too wanted to be a magazine queen.

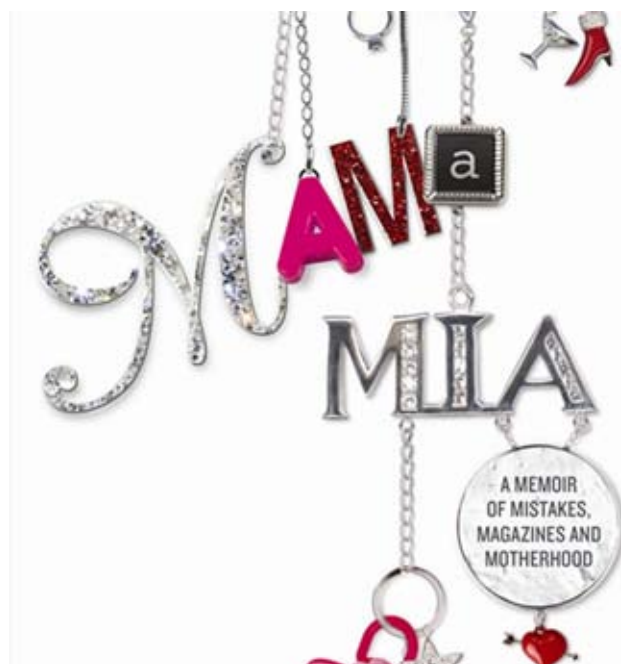
Mia's book is a memoir of her life, from young girl obsessed with Dolly, Cleo, and Lisa Wilkinson to intern for Cleo and eventually editor of Cosmo, followed by her struggles with family and children. As a magazine-obsessed Communication student I devoured the first half and found out a lot of fascinating information about ACP and News Limited and how the average office magazine works, it offered great insight for

Mama Mia –
A Memoir of Mistakes, Magazines and Mother
Out Now
Beth Hutchinson

what is to be expected in this industry, and was extremely inspiring in regards to how far passion and motivation can take you. Interestingly, the second half of a book shows a less focused and career driven Mia, and explores her life as a wife and mother, including her marriage and birth of her 3 children, as well as a miscarriage that nearly pulled her apart.

As a 20-year-old, the second half was a bit over my head. The issues she talks about do not yet apply to my life, and it frustrated me that, although immensely moving, I could not fully grasp the intense emotions she was describing.

Overall Mama Mia is a truly binge-worthy read, dripping with all of Mia Freedman's dazzling and bubbly personality, and allowing us to peep through the keyhole into the fascinating, yet different worlds of Magazines and Motherhood.°



Eat

Traditional Italian food, tacky Italian décor, lovely Italian owners and an Italian pizza boy named Luigi – what more could you ask for in an Italian restaurant?

With a wide range of delicious pizzas and pastas, and a few meat/seafood dishes Valentino's Woodfire Pizzeria is probably my favourite Italian restaurant in Penrith.

I choose to stuff my face with: a small bruschetta pizza (usually shared with one or two other people), Spaghetti Prawns Al Valentino (amazingly simple, yet completely divine; prawns with red sauce and spaghetti), accompanied by a glass or two of Lambrusco, and finished off with Valentino's style profiteroles and hazelnut gelato.

Valentinos
Italian restaurant
Kaiti Reeves

So, I can't finish it all, but that's what doggy bags are for, right?

While it's a tiny bit expensive for a typical uni student (\$15-25 for mains), it's good value. The quality is great and the servings are massive. The staff are friendly and it constantly smells like woodfire pizza.

Address: 55-61 York Road, Penrith. (Opposite the netball courts at Jamison Park) Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday to Sunday. Call 4731 4314 for further information.



Eat? Read? Play? Watch? Listen? Review!

Reviews

Watch

The Young Victoria portrays Victoria's ascension to the British throne and the years immediately following thereafter. This period of Victoria's life was plagued by attempts to usurp her power, and sequentially exploit her ignorance for political gain. However, significantly this was also the time in which Victoria fell deeply in love with Prince Albert. This love story forms the focus of director Jean-Marc Vallée's (C.R.A.Z.Y.) film.

Prior knowledge of this tumultuous historical period is not essential, nor is it necessarily an advantage to viewing The Young Victoria. Indeed the screen play by Julian Fellowes (Gosford Park) is captivating, rife with power struggles, political manipulations, assassination attempts, public uprisings, seduction and of course love. Importantly Vallée does not merely rest upon this narrative. Rather he creates a dynamic, engaging film. The luxuriant costumes and settings in addition to the sweeping orchestral soundtrack are largely conventional for such a period piece. However, the cinematography,

The Young Victoria
Starring Emily Blunt, Rupert Friend
Out Now
Jacinta Herborn

particularly at the King's birthday, provides a distinct energy which is often lacking in this genre.

Furthermore, the director fully exploits the talents of his venerable British cast. Blunt (The Devil Wears Prada) is a standout in the film. She expertly achieves the necessary balance between youthful exuberance, naivety and vulnerability, as well as strength and passion. Whilst simultaneously enchanting her audience. Friend (Cheri) provides an accomplished support as the endearing and compassionate, yet strong willed Albert. The two young stars are sustained by excellent support. Broadbent's King of England is ailing, though fiery. Paul Bettany's Lord Melbourne is dangerously charming. Whereas Mark Strong's perpetually volatile Conroy, is simply dangerous

This film may not be historically accurate, it is undoubtedly glamorised and the focus falls directly upon the love story. However, it is an ultimately engaging and enjoyable film.°



Read

After the travesty that was Ultimatum, Marvel has relaunched the Ultimates line as Ultimate Comics Avengers, and from the very first page you know things are going to be different.

The story: After Magneto's near destruction of New York, only Captain America and Hawkeye are left alive. The story starts with Hawkeye telling Nick Fury that Cap has gone rogue after a recent mission. Saying anything more about the plot would be giving too much away, but let me just say that the Red Skull makes his first Ultimate appearance and it is amazing.

The good: Carlos Pacheco's art is some of the best in recent memory. He infuses the action scenes with the brutality that they need. Captain America is meant to be the best hand to hand fighter in the Ultimate Marvel universe, and the art really shows it. The issue is all action and Pacheco is the man for the job. Sucks to be DC Comics for not signing him to an exclusive.

Ultimate Comics Avengers #1
Written by Mark Millar, for Marvel
Art by Carlos Pacheco, Ink by Danny Miki
Brad Marín

Mark Millar has once again proven that he should be the only writer allowed anywhere near the Ultimate universe. After the absolutely terrible dialogue and pacing of Jeph Loeb's work in Ultimatum, Millar has given the series a sense of much-needed excitement.

The bad: As much as I loved the reveal of the Red Skull, Marvel purists are going to have a hard time stomaching it. By the end you're either going to be hanging out for the next issue or thinking "WTF?"

Conclusion: It starts off strong and never stops. With the best writing and art in the last few years, Ultimate Comics Avengers is just what was needed to save the ailing line. Here's hoping they can do the same to Spidey.°



Mum's the word for Mona Lisa



TwoThousand is an online portal for those who believe that there's more to Sydney than boats and botox. TwoThousand updates daily with snapshots covering albums, events and laundromats; plus the odd opinion on film, coffee and pants. The cream of this crop is emailed every Thursday, arriving in your inbox with a 'ping'.

Subscribe at www.twothousand.com.au

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Events

• La Roux

Having supported Lily Allen on her UK tour and headlined the NME Tour, the pair is now in Australia showcasing their self-titled debut. If you want a dash of Human League dragged into the future, you might want to check out La Roux's debut and get along to this show.

Cost: \$43.90
Dates: 29th September
Location: The Enmore Theatre

• Black Eyed Peas The END Tour

The Black Eyed Peas are the grouped version of Madonna. They've been around for a while and with new tracks like "I've gotta feeling" will be around for a little while longer.

Cost: Sold Out kiddies
Dates: 2nd October
Location: Acer Arena

• Kisschasey Seizures Tour

Cost: \$28.30
Date: 3rd October 8pm
Web: www.kisschasey.com
Location: Roundhouse, UNSW

• Lisa Mitchell + Oh Mercy

After a successful national tour and playing at Glastonbury Festival, Lisa Mitchell is back down under to promote the release of her new album. Includes the song, 'Girl in the Coin Laundry'

Cost: \$20 + bf
Date: 3rd October
Location: The Metro Theatre
Web: www.metrotheatre.com.au

• Miss Pole Dance Australia 2010

Watch girls do things that should never be done by anyone in public (unless their name is Brandi and they are paying for college). Three hours of performance plus the very popular double category.

Cost: \$67.10
Date: 16th October
Location: The Enmore Theatre
Web: www.enmoretheatre.com.au

• Paolo Nutini + Whitley

Acoustic guitar playing Paolo Nutini has supported Amy Winehouse and KT Tunstall and played at V-Fest, Glastonbury and Live Earth (London).

Cost: \$61.60
Date: 30th October
Location: The Enmore Theatre
Web: www.enmoretheatre.com.au

• Bluejuice + Special Guests

Local band Bluejuice are back to promote their new album. Includes the song 'Broken Leg'.

Cost: \$24/\$27 (at door)
Date: 31st October
Location: The Metro Theatre
Web: www.metrotheatre.com.au

• Birds of Toyko "Broken Strings Tour"

Birds Of Tokyo have earned themselves the reputation of being one of Australia's best live acts. Now see them on stage with a string quartet and a grand piano.

Cost: \$50.60
Date: 14th November
Location: Enmore Theatre
Web: www.enmoretheatre.com.au

• Pearl Jam

Pearl Jam are back with a new album and a back catalogue of defining grunge hits

Cost: \$99.99
Date: 22nd November
Web: www.ticketek.com.au
Location: Sydney Cricket Ground

• Darling Harbour Fiesta

The Fiesta will feature international, local and national Latin American bands, sexy salsa and tango dance experts, captivating Brazilian carnivale girls and flamenco dancers, incredible capoeira performers, not to mention amazing Latin food stalls and a Latin arts market.

Cost: Free
Date: 2-5 October
Location: Darling Harbour

• Parklife

Parklife is Australia's most forward-looking music festival, bringing you a lineup of artists who completely define the moment in music. Acts include, Empire of the Sun, La Roux, Erol Alkan, Metric, Bertie Blackman, The Aston Shuffle, Little Boots and heaps more.

Cost: Sadly sold out.
Date: 4 October
Web: www.parklife.com.au
Location: Kippax Lake, NSW

• Night Noodle Markets

The night noodle markets are the best part of the Sydney International Food Festival. Eating under the stars and lanterns of Hyde Park, steaming hot bowls of pad thai and beef curry. Mmm, yummm.

Cost: Free Entry
Location: Hyde Park
Web: www.siff.com.au
Date: October 12th-16th, 19th-23rd

• Danks St Festival

Part of the Sydney International Food Festival and Crave Sydney, the Danks St Festival is in its 5th year. Danks has live entertainment, fabulous food, exhibitions, markets and much more. It has visiting celebrity chefs like Kylie Kwong.

Cost: Free Entry
Location: Waterloo
Date: 25th October 11am-4pm
Web: www.cravesydney.com

• Some Comedy

Each Thursday at 8pm, 5 of Australia's hottest stand-up comedians come straight at cha with non-stop laughs.

Cost: \$9
Date: 4 October
Location: Star Bar, City
Web: <http://www.comedyintheraw.com.au>

• Chinatown Night Markets

Enjoy strolling along Dixon St Mall with over 50 market stalls of food, gifts and clothing.

Cost: Free
Date: Friday nights (4-11pm)
Location: Chinatown, Sydney
Web: <http://chinatownnightmarket.com.au>

• Griffith Taylor: Global Geographer

This exhibition follows the life of Griffith Taylor, geographer, explorer, planner and ethnographer.

Cost: Free
Date: Until 15th October
Web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/museums>

• Dinosaurs

A brand new Dinosaur exhibition showcasing new skeletons and answering all your questions about dinosaurs.

Cost: \$10 Adults, \$5 Concession
Date: Opens 28th September
Location: Australian Museum
Web: <http://www.australianmuseum.net.au>

• Ruby Revue

"A real all-rounder, this is the event to pop your burlesque cherry. The monthly show at The Arthouse Hotel is a great example of retro burlesque. It's naughty enough to get the crowd rowdy, but classy enough to bring your granny. And the standard and variety of performance are among the best we've seen!" **TIME OUT MAGAZINE SYDNEY.**

Cost: \$25
Location: The Arthouse, City
Web: <http://www.therubyrevue.com>
Date: 11 October, 8 November (7pm-10pm)



Bullet Proof Pop- La Roux

Fiction

Well, here's the book.

By **Lauren Maher**

1.

There's nothing left to do but write a book. This one I guess. The one I never knew how to start. I'd rather not be doing this. I feel like I'm giving in to something, that I've been through all of this just so I'd have material. For a book. So other people could understand this illness or just have something to read, I don't know. But something bigger than me is telling me to write this and it pisses me off. I knew it was going to come to this and I've been resisting. A book. It's all come down to a book. Something about this seems pre-determined and I'm angry. Is all this pain just for a book? I don't know. But here you go - this is the first page. I don't care about my grammar or anything else I've been taught about writing. If I have to write this then I'll do it my way. All I have to give is raw confusion and this book isn't me. It's simply raw confusion. It will be all over the place but that's the only way I agree to do it. No chapters. Just chunks thrown together in one big, messy book. Not even a story, really. Already I wonder if I think it's pre-determined because I'm mental. Going mad is easy. Being aware of it is hard.

2.

this is not a draft and there will be no editing. Any 'mistakes' will be here for a reason. This is no ordinary book.

3.

Some people arrived unannounced. From the Mental Health Team. To see how I am. To see if I'm safe. I explain what I can knowing even they won't entirely understand. They understand some things I don't, too. There was someone to talk to for ten minutes. It hurts to talk but sometimes it helps the tears come. I need more tears to come so I can express it, let it out. I can't hide from it anymore or seek comfort in my enemies.

I'm too tired to be writing this but am anyway. I can't think clearly but will write anyway. If I wait 'til I'm awake, 'till I'm well, it won't be real. If I jump from thought to thought jump with me as I let you inside the horror that is Borderline Personality Disorder. That sounded corny but at least it made me laugh in my head.

I don't want to let them in my house because I'm embarrassed. So I go to their car. They're both lovely African people and remind me of the guilt I feel about 'sooking' when so many people are in worse situations. But this is my situation. The pain is constant. Constant. That's the problem. It doesn't matter what's triggered it this time. It's constant and seems to control me to the point where I can't do anything. It's not situations that are the problem. My complaints are minor in comparison to the pain. Disproportionate.



In a Blink.

By **Romy Jade Smith**

Full of muscle is its war tank body. It has a broad shouldered stance in my two hands. Cold and hard corners frown. Buttons, switches and dials puny enough to allow time travel at the flick of a finger sprout from its head. Its folded wing of an arm, perched out of harm's way, I can lift it with the ease of a thumb. Its Cyclops' eye protrudes awkwardly. Owl like and top heavy, it is wide and curious when it stares. Its pupil black and infinite. His single eyelid blinks anciently. His inward eye, small enough to partner mine, magnifies the outside. His body is small enough to cradle comfortably in one hand, while the other holds his eye, wrinkles gripping to my thumb and fingers as he helps me to close in.

I lift my heavy soldier. He is tired from all that he has seen. For a moment we are joined.

One eye. I hold his awkward eye and reach for his war torn arm. Stiff from wisdom, the obtuse angle enables me to pull him up gently from his feet.

A boy chases a balloon in a park. We blink while we watch to try to understand. Our eyelid shudders- down and up like a bulky garage door. We catch him in between worlds. His palm is open, fingers wild and desperate, reaching out past the balloon towards hope.

The boy never learns to tie his shoes or make love. His balloon lingers with its taunting face out of grasp. His cherub face eternalised. His being is crystal. Our eye has stolen this moment and stored it away. Snapped in running dance, both his feet will never touch the ground.

I smile for the Cyclops as he sits on the sofa nearby. I look up at him with adoration while I fumble with his new tongue, murky like an oil slick. His eye sleeps in hushed pictures. He is unwary of my gratitude. My lonely soldier does not know, in years to come my shell will begin to crumble, for I am not made of steel. I'm no mystical creature. Nor am I machine. I will grow old and die.

The little boy too will become an old man. He might not remember that day in the park.

He might have been too small then, or age might whittle his memory down. But this old man will look back and see himself as he was. He will see how nimble his feet were across the grass. He will be able to smell the wet leaves beneath the oaks. The air woody and so cold on his tiny nose and cheeks they flushed crimson. His short legs like liquorice, stumbling after his balloon-chubby and clumsy with youth. This old man will be a boy again for a moment.

We trapped something precious, the camera and I. A memory confined in the parameters of a page. In flesh, people run out of time in a downward motion. In an image, time can be revisited and cherished. My machine is just as vital as an organ. It is my eye, not an extension of it. It enables me to pocket a particular fragment of life for safe keeping. These pieces splinter the eye and heart. They are beautiful and agonising, for we can only create the illusion of immortality.

Hey
Readers,

It's our last issue for the year, all
the best for your final
exams and projects, we'll see you
Monday, O-Week 2010.

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!**

