

ParkvilleStation.

YOUR WEEKLY INDEPENDENT CAMPUS NEWSPAPER

Ed. 25, 2016

parkvillestation.com

Week 12, semester 2

GRADUATIONS

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last
free
paper of
the year



LAW SCHOOL REJECTS SEMINAR RECORDING.

The Melbourne Law School (MLS) has decided to stick to its position on lecture recordings, saying that it will not record them as a matter of course, despite University policy designed to encourage lectures to be recorded across the University.

Dean of the Law School, Professor Carolyn Evans, announced the decision in an email to JD students on Thursday, 29th September, saying "we have decided that we will not be moving to use lecture capture as a general matter but that we will work to try to implement a better system next year to support students who are registered as having on-going special consideration issues that might require lecture recording as part of their support package".

In particular, the Law School contends that

their teaching material is delivered through "seminars" rather than "lectures" — the much-contested central university policy on lecture recording only covering the latter.

According to Evans' email, "the JD uses seminar style teaching rather than lecturing and this form of teaching is not particularly conducive to being recorded. Again, the experience of some who have taught in environments in which recording is used as a matter of course is that there is pressure on teachers to teach in a manner which is suitable for recording — more lecturing from the teacher and less class participation in particular."

In 2013, the Academic Board — one of the University's top decision-making bodies — agreed in principle to approve automatic record-

ing of all timetabled lectures, making those lectures available on the LMS. The University also redoubled its programme of upgrading lecture theatres with lecture recording equipment.

Starting 2016, the University completed its move to an "opt out" model, in which all lectures are automatically recorded, except if a lecturer opts out (and provides an "acceptable" justification for why they're making that decision).

A University-produced practice guideline provides some guidance on the circumstances under which a subject (or, in this case, group of subjects) are permitted to opt out of the policy. The closest match for this case is: "A class is being conducted as an active learning session, which makes substantial use of a question and answer format, break-out discussions, or similar. In this *continued page 2.*"

Parkville Station will be back!

Well, 25 editions later, this is the last paper copy you'll hold in your hands for the year. It's been a hell of a ride. We wanted to use this incredibly important front page space to say a massive thank you to everyone who's been involved in the paper in this, its first, auspicious year. From contributors to advertisers, and from sources to you, our readers.

Good luck with your final assessments and exams (and for RHD students, with your never-ending research). Don't fret, you'll still be able to procrastinate your study with *Parkville Station*, but until February next year, only online. Look out for us on campus in O-Week 2017!

GOOD LUCK WITH EXAMS.
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PAUL, ALAN, NICHOLE, NATHAN, BEEN, TOM, YANNIS, STEVEN, ISAAC,
GOOD LUCK TO THE UMSU 2017 TEAM!
AVIYA, PRISCILLA, JESSICA, ANNA, SANDIE, GUS, JIM, and ALICE.

Law School rejects seminar recordings.

continued from page 1.

case it may not be possible to capture the entire educational experience”.

The Melbourne University Law Students' Society (MULSS) accepts the Dean's decision. MULSS President, Henry Dow, told *Parkville Station* that MULSS was “satisfied that the decision of Dean Carolyn Evans was made after sincere consideration of the concerns raised by the cohort at Melbourne Law School, and the research conducted by both MULSS and the Later Law Students' Network.”

Similarly, the Later Law Students' Network on their website described themselves as “disappointed with the ultimate outcome”, but that they welcomed the acknowledgement from the Law School “that some students require more appropriate support”.

A key argument in support of lecture recording is student equity — making lectures available to students who, for various reasons, must miss certain lectures, have clashes, or learn better with the ability speed up or slow down the delivery of content.

Evans' email addressed this point in some detail, saying that MLS would put in place measures to address students experiencing difficulty. “We do, however, acknowledge the serious problems that this causes for a small group of students whose medical or other serious and on-going problems means that they are regularly precluded from participating in classes. We will be working towards a solution to those issues (noting that lecture capture itself is not always the best solution given the problems that the system has been experiencing this semester in other

faculties).”

MULSS President Dow said the Law Students' Society “trust[s] that assurances to improve the services to students most in need of lecture recordings will be faithfully kept, and look forward to assisting the Dean in these efforts.”

Recording of classes in Law emerged as an election issue in the 2016 University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) elections—as it has been in past years—with the successful More! ticket promising to “fight for law lectures and seminars to be recorded”.

One of UMSU Education (Academic Affairs) officers, Tom Crowley, was sanguine about MLS' decision, saying that he didn't feel it was inconsistent with the University's lecture recording policy, a policy which UMSU has pushed hard for.

(Crowley ran in this election on the More! ticket for the Creative Arts committee, but emphasised that he couldn't speak to their future position on education issues.)

“To the extent that the current policy encourages subject coordinators [...] to think about how they can make their classes more interactive, and for faculty to have a detailed reason why it won't record, it is consistent with the policy.”

Crowley also emphasised the importance of MLS, and other faculties that might go down this road, ensuring that lectures, recorded or otherwise, were accessible to students. “I think that particular consideration is the most important thing about lecture recordings — accessibility”.

The Age article raises cheating concerns.

Melbourne rag *The Age* ran a story over the weekend of the 8th October alleging a student paid to have their exam marks changed by an alteration of marks on the exam after it had been marked.

We won't reiterate the details *The Age* disclosed (wouldn't want to be hauled up in front of an academic misconduct hearing for plagiarism), but we did follow-up with the University regarding *The Age*'s disconcerting claim that the alleged tamperer (although not the student concerned) “has gotten [sic] away with it”.

According to a University spokesperson, “Despite an extensive investigation, the University was unable to establish how the mark tampering had occurred or who may have been responsible.”

“The investigation that followed the alleged tampering incident did result in process improvements to further strengthen the security of exam marking processes. The University is reviewing central exam processes used in semester one plus a more detailed external, forensic review of the end to end process in three faculties is underway.”

The incident—and particularly, how it ultimately became widely known, via a tip-off to an off-campus newspaper—raises questions about how the University informs the campus community about sensitive issues such as this, where it must balance the right of the community to be informed about the incidence of academic misconduct, with what the University must surely perceive as reputational risk, and with the rights of the student(s) to have their cases handled con-

fidentially.

According to the University, the “relevant areas of the University were apprised of the situation” and ultimately “the recommendations will be progressed through a range of University committees including those involving students and the academic board”.

In this case, those “relevant areas” did not include the University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU). UMSU Education (Academic Affairs) Officer Tom Crowley told us that, although student representatives sit (with a strong expectation of confidentiality) on individual misconduct committees, there's no regular, formal mechanism by which the University keeps UMSU (or, indeed, the rest of the community) informed about the kind of misconduct issues it's facing.

“I think there's a case for [informing UMSU], particularly when the University says there is a problem with some form of misconduct and expects us to support their policy responses on good faith alone” he said. “If they want us to have buy-in to things like Cadmus, we should have access to the same information [as University decision-makers]”. Cadmus is the University's controversial new anti-essay-buying tool, and one point of contention between UMSU and the University over the roll-out of Cadmus has been how prevalent essay buying actually is.

We will be sure to report on whatever happens with this story, and in particular, the progress of any recommendations about exam security.

What's the deal with the \$215 graduation fee?

Graduations held this December will be the first end-of-year graduations run under a new University graduations policy, which requires graduands to hire regalia from MUSUL, a subsidiary company of the University. In past years, students have been allowed to use their own regalia, whether borrowed or bought from other regalia stores.

The new pricing structure is the result of the “first comprehensive review [of graduation policy] since 2011 and focused primarily on improving the experience for students”, according to a spokesperson for the University.

“The resulting package fee of \$215 was set to reflect the cost of this end-to-end experience, which includes the online ticketing system, regalia hire, staff costs, venue hire, catering, cleaning, printed program and administration.”

It is also responding to the fact that “fewer than 13% of students opted to use their own regalia” in the March 2016 graduations. Because of this, the University believes that “for the majority of students, having one package fee that includes ticketing and regalia will be an improved experience.” We don't particularly buy this idea that 13% is low — it is, for example, about one person per seating row in your average graduation.

The new policy has not only precluded the use of academic regalia purchased from other stores, but also regalia previously purchased from MUSUL itself. This means, for example, that any students who have purchased their regalia from MUSUL knowing that siblings, relatives or friends will be graduating in the future (hoping to reuse their gown and hood) are now up shit creek. Their only paddle is that the University will review the situation “before March 2017”, when the next round of graduations will be held, according to the University.

One of the most obvious losers from the new policy are external regalia companies, which historically have contested the lucrative graduations market by providing cheaper sale or hire of regalia than the university-anointed providers. One such company is GownTown, an Australian company started in 2012 on the pitch: “Why hire your gown when you can own?”, and

from whom, until June this year, graduating UniMelb students were able to purchase gowns.

GownTown are aggressive in taking on universities adopting similar policies — one of the FAQ questions on their website directs students being “forced to purchase from a particular organisation” to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), stating that it “may constitute anti-competitive behaviour”.

Edward Kearney, GownTown co-founder, told *Parkville Station* that the company is “withholding comment on the legalities of the situation” as they are currently taking legal advice, but “suffice to say that the overwhelming feeling among students seems to be that this doesn't pass the sniff test”.

According to the University spokesperson, 100% of the income generated from graduands “goes towards operational costs; there is no profit made”. They add that even with the increase in cost, the price is “less than other Victorian universities including Monash and Deakin”.

To this Kearney replies “If the University graduation office can't run a \$215 per student graduation ceremony monopoly at a profit, then the real question here is, how are they managing to waste so much of students' money?”

One answer might be the University's hire of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Building for many of its graduation ceremonies, the cost of which would no doubt take big chunks out of any budget. Whether that use of money is a “waste” is up for debate.

Regardless, Kearney believes there is a “real need for market competition to step in here, help solve these inefficiencies, and get students a better deal”.

The issue of the high price of graduating has clearly affected parts of the student population. University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) President Tyson Holloway-Clarke told us “we've had some complaints from students... and have been raising this specific price and other administrative fees with the University”.

This story is one to watch as we head into graduation season.

UMSU Oktoberfest has its ups and downs.

The University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU)'s Activities department ran an Oktoberfest event on Friday, 7th October, described (by them) as “undoubtedly the best night of the UniMelb calendar”.

According to Itsi Weinstock, one of UMSU's 2016 Activities Officebearers, “[m]ost people thought it was a brilliant night”.

However, the event was marred by some poor organisation, starting late and running out of food. Both provoked complaints on the event's Facebook page: “Where is my sausage?? I am so mad at the lack of food! Where is my refund??” according to one; “This is ridiculous. After queueing for an hour there was no food left. No pretzels, no sausages, no potato salad. Bread rolls. White bread rolls. With absolutely

nothing” said another.

Weinstock apportioned blame for food issues in a few directions: “Partly because we didn't order enough, partly because people were taking too much and wasting a lot”.

Complaints like “Oktoberfest running out of beer? Unforgivable.” turned out to not be completely accurate — the bar closed early on request from the event's security staff, not because it had run out of beer and cider. We'll leave it to you to decide if that's a distinction or a difference.

The event was held this year in North Court — rather than on the Concrete Lawns, as it was in 2015. We understand this was due to financial pressures as well as a prior booking on the latter space.

ParkvilleStation.

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NOTES

Parkville Station is published by Liz Peak and Patrick Clearwater (ABN 526 717 501 61).

Patrick Clearwater is a member of the GSA Council; and was previously a candidate for More Activities! in student elections.

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Fossil Free Melbourne University keep the pressure on.



Dressed in protective gear and accompanied by their signature oil barrels, activists from Fossil Free Melbourne University (FFMU) cleaned up a mock “oil spill” outside the front of the Raymond Priestley building last Tuesday, 11th October, aiming to put further pressure on the University to commit to divesting from fossil-fuel-intensive companies.

The action comes as members of the University’s Chancellery Executive consider whether to accept a draft of the University’s new Sustainability Plan. According to representatives from FFMU, the draft version of the plan being considered today doesn’t make a specific commitment for or against divestment, deferring that decision to a future process.

FFMU member Matt Clare described the mood as “frustrated, disappointed [...] but not really surprised”, saying that FFMU had “put a lot of faith in the Sustainability Plan” but felt that the University had been “yanking our chain” and had not been making progress on the plan, at least as far as it came to divestment, at a reasonable pace.

The Sustainability Plan is designed to “realise” (i.e., implement) what the University expressed in its Sustainability Charter, which was developed over the course of 2015 and released in March this year. The Plan has been under development since that time.

According to the University’s website, the University Executive (a distinct body, we understand, from the Chancellery Executive) will consider the plan on Wednesday 19th October, in anticipation of it being presented to University Council at its November meeting, on 16th November.

FFMU’s Clare said the group had had “more meetings [...] but not more engagement” with the University since its action earlier this year. He also cited a “conflict of interest” that the Univer-

sity had when making decisions about its investment portfolio, as well as key decision-makers from the University not showing up to meetings intended to hammer out the Sustainability Plan.

FFMU has been running a “Where Interests Collide” campaign in an attempt to highlight what they perceive as the conflict of interest that the University holds with respect to its investment portfolio.

In a statement to *Parkville Station*, the University told us they considered the Sustainability Plan to be “well advanced and on track to be presented to University Council for final approval in November”.

“The University has had good engagement with FFMU and many other stakeholders throughout the development of both the Plan and the Charter, and has received valuable input as part of the process.”

FFMU’s Tuesday action was a smaller scale—and perhaps less disruptive—version of a protest action that FFMU ran earlier this year, which saw FFMU activists blockade the Raymond Priestley building, an action which ultimately saw the University arrange a meeting between FFMU representatives and key decision-makers in the University, including Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Allan Tait.

FFMU’s action comes after the University of Queensland ruled out divestment in an announcement on Friday, 7th October. Actions by “Fossil Free” groups at universities around the country have had some high profile wins — with the Australian National University, the Queensland University of Technology and Monash University all committing to some form of partial divestment — but activists here will hope that the University of Queensland bucking the trend doesn’t result in a similar outcome here.

NTEU not happy with Provost comment.

The article on exam altering that appeared in *The Age* (discussed on page 2) also provoked a side-battle with the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU), the trade union that represents staff at the University. Provost Margaret Sheil was quoted by *The Age*:

“Sheil also cautions that claims in the sector of pressure to pass underperforming foreign students are overblown and may ‘be used as a proxy’ to shield lecturers who don’t want to ‘work a bit harder’ to better educate their students.”

The NTEU described the “work a bit harder” soundbite as a “slur on the Academic workforce”;

Uni opens Student Services and Amenities Fee grants.

The University has opened applications for its first-ever Student Services and Amenities Fee Grants round, inviting projects from staff and students who are seeking “funding for student-focused initiatives that contribute to meeting the needs of our diverse student population”.

The Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) is a fee collected from all students (local students paying it directly, and international students through their general tuition fees). Historically it has been apportioned between the University’s student services, MU Sport, the University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU), the Graduate Student Association (GSA) and similar organisations, but as reported in *Parkville Sta-*

and called on Sheil to publicly apologise.

A University spokesperson told *Parkville Station*: “The Provost was asked by the journalist about what he hears from academics ‘across the sector’ about supposed pressure to apply different standards for international students. In response, the Provost indicated that the journalist should exercise caution about such comments since they are sometimes a proxy complaint for the extra work involved in teaching different cohorts of students.”

We understand that response has been conveyed to the NTEU, although prior to publication we were not able to ask them if they were satisfied.

tion, the SSAF grants scheme makes some of that money accessible to other groups that run activities eligible for funding under SSAF legislation.

Parkville Station understands that MU Sport, UMSU and the GSA are already eyeing off the cash, and those organisations are very likely well-positioned to submit polished applications.

Applications for grants are due at 5pm on Friday 4th November, 2016. All students are welcome and encouraged to apply. There will be an information session for student applicants at noon on Tuesday 18th October in the Harold White Theatre, Stop 1.

For more information, including the application form: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/rd7a>

Clubs & Societies Council produces uncontested election.

The University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) Clubs & Societies (C&S) Council meeting, held last Wednesday, resulted in an uncontested election for UMSU’s C&S Committee.

The successfully elected candidates, in the order they were provided to us, are:

- Hilary Ekins (Engineering Music Society)
- Eleanor Seale (Potter Heads)
- Matthew Simkiss (Friends of Unnatural Llamas; also a member of the 2016 Activities Committee)
- Marlo Zambelli (Arts Students’ Society)
- Harry Adam (Labor Club; also a member of the 2016 UMSU Students’ Council)
- Caleb Triscari (Media and Communications Students’ Society; also one of the 2016 UMSU Media Officers)
- Sarah Xia (Melbourne International Relations Society; also one of the 2016 UMSU Welfare Officers)

The C&S Committee is the body that, in practice, wields the most power over clubs in UMSU. While it is technically subordinate to the Council, that body usually meets only twice a year, leaving the Committee to perform the day-to-day work of approving grants, writing policy and regulations, and managing the affiliation and disaffiliation of clubs.

The Committee is elected separately from all of the other UMSU Committees (which were elected at the annual election earlier this semester), and only club Presidents, rather than all students, are eligible to vote at it. We understand an uncontested election for the position is unprecedented in UMSU’s history.

Despite the uncontested election, we understand that candidates nevertheless took questions from the floor, which took, according to one attendee, “an hour” (we’re not sure if that figure is literal or metaphorical).

The meeting also saw a report from outgoing C&S Officebearers Ryan Davey and Yasmine Luu; and incoming 2017 Officebearers Kayley Cuzzubbo and Gulsara Kaplun outlined some of their plans for the coming year, including the introduction of club welfare officers.

Mind the Gap

BETWEEN STUDY AND WORK



Monday 24 October: What a Grad Needs to Know

9.30am–12pm

Woodward Conference Centre

Explore the gap between graduate and employer expectations. **Mind the Gap** is a free program for University of Melbourne graduate students, designed to help them make the transition from study to work.

Attendance is free, but places are extremely limited.

COMMENTARY.

BUSINESS

(Some of) the next four months in Business and Economics.

CASSIE LEW

So the semester is ending and it's time to party (unless you're doing Science, Commerce, BioMed, Engineering or anything that isn't Arts and you have shit load of exams and it's more like the semester is just beginning). The next four months will be filled with many economic and finance fun times, so to make up for the next 19 weeks, here's a little taste of the future, and how you can stay on top of it all.

The US election! I'm sure you're all fully up to date on last week's debate, and the sexual assault video and the email leaks which preceded it, but here's what to keep an eye on. Due to the concerns over Mexican/American relations following a Trump win, the movement of the value of the Mexican Peso (MXN) can be a really good indication of what traders think will happen on November 8th.

Following the most recent debate, the U.S. dollar (USD) fell 1.9% against MXN, an indication that traders felt talk of pussy grabbing put Trump on the back foot. So keep an eye on these metrics if you want to try and predict the future. If you want funny, clever US election coverage, I'd recommend the NPR Politics Podcast.

Will same sex couples be able to marry in Australia? Definitely not in the next four months. Last Tuesday Labor slashed all hope of a plebiscite (scheduled for February 2017) by joining the Greens, Nick Xenophon Team and other independents promising to oppose the government's bill for this non-binding vote.

So will we have same-sex marriage in this term of government? I doubt it. The Liberal party will explode if Malcolm Turnbull tries to get a free vote in the parliament, and the last thing anyone (except Andrew Bolt) wants is to see Tone Abet back in the big chair.

Australia yet again falls behind many of our Western fronds, but at least we won't have to see

those cooked-as ads from the Marriage Alliance on the telly every night. Insiders on ABC on a Sunday morning is a solid go to for the weekly highlights in Australian politics.

Interest rates and fun times! Actually this is going to be an interesting issue here and in the US before Christmas. Most analysts believe the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) will cut the cash rate again before the year is out. Hopefully (if the banks pass on this rate cut) this will mean borrowing funds will be cheaper, and all the gifts will be easier to buy.

On the flip side, after some positive jobs numbers, it is looking more and more likely that the US Federal Reserve, the U.S. counterpart to the RBA, will raise rates for the first time this year. Which means if you're heading to the States over the break, I'd change over your money ASAP. A US rate hike likely means a fall in the value of the Australian dollar, so get to it. To keep up with markets and (actually) interesting analysis, look up the Devils and Details podcast by Business Insider Australia.

Britain's prime minister Theresa May has indicated she will begin the Brexit process in March 2017, so you can look forward to much sass around that issue in this section of Parkville Station next year. However between now and then, the markets will continue to shit themselves whenever Brexit is on the political radar. The Economist has, in my opinion, the most interesting (albeit liberally biased) Brexit analysis and coverage, so like them on Facebook for the highlights.

Alright, that's it, I'm out. As a final gift, if you're looking for a something to read or listen to over the break, hit up the podcast Here's The Thing with Alec Baldwin. Who cares what it's about? It's narrated by Alec Baldwin.

FROM THE DESK OF...

The UMSU Welfare office

SARAH XIA, ONE OF THE 2016 UMSU WELFARE OFFICERS

This is a section we've introduced for a student representative from UMSU, UMSU International or the GSA to tell us what they're doing in your name. Want to reply? letters@parkvillestation.com

The University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) and UMSU Welfare are proudly supporting the National Union of Students' Welfare Day of Action (WDA) this Wednesday 19 October. UMSU Welfare will be hosting a campus speak-out session at 1pm on Wednesday with free pizza, before leading a contingent to the WDA at the State Library at 2pm.

The WDA aims to highlight the importance of student wellbeing and welfare services. Budget measures by the federal government, and University management decisions, have disproportionately and directly affected students in need.

The Turnbull Government's Prepare, Trial, Hire (PaTH) program in the 2016 budget would see young job seekers working for as little as \$4 an hour, and businesses getting \$1000 upfront to take on these underpaid workers. Centrelink remains difficult to access and the government is fixated on reducing income support, pricing students out of education. We want students from all backgrounds and all walks of life to be able to access a fair and inclusive university experience, but the Turnbull Government isn't on the same page.

At a campus level, the University of Melbourne's student welfare services are inadequate and confusing. The amalgamation of various campus service phone lines into 13MELB means

that students needing immediate support from Financial Aid or Emergency Accommodation are waiting in the same phone queue as students with questions about enrolment. Sexual assault is a major problem at campuses across Australia, with the NUS 'Talk About It' survey results released this year finding that more than a quarter of women students surveyed had experienced some form of sexual assault while enrolled at their current institution. Special consideration at the University of Melbourne remains in a terrible state, with many students receiving responses from Student Equity and Disability Support more than two months after their initial application. That's just not good enough.

The WDA is about making sure that we hold the university and the government to account for their attacks on student welfare. It is vitally important that students from all backgrounds are able to have a fair and supportive university experience, and current services are simply not meeting student needs.

Student wellbeing should be a university and national priority, and I'm proud to be supporting student welfare. Join us at 1pm this Wednesday to stand up and make a difference.

Find out more on our Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/599815643554185/>

Mental Health Week.

BENJAMIN HOWES



Photo: Benjamin Howes

Have you chatted about mental health recently? Keen to learn how to support a friend? Chances are that one in four adults will experience mental health difficulties at some point - yet four in four can help! That includes you and me, my friend. Mental Health Week was a great opportunity to learn more, as campus came alive with staff and students promoting mental health and wellbeing.

Laughter Zen, Free Breakfasts and Mindfulness Sessions ran across the week: even our friends at the new Bike Coop and Sustainable Campus helped out with bike maintenance for National Ride2Work Day, encouraging physical health and wellbeing! As a keen bike enthusiast - well, someone who enjoys a cheese platter & watching Tour De France anyway - I was keen.

Surrounded by crazy good local food at the Farmers Market, friendly staff from Coun-

selling and Psychological Services were keen to chat about mental health and share a free snack. Check out their everyday tips below!

For UMSU Student Welfare, this week marked a key week in the calendar for supporting students across campus, complete with a Mental Health Week Stall and Welfare Day of Action Meeting.

As someone journeying with many good friends who are experiencing mental health challenges, this week has been a great chance to normalise mental health conversations and boost support, shining a light on a common challenge. For all those experiencing mental health challenges & their supporters, I hope this week has been an encouragement!

5 Everyday Tips for Good Mental Health

Courtesy of Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

1. Ride or walk to work/Uni.
2. Do something FUN every day (even for 15min).
3. Spend time with a friend or talk on the phone.
4. Practise gratitude: think of 3 things before you go to sleep that you are grateful for from the day.
5. Have some technology-free time to be more fully present.

Coffee Review: cold and flu meds.

DANIEL FLYNN



Pictured: I blatantly refuse to endure this ailment without my drugs, Tim Tams, rainbow scarf and unflattering lighting.

Well, it's that time of semester again. An otherwise charming campus finds itself swarming with insolent undergrads as they bitch about their untouched assignments distributed weeks ago, and their myriad germs permeate the air as they flock pointlessly from one nomadic study space to the next. All you can do is hold your breath and wait in line as Opinionated Sally whines loudly to her wayward-fringe-donning friend about her misunderstood essay on the applications of lesbian poetry to business economics, and hope that she doesn't take until the end of her futile degree to decide exactly which quinoa snack to waste her money on.

It's almost inevitable that your immune system be thwarted by their poor hygiene in exactly the same way that your faith in humanity has been compromised by their incessant ridiculous questions all fucking semester. You start to notice a sore throat, dizziness and weight retention -- and realising that only the latter of these symptoms is attributable to your poor diet and shitty genes, you prepare for cantankerous and unrecalibratable sickness mode.

That's right: Hell hath no fury like a pox-ridden entitled postgrad scorned. The whole world

shrieks and recoils as you emerge from your Brunswick home at the crack of noon in track-suit pants that bunch up around the gunt and a face like death incarnate. Italian Nonnas clutch their rosary beads for divine intervention, mothers avert children's glares whilst trying to figure out which three numbers to dial on you, and hipsters mistake your frail, pallid appearance for a commendable triumph of fashion indifference. But how do you survive the day? My first response: stop asking stupid fucking questions -- I get enough of that from my students. My second response: you do it with drugs.

But which drugs do you take? For me, the nostalgic solution is raspberry flavoured Dimetapp "for kids 6 years and over". However, having once chugged the correct dosage for a man-flu (precisely one bottle) directly before teaching a lab, I can definitely tell you that it causes memory loss and, as my students wasted no time in telling me the next week, an extremely friendly demeanour. This is a price that I, for one, am simply not willing to pay, and as such Dimetapp receives my very strong stamp of regretful disapproval.

Perhaps you were raised by hippies, and have been led to the belief that all medicine is evil. If this describes you, then I vigorously recommend the natural alternative: lemon and honey tea, made with a teaspoon each of arsenic and lead. Serve, if you wish, with a side of go fuck yourself.

At the end of the day, I'd say that your best bet for salvation comes in the form of small fistfuls of Sudafed. It's fast, easy to administer (oral or anal, depending on personal preference), and there was plenty of it in the medicine box that I inherited from my grandmother three years ago which definitely isn't past its use by date. Of course, if you're the hardcore fully sick c*** that I am, then perhaps the regular-strength meds aren't X-treme enough for you. In that case, I'd recommend hitting up the pharmacy for Sudafed so strong that they make a photocopy of your license and put you on a government tracking list.

And on that note, I'll see you bitches next year, when this season's cafes close to avoid ATO audits and/or PTSD from encounters with yours truly, and the new season's victims -- uhh, baristas -- are ready for a ravaging.

DIANNA, EMILY, QASIM & STEVE.

We interviewed the student O-Week Host Program Directors, to see what the Uni community has to look forward to in O-Week next year.

Parkville Station (PS): Tell us about yourselves — what are you all studying?

Qasim (Q): My name's Qasim, I'm doing my Masters of Information Systems here, in my second semester now. I'm from India, but I did my undergrad in Malaysia. I've been part of the O-Week host programme for four or five months now — we were appointed as Directors in June.

Apart from O-Week, I haven't been involved in other clubs & societies — I've been mostly focusing on my studies, because being a Masters student I've got lots of assignments and all that. I'm not doing much in summer apart from a four-week internship, so that I spend more time on preparing for O-Week.

Dianna (D): My name's Dianna and I'm a first year Biomed student. I haven't been involved in as many clubs as I'd like to but in my rare spare time (ah the joys of Biomed), I'll be volunteering for anything that External relations runs. I also volunteered for the UMSU Advocacy Exam Support Stall, which I absolutely loved.

Steve (S): I'm Steve, I'm a second year Master of Urban Planning student — I came straight from the Bachelor of Environments when I majored in Property. I volunteered for the host programme in the first time in 2013, when the Uni still ran it, and then again in 2014. I've also been tutoring for the [Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning] since the start of the year.

Emily (E): I'm Emily, I'm technically a third year Bachelor of Arts student. I've been a volunteer with the host programme since the host programme after which I was a first year, and now I'm one of the Directors. At Uni, I've joined quite a lot of clubs, but I'm particularly involved in the book club and the Christian Union.

PS: So, what does an "O-Week Host Programme Director" do?

E: We recruit hosts, we train hosts, we organise the structure of the programme, and basically decide all of how it'll be organised. It's a lot of leg work and organisation, rather than the fun stuff that hosts get to do.

PS: Was helping out with Mid-Year Orientation part of your role?

S: That was the first one we ran!

Q: It's the first time they've hired Directors for just the host programme, rather than Orientation directors.

D: So for us, I think Mid Year Orientation was a good mini-trial run. The Volunteering Co-ordinator, Stephanie, she always keeps telling us: this is a trial one if you want to test things out.

PS: What did you test out that went really well?

E: We did test out pairing hosts. Particularly with Commerce tours, almost all of the hosts were partnered — so you had a slightly larger group, but there were two of you. That way, the students not only got two perspectives, but you also had someone to play off. So if you didn't know much about a particular building, or didn't have a

funny story there, there was someone else who hopefully would. You could support each other's strengths and weaknesses.

S: It's something that's been brought up a lot, so we're trying to do that institutionally from our end for the upcoming O-Week.

Q: It's also much easier when you only have 70 hosts, compared to the start of the year, when you have 350 hosts.

PS: What part of the role are you up to for next year's O-Week?

E: We had interviews this morning!

D: We started interviews during mid semester break, and we're continuing until Week 12. We're also looking to open up a few more interview sessions

PS: So people can still apply?

All: Yes!

PS: What's been the best part of the role so far?

E: I think the satisfaction, after mid-year orientation, that realisation that we actually did it! We had it all organised, people actually are in these host groups, they're going on tours and they're playing games. That is a fantastic feeling of "we've done this, and now you're connected".

S: I think the proof of concept that we can have a programme run by students for students. That's always satisfying, to know that. I guess maybe the University assumes that because it's student facing, students will be able to run it better. Being able to verify that, and validate that decision, was really satisfying.

D: I think personally for me, I really enjoyed engaging with hosts on the day, being able to meet the people. We didn't conduct interviews for Mid Year Orientation, but on the day, we got to meet them, engage with them, get them going on their tours. Having them come back and go: "we found it amazing, thanks for all the chocolate!". I think that was the most satisfying thing for me.

Q: On a lighter note, apart from what they said, I got two movie tickets instead of one. So yeah, that was pretty satisfying.

PS: What's great about it being student run?

D: Having it run by students mean it's run by people who have recently been through transition and now possess the tips and tricks to help new students survive such a nerve-wracking time.



From L to R: Emily Roberts, Dianna Duong, Mohammad Bin Qasim and Steven Nicolas.

E: It's not so much that staff don't know, and can't put on a fantastic orientation, it's just that for students, it's fresher in their mind. We're more likely to change things that didn't work: this didn't work, and this worked well. We're more likely to say that without offending anyone!

S: I think it makes O-Week a thing for the entire student body. You've got the people who are coming, but for people who are already here, having student run programmes and student volunteering programmes allows them to be involved in O-Week again. O-Week is not necessarily for them—because they've already been here—but it allows them to be a part of it. As well as all the other skills-building that comes with volunteering.

Q: I think the best part about it from a host's perspective is that they get to build networks and connections. That's really important when you're in a university: you need to build those friendships and networks. When you've got 300 or 400 hosts signing up for this sort of event, it gives you an exciting opportunity interact and build professional relationships. Also in training sessions, with 60 to 70 hosts in a single room, group activities and brainstorming helps in upskilling and team building.

PS: What big plans are you going to bring to the 2017 host programme?

D: A lot of what we are thinking of is still in the works and we still need to confirm a few things. We are looking at pairing hosts, and a few other changes, though again, still trying to get that in the works.

E: It will be bigger, and it will be more colourful, and it will be lots of fun.

S: I think we have a directive—although it's not mandated—to really represent the student experience and the experience of the Student Union. When I experienced the host programme, it was run by the University. We just didn't necessarily try to integrate as much with the student union as possible. I think having that sort of student experience is crucial to what we're trying to put in to the host programme. It is easy to tell everyone: "this is where you'll have your classes", but then really, that's not what we think students would need the most from us.

E: It gets back to: our volunteers are hosts, they aren't tour guides. What students aren't interested in is: "this is a building, and this is where we have classes". They want to know the funny stories, they want to know which bathrooms not to go to, they want to know where to get the best coffee, not just "here is a building". It's the interesting stories that make the host programme, not just the tour side of it.

PS: What's your fave go-to fact about the Uni?

E: The Concrete Lawns used to be a lake. There's a sign on Concrete Lawn showing people on the lake.

D: When we were given a tour, one of the things we were told is that there's an underground tunnel where they used to carry dead bodies from the Royal Melbourne Hospital to the Medical Buildings. We're still hunting for it.

Q: They shot one of the episodes of Master Chef in the underground car park.

S: The campus is more expansive than you think — so there are probably places you can get wifi that you wouldn't think. (Also, eduroam is cool!)

PS: The role has shifted somewhat: last year it was O-Week Directors, now it's Host Programme Directors. What do you think about that change?

S: The scope of the position has changed. The delivery of the orientation experience by UMSU is always a fluid thing — there's a new Students' Council every year, so it really depends on the direction that Council wants to take with Orientation. As Directors, you're supposed to submit reports to let Council know how everything's going. I think the rescope for this year, it makes sense. We don't see any misalignment with what we're meant to do, and the responsibilities we've been given.

PS: What part of the host programme are you most looking forward to?

D: I think it's similar to Mid Year Orientation—I think it's meeting the hosts, the satisfaction of going "OK, this time, the scale is bigger, everything is bigger (and more colourful)".

E: Speed friending! Speed friending's great.

Q: It's going to be much bigger than the Mid Year Orientation. We're aiming for more than 400 hosts this time.

S: Definitely changes that we've made, including pairing, making sure the actual experience is good. It all comes down to us training the hosts, as well. We have, obviously, an opportunity to revise that, so I think making these sorts of changes that we envisioned when we applied to be Directors in the first place, just to really refine the student experience. Anyone can give a tour, it takes more skill to be a host.

Q: We are trying to make the training more interactive and fun for the hosts, so that they enjoy this experience and spread the word!

PS: Anything else you want to say?

E: Sign up to be a host!

COMMENTARY.

OPINION

Dear students/prisoners/gullible nitwits of Melbourne University.

MOK CHUN SANG

Forget mid-life crisis. I suffer from post-pubescent-pre-actual-adulthood-early-life-crisis (PPPAELC).

Don't know it? That's fair enough because this revolutionary self-diagnosis from yours truly is fairly recent. I needed something which would adequately convey this foreign phase in our young, innocent lives, a phase which they indoctrinated into our impressionable selves as 'an exciting time.' The ultimate climax to an orgy of High School Musicals. That stage in your petty existence when you've just finished Year 12 and you dive head first into a supposed life of meaning, only to crack your skull wide open on the concrete floor of reality.

An arts degree???

Ha!

I feel sorry for us. I reeeaaally do. We were gullible. Drawn in by the allure of a prestigious university, ostensibly ranked 'first' in Australia, only to be stuck knee-deep in the most revolting pile of undergraduate crap imaginable.

Like a pair of dandy socks you buy for your step-dad which you disguise in the most exquisite gold-leaf wrapping paper. A wondrous sight to behold BUT when you unwrap the thin veil of cunning adverts, your heart drops like a tonne of bricks!

1.11 million to be exact. Or at least that's the amount Glyn Davis, our illustrious Vice-Chancellor 'earned' in 2015. And I say 'earned' with just a pinch of incredulity!

While our good ol' friends from school are studiously working their way through their respectable specialised degrees at Monash, his supreme excellency, 'Glynny', in what I assume was one of his more inventive outbursts of brilliance, decided to imprison us in this 'Melbourne Model'.

And so, my dear convicts, here we find ourselves, at Melbourne's finest money-sucking machine. Forced to endure 3 years of a HECSed Bachelor's with the promise of what can only be described as an avalanche of debt hurtling towards us at an ever increasing pace in the clever guise of an apparently necessary Master's degree.

It would be all well and good if the Bachelor's degree held any real value in the real world but unfortunately for us, modern society sees fit to demand specialised degrees for the more financially rewarding professions. And one can accuse Melbourne's degrees of being many things, but they are most certainly not specialised.

Dozens of academic courses all of which

leave one none the wiser as to what they are actually learning. Why yes Melbourne, I'm sure an 'Ecological History of Humanity' and 'African Drumming' will serve me well in real-life. Both of which are subjects which I expect to find in should I have gone to - God forbid - Victoria University, but certainly not at an institution which bears the name of a city as great as Melbourne.

In fairness, there may be one or two de-ranked students out there who applaud Glynny's Ponzi scheme. And I could, in theory, express my heartfelt empathy and understanding of their misguided point of view. But to do so would be disingenuous of me. Rather than being here, these sufferers of a mutated strain of PPPAAELC should be incarcerated, for their own sake and for the safety of those around them.

And before anyone has the gall to accuse me of not utilising all my opportunities, I'll let them know that I have indeed entertained a number of morbid proposals to cure this debilitating illness.

Risking limbs and dignity in a fruitless endeavour, I've recently undertaken several ventures in the hope that they might offer me a glimpse of what is really possible in life. Or at the very least, detract my precious attention away from the tragic eyesores which are the sandstone buildings of Parkville.

One such attempt and one which I am not proud to admit, is skateboarding, which I can assure you is as culturally appropriate for an Asian as peace-making is for an American. Having fallen off my board more times than one would care to count, it gradually dawned on me that we are in a truly hopeless situation. We've already made a commitment to this vile degree and as such, it would be dishonourable of us to not stay on course, in the direction of whichever Centrelink branch is closest.

Personally, I've begun to take interest in those incessant emails from Melbourne, advertising jobs for cleaners and other mundane careers.

However, our pain should not be in vain. It is incumbent upon us to ensure the next generation stay far, far away from Parkville, lest they be infected.

Fellow victims, I ask only that you spread this message far and wide, Melbourne University is indeed where Great Minds Collide - into mush.

Cynically yours,
Mok Chun Sang

Theatre Review: Twelfth Night

MADELEINE JOHNSON

MUSC's *Twelfth Night* is another university Shakespeare production that, in reinventing and innovating an institutional text, seeks to justify said text's weighty existence in the theatrical canon. Whilst the show itself is engaging, dynamic, and sharply put together, I feel that this was despite, rather than because of, Shakespeare's famous words.

The primary feature of this version of *Twelfth Night* is that it is set in a cult, and that this cult is outside. The show takes place on the Concrete Lawns, just east of Union House, which provide a sweeping vista upon which the action of the play unfolds. A towering tree, with strategically draped sheets, delineates a foregrounded stage, but allows for glimpses of action that occur in the backgrounded dark lawns. This device was used particularly effectively in one of the best theatrical chase scenes I've ever seen: an escaped cult member hides, terrified, in the foregrounded stage, whilst members of the cult, just visible with their handheld lanterns, sweep through the background in a night-time search party. This use of space makes the world of the play feel larger and somehow more real, and functioned best when background action was used to effectively construct tension with mainstage drama. The shortfall, however, was that it was freezing, and I struggled to hear the actors at times, particularly when music was playing.

This cult served as an excellent dramatic device, facilitating eerie dance scenes, inexplicable rituals and Viola killing a woman with her bare hands in order to gain entrance to Orsino's cult/household. The wordless scenes and actions that occurred parallel to and beside dialogue were excellent, often chilling and unsettling, but were never fully fused into a cohesive whole with the text-based narrative. I felt the Shakespearean text shone the most in moments of comedy, of human warmth and connection, where actors managed to contextualise the script in a relatable, down-to-earth way, which were incidentally also the moments that seemed most at odds with the cult setting. But I also would have loved to have seen a greater exploration of what this cult was, what their ritual structure was, and why they were enacted. As it stands, the cult device serves more as an aesthetic hemming than an actual alteration of the fabric of the play, although it does provide a framework in which the modified ending bears some logical sense.

What really carried this show was the strength of the acting and the vividness with which the cast brought these characters to life. Whilst it was disappointing to see a lack of cultural diversity in the cast, especially considering it followed so soon on the heels of a production like UHT's *Macbeth* + *macdeath*: a coda,

which was a testament to the diversity of talent that exists at the University, the cross-gender casting and subtle reworking of the central romance made this a refreshingly queer vision of Shakespearean romance. Olivia (Adelaide Greig) and Viola (Alice Wheaton) can barely keep their hands off each other, filling the stage with a crackling chemistry. The laddish and hilarious antics of Sir Toby (Scout Boxall) are perfectly counterpointed with her understated genuine affection for Maria (Sara Tabitha Catchpole) to create a character that is both tangibly human and perpetually sending the audience into fits of giggles. Other standout performances (although, to be honest, the standard was incredibly high across the cast) was Malvolio (Lewis McLeod)'s straight-faced awkward delivery, which served outstanding comedic purpose; Feste (Anthony Kuiper)'s sinister physicality and maniacal laughs were the stuff of nightmares; and Antonio (Rebecca Poynton)'s terrified intensity was captivating and set up the energy levels of the fast-paced show from the opening moments. It was thusly a great shame that there were moments during the show where the actors struggled to make their voices heard in the great outdoors, or were competing to speak with loud music, or weren't visible to any audience members who weren't in the first row because action was taking place low to the ground.

Overall, however, this is an incredibly strong show that I really enjoyed watching, despite the fact I was totally unfamiliar with *Twelfth Night* going in. The features that made this show excellent, however - the acting, the queer stories and the intense moments of the cult - were all elements that could have existed independently of the Shakespearean text, and, moreover, were interesting precisely because they pushed away from a central norm of the 'standard Shakespeare'. If the plot isn't sacred, and the language is good because actors can twist it into voices that sound contemporary to the modern ear, then one wonders whether a show that's success rides on elements added to an existing text justifies the usage of that text.

tl;dr, this is an immensely engaging take on Shakespeare that I would whole-heartedly recommend going to see, if not for the iambic pentameter or world-altering use of language, then for the empathetic retelling of queer love stories, dynamite sexual tension and action-packed fight scenes. But do remember to dress warmly. Like, seriously, bring a blanket.

You can see *Twelfth Night* on Wednesday October 19th - Saturday October 22nd at 8pm, on the Concrete Lawns, tickets available here: <https://chook.as/musc/twelfth-night>

OPINION

Regressive decision by Dean cuts centre for community & socially-engaged arts.

Last week *Parkville Station* revealed that the Vice-Chancellor's salary is \$1.11million a year — no wonder the University can't afford to keep a world leading centre for community and socially-engaged arts. Three weeks ago, in a regressive move, VCA-MCM Dean Barry Conyngham announced his decision to close the Centre for Cultural Partnerships (CCP) — Australia's only centre for research and training in community and socially engaged arts. The Dean appears to have missed the VC's memo that research and training in 'engagement and partnerships with community' are the central pillars of the University's vision. Or maybe the name of the centre isn't clear enough? The closure of the CCP is the cultural equivalent of getting rid of gene research in medicine - research and education that functions at the forefront of new knowledge, addresses social issues and promotes "real world" collaborations. If 'Education is an act of faith in the future,' according to the VC's vision, then why is the University making this regressive decision?

It seems no one really knows why the CCP is being closed, not even the Dean. Initially he informed students (by email), that it wasn't a question of economics but relevance to the VCA-MCM's vision, but then changed his mind (in a follow up email). Actually it is about economics after all! Other than failing to engage in effective communications and other breaches of University of Melbourne protocols, the reasons for the closure and the ramifications of what is at risk of being lost have not been transparent or well thought through. Or maybe they've been conveniently ignored. It seems facts are not a strength in the University's thin arguments.

Embarrassingly for the Dean he misquoted the number of students at the CCP in an article in *The Age* last week - there are in fact 23 PhDs, 12 MFAs, 43 Masters by coursework, and 30 Graduate Certificates - all of whom work in inter-disciplinary research practices and training. Since its beginning in 2005, the CCP has graduated hundreds of exceptional postgraduate students and housed largescale funded research in areas

such as multicultural arts, disability arts, urban planning and cultural policy with many partners in the sector. It is this industry that recognises the significance of closing the CCP, as the near 2000 signatures on the Save CCP campaign indicate. They are not alone. The Tate Modern's page on Socially Engaged Practices recognise it as a legitimate contemporary art practice that 'includes any artform which involves people and communities in debate, collaboration or social interaction,' with a set of powerful ethics behind it. This is not an area for dabblers but serious practitioners and thinkers, such as Oreet Ashery, Ai Wei-Wei, Mierle Laderman Ukeles, Miwon Kwon, Suzanne Lacy, Claire Bishop, even Banksy all who challenge, rethink and imagine the social, environmental and the artistic.

A positive symptom of this cultural shift is an international move by many universities to prioritise community arts and socially engaged practice, demonstrating the value and relevance of this as an academic field of research: Middlesex University, University of London, Man-

chester Metropolitan University, University of Wolverhampton, National College of Art and Design (Dublin), New York University, Arizona State University, University of Jyväskylä (Finland) to name but a few. In the meantime Australian universities axe and pillage their arts departments — a symptom of ignorance and misunderstanding about the frontiers of arts and social research. Whilst forward thinking universities have developed a strong institutional foundation that validates community arts and socially engaged practice creating international recognition, how is the University of Melbourne competing? It isn't. It is cutting.

Find out more at the SaveCCP website: www.saveccp.org.au

Friends of the CCP is a group of students, researchers, and alumni inside and affiliated with the Centre for Cultural Partnerships

PROMISE TRACKER.

Parkville Station introduces promise tracker, will solve every problem in student politics.

At the recent student elections, the two main tickets vying for office — Stand Up! and More! — both started the week handing out How-To-Vote pamphlets festooned with competing (although, in the cold light of morning, quite similar) claims about what they would do if you gave them your vote. Pamphlets from other tickets did the same, to varying degrees.

At one point in the week, More! upped the ante, publishing on its Facebook page a twenty page document, entitled “More! 2016 Election Policy” and featuring no fewer than 178 individual bullet points.

More!, as we reported, won the election convincingly — resulting in our headline “No excuses if they fuck it up”.

In that vein, in 2017, Parkville Station will track each promise made during the election online and in print. We will do this for all four tickets that won Officebearer positions — More!, Activate, Independent Media and the Biggest Blackest Ticket — but due to their overwhelming win, More! will be in the hot seat the most.

The main driver for embarking on this endeavour is this: holding student politicians accountable for the tall tales they tell during elections has historically been done very poorly. It's virtually a (sometimes unfair) trope: student politicians are very very visible for one week of the year (election week) and then are no-where to be seen every other week of the year.

(It should be noted that one of More!'s election promises — one we intend to track — is to produce a promise tracker of their own. We'd claim that they stole the idea from us, but of course, we stole the idea from the ABC, who in turn took it from the public domain.)

Let's be clear: we think that bringing a clear policy to an election is a good thing, and we don't want to discourage a policy document like More!'s laudable (if quixotic) attempt. If Team A goes to an election saying “We stand for accountability”, and Team B goes to an election saying “We will improve accountability by doing X, Y and Z”, then we think Team B is doing a better job (even if they only manage to do X and Y).

(We're intentionally saying “Team A” and “Team B” rather than naming names because, as discussed below, all tickets made promises that were both vague and specific.)

But we also think that if you go to people and say “vote for me, I'll give you the Earth and Moon and a diamond car with platinum wheels”, then we damn well expect something like it — and you're absolutely doing students a disservice if you conveniently forget about your promise for 51 weeks, and wheel it back out for the next election.

METHODOLOGY

Anyway, we thought we'd take this opportunity to explain exactly what we're going to do and how we're going to do it.

We've decided that More!, Activate, Independent Media and the Biggest Blackest Ticket won officebearer spots (and, in most cases, majorities on relevant committees) and so should be held accountable for what they've said they'll do. Other tickets also won positions but, while we imagine they will push for what they promised to do, we're happy to accept “we didn't win the election” as a good reason not to achieve them.

In order to work out what the tickets actually promised, we've referred to their published campaign material. This means their official policy statements, their how-to-vote pamphlets, and their websites and social media. We also asked those four tickets if there was anything else they'd like on the list; there were no takers for that option.

More!, with their infamous 178-point plan, dominate the list, so it's worth spending a bit of time on how we treated their policy promises. We have distilled them further than they did — for example, we consider something like “We'll work over the long term for more parking racks for your bike and cheaper parking for your car” to be two promises, rather than one, each individually assessable for completion or otherwise.

We also consider the timeframe over which something is to be promised: if something will happen over the next three years, it's not a broken promise if it's not done by the end of 2017 (although we'd be inclined to look at it sceptically if no progress had been made). Where a timeframe isn't given, we're assuming that means by the end of the 2017 term of office.

When assessing particular promises, the idea is to provide a concise and coherent analysis of what was promised contrasted against what was done — to provide you, the reader, with enough information to come to a decision about the status of a promise (for example, a promise might not be met, but you might think the excuse you're given is good enough).

However, we do intend to summarise the state of all promises in a few separate categories:

- not started — as far as we know, no action has been taken
- in progress — things are happening, people are talking, cogs are whirring
- stalled — things were happening, but no real progress is made over a timeframe reasonable for delivering the promise
- delivered — they said they'd do it, and they did (something like) it
- delivered late — they did it, but they were slow (as usual, they lose 10% per academic day)
- broken — they said they'd do it, but they didn't
- tracking — the opportunity hasn't arisen to break or deliver this promise, so we're just keeping an eye on it

This summary will make it possible to check, at a glance, how things are going, but it's important to understand the limitations. For example, promises can be of vastly different scope and difficulty. To promise to examine live broadcasting the Students' Council, run a campaign to encourage people to start clubs, and set up a tax help, workplace rights and budget advice program, is to promise three separate things. We imagine that achieving the first should take hours, whereas the last would be a substantial accomplishment in its own right.

Lastly, we reserve the right to totally and without warning change our methodology (particularly if someone tries to game it). If we do, we'll write about what the new methodology is and why we've adopted it. That's our only promise.

Uncomfortable Uncle.

Dear Uncomfortable Uncle,

SWOTVAC is coming up, and I'm having some trouble finalising my study schedule for the week. Do you have any advice?

Thanks, Studious

Dear Studious,

I like to take a balanced approach to SWOTVAC. Balance, that is, between study, stress-eating, drinking, rolling around the ground screaming, and catatonic denial. It's a precise formula:

Monday — Mostly a personal day. Sleep in until midday. Eat breakfast until 1pm, before segueing swiftly and smoothly into lunchtime. After this feeding frenzy treat yourself to a nap. In the later arvo attempt to pursue a personal hobby of choice, such as sports or musical instruments. Give up after about 15 minutes and spend several hours procrastinating from procrastination by watching random episodes of television series you've already clocked a few times. Oops, it's now 7:30pm. You've missed dinner, so apologise to Mum for studying so hard you forgot to eat. Let her date on you for an hour. It's 8:30pm. Make it up to her with a few hours of Mario Kart (you TOTALLY didn't want to play, but it's for her sake, right?). It's 11pm. You're only five episodes away from the end of one of the TV series you were watch earlier, so you might as well bust out the last few episodes so that you're not tempted tomorrow...

Tuesday — Wake up at 8am filled with self-loathing. Roll over and stay in bed perusing memes until 10am. Forego breakfast, and get straight into studying. You're actually productive for two hours, so you reward yourself with an early lunch to make up for your missed morning meal. Study successively for the rest of the afternoon. Am I some kind of academic God? Hey, it's cheap tickets night at Village, so catch the new Bridget Jones film. Get home at 10pm and study for an hour. Wow, did I just turn over a new leaf? It's been such a successful day that you even throw in half an hour of exercises before going to sleep before midnight.

Wednesday — Hump day. The midway point. A crossroads moment of some kind. The day when transcripts are made or broken. Unfortunately, however, the you that turned up on Tuesday is not the you of Wednesday. You're back to your old ways. Despite going to bed early by your standards yesterday you manage to sleep until 2pm. Wake up and panic. Attempt to bust out an essay about a novel you've never read purely from what you glean through 'secondary' readings. Get about halfway through before thinking to look up the synopsis on Wikipedia before realising that you've misinterpreted everything. Proceed to cry. Cry a lot. Consider messaging your ex to catch up for coffee.

Thursday — SWOTVAC is more than halfway done and you're about a quarter way done with study. That's fine, you only do your best work under pressure anyway. This has been proven only by 15 years of never attempting any other means of study other than the last-minute kind, but you're pretty sure it would be the case even if you started earlier anyway. Anyway, you realise that you haven't showered in a week, so you do that. Also the room that you haven't tidied in three months is looking kind of messy, so now seems like a pretty good time to do that too. As the sun sets realise that you're going to have pull an all-nighter to finish this essay, which means there's really no point starting before midnight, anyway. Always good to launch from a nice round number.

Friday — The Friday of SWOTVAC has always been an important spiritual experience for me. Faced with the prospect of my impending failure, a calmness reaches me as I realise the futility of all things in life. What does my grade in this paper on Michelangelo's ability to sculpt the perfect arse really matter in the grand scheme of things when we're all going to die eventually? Plus, there's always the weekend. Do we have exams on Queen's Birthday? Can I still join the army?

It's fool-proof. Trust me, I'd know.
UU.

ANATOMY OF A PROMISE.

Unique <i>Parkville Station</i> Promise Tracking Number™	Title, description	Our assessment of the promise status
#67	Create a regular academic journal for students. more info »	IN PROGRESS
	2 days ago Notice posted asking for expressions of interest in initial editorial board, working group appointed to consider structure. more »	
	8 days ago Presented motion to Students' Council asking for in principle approval. Motion was passed.	
#48	Ensure B.Arts students are allowed breadth	STALLED.

Timeline of events relevant to the promise

Check out the full list at:

promisetracker.net

(Yes, it turns out the most important promises in the entire Internet to track are ones made by student politicians at UniMelb. Deal with it.)

CAMPUS STYLE.

MADELEINE

Spotted at: East Side of Union House

Bachelor of Science (Pure Mathematics)



because she occasionally takes me clothes shopping. This shirt I bought second hand from an op shop in Williamstown. This jumper, I bought second hand from an op shop in Bentleigh. I'm a very big fan of a cable-knit jumper, because it's very versatile — so much so that I bought my younger brother a black cable-knit jumper for his birthday. I also have this necklace, which is a diamanté frog. I think I got that from a flea market in Berlin — that's a very hipster way of saying it. This is my favourite coat—although I don't know I can say I have a favourite coat, it's a bit like picking children—but this one is a really good coat. It's made of wool so it's very warm, and I got it in Berlin from a second-hand shop. It's very good for dramatically swishing around.

These days I try to have a wardrobe of fewer things, but things that go with lots of other things for maximum

permutations of acceptable outfits.

Style is different from fashion. Personal style to me encompasses people's conscious decisions to present themselves in a certain way to the world. It's definitely influenced by fashion, in that what we choose to wear and put on our bodies is often influenced by what's available. We like what we

see a lot of, and what we're used to, which is what's in fashion. But everyone has a different way of approaching the clothes they want to wear. Some people don't necessarily make conscious decisions about that, and that's a valid way of approaching style.

I don't know if I'd say that everyone has a style. I wouldn't say I have a definition of "style" that is compatible with the statement that everyone has a style. I wouldn't say I "have a style", because how I feel about clothes varies quite a lot. Sometimes I'm really lazy and wear very similar things for a period of time, and sometimes I put a lot of effort into coordinating things or wearing fun lipstick and makeup and whatever. One of the most appealing things about clothes is that you can represent a broad range of styles, and you're not necessarily stuck to one image. Some people love to have one image that they wear all the time, and some people like to have a bunch of different images that they can choose to present themselves as, because of clothes.

Style is important to me because it is, for me, a lot of fun. It's an accessible way of self-expression. You have to wear clothes - that's the society we live in - and I think you might as well choose clothes that do good things for you. For some people, that's finding things that are really comfortable. For me, that's finding things that look really cool or express a certain thing or whatever.

The best outfit I've ever seen is not a question that I could ever answer. Actually, one of my favourite photos in existence is this really great photo of Adam and the Ants, which were a band in the eighties, in the New Romantic style. The New Romantic was a really specific fashion period that lasted for, like, three years that was basically people in the eighties dressing like pirates in mediaeval stuff and renaissance fashion, but it

Madeleine is the originator of and frequent contributor to the Campus Style column.

was in the eighties so you've got the colour and the glitter and ridiculous shoulder pads.

My style has developed over the years. When I was 12 or 13, I was really anti-fashion. I was at a school where I wrongly believed there were a lot of girls who were interested in make-up and looking good, and that was really not what I wanted to be because it was the total antithesis of being clever and intelligent and all the stuff that I was interested in. I thought I was anti-fashion. I would wear hideous combinations, lots of bright colours that didn't match. But I was still putting thought into it, in a way that I still do. Now I have more of an aesthetic goal: I want to meet some standard of looking nice or looking good.

My favourite piece of clothing is — I feel like I should have an answer, because it's the one question I ask everybody — aaand, it's difficult, because I have a bunch of different metrics on how one assess the importance of an item of clothing to one's life. There are things I think: this is great, because I wear it all the time and it's super comfortable and it looks great; or things like this is an awesome item of clothing that I'm so glad exists even though I barely ever wear it, but I'm happy knowing that it's in the world and it belongs to me. I have this great collection of lurid eighties dresses, but I have this one dress that I found in an op shop — I think it would have been an op shop in Port Fairy — but it's this eighties dress in the style of Victoriana, sort of in-line with this New Romantics thing, there was this period of Victoriana, all this Victorian looking clothing meets eighties clothing. I have this dress that's maroon ruffly lace. It's got the high Victorian neckline, but lots of ruffles, and it's quite eighties. It's basically just a giant ball of ruffle, and lace, and it's ridiculous, and it also reminds me very very strongly of the dress clothes that Ron Weasley had to wear in the fourth Harry Potter book.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

VOX POPULI.

What's been the highlight of your semester?

Sanjay

PhD in Astrophysics
First Year



Passing my [PhD] confirmation, I guess. I mean, in Research, we don't have semesters as such, it just goes on, so we don't have classes or anything, but yeah, if you ask me the highlight of this semester, that was probably my confirmation.

Celeste

Medicine
First year



Probably the content, I just found it really interesting, and I love my course.

Christian

Bach. of Commerce



Can I say Twelfth Night? Yeah, the Shakespeare Company show Twelfth Night, we started rehearsals at the start of this semester. I started working on the project last year in October, and it's been an awesome feeling and experience. And from that, I guess you can say student theatre in general. It's been not just the highlight of my semester but of my whole uni life.

Sabine

Bachelor of Arts
Second Year



This semester? Can I do something lame, like one of my classes? I'm doing this breadth called Public Trials, and it's like a law breadth, and I wanna go to law school afterwards, and it's just been one of the best classes I've ever done. I've got a really good tutor. I've really enjoyed it. I guess it's rare to have classes that are super engaging for the whole semester.

OUT & ABOUT.



The Cultural Collisions exhibition has been well advertised across all our University grounds.



But how will anyone ever find Gate 10? Oh wait, no one knows that the Grattan St entrance is called Gate 10 anyway.



Next year, we hope to be able to bring you one week of O&A where there were no building works on campus.



It was week 11 - why were there mid sem exams??



FFMU getting their hazmat suits on.



Second last Bands and Bevs of the year - Tetrahedra!

Photo: James Baker



The University of Melbourne Shakespeare Company setting up for the opening night of its production of Twelfth Night.

EVENTS.

WHY THE U.S. INVADED IRAQ

WHEN: Mon 17 Oct, 6pm
WHERE: Carillo Gantner Th. UniMelb Visiting Fellow Melvyn P. Leffler challenges and interrogates prevailing interpretations of why the United States went to war in March 2003.

PLAY: TERTIARY

WHEN: 19-22 Oct, 7.30pm
WHERE: Guild Theatre, UH Tertiary is a collection of three short new plays written by emerging playwrights - One Day in Bologna; She, & Big White Envelopes. Tix \$13conc.

BOTANIC DRAWING

WHEN: Tues 18 Oct, 12pm
WHERE: System Garden Come along to an outdoor botanic illustration class using real objects in the System Garden and surrounding areas. Bookings at: arts@union.unimelb.edu.au

DANCE: ASCENDANCE

WHEN: 20-22 Oct, 7.30pm
WHERE: Union Theatre, UH Flare Dance Ensemble brings you their 2016 Annual Production, three nights of dance and performance showcasing choreography and dance. \$25

EMS BIG BAND & BBQ

WHEN: Tues 18 Oct, 1pm
WHERE: North Court Get an earful of the Engineering Music Society's Big Band while eating your free sausage and drinking your free bevvy.

OPEN GARDEN

WHEN: 23-25 Oct, 10am-1.30pm
WHERE: System Garden For System Garden's 160th anniversary, the University will be opening its door to three days of free events including lectures, garden tour and a Kokedama workshop.

THE WORLD'S OTHER MALALAS

WHEN: Wed 19 Oct, 12pm
WHERE: Rm 109, Law Bldg. Bede Sheppard, Human Rights Watch's Deputy Director for Children's Rights, will discuss the extent of attacks on students, teachers, and schools around the world.

THE VIRTUOUS BURGLAR

WHEN: Mon 31 Oct, 7pm
WHERE: Yasuko Hiraoka Rm. A production presented by UniMelb Italian students, this will be a night full of laughter, twisted love triangles and burglars who don't actually steal!

Note: we usually do the events frantically at 3am while the printer gets progressively angrier at us. So it'd be a good idea to double-check we got the date and time right, and check if you need tickets. Also send us your events: tips@parkvillestation.com.

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

The collaboration with Lockheed Martin Is Melbourne University extending a



to more than it bargained for?

"The Subversion of Dissent" is the powerful and controversial new documentary by Colleen Kabrovsky and Demetri Gelenas about the insidious manner Government and Corporations are buying the silence of concerned and outspoken critics on US campuses. In her interview, she says it's now happening here in Australia. Lockheed Martin has shadowed

of Monsanto, Raytheon, Nestlé, Grumman, Boeing and Lockheed Martin among others - but they are the Big 6 - are being approached with various clever extremely sophisticated conjunctions of funds and partnerships

has been seen repeatedly on campus the last 8 months and that the

CENSORED

not had with an initial very order followed by a binding contractual relationship that has extraordinary penalty provisions.

These companies have billion dollar investments in their agendas, the money we're talking about here is peanuts. There is no way that they will let campus dissent undermine their ongoing development of



Free speech on campus has a price. And a buyer.

THE SUBVERSION OF DISSENT

A film by Colleen Kabrovsky and Demetri Gelenas

Filmed over 5 years on campuses across the US. Examines the sophisticated seduction of outspoken voices with money and jobs.

Anti-clockwise from top right: Poster for Kabrovsky's film. Nova's ad, withdrawn on legal advice. The Lockheed Martin Center for Leadership Excellence in Bethesda Maryland. Vanguard Foundation's Kendall Buckmann. The affable co-editor and co-publisher of Parkville Station, Patrick Clearwater.

The Cinema Nova ad in Parkville Station last week was withdrawn at the last minute "on legal advice".

The ad featured an interview with visiting US documentary maker Colleen Kabrovsky, half of the team responsible for "The Subversion of Dissent" which was screening at the Nova last week. The film is an incredibly powerful and controversial examination of the increasing use, by certain large corporations and certain government agencies, of scholarships and "career help" to quieten or silence criticism on campuses across the US. She pointed to both general and specific issues related to the association of Melbourne University with Lockheed Martin, the largest private contractor to the US military.

Kabrovsky and her co-director, Demetri Gelenas, use the term muffling to describe what various corporations engage in, where they target "loud negative voices" in the campus community. She says it is sophisticated, and their methods range from enforced think-tank participation associated with the beneficence which is nothing more than "persistent contractual brainwashing" to military level penalty provisions in scholarship contracts.

Defenders of the practice say it is nothing more than targeting the most concerned, issue-driven and articulate students on campus

with monetary and career-focused opportunities. But Kabrovsky and Gelenas point to statistical analysis that shows little correlation between "loud voice" scholarship recipients and academic potential or results.

They ask why the scholarship programs are generally not endowed directly by the funding corporations and agencies, but through an opaque group of Leadership and "Focus" organisations like the Vanguard Foundation. More about Vanguard in a moment.

This is the background to the withdrawal of Cinema Nova's advertisement last week. So why would an interview promoting a film of vital interest to University readers be censored? Good question. To give you an answer, we have to be very careful to avoid the same happening again. Colleen did not "allege" as was claimed that the Vanguard Foundation's Kendall Buckmann had bribed certain Melbourne University "loud voice" students, nor that this was similar to the situation that triggered a legal suit at MIT. She simply asked that the campus be aware that a similar subversion was likely to have already started happening. Through sources she developed during

the filming, she had a list of prospective interview subjects at MU who had been in talks with Buckmann. We will not "allege" anything, here, in fact we'll be far more circumspect than Colleen. We would simply ask why various student leaders of the radical left and moderate left, who had been fierce critics of the LM/MU marriage, suddenly went quiet? Glen Tengger, Rachel Mendiner, Alexi Strasser and Patrick Clearwater, can we ask whether you have had meetings with Kendall Bruckmann? Patrick Clearwater, affable co-publisher and co-editor of Parkville Station, with recent acceleration of his research into Gravity Waves, have you found a substantial financial partner in Lockheed Martin? Does this have anything to do with our advertisement being withdrawn last week? To protestations that his area of research is pure science and has no military value, Patrick, we comment with 2 words - Enrico Fermi.

To the general reader, the fact that you are reading our ad this week - and we hope you are - is because senior Parkville Station publisher and co-editor, Liz Peak, has not bowed to pressure and invoked dubious "legal advice" again.

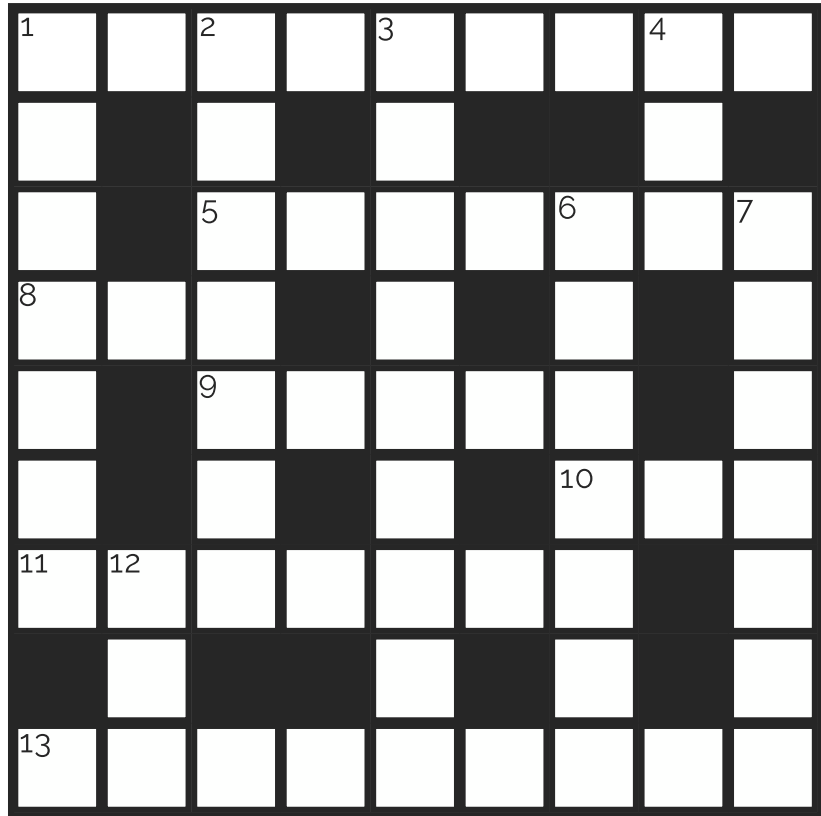
NOVA
TWO BLOCKS AWAY. YOUR LOCAL.
 380 LYGON STREET CARLTON • Phone: 9347 5331 •
 @cinemanova Home of **NOVA BAR & KITCHEN**

MONDAYS EVERYONE ← **\$7 ALL FILMS before 4pm, \$9 after 4pm (except public holidays)** → **WEDNESDAYS card carrying students & staff of UNIMELB ONLY**

"The Subversion of Dissent" has finished its screenings at Cinema Nova, but please come down and watch any of the hundred or so other films we'll be screening between now and when the next edition of Parkville Station appears.

PUZZLES.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD.



ACROSS

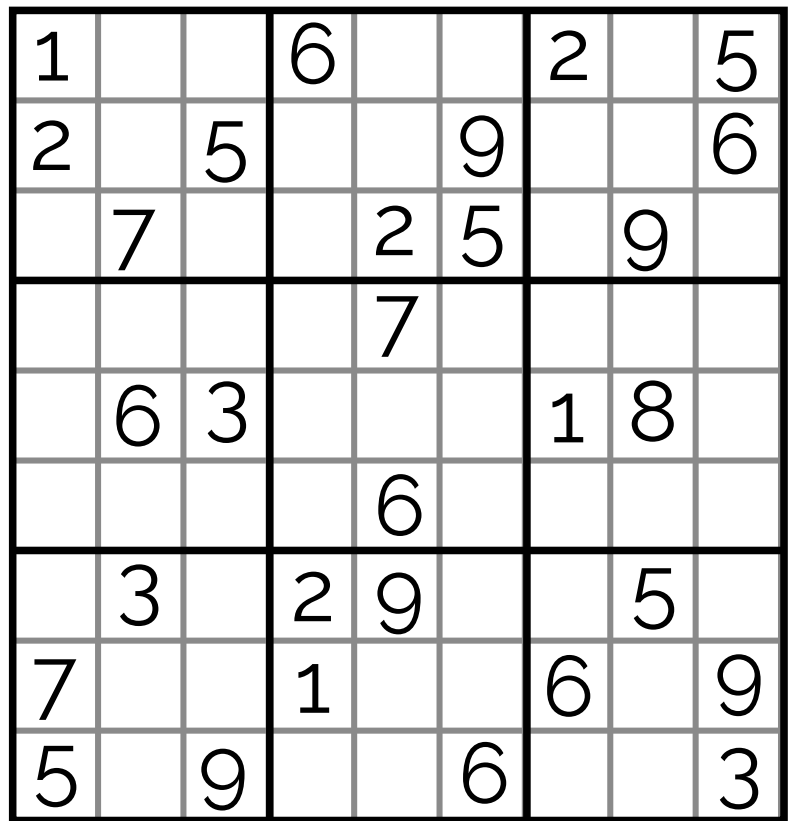
- 1 Has many ticks - listened to 13's third (9)
- 5 Deduces mix-up - Charmed, I'm sure (7)
- 8 Est. stands for established (3)
- 9 Right, Up, Right and Left - Outback (5)
- 10 Cut in one motion - it's 13's latest (1,1,1)
- 11 Ema made back beans (7)
- 13 Sweet Yank rapper (5,4)

DOWN

- 1 Rubber boot detective (7)
- 2 A country without Aluminium is still a country (7)
- 3 Below price - sleep on it! (9)
- 4 You sound like a sheep (3)
- 6/7 What happens if you don't go to class - 13's first (7,7)
- 12 Genes and back (3)

BY CK @CKXWORD

SUDOKU.



NINE LETTER WORD.

TRIVIA.

BACHELORS LEVEL

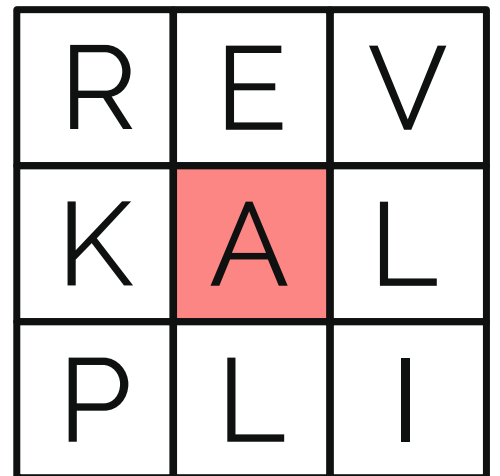
- Arts:** Which major peace treaty was signed on June 28, 1919?
- Science:** To the nearest tenth of a unit, how many pounds to a kilo?
- Biomed:** What is the name of the largest artery in the human body?
- Commerce:** What's the standard abbreviation for the Mexican peso?
- Environments:** By what name is Van Diemen's Land now known?
- Music:** Who composed Für Elise?

MASTERS LEVEL

- Arts:** Which expressionist artist painted 'The Scream'?
- Science:** The Ca²⁺ ion has how many electrons?
- Biomed:** Which is the longest tooth in the human mouth?
- Commerce:** Which famous politician said "you don't make the poor richer by making the rich poorer"?
- Environments:** Which country currently holds the record for highest recorded temperature at 56.7 degrees celsius?
- Music:** How many notes in a chromatic scale?

PHD LEVEL

- Arts:** In what year did Hillary Clinton become United States Senator from New York?
- Science:** What is the name of the computer program used by the NSA to collect the majority of its internet communications data?
- Biomed:** A hardening of the arteries due to plaque buildup is called what?
- Commerce:** In which physical location is the vast majority of the Reserve Bank of Australia's gold held?
- Environments:** Which country has the most capitals, with three?
- Music:** Which group has won the most Grammys, with 22 awards won?



Find words that are made up of a combination of the letters in the square above. The word must contain the centre (red) letter. Words must be at least four letters long, not be plurals ending in 's' and exclude (most) proper names. There is a single nine-letter word... or are there more?

P: 17 words; H3: 23; H2: 28; H1: 35; our dictionary contains: 41 words.

No peeking at the answers until you've attempted the question. If you're playing trivia with a group of people around a lunch table, beware the person sitting opposite you can easily read the upside down answers. *Disclaimer:* doing well at this does not guarantee you'll do well at Uni — you'll definitely be popular at trivia nights, though!

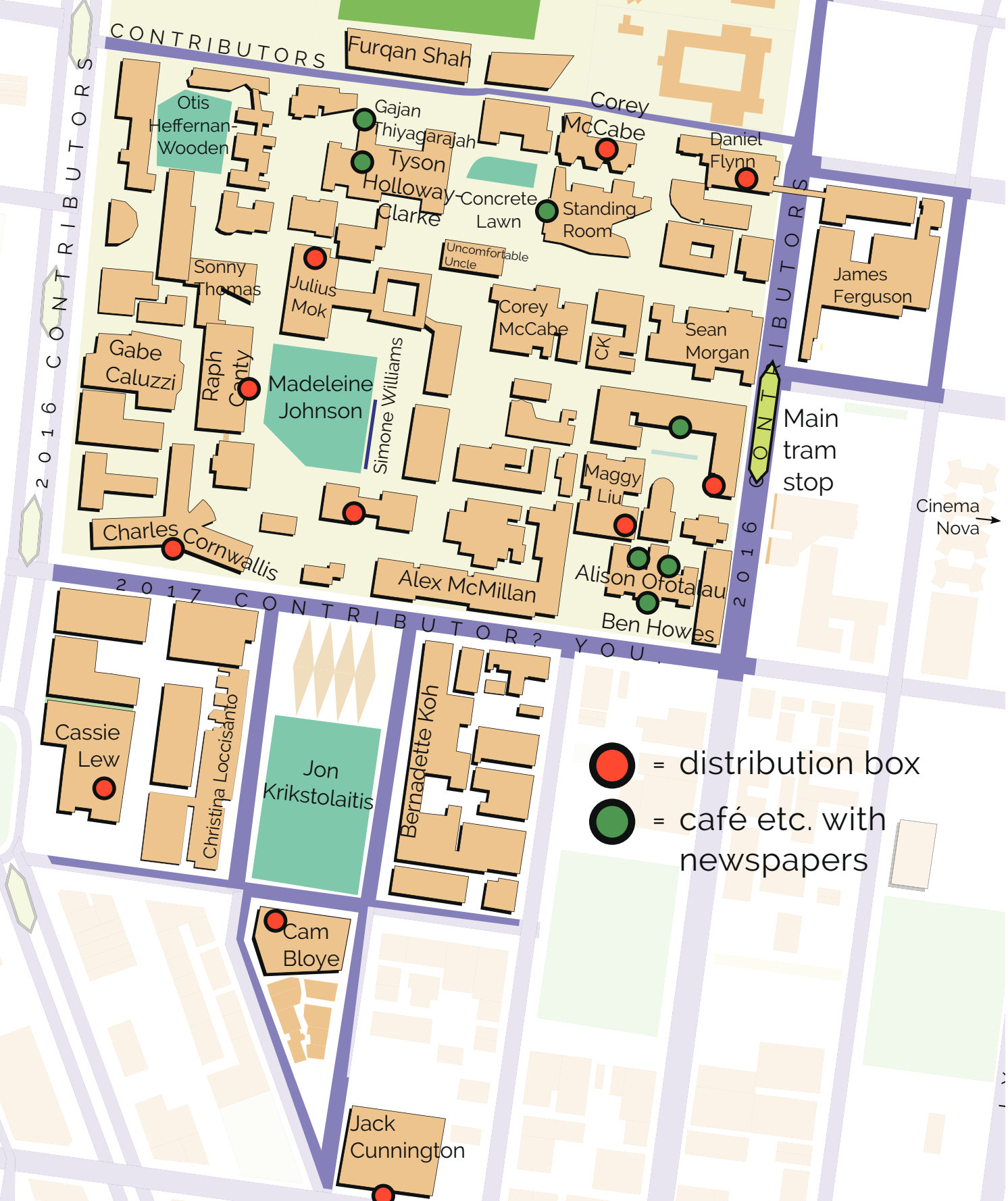
Looking for answers? The trivia answers are below; answers to last week's nine letter word(s) are on our website: parkvillestation.com

Answers: Bachelors: Treaty of Versailles; 2,2; aorta; MXN; Tasmania; Ludwig van Beethoven. *Masters:* Edward Munch; 18; maxillary canine; Winston Churchill; United States (in Death Valley, NV); 12. *PhD:* 2001; PRISM; atherosclerosis; Bank of England; South Africa (Pretoria, Cape Town & Bloemfontein); U2.

ParkvilleStation.

THANKS FOR
READING.

ONLY 17
WEEKS
UNTIL
THE NEXT
ISSUE.



Thank you to everyone who's written for, taken photos for, been interviewed by, leaked to and read the paper this semester. Good luck for exams!

And an extra special thanks to contributors we left off the map above.