

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Tert acknowledges the traditional custodians
of the land upon which we meet and work, that of
the Dharawal people. We pay our respect to their
Elders past, present and future, for they hold the
memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes
for Indigenous Australia.



DISCLAIMER

The University of Wollongong accepts no responsibility for this publication.

DISCLOSURE

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I love talking about women.

Sex, Love, Death, Time.

All things I love talking about.
And, all things that relate to the
Madonna vs Whore complex.

For clarity, the Madonna vs Whore complex is an idea first introduced by Sigmund Freud (public enemy #1 for the common feminist) as a complex which men acquired within sexual and/or love connections. The idea that men viewed women as purely chaste or promiscuously guilty and could not maintain sexual attraction within a loving relationship because of this duality. Most of Freud's psychoanalytical works focused around the sexual nature of men and often shunned the experiences and thoughts of women, making it an extremely skewed and intentional work for both groups of people. "Feminist theory suggests the MWD [Madonna-Whore Dichotomy] stems from a desire to reinforce patriarchy," (Bareket, 2018). "Critics have argued that viewing these attitudes as a psychopathology

ignores how culture and social structure shape men's beliefs about women," (Bareket, 2018).

I chose the Madonna vs Whore theme for my first issue because I think it's important to be constantly talking about issues that affect everyone in our society and on our campuses.

The complex represents our ability to think for ourselves in a time where false information and Tiktok trends circulate frequently. Where things are sugar-coated and we are desensitised from real issues in the world. This Tert issue is a reminder to take a second to reflect on the community, friends and family, and especially ourselves.

One of the most complicated things I've had to learn this year has been how to be kind to myself. I hope with this issue you can take a few

minutes to step away from your busy life and think about yourself – as difficult as it is sometimes. Maybe give yourself a hug. Or just have some needed alone time.

Either way, whatever you choose, remember that we are all human. We don't belong to the binaries of Madonna or Whore. And, men do not belong to the 'sexually driven' category of humans. We all have emotions and can feel deeply. And we must all be gentle with one another and ourselves.

Be kind to yourself today.

Yours truly,
Serena Emanuele

Bareket, O, Kahalon, R, Shnabel, N & Glick, P 2018, 'The Madonna-Whore Dichotomy: Men Who Perceive Women's Nurturance and Sexuality as Mutually Exclusive Endorse Patriarchy and Show Lower Relationship Satisfaction', *Sex Roles*, vol. 79, no. 9-10, pp. 519-532.

There are only two types of women.

Men are complex, morally grey, tortured. They have bright futures, limitless potential, they make small mistakes that shouldn't define their careers – call it what you want. Women, however, can only ever be good or bad. The angelic Madonna, or the fallen Whore.

Of course, women, as human beings, contain equal multitudes. But in a patriarchal society, reprehensible men climb higher and higher whilst women are constantly scrutinised in minute detail, dredging up anything and everything that could possibly be used against her. The Madonna-Whore complex defines women by their desirability to men, by the ways they contort themselves to

meet men's expectations. Are we the perfect wives, always at your beck and call? Or are we something to be tamed, a prize to be conquered and used as you wish?

The dichotomy is false, but there is a very real issue at play. A new influx of 'trad wives' and self-proclaimed anti-feminists has hit our online spaces: women who sing the praises of traditional gender roles and a 'simpler' way of living. Living under complete male control is aestheticised and romanticised, often with an undercurrent of religious indoctrination, shoddy pseudoscience, anti-vax ideology, and MAGA politics.

The not-so-subtle propaganda of the trad wife is one thing. More worrying, though, are the jokes. The 'pink jobs' versus 'blue jobs'.

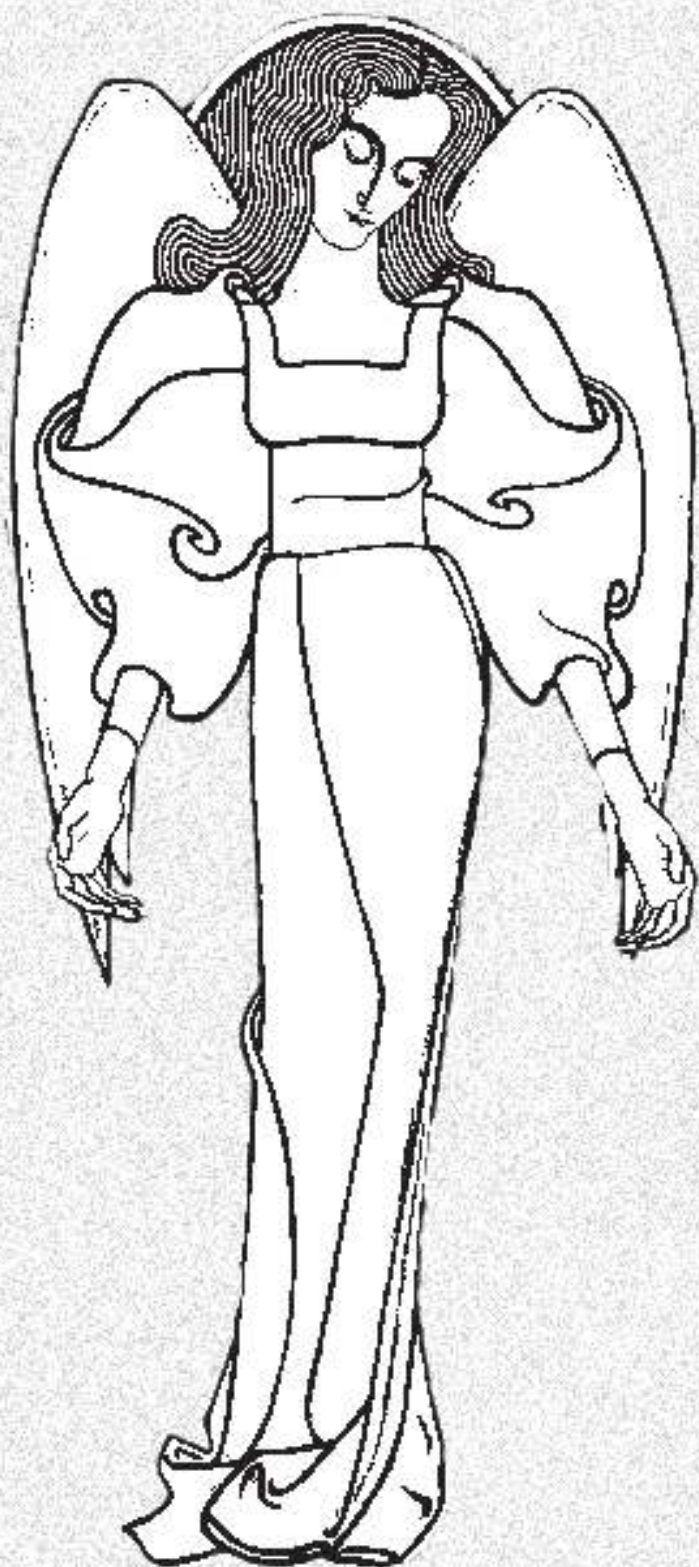
The 'girl dinner' and 'girl math'; the 'I'm just a girl' and 'this is why women shouldn't vote'. If you repeat something enough times, it stops being ironic. Forget brat summer, it's anti-feminist autumn.

We can't continue to laugh at this. We must confront it head-on.

In this issue, we dive into the past, present, and future. Students explore their experiences with love, sex, rejection, misogyny, and more, dissecting the Madonna-Whore complex and the intricacies that come with being a real, whole person. Clear your schedule, sit back, relax, and enjoy – but listen carefully.

Asher
Print editor

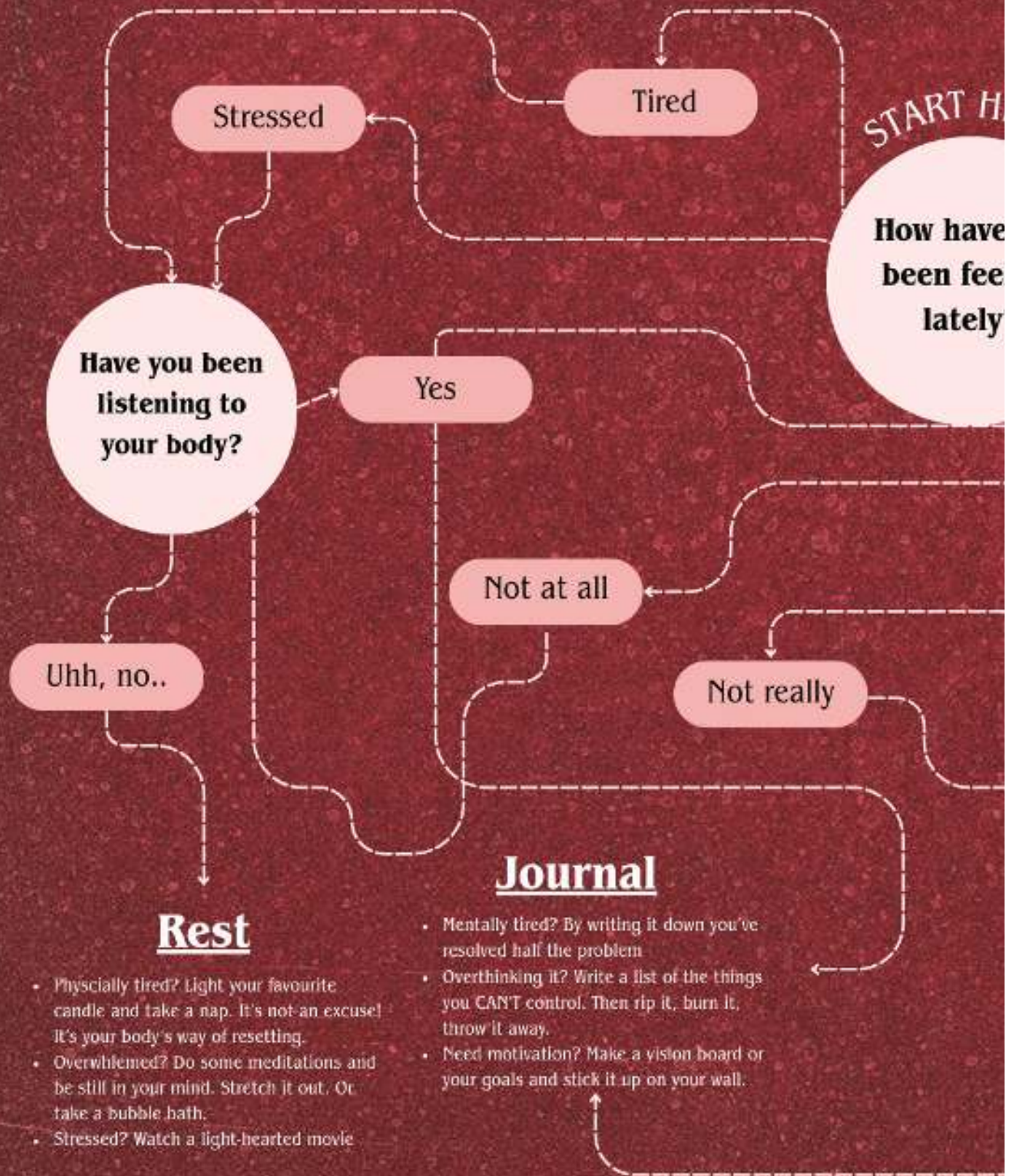
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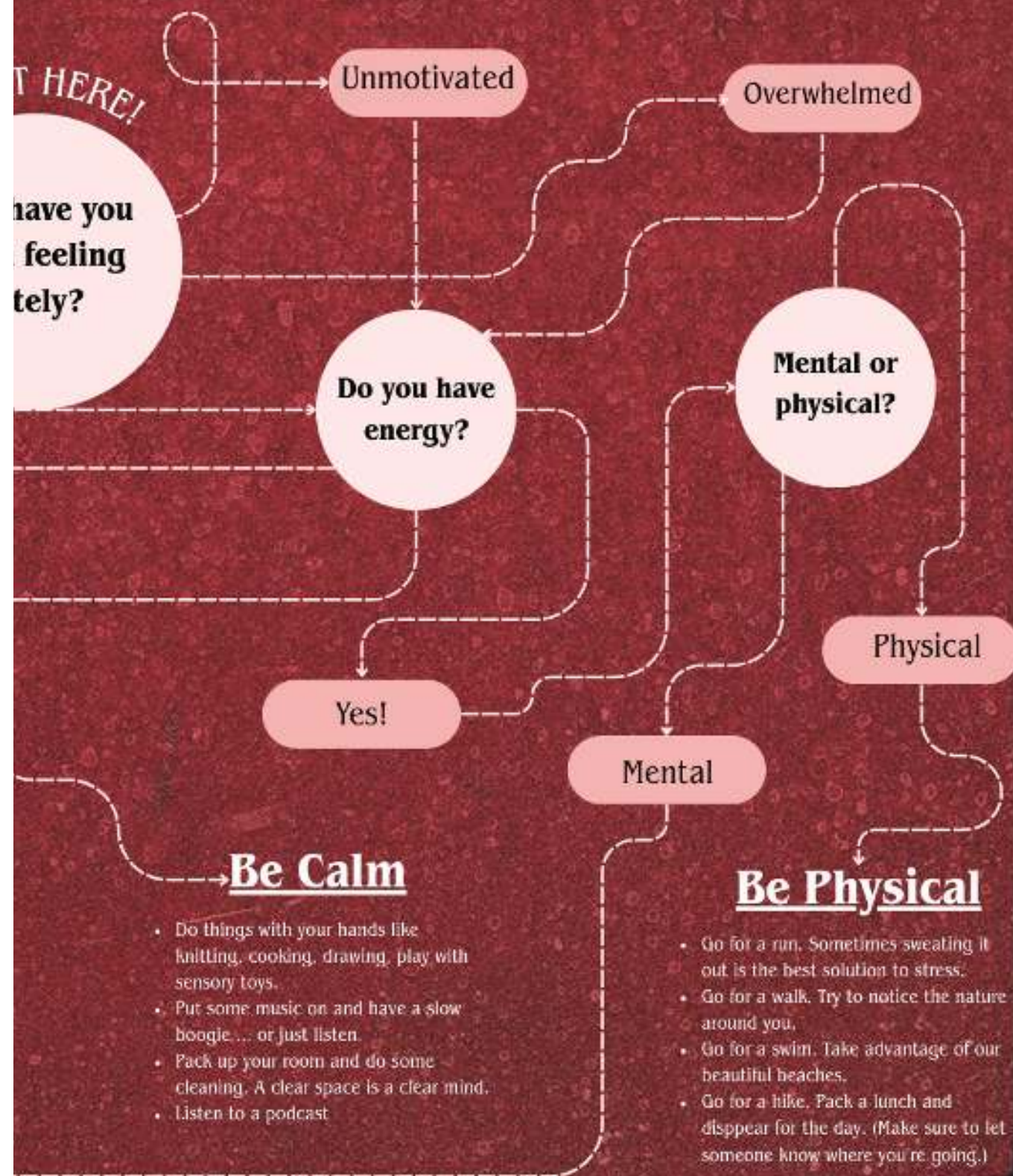
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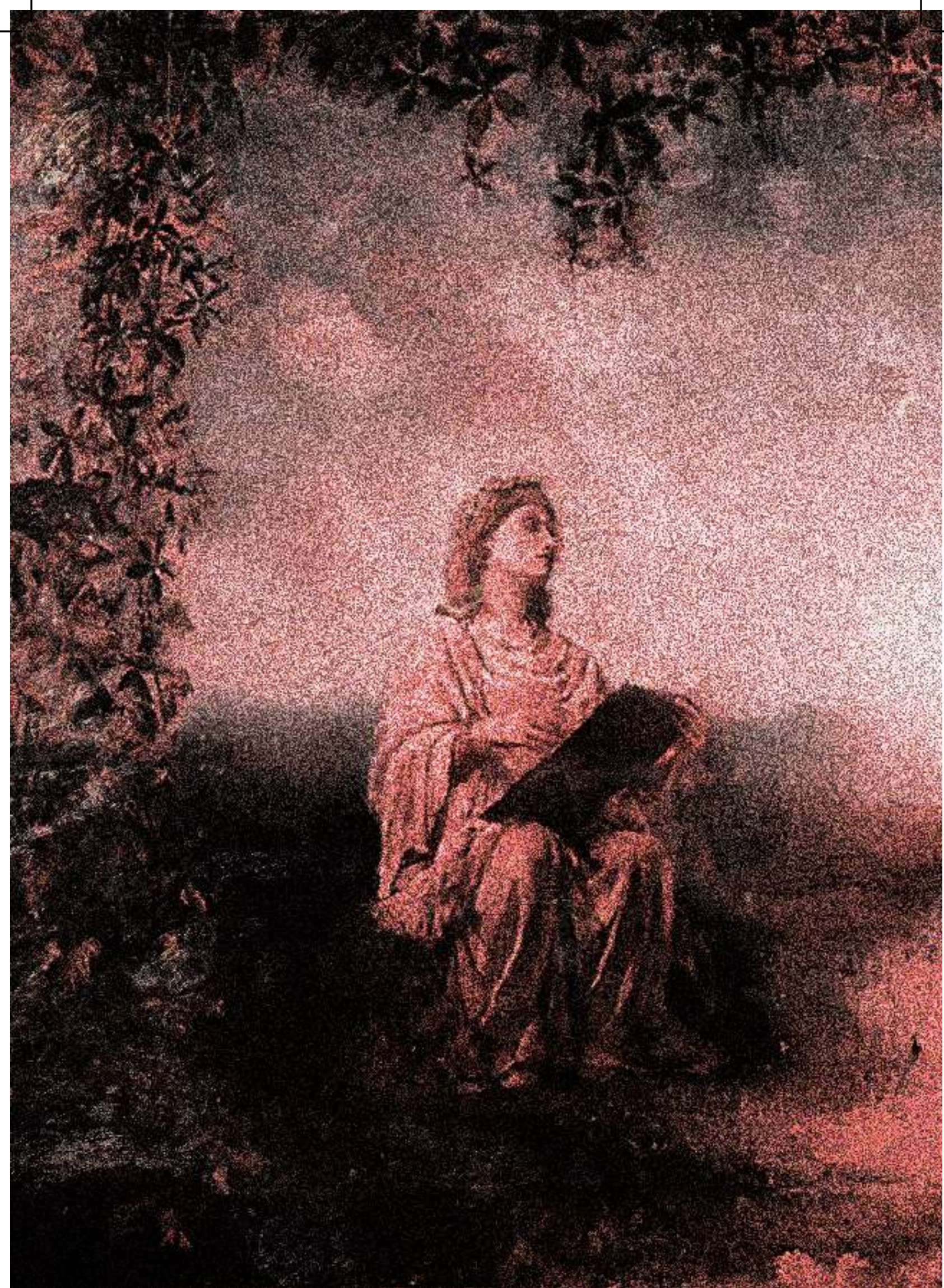
Unsure where to start to take care of yourself?



ON YOU IN 2025

the care of you. Let us guide you.







News

Features

WUSA COUNCIL REPORTS

FROM THE TREASURY:

Every year, you pay a fee of \$365, which is called the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF). In 2024 alone, the University of Wollongong made \$4,630,697 in revenue from this fee.

The University is legally required to spend this money on students. It should be spent on things that directly support us, such as providing services to improve our well-being, academic success, and university experiences.

Unfortunately, your money isn't spent doing this. UOW has used

thousands of dollars on programs to line their own pockets whilst we struggle to get by in a cost-of-living crisis and put ourselves into piles of debt to get an education.

Take, for example, UOW spent \$65,950 on a 'Student Advisory Council Member Training and Honorarium', all this money for a body that has achieved nothing for us?

Then there is 'Wellness by Pulse (Theme days, Festivals, Events)' where they pay \$251,260 to a private company so they can put up some tents.

Not only could almost all of the \$4,630,697 be taken over and transitioned flawlessly by WUSA, but half of this expenditure is going straight into the pockets of a third-party company 'Pulse'.

Pulse does not act in the interest of students, it does not work to help us, it works in the interest of its bosses and managers at our expense.

WUSA, your student union, currently receives less than \$40,000 each year and has to ration its meager funds to support students, doing the University's job for them.

As a reference, here's what other universities across Australia currently allocate toward their Student Unions:

UNIVERSITY	STUDENT UNION	FUNDING
University of Sydney (NSW)	University of Sydney Student Representatives Council	\$3,194,385
Curtin University (WA)	Curtin Student Guild	\$3,493,405
University of Technology Sydney (NSW)	University of Technology Sydney Students' Association	\$1,209,000
University of Queensland	University of Queensland Union	\$7,922,581

(QLD)		
Queensland University of Technology (QLD)	Queensland University of Technology Guild	\$2,273,000
La Trobe University (VIC)	La Trobe Student Association & La Trobe Student Union	\$1,254,544
University of Wollongong (NSW)	Wollongong Undergraduate Students' Association	\$40,000

However, in some good news for WUSA, late last year the Federal Government passed legislation mandating that Universities across Australia allocate 40% of this SSAF revenue to student-led organisations, like WUSA.

So, it's pretty clear that we've been rorted, but these new laws should fix it, right?

Well, as is all too common, the University has decided to not play fair. The University is refusing to honour its legal obligations and is attempting to delay our funding for years.

WUSA is more than prepared to take on this funding responsibly. However, the University claims that we students are not mature enough to manage our own money - the same money that we pay to study at their University.

They say that the money is better spent elsewhere. Frankly, I disagree, and I hope that both you and the Government do too.

This is a blatant insult to student democracy and a clear attempt to withhold funds that belong to us students.

WUSA is making arrangements to improve the financial transparency of our union. We, as your union representatives, intend to make a number of changes to our constitution so that financial security measures are enshrined in our founding document.

That's why we at WUSA are calling on you to assist us in making these pro-student reforms at our upcoming Student General Meeting. Stand with us and demand that UOW respects the rights of students.

Daniel McClelland

Treasurer

Wollongong Undergraduate Students' Association

Views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of WUSA.



PRESIDENT'S WUSA REPORT

What's up y'all! I'm Hanzel: International Studies and Bachelor of Arts (History) student, and current President of the Wollongong Undergraduate Student Association or WUSA. It might be a bit of an unfamiliar name, but you've likely heard of us one way or another: from our free BBQs, our free printing service, our O-Week stalls, or even through the Women's Collective, the Tertangala, or the Allsorts Collective, which are all run by WUSA. Regardless, myself and the entire WUSA Council have been working tirelessly on your behalf over the past few months as your representatives at the student union.

Since last year, we've been fighting hard against the cuts at UOW, together with the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU), to ensure that students and staff are not only aware about the cuts quietly made to the University, but ensure that they remain as unaffected as possible. As of writing, we've hosted a joint student-staff forum, held two rallies, launched petitions, printed an anti-cuts zine and talked to countless news sources to make it known that the staff and student bodies at UOW do not support their University's actions. And, with this latest round of cuts initiated on the 24th of March, we certainly won't be stopping now.

In close collaboration with WUSA's Women's Collective and the Women's Representative Alexia Chipperfield, WUSA Council has started planning and rolling out free period products across campus, which will be available and accessible to all students who need them. This has been a massive project years in the making across multiple councils, something I personally campaigned for that I'm very happy to finally deliver to students. On top of this, we've been fighting to secure more Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) funding from UOW so student money can go back into student hands by introducing services just like these (with even more on the way!).

Our work extends even further thanks to the efforts of individual representatives. WUSA has been actively working with the National Union of Students (NUS) to continue our critical activism on Palestine, headed by myself and Education Officer Megan Guy, by endorsing and writing a submission for the People's Inquiry into Free Speech on Palestine. Disabilities Representative Taylor Harding has been striving to complete the Disabilities Space in Building 11, as well as investigating other low sensory options for students across campus. I've also begun the process of improving the background

*the Madonna and the Whores. Consequently, they either get sex
The Madonna is serious, pure, virginal, loving, forgiving, safe, and supportive
socks. She raises his children. He can leave and she will still be there when he re
mother.
The Whore is fun, slutty, degraded, aggressive, hard, and nanton. She goes as far
doesn't have to make up with her. He's thrilled by her. She is w*

operations and amenities of WUSA. This has meant things like creating feedback forms, drafting newsletters, designing stickers, and reworking the WUSA website to ensure that students not only know about WUSA, but also easily understand how to reach out and contact us.

This is all part of making WUSA a fighting fit union that truly represents the interests of the student body, as the only democratically elected representative body for undergrads at UOW. If you'd like to reach out to give feedback, raise an issue you're facing, or ask a question, feel free to email WUSA at wusa-uow@uow.edu.au; we're always happy to help.

In solidarity,

Hanzel-Jude Pador

President

Wollongong Undergraduate Student Association

(P.S Follow us on our Instagram and Facebook to receive updates!)

