

## NEWS FROM COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

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# BETA

Free as in speech and our awesome BBQs.

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## FEATURED, OPINION

# Modern Luxuries You Need to Stop Paying For

### Expensive Headphones

Yup, now all of you are already thinking what I was thinking when I wrote this up. I don't even need to say it.

These headphones are probably the first "real" ones many people have tried (strong marketing / 10). Sure the bass is decent, but that doesn't mean it's \$499 dollars decent, which is what a pair Beats by Dr. Dre will set you back.

Now I'm not here to give you advice on which headphones you should be going for, I'm just telling you which ones ain't worth your moolah.

### Cable Television

Let's face it, when we were all eight years old, cable television was one of the greatest things that ever happened. I remember coming from school and my dad turns on Cartoon Network and bang, Johnny Bravo pops on.

That was a solid ten years ago. With everything that's running rampant online, why would you even want to have cable? Okay sure, maybe a family member who is a bit older who can't be bothered learning how to use the interwebs may still prefer cable, but come on.

You're paying for a hundred channels of which you're only going to be watching two or three (don't you lie to me and say you watch more).

### eBooks

Now I've talked dirt about the music industry too many times, but I gotta say, a publishing company actually takes the cake for the having the biggest gall possible of selling a certain digital file.



An eBook, for all intents and purposes, is nothing more than a glorified PDF. Sure if you had to toss-up between a \$9.99 eBook or a \$29.99 hard-cover, we'd all pick the former once we realise we have to pack up all them books when you're moving about.

However, that's only after we've exhausted every other possible resource

to actually acquire the book for free.

### Digital Music Files

And no, this is not about purchasing music online. This is about the purchase of FLAC music file. FLAC stands for Free Lossless Audio Codec and the important there would be "lossless" if that was an actual world. Still, that word holds meaning to those who we call audiophiles.

Now let me ask this, when you listen to your MP3 files on your iPod how does the quality feel? Alright? Good enough? Decent? Those are the responses that should be coming out, but FLAC files take it one step further by slamming huge file sizes (about 80 megabytes), for that extra quality.

When I say extra quality, I mean "theoretical extra quality", even with the top-notch gears, DACs and amplifiers you wouldn't be able to hear it, so it's just hearing placebo.

However, the niche group like to think otherwise and feel like they have the power to perceive these hidden sounds and textures. Yeah, whatever.

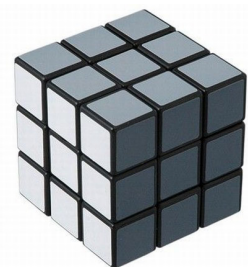
MATTHEW SIDDY



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## ANNOUNCEMENT

# Welcome Back!

So the holidays are finally over, and uni begins once more. It's time for us to leave the shelter of our homes and come to greet the faces of those whom we have missed dearly, and most especially, our fellow CSESoc members. Old familiar faces disappear, and new ones replace them - but the Beta team, ever present, ever hilarious, and ever intriguing, remains by your side.

So welcome back everybody! While most of you are dreading going back to classes, know that the in the dark times when you're feeling lonely at night, you can pick up a Beta and read through stories which are not your own, or test your vocabulary with our amazing crosswords.

Of course, the Beta cannot exist with-

out the writers, editors, and all the other people who help out in the Beta team, so if you feel that you have something to offer, just sign up to the mailing list to volunteer your services. All help is appreciated so don't be shy.

**CSESOC BETA HEAD**

## OPINION

## Internships: The good, the bad and the ugly

Last year, I did an internship at a large company that takes a lot of UNSW interns on an annual basis. I had heard nothing but overwhelmingly positive reports, however my experience was not as affirming as everyone else's seemed to be. I think that this was, in a large way, due to my manager. So this article is about managers, and good management, and hopefully having a good experience at internships.

Take a moment to think about what you believe a good manager should do for an intern who has never been in a professional environment before. Show them around? Help them with large codebases? Definitely. A key role of a manager is to help the people they're managing succeed. Makes sense, right?

In the case of interns, this requires some more forethought than with seasoned workers. A three month timespan, and newness to code, means that a project assigned must be a) small, b) relatively modular and c) not integral to something you're working on. There's nothing like finishing all of your work and finding out that the super important code your intern is meant to be writing is broken and won't integrate!

Giving interns a core project that will take less time than three months, with 'extension goals' for if they finish early is also a great way to reassure them (and you) that they are able to pro-

duce a product, and means that you can discuss with them potentials for expansion and where they can see it going as the project progresses. Win win for communication and self determination.

Added bonus; you can all be pleased when the base code is finished half way in, then think of useful and fun ways to add shiny, less stressful, better, and smaller code submissions to review. Everybody wins.

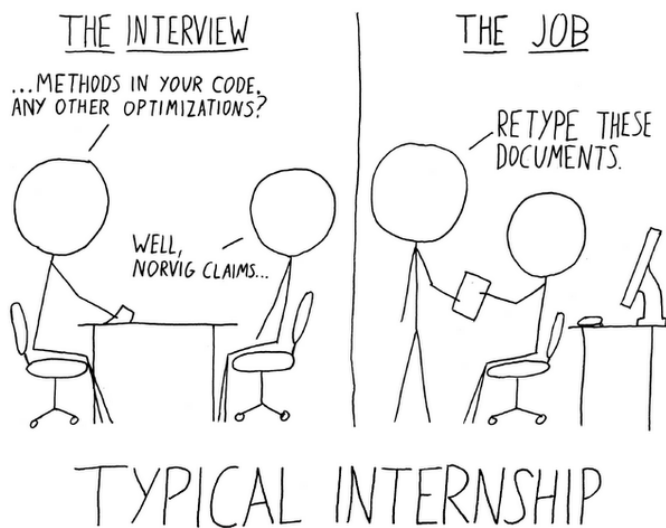
they've done something good, these are all great things that should be a part of managing people. Launching a Spanish Inquisition as to why they added that line of code, grunting at random intervals just doesn't cut it.

Weekly meetings with interns is a great idea, provided that that the manager actually listens to the intern at this time. If an intern is sitting there raising issues, and the manager decides to end the meeting without responding to them, then perhaps communication channels are down and something needs to be fixed. Same goes for code reviews; if the intern is submitting their code and receiving "not good enough", rather than something constructive, then there needs to be an overhaul.

The other extreme can be equally damaging, too. This goes doubly if the preferred method of communication is reminiscent of the Inquisition.

With both approaches, you will wind up with an intern who is unwilling to ask you questions and will ultimately spend days struggling with things which could have been explained in ten minutes.

One enormous difficulty as an intern is bringing up issues like this when they present themselves. Speaking ill of a full time employee is super daunting,



Then, take a moment to think about what qualities should a manager have, throughout an internship. Should they be communicative? Friendly? Helpful? All of the above, preferably. It is not enough to be 'not a micromanager' and/or 'not a distant boss' - that's a bare minimum. Listening to updates, helping your intern when they ask questions, letting them know when

## OPINION

# Internships: The good, the bad and the ugly - cont.

if for no other reason that they know the system better than you. Firstly, it makes sense to go to your manager's immediate supervisor, and explain things to them. If they're no help, then the HR department is a good port of call. From experience, saying nothing until right at the end does not help to better your situation (surprise, surprise).

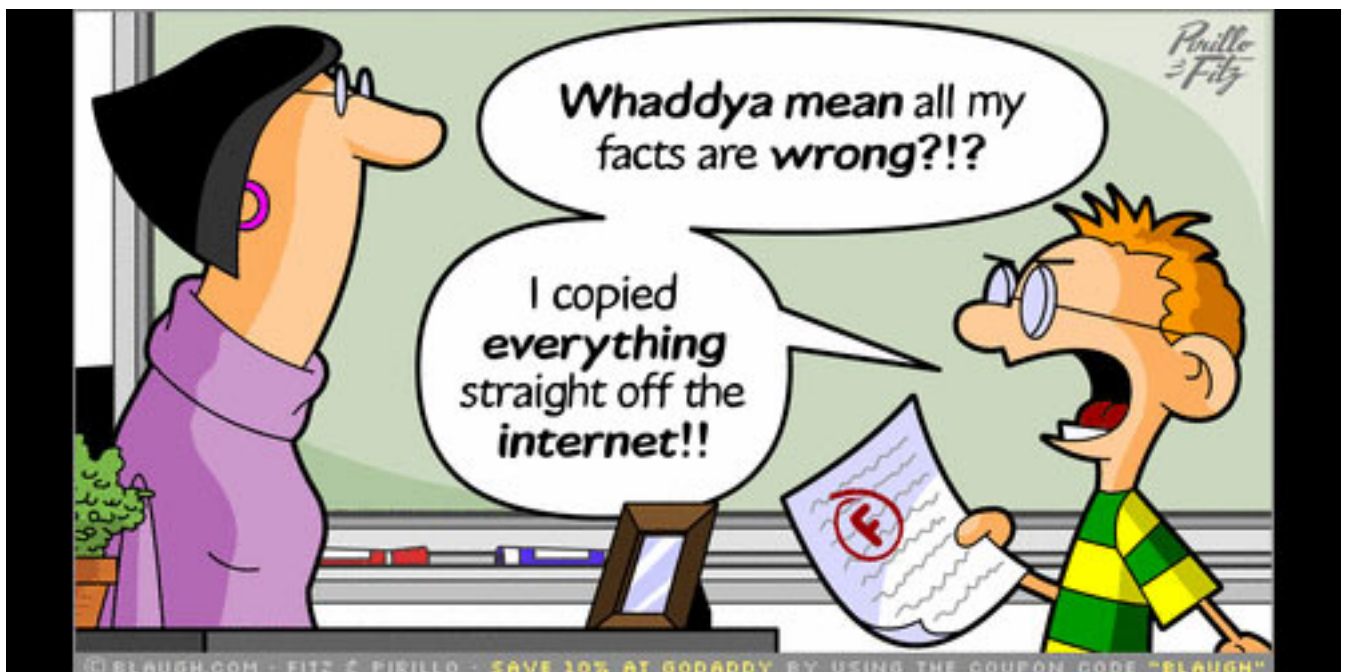
The most important thing is to say

something. I only did so so that nobody else in the future had to deal with the manager I had, but you should do it for yourselves too. Pushing yourself through a bad situation won't help you in the long run; much better to be moved to a team with different people and a more supportive environment.

When it comes down to it, management is the make or break factor of

both internship positions and full time work, and it's always a bit of a lottery as to who you get. If something goes wrong, speak up asap and avoid a bad three months. Good luck for the summer.

EMILY SAUNDERS  
WALMSLEY



## NEWS

## News in Brief

### Man Kicked Off Flight For Tweeting About Bad Service

Duff Watson complained on Twitter when his two young daughters were refused boarding with him in the priority queue when travelling from Denver to Washington. Southwest Airlines then removed him and his family from the flight until he deleted the tweet.

"I thought she was very rude and wanted to complain to customer service, so I asked her: 'Can I get your last name?'" Watson told ABC News.

"She told me: 'You don't need my last name for anything'. I tweeted something like, 'Wow, rudest agent in Denver. Kimberly S, gate C39, not happy

@SWA.'"

After Watson boarded the plane, his name was announced over the tannoy and he was told to "exit the flight immediately". At the gate, the attendant Watson told him he was a "safety threat" and threatened to call the police unless he deleted his tweet.

"I was shocked. There was no use of profanity, there were no threats made. How was I a safety threat?" Watson told ABC News. "She [the attendant] watched me as I deleted the tweet. I was taken aback by the situation. My two kids were crying."

Since the incident, Southwest Airlines

has apologised to Duff Watson via email, and offered him a \$50 voucher. Watson, formerly an A-list member of the airline, doesn't feel this makes up for the poor service he received – and plans to donate the voucher to charity.

### Canadian Fertility Clinic Bans Mixing Races to Avoid Creating Rainbow Families

A single woman in Calgary who sought in vitro fertilization at the Regional Fertility Program was told she could only use sperm donations from donors who match her own race, the Calgary Herald reports.

"That's when everything went downhill," said the 38-year-old Caucasian

## NEWS

## News in Brief - contd.

woman, identified only as Catherine, adding that she was “absolutely floored” by the clinic’s policy.

Administrative director Dr. Calvin Greene confirmed to the Herald that the private facility, the only one of its kind in Calgary, refuses treating anyone who wishes to use donors of a separate ethnicity.

“I’m not sure that we should be creating rainbow families just because some single woman decides that that’s what she wants,” he said. “That’s her prerogative, but that’s not her prerogative in our clinic.”

Greene added that the clinic’s doctors feel “a child of an ethnic background should have the ability to be able to identify with their ethnic roots.”

The clinic’s policy has existed since it opened in the 1980s, and its website elaborates on the guideline: “it is the practice of the Regional Fertility Program not to permit the use of a sperm donor that would result in a future child appearing racially different than the recipient or the recipient’s partner.”

Tim Caulfield, a University of Alberta law professor and legal expert in assisted reproduction, described the rule

as “archaic.”

Catherine said she wanted to seek more diverse candidates because she had a limited pool of potential Caucasian donors who met her standards, many of whom had already been used by other local patients.

But Greene disagreed that the selection was a restricted one.

“She needs to look harder, because I can tell you reasonable people can easily find a suitable donor,” he said.

#### Moses Found in China

The water in a river in Xinmeizhou village in eastern China’s Zhejiang province turned red overnight, baffling locals. Residents in Zhejiang province said the river looked normal at 5 am. Within an hour, the entire river turned crimson. Residents also said a strange smell wafted through the air. “The really weird thing is that we have been able to catch fish because the water is normally so clear,” one local villager commented on China’s microblogging site Weibo. Inspectors from the Wenzhou Environmental Protection Bureau said they have not found the cause of the incident, although water samples seem to indicate the suspicious color was a result of illegal dumping in the river. “We

suspect that somebody dumped artificial coloring in the water because he thought the typhoon yesterday would cause heavy rain, and nobody would notice [the color],” Jianfeng Xiao, Chief of the bureau told China News. “It turned out there wasn’t heavy rainfall yesterday, so the evidence is left behind,” Xiao said. Xiao said there is a paper manufacturer, a food coloring company and clothing-maker a long the river. The bureau is still investigating the incident.

#### Man Squeezes 10 People Into Sedan, Kills 4

Mohad Azuwan crammed 10 illegal immigrants, aged from 20 to 30, from Myanmar into a five seater sedan. He was transporting them from Rantau Panjang, Kelantan to Kuala Lumpur on June 16, when he crashed his car at 4am on the East Coast Expressway. Four of the illegal immigrants died. The immigrants are typically sold to businesses, and work for months with no wages to pay off their debt. Mohad Azuwan was charged this month for transporting six illegal immigrants.

DYLAN KELLY

## ANNOUNCEMENT

## Beta needs YOU

Come and help make Beta exactly what you want it to be. Alas good things require effort, and the time of year has come upon where we must don our thinking caps, pick up our quills, and write intriguing articles to our heart’s content. We must band together to produce fine literature, informative news updates, brainteasing puzzles, and share eavesdropped conversations to the Overheard. However, Beta can’t just spit these out of nowhere, and that’s why it needs YOU.

If there is anything that you want to share your thoughts about, or have any skills that you think could make Beta even more awesome than it already is, then please send an email to [csesoc.beta.head@cse.unsw.edu.au](mailto:csesoc.beta.head@cse.unsw.edu.au).



CSESOC BETA HEAD



## CSE SOCIETIES AND EVENTS

## CSE Revue

*Sketch comedy, Dance, Music, Tech, and a whole lot of fun*

Whether you're a new student wondering what there is to do at Uni outside of class, or an old soul looking for something different to experience – never fear, for CSE Revue is here! CSE Revue is a live sketch comedy show, entirely created, produced, and performed by students from the society. The show might be held during September, but putting together an entertaining show begins now!

Getting involved with CSE Revue is an opportunity to share your talents and discover ones you didn't know you had. You'll learn new skills, make lots of new friends, and above all, have an amazing time!

The society has a wide variety of teams to get involved in. There is the Cast for those who are interested in acting, singing, dancing or just being on stage. No experience is necessary!



the VFX team shoots and makes videos. For the visually artistic, there's the Design team, which create the cool looking posters and merchandise.

All the teams vary in terms of time commitment. The Cast and Tech teams require the greatest commitment. Other teams are less involved and become more active at different times of the year.

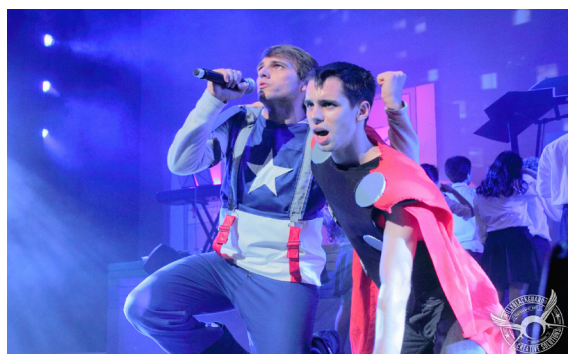
So if you're looking for something more casual and fun, try one of these teams. First there is the Social team. They

organise all the fun events that happen throughout the year. The Wellbeing team is all about food. They make sure the cast and crew are fed during show – a very important task, as you



We'll teach you everything. For those with musical inclinations, the show has a live Band. The Tech team make the show happen from backstage. They run the stage, lighting, and sound. They also build the set and make all the props. The Costumes & Makeup team ensures that the actors look awesome on show nights.

Of course, there wouldn't be a show without content. Head on over to the Scripts team, bring your creativity and try your hand at writing. If you're interested in filming and special effects,



## Upcoming Events

## Casting Call

28th Jul 6pm-8pm, Seminar Room K17

can imagine! The Front of House team take care of the audience on show nights. The Publications and Promotions team work on getting the word out and marketing the show on campus. Last but not least, for those who want to apply their coding skills, the Webmin team is responsible for running the society website servers.

You can join more than one team, depending on your interests. No experience is required. We're looking for people with enthusiasm and dedication.

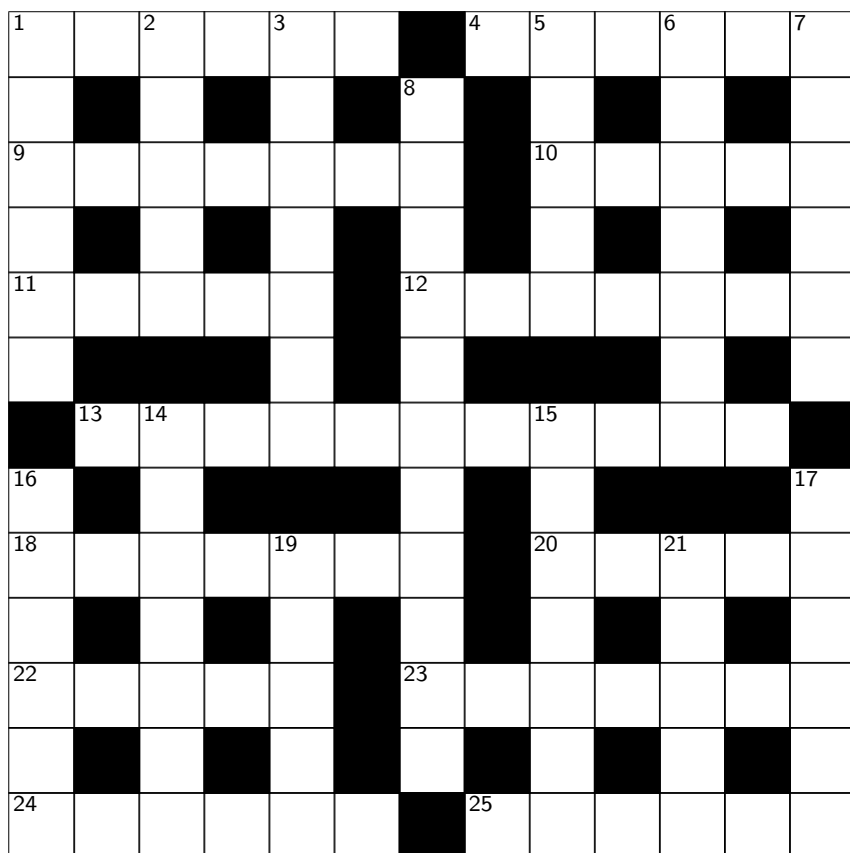
CSE Revue is open to students from all faculties. Get your friends involved in a fantastic show and experience.

There is also an upcoming casting call on the first Monday of semester 2, which you should check out if you're interested in being part of the cast.

**CSE REVUE PRODUCERS**

## ENTERTAINMENT

## Crossword



## Down

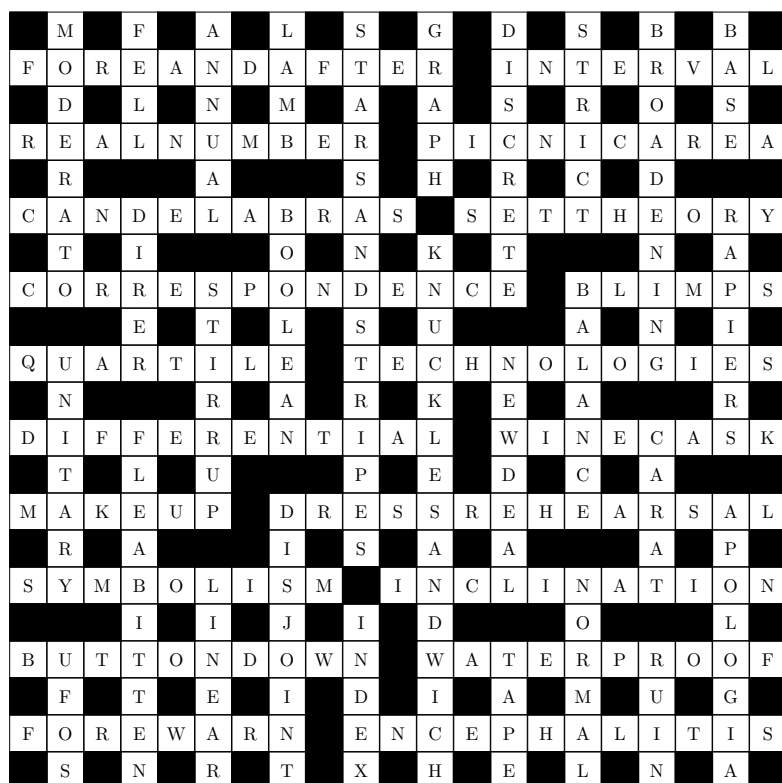
1. Evening meal
2. Things
3. Pertaining to China
5. Midday meal
6. Icing paste
7. Thinly distributed
8. Buttery, non-raising our product (5,6)
14. Worshipper of animals
15. Spicy sauce
16. Tomato sauce
17. Building material
19. Dog-like animal
21. Base of a soup or sauce

OSWYN BRENT

## Across

1. Change over
4. Deceives
9. Shallow dish for baking pies (3,4)
10. Grandmother (colloq.)
11. Result in
12. Heats again
13. Potato dish (5,6)
18. Leaves train
20. Cook meat in own juices
22. Aromatic food flavouring
23. Baked breaded meatballs
24. A man related to pots
25. Electrical plug receiver

## Last week's Crossword:



Remember to submit your solutions to [beta.puzzles@cse.unsw.edu.au](mailto:beta.puzzles@cse.unsw.edu.au)  
There will be some cool prizes to win for the person who solves the most puzzles in a semester. So get on it!

## ENTERTAINMENT

## Puzzles!

1. Mary's father has 5 daughters – Nana, Nene, Nini, Nono. What is the fifth daughters name?

2. Take away my first letter, and I still sound the same. Take away my last letter, I still sound the same. Even take away my letter in the middle, I will still sound the same. I am a five letter word. What am I?

3. A carpenter was in a terrible hurry. He had to work as quickly as possible to cut a very heavy 10 foot plank into 10 equal sections. If it takes 1 minute per cut, how long will it take him to get the 10 equal pieces?

4. A woman goes into a hardware store to buy something for her house. When asked the price, the clerk replies, "the price of one is twelve cents, the price of forty-four is

twenty-four cents, and the price a hundred and forty-four is thirty-six cents. What does the woman want to buy?

5. Divide 110 into two parts so that one will be 150 percent of the other. What are the 2 numbers?

6. At a sports banquet there are one hundred athletes. Each one is either a football or basketball player. At least one is a football player. Given any two of the athletes, at least one is a basketball player. How many of the athletes are football players?

Don't forget to submit your solutions to:  
[beta.puzzles@cse.unsw.edu.au](mailto:beta.puzzles@cse.unsw.edu.au)

CSESoc BETA TEAM



## ENTERTAINMENT

## Overheard

Sadly there are no overheard snippets for you to laugh about, as we only just came back from holidays, so I strongly encourage you to keep your ears out and share something for all of us. Don't let the Overheard stay blank! Give us a hand!

Ever heard something that sounded slightly strange, wheher in context or not? Send it over to  
[beta.overheard@cse.unsw.edu.au](mailto:beta.overheard@cse.unsw.edu.au),  
 where weird is normal!

CSESoc BETA TEAM

## CSE EVENTS AND SOCIETIES

## Upcoming Events

**CSESoc Weekly Barbecue**

Every Monday 12:30-1:30pm

Physics Lawn

Come for your weekly dose of free barbecue, and pick up a fortnightly Beta while you meet your friends, and hopefully make new ones!

**Cardboard Night**

Tuesday 29 July 6pm

Seminar Room, Level 1 K17

Kick off your semester with CSESoc's Cardboard Night. Come along to engage in social activities with friends and play card and board games! Bring along your own board games, or play the pool of board games already available.

**Facebook Tech Talk**

Friday 1 August 12-2pm

Seminar Room, Level 1 K17

Do you know what it takes to crush your coding interview? Simon Jenkins from Facebook will talk about his experience working at Facebook followed by giving tips and tricks to best prepare you for your next coding interview.

Note: If you want to join Facebook on their mission to make the world more open and connected, don't hesitate to hand in a copy of your resume to the recruiters at the event.

**CSESoc T-Shirt Sale**

CSESoc is having a t-shirt sale!

Get yours from the BBQ tomorrow or the Socs Office during the week before they sell out!

**CSESoc Social Meeting**

Wednesday 30 July 6pm

Socs Office (Room 306, K17 Building)

Do you want to get more involved with CSESoc? Joining the Social team is a great way to do it! They are in charge of organising all the social events throughout the year. You'll pick up a lot of useful skills and make lots of friends along the way.

To join the team, email [csesoc.social.head@cse.unsw.edu.au](mailto:csesoc.social.head@cse.unsw.edu.au), or better yet - come to the Social Meeting for Semester 2 that's on this Wednesday.

**Optiver Events at UNSW**

Optiver has lots of exciting events in the approaching weeks. If you're interested in working for a company that was voted Australia's Best Place to Work in 2013, you might want to check out the following:

30 July (Week 1): Optiver attends the UNSW Internship Expo

13 August (Week 3): Optiver attends the CSE Careers Expo

14 August (Week 3): Optiver runs an IT Testing Session

The IT Testing Session is where you can sit Optiver's 60 minute IT tests as part of their recruitment process for their Graduate Developer, Developer Internship and Graduate Trading Systems Engineering roles.

CSESoc BETA TEAM

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