

HIT TV on fire



The fourth season of Holmesglen TAFE's student produced program HIT TV commenced last month with a hot new look.

Airing on Melbourne's community television station Channel 31, the new, energetic season promises to be full of variety, including sketches, documentaries, and handy hints for the youth aimed demographic.

The nine half-hour episodes of the fourth season will air on Saturdays at 1.30pm, with repeats the following Tuesday at 4pm.

The new season will unveil a striking new set of

colourful flames, which was designed and constructed by Holmesglen students at its Chadstone campus.

With the help of their new myspace page (www.myspace.com/HIT_TV), the team aim to beat HIT TV's audience peak of 16,000 viewers achieved last year. The page will give the viewing public the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions for the show. HIT TV Hosts Leon Sjogren and Jesse Smith are pictured.

Student unions decline, reports find

The Federal Government's ideological agenda behind voluntary student unions has caused life on campus to be tougher for students, the National Union of Students says.

In a report released last month, the union says voluntary unions have failed to deliver self sustaining student organisations able to survive off voluntary memberships, investments and trading operations.

"Only two WA Guilds are self-funded," the report says.

"In all other cases the organisations have either received substantial university funding, have collapsed or are surviving on limited reserves."

NUS, national president, Michael Nguyen said.

"The impact of VSU has been predominantly to remove resources from student organisations that contribute to campus life, extra-curricular experience and involvement in the university.

"Where universities have had to step in, this has diverted funding that would otherwise go into teaching and learning facilities."

Twenty-five out of 30 student organisations reported substantial or total job losses; many of these cuts coming in the area of professional support to student representatives.

"The significant reductions in the areas of professional staff assisting student representatives, puts student involvement in quality assurance and consumer protection within universities in jeopardy," Nguyen said.

La Trobe, Monash and Swinburne Universities are planning to take direct control of the major student services.

"University take-overs of services on campus has removed the ability for students to be involved in the decision making and democratic shaping of their on campus experience. This experience is important for a University to retain and is part of the broader experience that students gain from a university degree," Nguyen said.

"The contribution that student representatives made to campus life, campus activities and university decision making was significantly

underestimated and undervalued by the government when it rammed through its extreme ideological VSU legislation with little debate."

A second report, by Australasian Campus Union Managers Association found that participation in sporting and social clubs had dropped dramatically, with direct funding for sporting clubs cut by 40 per cent and a 17 per cent reduction in membership.

Prices charged for the use of services and facilities had more than doubled in some cases, leading to significant reductions in the number of students using them.

More than 260 union services – including child care, assistance to international students and funding for orientation – and 100 sporting services had been shut down or reduced, the report found.

It accuses the Federal Government of using the \$40 million a year transition fund – to help universities cope with the loss of fees – as a pork barrel in Coalition electorates. [Q](#)



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