

HONI SOIT

VOL 90 SEM 2 WEEK 2

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

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Ramsay Centre

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FitzSimons
Scandal

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Life of an
Astrologer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. The University of Sydney – where we write, publish and distribute *Honi Soit* – is on the sovereign land of these people. As students and journalists, we recognise our complicity in the ongoing colonisation of Indigenous land. In recognition of our privilege, we vow to not only include, but to prioritise and centre the experiences of Indigenous people, and to be reflective when we fail to. We recognise our duty to be a counterpoint to the racism that plagues the mainstream media, and to adequately represent the perspectives of Indigenous students at our University. We also wholeheartedly thank our Indigenous reporters for the continuing contribution of their labour to our learning.

EDITORIAL

There's a much nicer world out there somewhere where I don't exist. Or at least I'd like to think there is. I'm constantly thinking about what could have been – about what's possible.

This past week, that thought process led me to a question: is anything possible? I went out and asked for stories of people talking about stretching the bounds of what constitutes the realm of possibility to find out.

The result? In this week's edition of *Honi*, as with every week, the stories are ones of possibility. USyd can have its own special edition of Monopoly. It's possible to create a web series both awful and irresistible using nothing but grant money and university students.

It's also possible to be born into a dynasty of astrologers. It's possible, too, that people out there believe the Earth is flat.

Therein lies the problem with possibility. It's as limiting as it is limitless. There are an endless amount of possibilities, but time is linear. At the end of your life, you've lost just as many, if not more, possibilities as you've found.

Maybe that's a good thing though. Accepting that anything is possible also comes with accepting the worst: the sorry, the unassuming, the wrong, is possible.

There are those who wield possibility like a sword. The Narutos of the world, telling the world to 'believe it' as they run, arms stretched behind them, fearlessly towards the unknown.

For the rest of us, it might be better if anything isn't possible. Maybe then I could get a little sleep. EA

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Clouded Vision

Dear Editors,

In the most recent edition of *Honi* I received a brief mention in the Deep Tea Diving section (big fan of the section), that I was 'Liberal-adjacent'. I found this to be a rather loaded, puzzling, and incorrect term. I'm not a Liberal and have never identified as such. I have made this clear to present and past *Honi* editors. Current editors clarified in private messages that the use of adjacent was to simply mean that I have a personal relationship with some Liberals that I put into action in a student politics context (I also have personal relationships with members of other on-campus political factions). This is somewhat laughable as I ran for SRC with a four-year strong personal brand and managed a USU campaign because I felt the University and USU had not done enough to improve their environmental policies and believed that the candidate I was running could make a valuable contribution. While it may have been the intention of the Editors to showcase my supposed close friendships, I don't think it can be presumed that a reader's interpretation of 'adjacent' related to personal relationships and not political affiliations.

I have recently left the Vision team and will sit out my

remaining time as an Independent Councillor, I apologise for not informing the *Honi* Editors of this information. My SRC voting record has reflected my independence throughout the year already, which the *Honi* Editors would be fully aware of from their attendance at Council Meetings. I was also the only Vision Councillor to not hand over my ballot papers during reselect last year and thus voted independently from the very start. While I recognise that the company one keeps may allow certain characterisations to be drawn, surely, if their ideas, thoughts, and actions contradict such characterisation it may be fair to say that the initial characterisation was poorly constructed.

Yours independently,
Tim Seguna
Master of Public Policy I
(*Deep Tea Diving*, Semester 2: Week 1)

PERSONALS

Who is this?

They don't want me to tell you this and there's not much time.

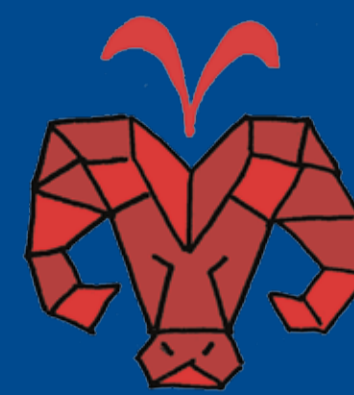
Look at what happened when the editors of HONI SOIT talked about St Michael's college and said that someone

had died there
It's like disneyland where if someodrye dies they take them off into the carpack rjust so they can say that nobdoy dies at disneyland ... the happiest place on earth
what If I told you that for 20 years a killer stalked his prey in the very grounds of this university
would you be shocked or surprised
they dont want you to know about this
they're all in on it
If they deny it, then they're part of the cover up
but there was a man
we don't know his name and he goes by the nickname that students came up with at the time beefore they were censored
HONI SOIT from back in the day has been censored. they started to notice something was strange and were reporting on it
late one night there archive was stolen. No doors or windows were broken. the thief had access to the building.
nothing was missing except for the few hundred archive copies thart they had kept from their year as editos
it was forgetton and left as part of the past. except the-honisoit archive is now complete and available online.
but all of the references to him are gone and replaced with new articles
find the merewether killer and find who is pulling the string behins theis university
before its too late

Honiscopes

Jenny Cao has some advice ... and fam, if I were you - I'd take it!

Artwork by Momoko Metham



Aries
"Certified 'Fire Emoji'"

Going through heartbreak and loss has made you realise who your real friends are.

Time to find some new friends!



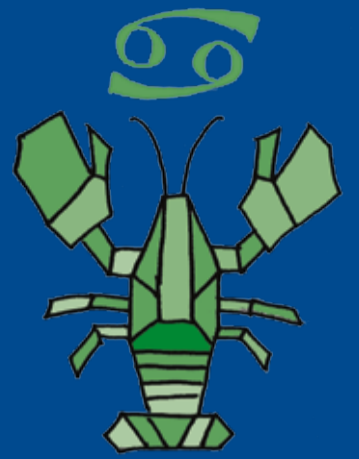
Taurus
"Please don't cry in front of me"

You have strength in all things. Except your bladder.



Gemini
"She's tired"

It's been a tough couple of weeks with lots of changes. You may find it hard to grapple with them but honestly it's just a fucking bag. LEAVE ONE IN THE CAR!



Cancer
"il soft shell crabby"

You've put your health on the backburner for way too long. Try Flora Proactiv Buttery Spread. Made with REAL buttermilk and is clinically proven to lower your cholesterol! #ad



Leo
"That Bitch"

Ok listen here you hot lil shit - it's LEO SZN so you better be prepared. Get your taxes sorted, double cleanse and do your readings. In that order. I'm looking out for us!



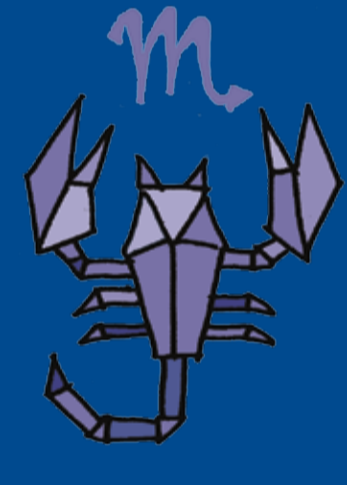
Virgo
"Knows when to use orient and orientate"

I know you don't really believe in all this stuff but sir can you please lower your voice. You're scaring the children.



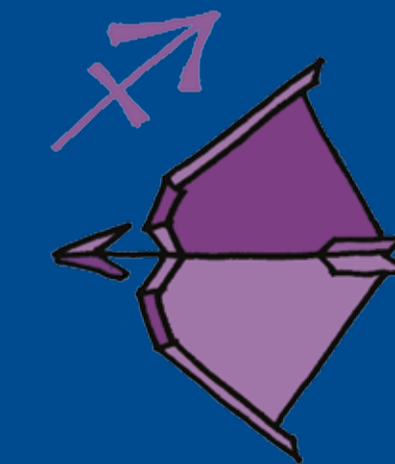
Libra
"Wishes they were That Bitch"

Taking time to learn about your emotions will be crucial this week. You may feel angry and exhausted or you might just have the common cold. The symptoms are very similar.



Scorpio
"~sxc_n_mysterious- but evil"

People always ask "why are scorpios just the WORST?", "why are scorpios so mean?", "why don't they die after they sting you like the bees?"
Hmm, something to think about.



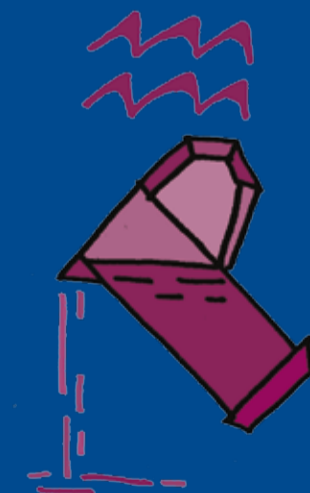
Sagittarius
"Don't @ me"

Strength comes from within. So does beauty, resilience and bile. The human body is a beautiful thing and so are you!



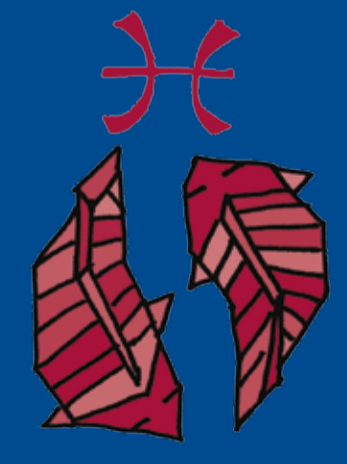
Capricorn
"G.O.A.T"

You've been conflicted and confused recently but it's about time you be honest with yourself. Ratatouille is the best animated movie of all time.



Aquarius
"32 unread Facebook messages"

Hey can you please open my Facebook message?



Pisces
"Fish Boi"

You're the kind of person who always says laughter is the best medicine. You also need a new doctor.

Sexual assault reporting portal riddled with errors

Elijah Abraham reports.

USyd has unveiled a new sexual assault reporting portal during Wednesday's National Day of Action rally against sexual violence at universities.

Following the launch of the portal, students' predictive criticisms were proven correct as more problems emerged, including potentially faulty logins, a lack of staff reporting options, and a broken Google link.

The portal was introduced as part of the University's new policy for sexual assault and harassment, which was released today and disclosed in an email to all students.

USyd implemented the policy based on recommendations made in the Australian Human Rights Commission and Universities Australia's Change the Course report.

The Students' Representative Council (SRC), who were consulted for feedback, have come out strongly against the University for going ahead with the portal at this stage.

In their feedback to the University, SRC figures highlighted a number of critical problems with the portal, including that it times out after ten minutes, sets word limits on responses, requires a Unikey to sign in, and asks respondents to provide information such as their gender, sexuality and post-assault therapeutic history without any clear indication of which staff will be able to access the portal's data.

"It is not right that students and staff feel unsafe"

SRC President Imogen Grant reported that she logged on and was given access to the staff view of the reporting portal and not the student one.

"I have never been a staff member or entered into any contract with the University, so I was completely bewildered."

Although the issue has since been rectified, after Grant brought it to the attention of the University, Grant believes "it is very unlikely that I am the

only student experiencing issues with the portal's reporting options."

It was also revealed that the staff portal currently does not allow staff members to make a formal sexual abuse or harassment complaint on their own behalf. The portal provides users with the option to make a 'disclosure' on the behalf of a victim's behalf, for the purpose of providing data without lodging a formal investigation. But for staff, this is currently the only option available.

Another issue identified by a number of students was that accessing the portal directly from Google directs users to a 404-error page. This issue was also resolved later today after the SRC contacted the University.

The SRC have accused the University of rushing the portal release to coincide with the anniversary of the Change the Course report.

"The University is prioritising the press announcement and cheap reputational wins above doing the job properly", Grant said, accusing the University of having "undermined the entire project, neglected meaningful collaboration and placed survivors in a position where they are bearing the brunt of a broken portal."

"We will inevitably see University management use the portal to posture at being at the forefront of institutional reform when, in reality, they ignored the advice of anti-sexual assault advocates and went ahead with releasing a portal with critical flaws", a move which Grant and the SRC have decried as "unethical and irresponsible".

USyd Wom*n's Collective (WoCo) Officer Maddy Ward said "the fact that the portal has been malfunctioning in the days since its release proves that it should have never been released in its current form."

"The issues with the portal are not so insignificant that they may be reviewed in 3 months: they are large, gaping holes in the very design of the technology that needed to be resolved before it was made available to students and staff."

Wednesday's rally, organised by the



NUS and WoCo, was attended by Federal Labor Party Deputy Leader Tanya Plibersek and NSW Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon.

At the rally, Ward spoke about the portal, saying the University's solution was "not good enough".

Plibersek also spoke, delivering a message to the University in light of its response: "if you can't fix it, the government has to step in and make you fix it."

"It is not right that students and staff feel unsafe at their place of work or study."

Rhiannon also criticised the faulty reporting portal, while joining Ward's additional calls to abolish the colleges, saying it was "past cleaning them up."

In a statement given to Honi, USyd appeared to have backed down on going ahead with the portal in its original state. A spokesperson said "we have received feedback from students that the online portal for reporting sexual assault has some technical issues."

"We have already taken steps to amend some issues, including the removal of a time limit, and we will look to update the portal as soon as possible

to allow anyone to make a disclosure."

Other speakers at the rally from universities across Sydney spoke about the inadequate handling of sexual assault at their own institutions.

End Rape on Campus Australia revealed that seven Australian universities, including Western Sydney University and the University of Notre Dame, had still been directing students to a sexual assault hotline that had its funding cancelled in November of last year.

Anna Hush, Director of EROC Australia and former USyd Wom*n's Officer called it "deeply irresponsible", saying that "if universities are genuinely concerned about students' access to trauma counselling, they should increase funding to these services on their own campuses, rather than overburdening already stretched community services."

The University said that they were aware of the issues and that "every effort is being made to fix the issues as soon as possible."

"The portal will be updated in the coming months to enable anyone to make a disclosure, including staff."

VC's staff waived fees for Turnbull event

Liam Donohoe reports.

Documents have revealed that the University waived \$5020.40 in booking fees for a private Gala Dinner attended by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. The application for free hire of the Great Hall for the Republican Movement's 25th Anniversary celebration in 2016 was supported by Peter FitzSimons in his capacity as Pro-Chancellor and Fellow of the Senate at the time. FitzSimons was also chairman of the Australian Republican Movement (ARM), a position he still holds.

Under ordinary circumstances, third-parties are charged a hiring fee for use of USyd venues, paying extra for security and other amenities. In this instance, ARM booked the Great Hall (\$3894), Quadrangle Lawns (\$440), and Nicholson Museum (\$686.40) for \$5020.40 in total. This amount was waived, and ARM instead only had to pay for security and fire isolation, slashing their costs by approximately half.

The invite-only Gala Dinner, charged attendees \$150 a head or \$3000 for a table, and was attended by Prime Minister and former ARM chair Malcolm Turnbull. The 250 guests were also treated to a performance by Kate Ceberano. While the amount netted by the night's auctions is unknown, on ticket sales alone the ARM would have made at least \$35,000 in revenue.

FitzSimons, an author and Fairfax journalist, served on the University's Senate as one of five Fellows representing alumni from his election in November 2009 through to December 2017, when the five alumni positions were removed as part of a restructuring. The Senate is the University's highest decision-making body.

The documents, disclosed to Honi following a Freedom of Information request by the Australian Taxpayers Alliance, suggest FitzSimons, who "created the event", was involved in the decision to host it at USyd, and instrumental in obtaining the fee waiver. Emails reveal that FitzSimons made the request following a conversation with Ken Gilbert, a divisional manager with Campus Infrastructure Services (CIS), on November 4. This was later followed up by 'FrontRow Group', the agency managing the event, who feature a picture from the Gala on their homepage.

Separate emails also show that as the event drew closer, some staff considered



Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull was keynote speaker at the event.
Image: Australian Republican Movement

FitzSimons thanked events coordinator Dene Anemogiannis for recognising the "VERY KIND understanding"

the potential for backlash. On December 14, University Venues Manager Caroline Marin-Edwards expressed concern that "because it was not an event directly related to the University" the decision to grant a fee waiver was "not clear cut". Given "Peter's support", however, she requested guidance from Rosalind Oglive, the current University Chief of Staff, to avoid "ruffl[ing] any feathers".

Oglive, who only began in that role a few months prior, suggested it would be allowed given ARM's status as a charity, but recommended that Marin-Edwards seek out precedent. But when Marin-Edwards later replied that "all fee waivers approved in the last 2 years" had "direct connections with the University", and that there was therefore "no direct example" from which to draw precedent, Oglive assured her to "not worry too much" as the event would "happen regardless". Director of CIS Greg Robinson approved the fee waiver request shortly thereafter.

Alex Cullen, a research assistant at the Australian Taxpayers Alliance, questioned the decision, telling Honi that "it is absurd that a partisan political cause gets special treatment at a public institution and the university needs to be accountable for that."

The rationale behind the University's decision remains unclear—there is no evidence to suggest the decision was a political one that reflects the University's position on Australian Republicanism. Emails do however show discussions between secretaries in the Chancellor's

and Vice-Chancellor's Offices, one with the subject line: "Sincere thanks from one republican to another". FitzSimons, a former international Rugby Union player and husband of Lisa Wilkinson, would also later follow up with the University, thanking events coordinator Dene Anemogiannis for recognising the "VERY KIND [emphasis in original] understanding he had with Ken [Gilbert]".

"Under ordinary circumstances, third-parties are charged a hiring fee for use of USyd venues"

Imogen Grant, President of the USyd Students' Representative Council, told Honi that the "majority of young people passively support the Republican movement, but would be horrified to learn that its wealthy leadership are granted extraordinary handouts from the University."

Alex, also a member of the Macquarie University Students Representative Committee, added that "the university has chosen to forego thousands of dollars that could contribute towards teaching, research or student services whilst asking students and staff to bear the brunt of budget changes."

Corrupt IT manager sentenced

A former staff member has been found guilty of defrauding USyd of \$43,065, and has been sentenced to at least twelve months behind bars.

Brett Roberts was employed as an IT manager by the University of Sydney, Macquarie University, and the University of Newcastle. The *Newcastle Herald* reported that over an eight-year period, Roberts "caused or attempted to cause payments of false invoices" totalling over \$100,000.

Roberts was found to be corrupt in 2015 after an investigation by Macquarie University. Itnews reported at the time that a 2013 internal inquiry at the university had "uncovered his misconduct, which the university handed over to ICAC".

Roberts was sentenced last month to 14 months jail for "dishonestly obtaining a benefit by deception", as well as 17 months jail for "giving false or misleading evidence to ICAC". Both sentences come with a non-parole period of 12 months.

An IT consultancy company, Management and Professional Services Pty Ltd (MAPS), was run on behalf of Roberts by Christopher Killalea. Roberts used his positions at the universities to receive and pay invoices to MAPS for non-existent services.

Roberts told ICAC in 2015 that the pair had designed the scheme together, a claim which Killalea denied. ICAC also found Killalea to be corrupt, and he was sentenced with a five-year good behaviour bond and fined \$4500.

While at the University of Sydney from 2009 to 2011, Roberts worked as a project manager on "its shift to shared services". He certified the payment of nine invoices to MAPS in December 2010.

The scheme began at the University of Newcastle, where MAPS first received \$27,750 in November 2006. Between 2012 and 2013, Roberts ramped up the invoices, beginning with \$32,450 in December and \$10,450 in January. In May, Robert submitted three invoices, each for \$32,450. Not all invoices were paid, with The Sydney Morning Herald reporting the total fraud amounted to almost \$114,000. The final three invoices raised a red flag at Macquarie University, who terminated Roberts' employment and received a partial refunded.

"The inappropriate financial behaviour by Mr Roberts was picked up by the university's own financial safeguards and systems," Macquarie told the SMH in 2015. The investigation was referred to ICAC who held a three-day hearing into Roberts' conduct.

Killalea told ICAC that he had acted out of "blind friendship" to Roberts. Killalea would later tip-off ICAC about Roberts' behaviour.

Roberts has filed an appeal against the severity of the sentencing, which will be heard on 24 September.

Fellowships: ARC & Google launch USyd programs

Andrew Rickert reports.

A round of grant funding has seen a boost of almost \$6 million to USyd research projects, including seven fellowships and a project grant.

Last week USyd announced that six projects would receive Future Fellowship funding from the Australian Research Council (ARC), as well as one Linkage Project. The funding was part of the ARC's \$180 million round of mid-year funding, which awarded 100 Future Fellowships and five Linkage Project grants to researchers across Australia.

Future Fellowships fund "mid-career researchers" over four year

projects, while Linkage Project funding is designed to partner academics with government and industry partners on "complex problems" and "fast-track solutions to benefit end-users".

Professor David Schlosberg was awarded a \$425,500 ARC Linkage Project grant for the Sydney Food Incubator, a joint project with the City of Sydney and partners at UNSW, TAFE NSW, and FoodLab Detroit. It focuses on tackling food insecurity—something which affects 17,000 residents of Sydney.

The six ARC Future Fellowships grants range from \$768,125 to \$1,018,125, and

the research projects "span the fields of cosmology, epigenetics, computer vision, grid systems, nanotechnology, and nanoscale characterisation."

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Duncan Ivison told Honi that he is "sure [that these fellowships] will deliver...extraordinary discoveries and benefits for Australia and the world."

USyd also benefited from Google's PhD Fellowship program, receiving one of the four coveted awards. USyd Ph.D. candidate Stephen Mallon will receive funding and be "matched with a Google Research Mentor" in his research

in improving the "performance and efficiency of network applications".

USyd also announced that it would become the first Australian university within the Airbus Global University Partner Program, which gives engineering students access to Airbus' 100-employee campus team and global exchange opportunities.

USyd will participate in the program immediately. Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and IT, Professor Willy Zwaenepoel, will visit the Zhuhai Air Show in China this November to formally sign a partnership agreement.



How to own a piece of our university

Janek Drevikovsky reports.

If you've ever dreamed about buying the Quad and redeveloping it into a hotel, dream no more: with paper money, plastic tokens and some cutthroat capitalism, soon we'll all be real estate emperors—right in our own backyard. Introducing: USyd Monopoly.

That's right, the USU is developing a USyd-themed edition of everyone's favourite board game. And by "favourite" we mean "most likely to ruin a family holiday after your sister got to be banker and didn't give you enough five-dollar notes".

So far, information on the project is scant: it's in the "very early stages of development", according to USU Head of Commercial Operations Jess Reed, and the USU is currently "working with the University and the licensed [Monopoly] distributors in Australia".

Hasbro, the global toy giant, owns Monopoly, but local licensing seems to be handled by Winning Moves, a company known for producing variant board games. Winning Moves sells a wide range of Australia-specific Monopoly editions, featuring Sydney Monopoly, AFL Monopoly, NRL Monopoly and even Holden Monopoly.

Presumably, the game will form part of the USU's merchandise range, which retails at outlets like UniMart and Footbridge Station. Until recently, USU merchandise was dominated by keyrings, branded jerseys and overpriced umbrellas. But things got spicy with the recent triumph of the USyd-themed snow globe: with its miniature Quad and sparkly flurries, the globe has sold over 5000 units since its April launch.

Commercial Ops must be hoping for a similar entrepreneurial coup with USyd Monopoly.

On game design, details are also thin. Like regular Monopoly, it will probably feature a rectangular board with squares representing pieces of real estate for sale. Unlike regular Monopoly, these buildings will probably be real life USyd locations.




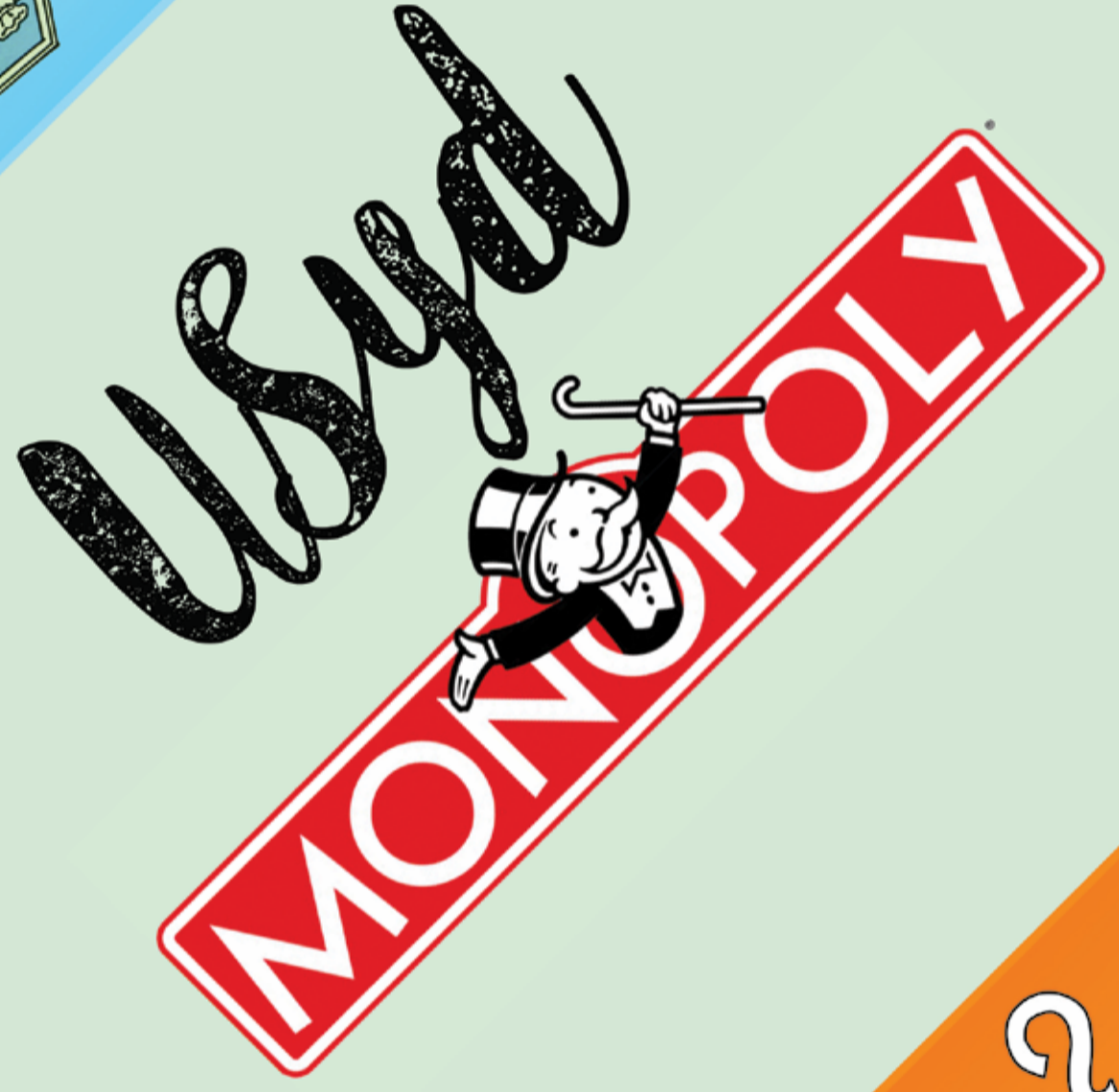
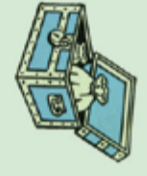





Which buildings will make an appearance is as yet unclear, and it's likely the USU itself doesn't know: the name and likeness of any USyd asset will, in most cases, have to be licensed from the University itself. And as University spokesperson confirmed to Honi, "discussions are yet to be had around licensing or building choices".

But that leaves room for some wild speculation: will the Quad serve as Mayfair, Monopoly's most expensive property? Will the Bosch Building, a suspected asbestos hotspot, be Old Kent Lane? Will players collected 200 credit points when passing go? Will academic misconduct proceedings be jail? And, after the Baird government crushed our locomotive ambitions, what on earth will the train stations be?

There's a commercial justice to USyd Monopoly. Universities bid for us with slick marketing. They charge us extravagant 'rent' in the form of course fees. They expose us to the merciless chance of inconsistent marking standards. They force us to do laps through the labyrinth of student services and tortured degree progressions.

It's time to turn the tables: with USyd Monopoly, it won't just be rich donors who can own a piece of our university.

But, as with all good things, you'll have to wait: USyd Monopoly won't be in stores before semester one, 2019 at the earliest.

	\$600	 CHANCE	PERSONAL SPACE FISHER	\$700	EASTERN AVENUE CITY RD 352, 370, 423 426, 428, M30	\$400	ANDERSON STUART CHARLES PERKINS CENTRE	\$750	\$800	SPIGEEON POO VICTORIA PARK FOUNTAIN	SNOT FOR SALE THE COLLEGES	
SPENDING NAME CHANGE WENTWORTH												SCHOOL OF I.T. \$YOUR HUMANITY
SRIP TRANSIENT												NEW LAW \$YOUR SOUL
 COMMUNITY CHEST												ABERCROMBIE \$YOUR ETHICS
OLD TEACHERS \$500												SYDNEY UNI STATION SDLC
 REDERN STATION \$600												CHANGE 
PETER NICOL RUSSELL \$SEATS												QUADRANGLE \$1 JACARANDA
CHEMISTRY \$450												HECS PAY 4-8%
 INCUBATE INNOVATION FOR RICH PEOPLE												VICE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE \$1 SPINE
PHARMACY \$400												COLLECT 48 CREDIT POINTS AS YOU PASS 
JUST  PASSING	MEREWETHER \$200											MANNING \$\$HIT FOOD



The rural fight against fascism

Katie Thorburn looks into the group saying no to bigotry in New South Wales' Central West.

USyd is a hotbed for politics. Yet often enough we don't look outside our university bubble to see the activism occurring in other communities, particularly regional and rural communities. There's a stereotype that those outside of the inner-city are bigots or, at the very least, politically disinterested. I looked into a Facebook group that is fighting the far right in regional towns, to see if the Central West features more bigots or resistance to bigots.

The page 'The Central West says "no" to Bigotry and Fascism' is largely run by residents of Bathurst, a regional town in Central West NSW. Bathurst is one of the largest regional cities in the area, alongside Orange and Dubbo. Over the years far-right groups like Antipodean Resistance, Reclaim Australia, and the UPF have tried to influence the locals.

"The Antipodean Resistance activity here in Bathurst is the major issue," the administrator of the page tells me. The source, who wishes to remain anonymous, adds that "there are a number of Newcastle True Blue Crew who moved into Lithgow to stir up opposition to a proposed mosque there."

"There are actually quite a lot of left leaning people in regional areas, the problem is with them meeting each other."

The page started in response to posters advertising the Antipodean Resistance group in Bathurst in early January. The Antipodean Resistance is a neo-Nazi and fascist group in Australia whose slogan is "white revolution is the only solution." The likes of Nick Folkes

and Toby Cook—well-known fascist leaders—have directly tried to influence the area by visiting into towns like Lithgow. Infamous far-right figure and current Australia First Party chairman Jim Saleam even attempted to run for the seat of Cootamundra in last October's by-elections, coming last in the process.

"The target audience of this page is anyone who opposes bigotry in all forms," the admin says. "Although I started this page in response to what was happening in my own town, I signal boost for left-leaning pages all around Australia and sometimes beyond, and I have followers around the world at this point."

The page has had several wins so far. It has prompted locals to take down Nazi posters and speak up in discriminatory situations. The page has also networked with other anti-fascist groups, such as Yelling At Racist Dogs.

Predictably, the page faced backlash at first. The admin says that there were "a number of nippers (highschool aged wannabe nazis) in Blayney and Mudgee" targeting the page when it launched.

The admin says that there is a bit of truth to the claim that rural people are intolerant of difference.

"I do believe there is [a] stereotype of



regional towns being bigoted and it was somewhat true of the older population," they said. "Until about 2015, people I knew were starting to follow pages like Reclaim Australia [and] UPE." However, they added, "But Bathurst at least had been pretty progressive among younger residents."

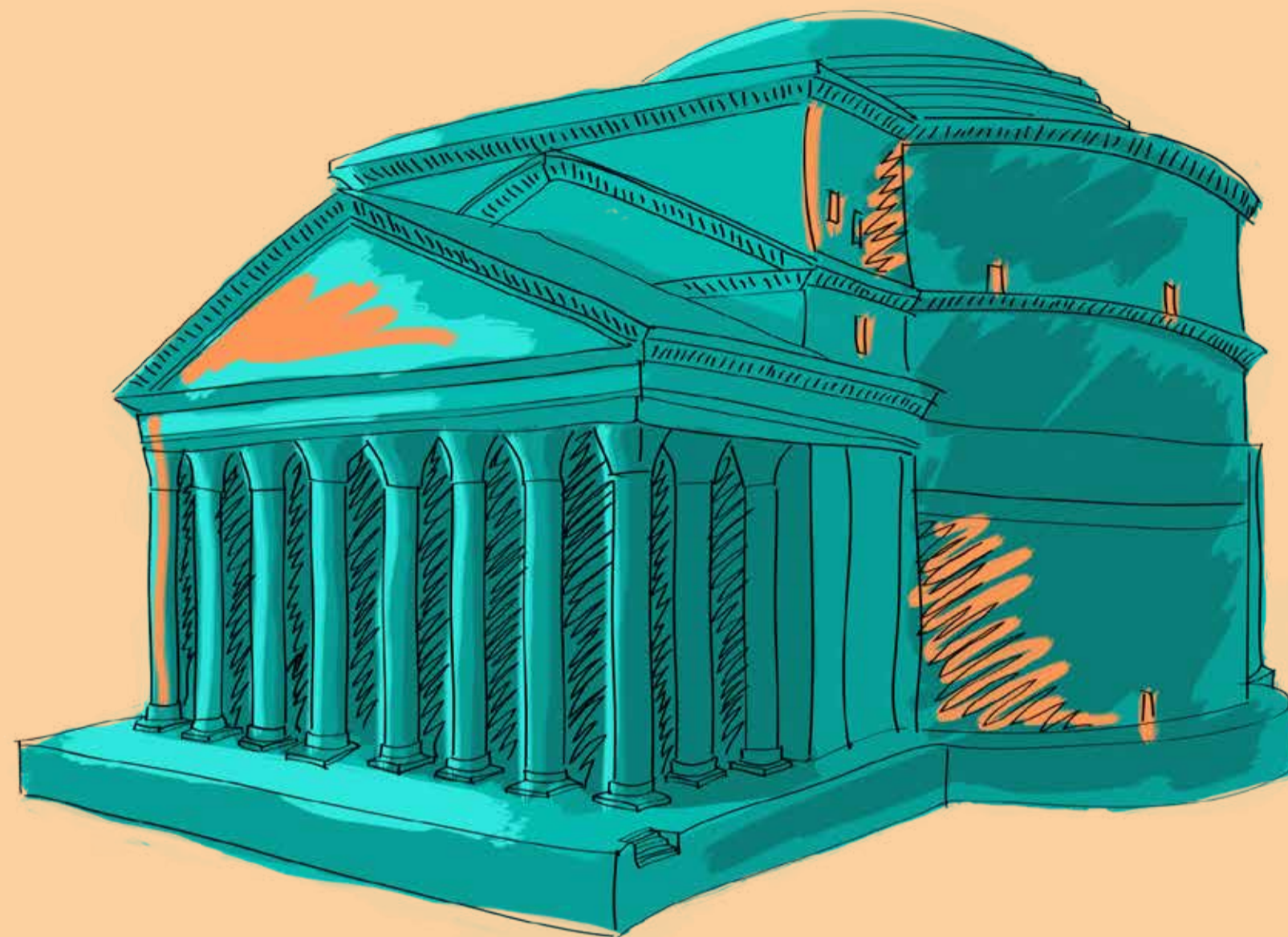
"I wasn't radicalised by the left, it was exposure to the right that radicalised me."

There seem to be structural issues affecting left-wing organising in regional towns.

"There are actually quite a lot of left leaning people in regional areas, the problem is with them meeting each other," they explained, "Finding the other people who share your views & organising is the hardest part about fighting fascism in regional areas."

The admin suspects that long-time locals are not members of Antipodean Resistance; they think that the fascist group has probably sent members from the city to Bathurst, to spread their message westwards.

"You could say I'm becoming radicalised," the admin reflects. "But I wasn't radicalised by the left, it was exposure to the right that radicalised me."



The rise and fall of the Ramsay Empire

WORDS / LIAM THORNE & JOE VERITY

ART / A. MON



The Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation is in a uniquely difficult situation: it currently has three billion dollars, but nobody to give it to. Intentionally or not, the late Paul Ramsay has left the country not only one of the largest educational funds in Australian history, but a new and high stakes battleground in the seemingly interminable Australian culture wars. Negotiations between the Ramsay Centre and the University of Sydney have not only caused concern about the legitimacy of Western civilisation in academia, but have also raised questions regarding the compatibility of academic autonomy and an increasing reliance on private sponsorship in the context of public funding cuts.

Since June, the Ramsay Centre has joined the ranks alongside fabricated 'African gangs' and reusable plastic bags as one of the nation's foremost cultural crises (at least according to the indefatigably indignant conservative commentariat). This process was accelerated by the dramatic and apparently acrimonious breakdown of negotiations with the Australian National University, a disagreement elevated to the status of national news by the unexplained intervention of the Prime Minister.

“Another way of describing ‘not engaging in the culture wars’ is ‘letting the right win them’”, he argues. The only way to prevent the politicisation of universities in the future is to turn away the ideologues without hesitation.

Though negotiations shuffled along quietly for the first half of the year, receiving little attention outside of academic spheres, Ramsay board director Tony Abbott characteristically invited controversy in late May after publishing an online essay in *Quadrant* about the proposed degree. The former Prime Minister triumphantly declared that negotiations were reaching a close, and that the Ramsay Centre was on the precipice of restoring Western civilisation to its rightful prominence in tertiary education. Finally, Abbott declared, after years of suppression, Western civilisation could be taught free from the pesky pervasion of Asian and Indigenous perspectives—unhindered by the radical notion that “all cultures are equal”.

ANU's withdrawal was supported by a lengthy explanation from the Vice Chancellor, Brian Schmidt. Under siege by aggrieved conservatives from Sky News, The Australian, and the Federal Parliament, Schmidt declared that negotiations were halted not due to the substance of the program, but due to “irreconcilable

differences over [its] governance” reflected in an “extraordinarily prescriptive micro-management approach” which sought to undermine the autonomy of the university by dictating curriculum as well as staffing. Despite defending the independence and integrity of an institution which Ramsay supporters point to as a jewel in the crown of Western civilisation, Schmidt was lambasted as a “left-wing ideologue”; a cultural Marxist blindly opposed to the study of Western civilisation from the outset.

As the dust settles in Canberra and the Ramsay Centre retreats to the alma mater of its board director, both advocates and sceptics of the proposed degree appear divided. Since the publication of Abbott's ideological manifesto, Ramsay Centre CEO Simon Haines has been tasked with recovering a respectable front for future operations. This draws a distinct line between him and his radical conservative colleagues (two of whom, coincidentally, are former prime ministers). Haines, a former academic himself, has gone to lengths to position himself above the perceived ideology of the Centre, lamenting the blemish left on what he sees as an honest educational mission. It's no mistake that over the past two months Haines, not

Abbott, has been the face of the Centre.

With Haines and the ragtag bunch of former prime ministers knocking on USyd's door, the response from academics can be broadly grouped into two categories: those who are willing to inch the door open (albeit with the security chain firmly in place), and those who would leave the call unanswered.

Dirk Moses, professor of Modern History at USyd, falls into the former camp. Moses became a leading voice in the Ramsay debate overnight after writing an article which drew indignant criticism from conservative commentator Chris Kenny. Despite his firm opposition to Kenny and the conservative vilification of universities he represents, Moses thinks that USyd should engage with the Ramsay Centre, though with caution. Like many academics, he thinks that the Arts faculty simply cannot afford to refuse funding.

“Research for research's sake is not indulged in like it used to be,” he explains. “Similarly with teaching, resources are allocated like a business—meaning

student demand for teaching—rather than on intellectual merit.

“Look what happened to Indian history: it disappeared. And where is African and Islamic Studies in this faculty? Entire civilisations are not taught.”

Along with an absence of historians of Africa, the Department of History is also lacking in academics specialising in Indian history, as noted by Homi in late 2016.

Moses thinks there's a potential overlap between the vision held by Haines and units currently offered at USyd. As noted by Vice Chancellor Michael Spence on Q&A in June, the University currently teaches a 'great books' program, which shares some of the features proposed by the Ramsay Centre. One of the units, 'Great Books that Changed the World' (FASS2200), promises to extend students through the “intensive reading” of “challenging texts”. The unit has restricted access however—it's part of the Dalyell Scholars program, meaning only students with an ATAR of ninety-eight and above have access to it.

“Let's democratise the Dalyell program by making it generally available,” argues Moses. “If you want to democratise it, though, you need to devote resources for the small-group teaching. I have no problems with Ramsay contributing them so long as we run the program on our terms. But we should walk away if Ramsay insists on calling it “western civilisation” rather than “great books”—a political rather than academic project.”

Beyond financial considerations, Moses argues that to engage the Ramsay Centre rather than ignore them would be politically tactful.

“We can't be seen to be a priori against the proposition. We would fall into the stereotype of a PC university, which is what our critics want. If negotiations falls down, it should be because Ramsay was intransigent, not us.”

“I have confidence in my colleagues. I'm confident that the VC and the Dean would not accept a deal that would compromise university standards. I'm confident that the university's vetting procedures would produce an outcome that would issue in a serious great books stream.”



On the other side of the debate are the so called 'Sydney 200'—the roughly two hundred USyd academics who signed an open letter from the National Tertiary Education Union to Michael Spence urging against any arrangement with the Centre, citing the intention to “predetermine academic outcomes” and prioritise students with an interest in the West. The student movement 'Keep Ramsay Out of USyd' is aligned with these academics.

Dr Nick Riemer, senior lecturer in English and linguistics, and the first signatory on the NTEU letter, flatly rejects both the financial and political justifications for engaging the Centre. To engage them, he claims, even with a healthy degree of scepticism, would be to afford it “social capital” and “academic respectability”, potentially strengthening the future bargaining position of the Centre with other universities less protective of their academic autonomy.

As for the political implications, Riemer thinks rejection is the only option. “Another way of describing 'not engaging in the culture wars' is 'letting the right win them’”, he argues. The only way to prevent the politicisation of universities in the future is to turn away the ideologues without hesitation.

Advocates, sceptics and opponents of the Ramsay Centre alike all act with vigilance instilled by past experiences. The United States Studies Centre, a research institute and think tank located at USyd, has provided lessons for both conservatives keen to combat the perceived left-wing slant of universities

and academics wary of ideological agendas. John Howard, a member of the Ramsay Centre board, was responsible for directing twenty-five million dollars towards the USSC at its inception to promote the Australia-US alliance.

To a large extent, the USSC has served its purpose—a source with inside experience at the USSC told *Honi* that the think tank component of the Centre is an

Perhaps, as public funding declines, universities will have no choice but to “hitch their sail to unfettered capitalism”

“echo chamber” and “essentially a branch office of the US embassy”. At the same time however, conservatives are dissatisfied with the critical research produced by the Centre, echoing the oft cited remarks of former Thatcher speechwriter John O'Sullivan that “every organisation that's not explicitly right-wing, over time becomes left-wing”. The *Australian's* Gerard Henderson lamented that the academic component of the USSC is “stacked with leftists” and has an “acute lack of political diversity”. For academics and ideologues alike, the USSC has provided a precedent that informs both sides the Ramsay debate.

The Ramsay Centre's proposed degree also has an obvious analogue in the 'Contemporary Civilisation' course run by Columbia University in the US. Students are required to take a 'Core Curriculum' in addition to their own studies, where they learn about “the history of moral and political thought from Plato to the present.” First implemented in 1919, the course arose amid post-war xenophobia. Students were expected to gain an appreciation for ideas like capitalism and democracy, instilling within them a renewed patriotism and ultimately affirming the West's place at the forefront of global politics.

As the Contemporary Civilisation course approaches its centennial, it remains criticised for over-emphasising the importance of Western contributions to global history and philosophy. The programme has certainly shed much of its original nationalist ideology, however, mainly due to the efforts of student and academic protest. Reforms in the 1980s and '90s expanded the scope of the course from its Eurocentric origins to include a relatively more diverse and intersectional array of perspectives, such as Gandhi's *Hind Swaraj*, Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk*, the Qur'an, Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth*, and de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*. Disagreement over whether USyd might be able to adopt a similar course in collaboration the Ramsay Centre ultimately boils down to one's willingness to trust university management and their ability to resist intruding demands presented by large corporate benefactors amidst a political context of tertiary education cuts.

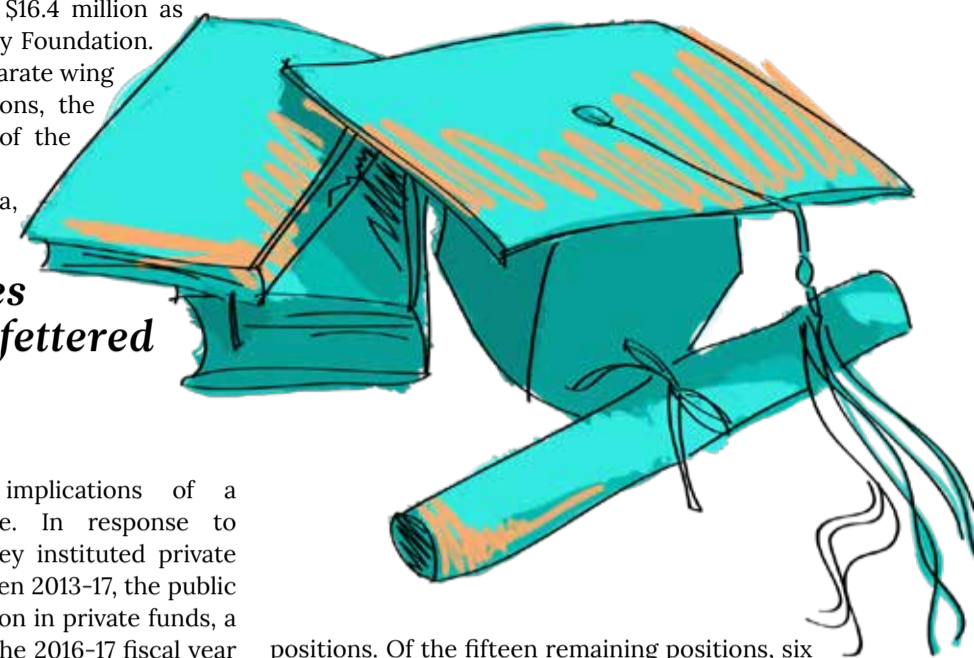
It stands to reason that even if USyd is able to decline Ramsay's offer today, a similar offer could be unceremoniously accepted at some point in the future when funding for the arts is in even more dire straits.

In June 2018 alone, tertiary education institutions were dealt with significant cuts as a result of a Liberal government funding freeze, arguably laying an imperative for greater reliance upon higher student fees in a deregulated environment, or alternatively, on private sponsorship. USyd will receive 2.8% less than expected, equating to a \$62 million cut. Smaller universities like the University of Newcastle were also hit hard, losing \$30 million of funding. Newcastle is

already turning to private donors to fill the gaps left by public cuts, having received \$16.4 million as of August 1 from the Paul Ramsay Foundation. Although the Foundation is a separate wing of the Ramsay Centre's operations, the grant displays the wide reach of the ideologically-charged group.

The University of California,

Artwork by A. Mon



Berkeley demonstrates the implications of a corporatised funding structure. In response to dwindling state support, Berkeley instituted private support as a replacement. Between 2013-17, the public university raised almost two billion in private funds, a figure that continues to rise. In the 2016-17 fiscal year alone, \$191 million of philanthropic support was given for scholarships and fellowships.

Although arguably preferable to a mere absence of funding, the result for Berkeley has been the funding of, for example, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, responsible for explicit research into anti-terrorist responses. In recent years, Australia has witnessed the rise of similarly political and privately-funded think tanks. The Institute of Public Affairs, a prominent beacon of climate change scepticism, was found to source eighty-six per cent of its funding from private individuals, have close ties with the Liberal Party, and receive \$4.5 million from mining-magnate Gina Rinehart.



Moses, who completed his Ph.D. at Berkeley, sees the university as a model for USyd's potential future.

“For good or ill, a UC Berkeley style funding model could be the future for the university, meaning a vast majority of its income is privately generated.”

For those who take issue with the Ramsay Centre, an outcome similar to the Lawrence Livermore labs—or even worse, the Institute of Public Affairs—is precisely the dystopia in mind. One fear is incidents similar to the firing of Steven Salaita, a tenured Palestinian-American professor of Indigenous Studies at the University of Illinois, in 2014-15. Having tweeted criticisms about Israel's 2014 attacks on Gaza, Salaita was later fired. After filing a lawsuit against the university, documents obtained through Freedom of Information requests showed that his firing came following pressure from donors, who threatened to withdraw financial support from the university if he was not fired. Despite inevitably reaching a settlement, it is not difficult for USyd academics to imagine similar events at their own campus, should the university accept funding from an explicitly pro-West source.

There is reason to believe a similarly corporatised university has already taken shape. As of 2016, the Senate—USyd's governing body—changed its make up with very little student consultation. During student exams in 2015, the Senate cut seven of its twenty-two

positions. Of the fifteen remaining positions, six are external appointees with previous experience as CEOs, executive and non-executive directors in corporate business. Students now hold only two positions, and only one representative of the NTEU sits on the board. When asked by the NTEU whether the Senate would allow the Ramsay Centre's programme to pass, Spence gave words of assurance about the other processes that would need to first be passed before the Senate was consulted. However, given the Senate's supreme power and recent trends suggesting an ever-enlarging overt corporate influence, Spence's comments did not satisfy all.

Even though Moses spoke with relative confidence that the worst parts of the Ramsay Centre's course would not pass, he was also quick to concede that any proposal with such political overtones needs to be approached with extreme caution. Of course, not all corporate sponsorships hold explicitly ideological overtones—take last year's multi-million deal between USyd and Microsoft to provide research grants and technology. The deal hopes to “reshape national and global security and revolutionise medicine, communications and transport.” Despite being relatively uncontentious in comparison with the Ramsay Centre, the Microsoft deal illustrates the integral role corporate sponsorship is already playing at USyd.

Perhaps, as public funding declines, universities will have no choice but to “hitch their sail to unfettered capitalism,” as Moses so eloquently puts it. Perhaps, as the optimists would suggest, this model is not altogether incompatible with independent academic rigour. But in the trilemma of corporate funding, academic autonomy and ideological warfare, only two can survive. We can only hope that the latter remains confined to the petty squabbles of opinion columns, rather than in our tertiary syllabus.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FORUM: NO TO RAMSAY, THE MYTH OF WESTERN CIVILISATION
WED AUGUST 8, 6PM,
CARSLAW 175

STOP THE RAMSAY CENTRE! PROTEST AND DIE IN
WED AUGUST 15, 1PM,
EASTERN AVENUE

THE STARS IN OUR FAULTS

Alan Zheng ponders the shining industry of professional stargazers.

Artwork by Momoko Metham



My first interaction with astrology came when I was eight. It began with a neon pop-up which flitted onto my virus-infected MSN homepage one fateful day. The ad was neat and gaudy, a relic of Windows XP programming. 'Discover who you really are here,' it flashed in glittery rainbow text. Bored and left unsupervised, I clicked into the pop-up, unbeknownst to the fact that I had just downloaded a Trojan Horse onto my computer. I was too preoccupied to notice, confronted instead by an invitation into a cosmic universe of answers dating back to Ancient Babylonian practices in 2000BC.

That rainy afternoon took me down a rabbit hole. I discovered I was an Aquarius, which meant I was compatible with Leos. My young mind reasoned that this was an astrological destiny, a sign from above that my August-born crush would be destined to fall for my cool and calm air element. In a panicked ecstasy to learn more, the teachings from the zodiac began to govern my life. After school, my train journeys were occupied with the consumption of daily horoscopes in the mX. I clung to abstract reaffirmations. I embraced labels which had been bestowed by the stars, willfully blind to their contradictions: extroverted yet shy, temperamental yet emotionally stable. This was me.

Horoscopes became my guilty pleasure, exerting a unique explanatory power on my life as they have done for so many others. Depending on who you ask, astrology ranges from 'pseudoscientific', 'misguided' and a 'mass cultural delusion', to a "meaningful connection between mankind and the wider cosmos". To astrologists and horoscope readers, the claim of astrology is simple and uncontroversial: there is a meaningful impact on the substratum of human affairs by celestial

events. According to Gallup polls undertaken in Britain, Canada and the US until 1996, up to a quarter of people believed in horoscopes. Nicholas Campion's recent book 'Astrology and Popular Religion in the Modern West' alleges 90% of the British population know their zodiac signs and 50% believe them to be accurate descriptions of their identities. The scale of astrology's impact on human thinking and social norms cannot be understated, even if it is all mere bullshit.

Through it all, dedicated horoscope sections have secured their place as a familiar feature of national and global tabloids. According to research undertaken by the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, 70% of people between the ages of 18 and 21 read a horoscope column once a month. This is surprising because it subverts the established archetype of the increasingly secular and rational millennial.

If you have ever read a horoscope, you will likely have come across the renowned work of the late Jonathan Cainer. A high school dropout, Jonathan worked odd jobs as a petrol pump attendant and at a school nursery, before enrolling at the now nearly 70-year old sandstone institution, the Faculty of Astrological Studies (FAS). The college currently enrolls more than 10,000 students from 90 countries and awards certificates, diplomas and even Ph.D.s in Astrology. Testimonials on the FAS website depict a range of reasons for studying astrology but each is joined by a golden thread: an interest in the metaphysical, mystical and human liberation. Jonathan's reasons for enrolling were likely a blend of necessity and curiosity. He was without qualifications and undoubtedly bored of working in his most recent job in a factory. Jonathan was also interested

in introspectivity, so when he was shown a birth chart which accurately summarised his personality, he was hooked.

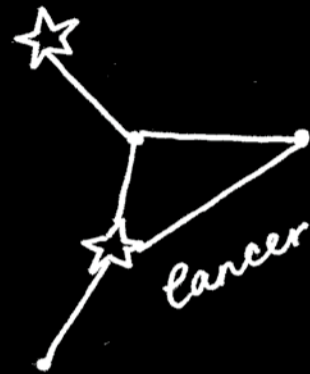
After his world-class education, Jonathan ultimately came to accrue an astrological fortune and created an empire in his name. His byline rapidly appeared in the daily astrological forecasts of *Hello*, *Sunday News*, *Daily Mail*, Sydney's *Daily Telegraph*, Japan's *Misty Magazine*, the *Herald Sun* and the *Sunday Times*. According to the *Observer*, more than 12 million people have read Jonathan's predictions. The scale of this audience demanded that when Jonathan passed away in 2016, the enormous and prodigious weight of interpreting the stars be inherited. Jonathan's charismatic nephew, Oscar Cainer, donned the trademark velvet suit and became an heir overnight, continuing the legacy of the characteristic Cainer horoscope, identifiable by its discursive, almost irrelevant imagery. Last week, the *Daily Telegraph's* Cainer horoscope reminded me of the apparent aphorism 'metal and custard have more in common than I think'. I interpreted it as a subtle allusion to the rigidity in my life. After all, here I was, in the third year of a five year degree, still feeling post-break blues. My imagination was ignited by the thought of leaving the timetable-grind behind and pursuing some romantic odyssey in Europe, away from Taste baguettes and Campos coffee. The horoscope prompted that this sensation of an unwanted stasis could simply be cured with excitement and desire. I filled the blanks mentally and reminded myself to approach the day with more excitement. I asked many overenthusiastic questions in my first tutorial of the semester. Possibly too many. As with much of

Cainer's work, the forecast concluded with a well-timed call to action 'you can do it!' What 'it' necessarily entails, however, still escapes me.

I often wonder what a life of interpreting and relating the stars to human behaviour does to a person's thinking patterns. Certainly, the underlying causation is dubious and to work in a field constantly criticised by sceptics must grind you down until you too begin to doubt the stars and question the value of their signs. It's not too much of a leap to assume that what keeps horoscope writers in the business is at least partially attributable to the multi-billion-dollar industry. However, what might also underlie the production of these horoscopes are the personal struggles and experiences driving the astrologist's work. They learn to compress these into a creative output, perhaps powered by an enduring belief in the interpretive value of their own craft. After all, the astrologist's first reader is themselves.

Daily horoscope writers are not struggling for work. In addition to managing phone support lines, monetising horoscope readings through exclusive access packages like the *Daily Telegraph's* 'premium horoscopes' and working to short deadlines, astrologists are creative agents continuously pressured by a line of work to move at planetary speeds.

The industry is balanced precariously on people's continued faith in this belief system, and whether astrology can maintain its longevity through this pandemonic century is still undecided. So far, it seems written in the stars that horoscopes are here to stay.



Not so Bright Ideas

Nick Harriott has no idea where the money goes.

Bright Ideas is an annual grants program which distributes “financial assistance, marketing support, mentoring, business advice [and] access to industry contacts” to USyd students who want to develop a creative project. Successful applicants are handed around \$2000 to finance “fashion, art, theatre, music, word, food and design” projects, which somehow also extends to ideas like the recently resurrected Manning Bar bingo.

The rationale behind what is and isn’t a “Bright Idea” seems unclear. Are these ideas selected on merit? The financial demands of the project? The diversity of the applicants? Whatever the reason, it seems like very little is turned down by the program—which isn’t necessarily a bad thing. But it makes you wonder whether too many projects means too little money to spread around.

\$2000 per project sounds like a lot but it doesn’t stretch very far for most projects. Once you’ve hired a theatre for a show, a studio for your band or film equipment for a couple days of shooting, you’d be lucky to have enough room in the budget for a few sandwiches. And \$2000 stretches even less without industry professionals helping you use it. Although “mentoring” is touted as a privilege of being part of the program, various groups have found themselves without guidance.

“They were originally [going] to have fortnightly meetings with us, which fell wayside,” said Alex Richmond from *Holt! The Musical*, a student production that had its premiere run at the Seymour Centre mostly funded by Bright Ideas.

Similarly, Bruno Dubosarksy directed his short film *Method* using 2017’s allocation, and throughout the process the film’s team was not offered the support initially promised. “There weren’t any industry contacts involved,” he said. “I never asked them for any but it certainly could’ve been useful to have someone to give guidance on film production.”

It’s not just technical and creative guidance where professionals would come in handy. Budgeting assistance should be provided to the projects to ensure that every dollar from the grant is invested wisely.

Most of Dubosarksy’s funding went towards renting professional gear, which his crew couldn’t have otherwise afforded. However, it is unclear why the USU could not make an arrangement to loan out the filming equipment already owned by the Department of Media and Communications, thereby allowing teams to use the funding on other necessities, like paying actors. Perhaps these shortcomings wouldn’t seem so dire if the promises made in the Bright Ideas mission statement were met more frequently, but as it stands, the USU seem to be promising more than they have the capacity to deliver.

For instance, *Holt!* was promised a planning and rehearsal space, which the USU did provide—but it lacked desks, computers and printing resources at the time. It was only open during semester, meaning projects planned during long holiday breaks were forced to make alternative arrangements, despite that being the ideal time for students to engage in creative pursuits.

When a Bright Ideas project fails to meet

expectations, it’s probably not because it was a bad idea but rather that it wasn’t adequately incubated by the program that commissioned it.

The USU does not follow up projects that miss deadlines and sit in development hell, nor does it revoke their funding. Bright Ideas doesn’t even publicise upcoming projects on its social media page, and only promotes the rare few it deems ‘success stories’ in advertising material for the next round of grants. On the surface, staying an arm’s length away from its creative teams appears to allow creative freedom—the program doesn’t check or approve any material before it is launched, and according to Richmond, “they kind of just let [Holt!] do what we wanted”. However, staying completely out of the loop is more lazy and negligent than productive.

For all its misgivings, Bright Ideas does play a vital part in kickstarting creative projects that would otherwise struggle to get made. For the majority of projects, grants provide the lion’s share, if not sole source, of their financing; but without the financial and technical assistance promised, these projects may as well be made for nothing. If you were given the opportunity to receive \$2000 and just run with it, or have an industry professional show you how to make \$2 look like \$2000, which would you take?

Applications for Bright Ideas 2018 open early September. With the next round of candidates around the corner, I can only hope they commission a little less, fund a little more and connect their successful applicants with industry professionals that will elevate the projects to places that money alone cannot. Wouldn’t that be a Bright Idea.

Suck on DEEJ nuts

Millie Roberts stans USyd’s version of *The Room*.

DEEJ has a curse. You watch the web series, and through primal instinct, are compelled to show it to someone else, spreading it like a virus, unloading the burden onto others and perpetuating the cycle again and again. Nearly 7,000 times across Facebook and YouTube to be specific. The four-episode season, which launched in March this year as part of the USU’s 2017 Bright Ideas grant program, is so bad it’s good—and it lacks the veneration it deserves.

DEEJ is yet another variation of Molière’s 1665 play, *Don Juan*, which follows a seductive, manipulative fuckboy who ends up in Hell. However, in 2018, Deej is a queer-identifying man whose own perdition is being trapped in a conventional, nuclear family unit, burdened by the responsibilities of fatherhood.

“The topic [of the original play] always came back to misogyny [...] So rather than Don Juan being a heroic figure [...] especially in light of Harvey Weinstein, he becomes not particularly attractive, not particularly great, his actions aren’t good at all,” said DEEJ’s director, producer, writer, principal photographer, and supporting actor, Eugene Lynch

Like Tommy Wiseau’s *The Room*, you hardly know what’s going on in DEEJ, and the more you watch it, the less it makes sense. Between the bland shots, jumpy editing, left-field concepts, and plot holes, you’re either shocked into silence or laughing aloud.

Alfred Hitchcock believed that drama was “life with the dull bits cut out”, but it’s the dull bits that make DEEJ more exciting. It’s unclear what’s experimental choice and what’s mistake: background noise buzzing in the background, unfocused cameras, distracting French sequences and poorly characterised, one-dimensional female characters. Clearly DEEJ tries hard to be a postmodern masterpiece, but falls short as a disjointed, anticlimactic fever dream—and that’s okay.



“You have to look at where it comes from. Our [Bright Ideas] budget wasn’t necessarily big and everyone was trying to do it around work and uni commitments. You kind of get what you get, and I think it’s about the ideas that can be developed,” said Lynch.

“I think that’s the point of the Bright Ideas program. Rather than producing finalised works, I think it’s the beginning of the start of a conversation [...] to see where it develops out.”

As Dr Rodney Taveira, a Lecturer in literature, film and television at the United States Study Centre explains, subjective responses mark “the limits of [one’s] imagination and intelligence” and come down to taste.

Dr Taveira’s own response to DEEJ transitioned over time: “cruel” laughter, annoyance, reflection, an “at least they are doing something” begrudging appreciation” to a final “let them be.”

We lap up *The Room* because it throws our expectation of film under a bus. With an inordinately large budget, the obscure concepts and narrative conflict with professional standard of filming. DEEJ emphasises the former—calling on surrealism, 20th century European cinema and auteur theory—but on an amateur scale and with significantly less financial allowance.

As Dr Taveira points out, products like *The Room* gain notoriety by being “missed or misrecognised by the majority of consumers the first time around”. The smaller initial audience, he explains, expands until the film’s appreciation shifts from a niche to cult status.

“Cult films get read ‘against the grain’, that is, viewers see something in them that the makers, distributors, most critics or mainstream audiences didn’t like, refused to see, or didn’t know was there,” Dr Taveira says.

Yet some cult films age like a fine wine; obtaining a “later appreciation for being untimely, they are recognised for being so of their time that the time in question couldn’t see it.”

Perhaps this is what we’re missing with DEEJ: it’s so 2018, the audience doesn’t even know it yet. Lynch justifies his succinct medium of choice as a product of our time: “Netflix is the way of the future, and so I think you have to try and create content that people will see [...] and also I don’t think people’s attention spans are that great”. Extra episodes were cut in hopes to preserve quality and time.

But the choice to make DEEJ a web series, which by nature targets young people who wouldn’t necessarily have come across *Don Juan* unless they had a theatrical or literature background, without contextualisation, is contradictory. Audiences shouldn’t have to be familiar with the play to pick up the the title’s pun, or understand the web series at all.

That’s why it needs to evolve beyond a streaming product. The series is worthy of being shown once a month at a USU venue, with devoted fans yelling iconic lines at the screen for 17 minutes, and throwing an equivalent to the plastic spoons used at *The Room* screenings—despite the DEEJ’s own minimal motifs.

This way it can be appreciated not as a standalone product, but as an interactive experience. It should be consumed less as a complex text needing intellectual digestion, but rather as a unique, entertaining show that strikes at our core, innermost emotions. While virtual word-of-mouth has spread DEEJ into an underground niche, it deserves a public cult following.

When I ask Eugene if there’s another season on the horizon, he seems cautious but optimistic: “Who knows? We’ll have to see what [the USU] says in a couple of months”.

Digging deep into flat earth

Joe Verity travels around the world in 80 days.

For all its privacy issues and data breaches, the internet is still able to deliver the irresistible allure of anonymity that drew so many in its infancy. Behind the haze of screen names and private forums, users are able to congregate around the esoteric and bizarre, free from the imperious gaze of decriers. Intrigued by the mainstream traction some of these groups have started to gain, and curious as to what extent it represented a legitimate belief, I found myself voyeuristically trawling through a number of major flat earth forums, hoping to gain insight into the logic that has attained notoriety around (er—across) the world.

Despite once representing an archetypically absurd conspiracy, the internet age has afforded flat earther-ism renewed cred. B.o.B famously released its unofficial anthem in 2016, ‘Flatline’, in which he decried the malevolent “cult called science”. Flat earth conventions have popped up across the US and Britain, and Australia would have had its own by now but for the infighting amongst its organisers. A common belief amongst the attendees of these conventions and tens of thousands of online disciples is an aggressive, almost evangelical denunciation of conventional wisdom, an admission that perhaps flat earther-ism isn’t entirely cogent, but that it sure is better than the globe theory.

Flat earther-ism is a fairly diffuse body of theory, at least by the standards of the cult of regular science. Arguments often centre around the “well how do you prove that?!” mode of observation—for instance, my news feed now primarily consists of photos of the horizon with a caption along the lines of, “looks pretty flat to me!!!!”, or photos of bizarre papier-mâché models of the earth accompanied by confusing explanations of

Artwork by Harriet Cronley



how said model is inconsistent with the way the sun looks when you stare at it.

The state of paranoia in 2018 has been taken to new heights

In isolation, flat earther-ism isn’t particularly alarming. It’s not hard to imagine that there is a large overlap between flat earther-ism and generic shitposting, even if a remaining percentage is done in earnest. The real cause for concern is the broader trend of anti-intellectual populism flat earther-ism is a part of.

The lord of the dance

Gettin’ jiggy with **Sasha McCarthy**.

Irish dancing began as a traditional form of dance in the 18th Century, as a way to celebrate and promote Irish nationalism.

Most people recognise Irish dancing by its unique technique. Stiff arms pinned to the torso and rapid foot movements in a bouncy, jig style. Legend has it that this strange style developed because the dance was customarily performed on top of barrels and tabletops.

Today, Irish dancing now is a glamorous global affair, with a ripe following in countries like the US, South Africa, and Australia. ‘90s dance shows such as ‘Lord of the Dance’ and ‘Riverdance’ catapulted the genre onto the global stage, sparking an international frenzy of furiously fast feet.

The globalisation of this traditional dance has undeniably changed the face of Irish dancing forever, repackaging it into a palatable form for international consumption

Most Fridays from ages seven to eleven, I arrived at primary school with fake tanned legs and my hair in rollers, in anticipation of a Saturday Feis. Years later, I started to ponder how the traditional dance, native to my father’s place of birth, evolved into a glitzy

competition.

Secretary of the Australian Irish Dancing Association (AIDA), Ciara Podesta, told me that makeup, wigs, fake tans and elaborate dresses only gained popularity in the ‘80s and ‘90s, coinciding with increased global interest in Irish dancing.

Podesta grew up in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where both her mother and grandmother were Irish dancers. “There was a lot of conflict in Northern Ireland,” Podesta said, “so Irish dancing was something that we did...sort of in defiance.”

The current Irish dancing industry is structured around competitions, or ‘Feiseanna’, which are highly expensive affairs.

Former Irish dancing dressmaker, Ina Ogilvie, said dancers would have a new dress made every one to two years, “depending on how spoilt the child was and how competitive the parents were.” When she stopped making Irish dancing dresses about five years ago, Ogilvie said the costumes then would put dancers back approximately \$1500-\$2000. They currently cost between \$2500-\$3000.

As a dressmaker, Ogilvie had to work within AIDA’s presentation standards, which attempt to preserve the modesty of young dancers. The standards dictate that dresses must be no shorter than 10cm above the knee, with full-length sleeves to the thumb knuckle. Ogilvie said, however, that despite the guidelines, they were largely ignored at competitions with “no visible consequences that I knew or heard of.”

“Some judges will pull the child up, but funnily

The twenty-first century has fast become the era of obscure, paranoid conspiracy theories. Climate change scepticism reigns as the most high profile of these delusions, and is definitely the most dangerous.

Simmering on the fringes of society, gradually inching inwards, is a plethora of similarly contrarian conjecture. Anti-vaxxers have representation in federal parliament, and deep state paranoiacs have become a dime a dozen. In the US, a 4chan conspiratorial entity called ‘QAnon’, which claims to have “high level security clearance”, has convinced legions of regular people that the the mass media is part of a repressive CIA conspiracy.

In some ways, this kind of behaviour is nothing new. Rejection of conventional thinking is a hallmark of democratic society, a reflection of the radical scepticism the perceived equality of citizens instills. You’re no better than me, so why should I believe what you say? That said, the state of paranoia in 2018 has been taken to new heights. British breakfast show *This Morning* recently featured a guest who claimed that the moon was not solid.

Flat earther-ism and all its parallel theories are symptomatic of a society riddled with debilitating anti-establishment sentiment and distrust of authority. Contrarian conspiracies are concocted with little question given as to why any government or illuminati would bother crafting such meticulous and far-fetched cover-ups. They’re simply a rebellion against an ‘elite’ that is perceived to be arbitrarily repressive and exclusive. Flat earther-ism is relatively innocuous for now, but let’s hope societies can win back the cohesion that affords us reprieve from any more B.o.B singles, or worse.

enough most of the big dressmakers are actually teachers and adjudicators, and they’re the ones... making them short,” Podesta said. “Adjudicators like to see the kids legs.”

In addition to the cost of costuming, competing dancers and their families are expected to fork out thousands for travel expenses to attend Feisanna both nationally and internationally. “When my kids were young, the goal was to do well at the Nationals, now most students are focused on overseas...they want to win the Worlds,” Podesta said.

The globalisation of this traditional dance has undeniably changed the face of Irish dancing forever, repackaging it into a palatable form for international consumption.

Dr Guy Redden from USyd’s Department of Gender and Cultural Studies argues that commodification of cultural traditions is not uncommon.

Dr Redden said that while this practice can be positive because, “it maintains performances of traditions that might otherwise die out in the modern world,” it ultimately dilutes the original significance of the tradition. “Many people today engage with cultural traditions as consumers who pay money for an experience,” said Dr Redden.

In my experience, Irish dancing is extremely powerful and exciting, regardless of the superfluous costuming and customs that have become a part of the art. With any luck, future years will herald a renewed focus on the beauty of the form, and a shift away from the unnecessary extras.

M4

Look

There is the sun, see, setting over the M4.

Look at that pink, how it spills over the sky like strawberry milk—

Look at the amber seam of the pocket where highway meets horizon, into which the sun slips, lower and lower.

And then there is you. You in your black Mazda, trundling down the road at a safe 90km/h with Hope 103.2 playing from the speakers. You are enraptured by the sky, wishing that Hao were here so he could take out his phone and capture this moment for you—those strips of glowing light low on the horizon.

You don't realise you have drifted into the next lane until a car behind you blasts its horn, rousing you from your thoughts. You swerve back into your own lane. The other car speeds past you, into the distance.

Your heart thuds. You wonder what Hao would say if he were with you.

Parramatta's towers rise up before you, serrated outlines against the sunset. They shine.

Hume Highway

There is Chan's seafood restaurant, rising out of the dark. There is the Jolly Knight Motel, its sign garishly bright amidst the stretch of suburban houses. There is the Italian restaurant that is covered in fairy lights, the word Ristorante lit up in neon.

You remember a story Hao told you, once.

"Until I hit high school, I thought restaurant was spelt ristorante," he'd said. "And it was 'cause we always drove past the sign for that Italian place on the way to school. I was so confused when my teachers marked me wrong... But I kept thinking nah, they're the ones who can't spell, not me."

Before you got your reds, Hao was always the one driving you home. The two of you would be in his white Toyota Camry, which always seemed to smell of fries. Last time, he took you to the drive thru at Macca's Liverpool South for a midnight snack. You accidentally left a half-open packet of sweet and sour sauce in his glovebox to congeal.

"Notice how I brake?" Hao had said that night, whilst approaching a red light. You had been sitting in the passenger seat, eating a melting soft serve off a plastic lid. "Notice how I leave myself enough time and space to slow down and come to a gradual stop? Did you feel that stop?"

"No," you'd said reluctantly.

"My point exactly."

Without Hao, the drive is calmer. You enjoy the quiet, and the lights, and the night.

The traffic lights coming up before you turn orange. You squeeze your foot down on the brake...just a little...a little more... now all the way down—

The car stops, and you jerk forward in your seat.

Camden Valley Way

It is raining. Your nails dig into the steering wheel until the stubs of your fingers feel raw. The inside of your car is fogging up and the windscreen wipers are going as fast as they are able. You can only sort of see.

Through the rain, your car slips sleek as butter down the hill towards Crossroads and Red Rooster. The taillights of the vehicle before you glow red and you slow down, stuttering to a stop and indicating right for Beech Road. You adjust the speed of the windscreen wipers and watch as the window clears, then dots with rain, then clears, then dots with rain again. Briefly, you marvel at the dark sky, all crowded with clouds.

Hao lives near here. When you got your reds after five years of putting off the test, you started doing most of the driving. Repayment, you'd said, for your two years of good service. You've taken him home via this route countless times.

Lightning flashes in the sky like a beacon. The lights change and you start forward, curving in a smooth arc onto the next road.

Punchbowl Road

Things Hao used to say to you when you were driving:

- Oh my God, did you just hit the curb?
- Are you serious? Did you not see that the light was red?
- Brake now!
- Not bad, not bad. You didn't almost cause an accident today.

Things you do miss:

- The smell of fries in the car
- Singing along to Stan Walker
- The Great Debate: Livo South vs Moorebank Macca's
- Free entry to Costco Casula

Sunset on the M4

Annie Zhang

The sky is pink. It's another sunset, and this time you are watching it from the bridge on Punchbowl Road. You used to work in a restaurant just off the next intersection. Hao would drop by sometimes, to see you and to try the shisha. You couldn't drive yet then, so he would hang around and take you home afterwards.

You don't work there anymore. And now, at last, you can drive.

The sky is a marvel, all orange light and flushed rosy clouds. You think of all the routes you know by heart now, the highways that no longer frighten you. This familiar slant of sun through the windscreen, dappling your hands. Everything is warm.

Artwork by Eloise Myatt

Somewhere only we know: Penrith

Penrith is not so 'far away', writes **James Newbold**.

"Wow, you're from Penrith! How long on the train is that?" is something I hear a lot at uni. My well-rehearsed answer is, "An hour, but only fifty minutes on a Blue Mountains express train."

For me, Penrith is defined by its relationships to other places. Thirty minutes north or south becomes a rural road trip. Thirty minutes west and you're bushwalking in the Blue Mountains. Thirty minutes east and you arrive in the diverse and developing cities of Blacktown and Parramatta. Double that and you're in Sydney CBD.

What we call Penrith was violently stolen from the Darug, whose land stretched from the Nepean River (yandhai) to the Hawkesbury River (deerubbun) where they would trade with the Eora and Darkinjung. With the onset of colonialism, Europeans used Penrith as an outpost of the Blue Mountains.

As the sun sets over the Blue Mountains it casts a shadow over the suburbs, beginning in Penrith and spreading across the West until all of Sydney is cloaked in night. The Blue Mountains and Nepean River do not reside within Penrith's geographical bounds,

but connect Penrith to bustling suburbs, sparse but beautiful rural areas, and mountainous national parks.

The sunset over the mountains is something I get to see often, but it's a view that has changed over time. A housing estate has sprung up behind my house in the last few years. Travelling to uni takes me over the newly-constructed bridge over Penrith train station, the tracks stretching up the mountain into the sky.

In resisting the pressure to leave for an Inner West sharehouse... I am defending not just a place but an identity

I still remember the Penrith Public School song: *In the shadow of the mountain, by the broad Nepean side Stands a school we will remember as we forward go with pride*

The song urges us to "remember" Penrith even while we are there, creating a preemptive sense of nostalgia that will only truly be felt after we leave. But resisting the pressure to leave for an Inner West sharehouse makes me feel that I am defending not just a place but an identity and a way of living.

We're all like Penrith, the intersections in webs of relationships, without which we are little.



Deep Tea Diving



SRC Hackathon

The SRC offices have been compromised. Despite the introduction of a new swipe card system only one month prior, the security of the Wentworth Building has been shaken to its core by an old-school computer hack. The screenshot-and-print kind.

Late in the winter break, President

Imogen Grant was informed by SRC Administration and Systems Manager Chitra Narayanan that print-outs had been found in the reception printer which included a screenshot of Grant's desktop and copies of her Facebook correspondence. Reportedly, these could only have originated from Grant's desktop computer. The exact details are unclear, as upon finding the documents, Narayanan immediately

shredded the papers.

As it's unknown with whom Grant's communication was sought, there are no leads as to the culprit. Certainly the timing suggests the breach was politically motivated, with Grassroots pre-selection and SRC elections just around the cover.

The trespass has rocked the foundations of the SRC, which operates as a high security compound.

The president's office at the SRC is locked, and only Grant and Narayanan have the key. The offender presumably assumed that Grant had her own printer in the office, and bolted when no papers emerged from any printer within earshot. Surely these sticky beaks could have done a little more reconnaissance. How can they run for election if they can't even print documents.

SASS remains a rort

Being out-of-pocket as a society executive is not an uncommon phenomenon for the average committed CV-stacker. However, we've decided that when its the biggest society on campus, it deserves a shoutout in the only print weekly newspaper in Australia.

2017 ARNA Publications Director Izabella Antoniou remains out of pocket for the bar tab and band expenses incurred at last year's launch of the Arts Society creative journal. Despite chasing up the owed amount with last year and this year's executive, Antoniou has not received reimbursement. We hope if nothing else, this column can hold societies to account as they leave their hard working executives without recompense.

Students' Representative Council,
University of Sydney

Notice of 2018 Students' Representative Council Annual Election

Nominations for the Students' Representative Council Annual Elections for the year 2018 close at 4:30pm on Wednesday the 15th of August 2018.

Polling will be held on the 19th and 20th of September 2018. Pre-polling will take place outside the Jane Foss Russell building on Tuesday the 19th of September 2018 from 10am-3pm.

All undergraduate students who are duly enrolled for attendance at lectures are eligible to vote. Members of the student body who have paid their nomination fee to Council are eligible to nominate and be nominated, except National Union of Students national office bearers. Full-time officebearers of the SRC may also nominate as NUS delegates.

Nominations are called for the following elections/positions and open on the 25th July 2018 at 4:30pm:

- (a) The election of the Representatives to the 91st SRC (33 positions)
- (b) The election of the President of the 91st SRC
- (c) The election of the Editor(s) of *Honi Soit* for the 91st SRC
- (d) The election of National Union of Students delegates for the 91st SRC (7 positions)

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the SRC website: www.srcusyd.net.au/elections, or picked up from SRC front office (Level 1, Wentworth Building) from 4:30pm July 25th 2018.

Nominations **must also** be lodged online along with your policy statement and Curriculum Vitae (optional), by close of nominations at: www.srcusyd.net.au. For more information call 9660 5222.

Original signed nomination forms and a printed copy of your online nomination **must be received** no later than 4:30pm on Wednesday 15th August, either at the SRC front office (Level 1, Wentworth Building), **OR** at the following postal address: PO Box 794, Broadway NSW 2007.

Nominations which have not been delivered (printed, signed, hardcopy) either to the Electoral Officer at the SRC front office or to the post office box shown above **and** submitted online by the close of nominations **will not be accepted** regardless of when they were posted or received.

The regulations of the SRC relating to elections are available online at www.srcusyd.net.au or from the SRC front office, (Level 1, Wentworth Building).

Authorised by K. Chau, Electoral Officer 2018,
Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney
Phone: 02 9660 5222 | www.srcusyd.net.au



2018 SRC Elections Postal Voting Application Form

POSTAL VOTING

If you wish to vote in the 2018 SRC elections but are unable to vote EITHER on polling days Wednesday 19th or Thursday 20th September at any of the advertised locations, OR on pre-polling day (on main campus) Tuesday 18th September, then you may apply for a postal vote.

Fill in this form and send it to:

Electoral Officer
Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney
PO Box 794, Broadway NSW 2007.

PLEASE NOTE: postal vote applications **MUST BE RECEIVED AND IN OUR PO BOX by Thursday 23rd of August** at 4.30pm or they will not be considered. **No exceptions.**

You may use a photocopy of this form.

Name of applicant: _____

Student card number: _____

Faculty/year: _____

Phone number: () _____

Email: _____

Mobile: _____

I hereby apply for a postal vote for the 2018 SRC elections. I declare that I am unable to attend a polling booth on any of the polling days, OR on the pre-polling day, for the following reason:
(please be specific. Vague or facetious reasons will not be accepted. The Electoral Officer must under section 20(a) of the Election Regulation consider that the stated reason justifies the issuing of a postal vote.)

Signature: _____

Please send voting papers to the following address:

State: _____ Postcode: _____

I require a copy of the election edition of *Honi Soit*: YES / NO

For more information:
Contact Karen Chau,
Electoral Officer
02 9660 5222

Authorised by K.Chau, 2018 Electoral Officer,
Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney
02 9660 5222 | www.srcusyd.net.au

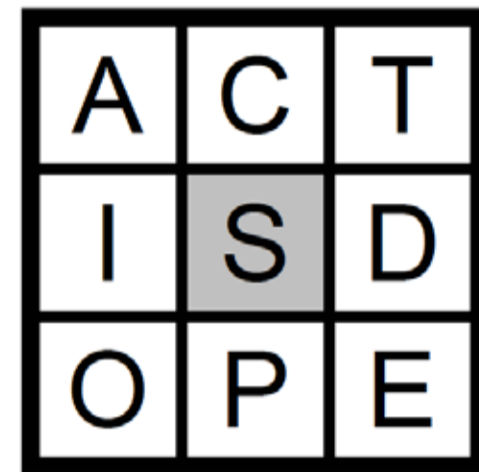


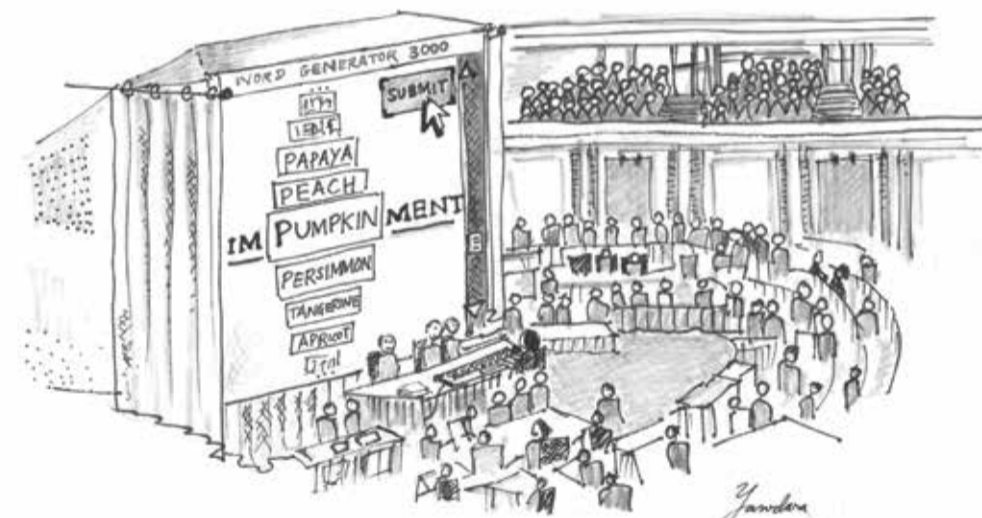
Quiz

- Which four cities in the U.K. have underground rail systems?
- What American sitcom featuring Lisa Kudrow canonically takes place in the same universe as F.R.I.E.N.D.S?
- What is the only mammal that can fly?
- What do the letters in the acronym SCUBA stand for?
- El Clásico is the name given to matches between which two football teams?
- 'T' is the chemical symbol for what element?
- Who wrote and composed the song 'Heal the World'?
- The famous highway 'Route 66' historically connected which two U.S. cities?
- In regard to data storage, what does the acronym SSD stand for?
- 'Bohemian Rhapsody' by Queen was released on what album?

Opera
1. London, Newcastle, Glasgow, Liverpool 2. Mad About You 3. The Bat 4. Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus 5. Real Madrid 6. Barcelona 7. Iodine 8. Los Angeles and Chicago 9. Solid-state drive 10. A Night At The

Target





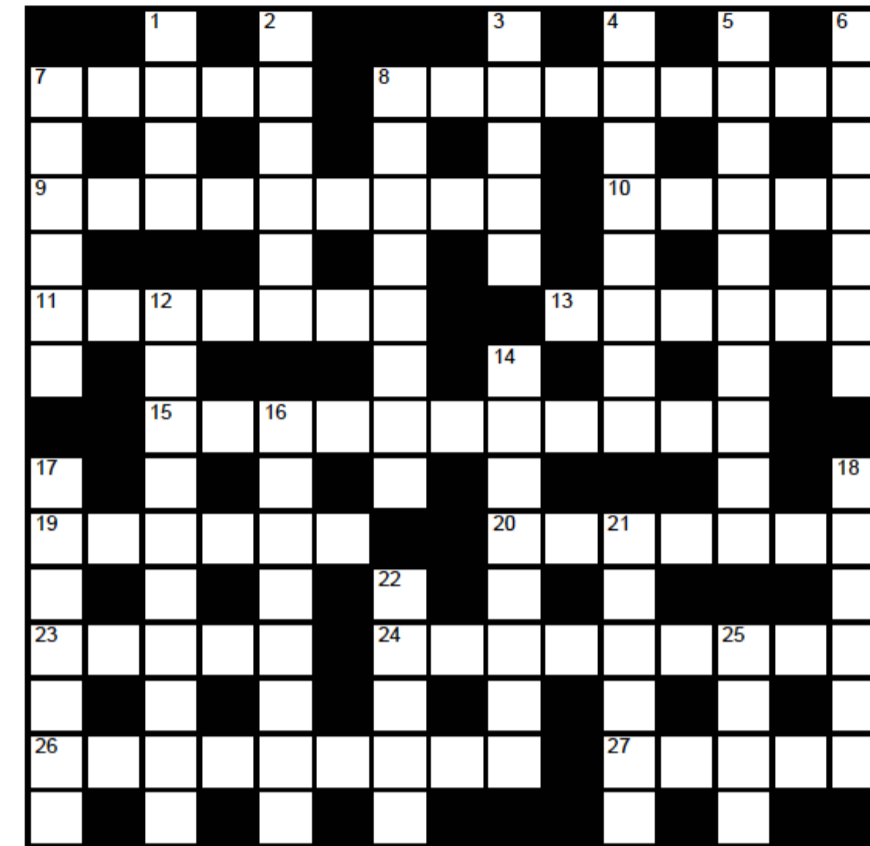
hmm.. not quite the right one yet



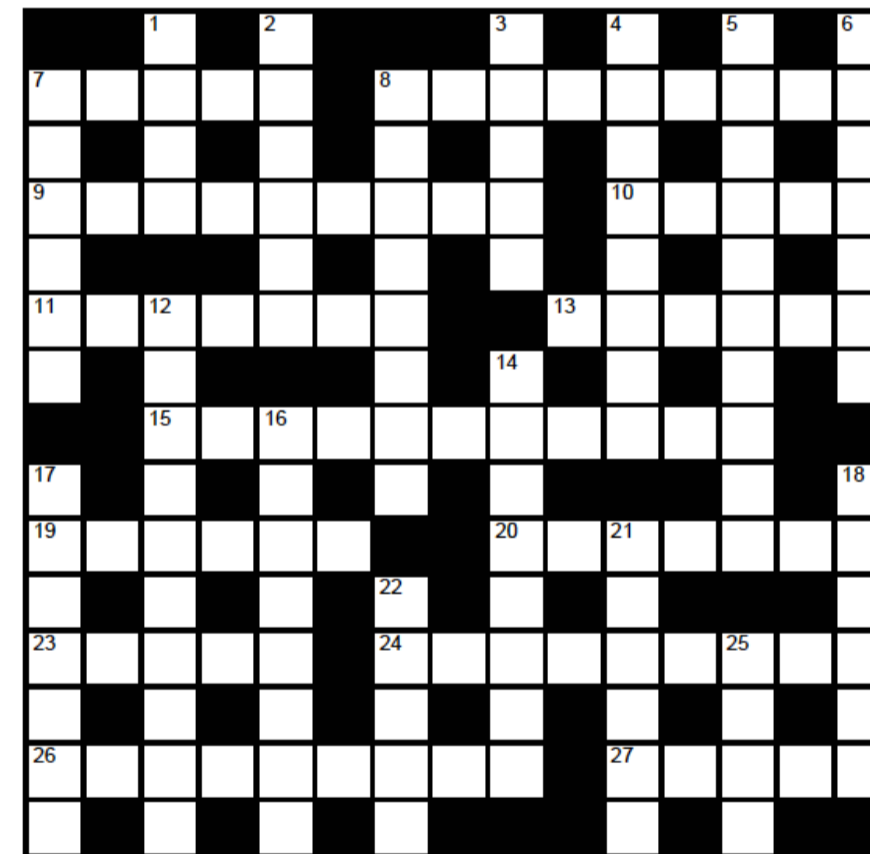
a modern romantic getaway

by Yasodara Puhule-Gamayalage

Cryptic



Quick



Across

- 7 St. Damian avoids macadamia nuts in Portuguese colony (5)
- 8 Said to glare competently at step assembly (9)
- 9 Pesto stew cooked to just the right point (5,4)
- 10 Assistants develop ideas (5)
- 11 Palpatine, Nero, and Penguin? (7)
- 13 Officer Rachel is regularly violent and aggressive (6)
- 15 Trevor George Smith Jr. or 2 Down, 3 Down, 6 Down, 7 Down, 14 Down, 17 Down, 21 Down, 22 Down, and 19 Across? (5,6)
- 19 Unfortunately, Stanley Kubrick cut kinky cab sequence from 'The Shining' (6)
- 20 Weather in Frankfurt, and therefore in Rome, ... (7)
- 23 ...is material from pre-issued estimates (5)
- 24 At start of tribunal, English Chief of Police is giving evidence (9)
- 26 Have a meeting with first Esquire, then finally a nobleman and a monarch (9)
- 27 Play a part in English production of 'Rent' (5)

Down

- 1 A revolutionary causes pain (4)
- 2 Only the queen is more fair (6)
- 3 A star back to front—like Bob Marley (5)
- 4 Morgan is—head to toe—a living thing (8)
- 5 Reinserted invention for beating your meat (10)
- 6 Left uni half a semester after first college gathering (7)
- 7 Some emus terrorise—rally the troops! (6)
- 8 The leader of Sydney University, to every bloke, is a hero (8)
- 12 Sign of maturity: selfless discipline and personal development (10)
- 14 Flippin' 'struth! Her Majesty is a pushy one! (8)
- 16 Sèvres provides dishes? (6,2)
- 17 Confuse strong sexual desire with the queen (7)
- 18 Reverend's wild card old man? (6)
- 21 Cleaning product for Neo's coat? (6)
- 22 Bygone article of Mediterranean fare... (5)
- 25 ...the Greek character, who was mistress of Zeus and from the coasts of Tenea (4)

Across

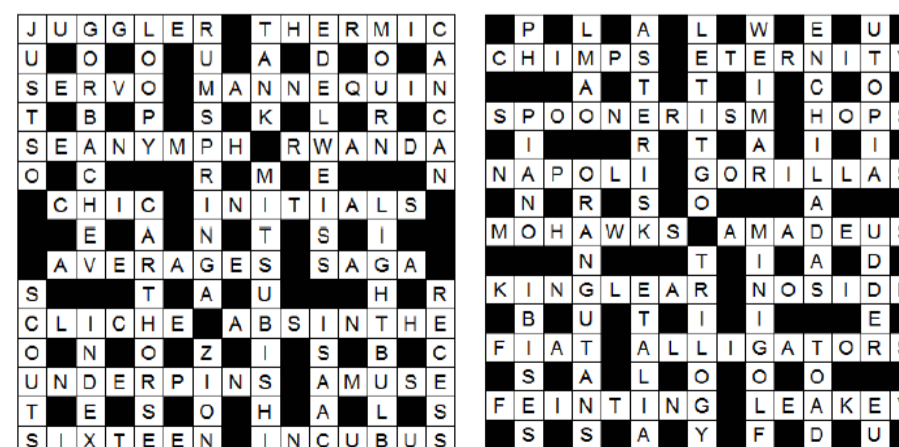
- 7 Mushrooms (5)
- 8 Uneducated (or a student at USyd) (9)
- 9 Ad-lib (9)
- 10 Name of the Zimbabwean lion killed in 2015 (5)
- 11 Adroit (7)
- 13 Dolph Lundgren, Chris Brown, and Germaine Greer (6)
- 15 Paranormal investigator (11)
- 19 Weathers (6)
- 20 Long short story (7)
- 23 Language that the words avocado, chocolate, and tomato come from (5)
- 24 Pre-issued estimates for weather (9)
- 26 Record of the date and time (9)
- 27 Sheepish (5)

Down

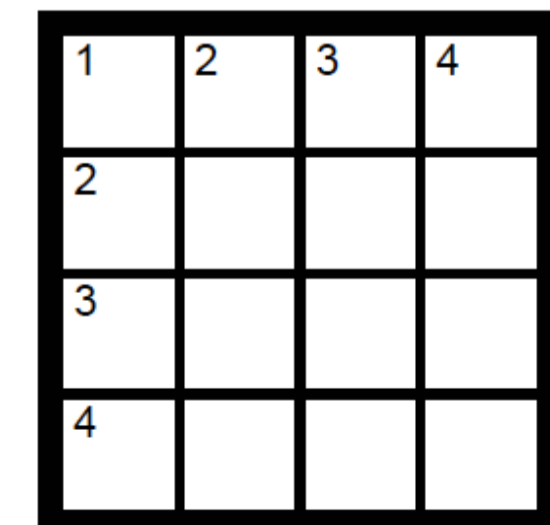
- 1 Break (4)
- 2 Be a snitch (3, 3)
- 3 Make opaque (5)
- 4 Round Table dude (8)
- 5 Queensland's parliament is this (10)
- 6 Arcadian, blissful, naturey (7)
- 7 Easily damaged (6)
- 8 Unpudent (8)
- 12 Without being late (2,4,4)
- 14 Best loser (6-2)
- 16 Covered in 3 Down (8)
- 17 In practice (2,5)
- 18 Fictional dog (6)
- 21 Quantity with magnitude and direction (6)
- 22 Reportedly awful food (5)
- 25 Cut (4)

Puzzles by CloudRunner

Solutions



This Way & That



The answers down and across are the same
1 Fashionable (4)
2 Vagrant (4)
3 Bird (4)
4 Comfortable (4)

President

Imogen Grant

Last week myself, the casework team and the Women's Officers were busy responding to the University's botched sexual assault reporting portal. In case you haven't been following the news, the University of Sydney has developed an online portal for students to report their experiences of sexual assault, and has been criticised by the SRC as "unethical and irresponsible" due to a series of egregious flaws. The portal was thrown together in less than a month in order to be released in time for the anniversary of the Australian Human Rights Commission 'Change the Course' report.

It also sets word limits on survivor's stories, only current students and staff can lodge reports, and has no clear safeguards around which staff can access the portal's sensitive data.

It is clear that this portal is not trauma-informed and does not restore

power and control to survivors. Placing arbitrary restrictions on how survivors express themselves undermines survivors and exacerbates trauma.

Total anonymity is not at all ensured, as students must access the portal through their university log-in, with no sense of clarity as to who is accessing survivors' reports. This also excludes members of the public who may need to report, such as a year 12 student raped at a college formal.

The portal also asks survivors for their gender, sexuality and post-assault therapeutic history.

This is an intrusion and irrelevant to how the University processes the complaint. Students should not feel like their ability to lodge a complaint is conditional on their willingness to have their privacy violated.

Asking about therapeutic history is as appropriate as asking about what

medical services they might have accessed post-assault such as STI testing or abortion.

The primary purpose of the reporting portal is for survivors to lodge complaints - not to survey them for internal data analysis purposes.

The Students' Representative Council pushed for the University to delay the release of the portal and to consult with experts and staff in its development. University management failed to act on any of the major concerns, instead pushing ahead with releasing the portal.

As a result of the rushed release, the portal was released with additional flaws - a student was transferred to the staff not student reporting options. And the link to the reporting portal was broken for days after the Wednesday 1 August release.

We are now in talks with senior management to find out how this

occurred and will continue pushing for our recommended changes to the portal, including consultation from experts.

Finally, nominations for the SRC's annual elections are officially open. These elections will determine the new President of the SRC, the editors of the SRC, the councillors for the 91st SRC Council as well as your delegates to the National Union of Students. If you have ever wanted to get more involved in the SRC this is your chance. You can visit srcusyd.net.au/elections/ for more information.

Feel free to email me on president@src.usyd.edu.au if you have any concerns or wish to get involved with the SRC. I wish you the best of luck for the year ahead and look forward to seeing you on the streets!

Queer Officers

Jazzlyn Breen and Ray Prout

Hello semester 2, the queer action collective would just like to reiterate to all conservatives reading this that we are still angry communists intent on destroying all that is good.

Over the break members of our collective attended 3 separate conferences; the National Education conference in Adelaide, Students of Sustainability conference in Melbourne and Queer Collaborations in Queensland. These conferences provided the opportunity for student representatives and collective members alike to acquire new information which will aid them

in their future activism and leadership. The opportunity to connect with activist and student leaders on a national level is an opportunity which will allow for greater organising and activism across campuses in the future.

In week one of uni collective members and office bearers attended and spoke at the National Day of Action rally against sexual violence on campus. As a collective we continue to provide our support to survivors. We condemn the universities lack of real, meaningful action to stamp out sexual violence on campus.

Our plans for the rest of the semester include interaction with the anti Ramsay centre campaign. As a collective we understand that it was western imperialism and capitalism which allowed homophobia and transphobia to grow and spread throughout the globe. It was spread to places such as Australia and the countries of Africa which previously enjoyed a wide gender diversity and freedom of sexual expression, but now carry the colonial legacy of homophobia which exists in laws and social norms. These imposed structures erase the indigenous cultural

acceptance of diverse gender and sexual identities. This is just one of the reasons we are opposed to a centre buying a slot in the education system to teach content which is "not merely about Western civilisation but in favour of it" as explained by Tony Abbott, who happens to be a director of the Ramsay centre.

As a collective we will also continue our support of refugee activism as the crisis of offshore detention centres continues to remain unchanged and as horrific as ever.

In love and rage,
Jazzlyn Breen and Ray Prout

Disabilities & Carers Officers

Robin Eames, Mollie Galvin and Ren Rennie

In 1979, Joan Hume led a protest of wheelchair users and supportive allies at the opening of the inaccessible Eastern Suburbs Railway, the first of its kind in Australia. The premier who presided over the opening later said that the protest inspired him to introduce the first wheelchair accessible taxi service in Australia.

In the 1990s, Bronwyn Moye led a protest of Sydney wheelchair users who blocked off Broadway to protest bus inaccessibility.

In 2015, after years of campaigning

and a petition with 10,000 signatures, ONE lift was installed at Redfern station. The other 10 platforms are still inaccessible.

Our buses and trains are only (partially) accessible because of the work of our activist forebears. The work isn't done yet! 45% of Sydney's train network is still inaccessible to wheelchair users. Much of our public transport infrastructure is designed in a way that is dangerous for people who are blind or have low vision, due to things like lack of audible announcements and haphazard

placement of tactile paving.

We're hoping to organise this semester around public transport inaccessibility in general and Redfern station inaccessibility in particular. If you'd like to get involved, keep an eye on our Facebook page (USyd SRC Disabilities Collective & Caregivers Network) and the Lift Redfern Station Campaign - Make Redfern Station Accessible Facebook page.

In brighter news, we're delighted to announce that for the first time ever the Disabilities Collective will be producing

an autonomous issue of Honi Soit. The issue will be released during Disability Inclusion Week (3-7 September). If you'd like to be involved in the editorial team, or you would like to write or create art for the issue, chuck us an email at disabilities.officers@src.usyd.edu.au. We'll be posting a Facebook event soon with a call for editors & contributors.

Love & solidarity,
The 2018 Disabilities Collective Officebearers

Robin Eames, Mollie Galvin, and Ren Rennie









Get free help with your tax return from a Tax Help volunteer

> Are your tax affairs simple?
> Do you earn around \$50,000 or less?

Available to USyd undergraduate students through the Students' Representative Council (SRC)

To book an appointment call: 9660 5222

Available until the end of semester 2.



 Create your myGov account and link to the ATO before your Tax Help appointment.

Do you have a legal problem? We can help you for FREE!*

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法律諮詢

法律アドバイス

Level 1, Wentworth Bldg, University of Sydney
02 9660 5222 | src.usyd.edu.au
solicitor @ src.usyd.edu.au
ACN 146 653 143 | MARN 1276171

We have a solicitor who speaks Cantonese, Mandarin & Japanese




* This service is provided by the Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney and is available to USYD undergraduate students.

Health Care Cards for Students



A Health Care Card entitles you to receive certain discounts and services. In NSW this includes:

- Reduced pharmaceuticals (about \$6)
- Free ambulance cover
- Access to free dental care (though the waiting times are very long)
- Free prescription lenses and frames (very limited choices)
- Discounts to most alternative medical practices

Who is eligible for a Health Care Card?

Anyone who is on Youth Allowance, Austudy, Newstart or a pension from Centrelink is eligible to get a Health Care Card.

As a student you may also be eligible if you are a "low income earner". This means about \$552* per week over an 8 week period for a single person, or \$954* per week for a single person with a dependent child, or a couple. This figure increases by \$34* per week, for each additional dependent child.

The easiest way to apply is online at www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/forms/ss050.htm

*This figure is current until 30 June, 2018.

Enrolment Deadline

Last Day to Add Units - Friday 10th August.

You can withdraw from a unit any time up to the end of August BUT the deadline to add a Unit is the end of week 2, Friday 10th August. Check your degree requirements, get any advice you need and take action by then.

Ask Abe

SRC caseworker HELP Q&A

TAX: Getting help with your tax return



Dear Abe,

This is the first year that I have to do a tax return in Australia and I'm not sure what I need to do. Can you help please?

Sincerely,
First Tax

Dear First Tax,

If you have a "simple tax return", which means you earn \$50,000 or less, and have a job (as opposed to being self employed) you might be able to get advice from the SRC's TaxHelp program,

where Australian Taxation Office trained volunteers can help you to complete your tax returns, including ones from previous years. As with all programs at the SRC this is a free service.

If you are self employed (e.g., musician, tutor, food delivery, ride share driver), you will need to consult with an accountant or tax agent.

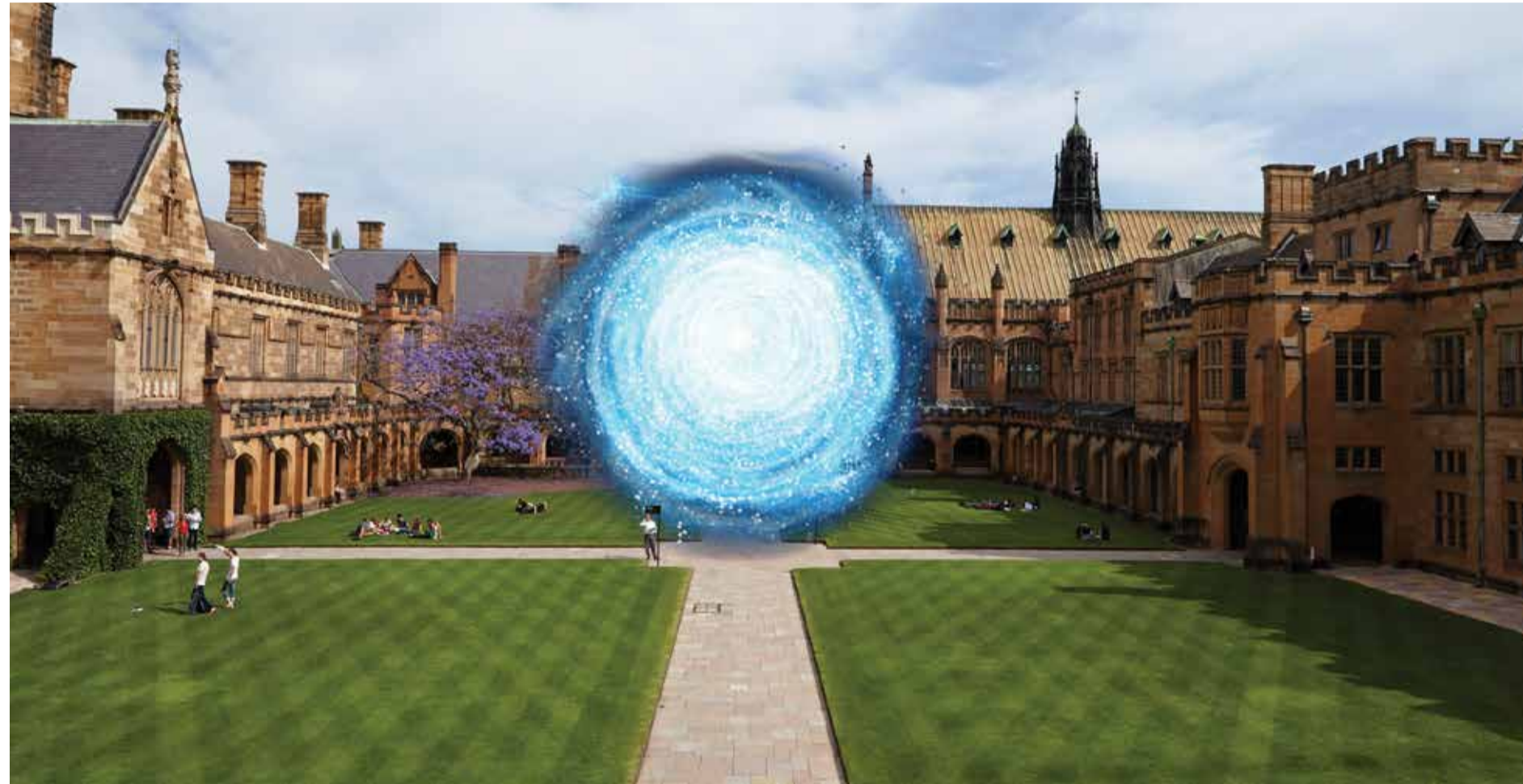
To make an appointment for TaxHelp call the the SRC office on 9660 5222.

Sincerely,
Abe

NEWS

USyd Replaces Online Sexual Assault Portal with Portal to Dimension Where USyd Actually Cares

Nick Harriott Astral Traveller



Following the disastrous rollout of USyd's online portal for reporting sexual assault, the university has revealed its replacement: a literal portal to another dimension. This doorway through space and time leads to a world that looks and sounds a lot like ours, but with one main difference: the University of Sydney in that dimension is proactive and sincere about

combating sexual assault on campus. "There have been misleading reports claiming that we've been developing our online sexual assault portal for the past two years, which is grossly inaccurate," said a spokesperson for this dimension's University of Sydney. "Just one look at the hastily developed portal is enough to show you we pissed that out in an afternoon. No, the

real challenge of the past two years was tearing a hole in spacetime to a universe where student wellbeing is an actual priority." When asked why the university administration chose to spend so much of their time and resources on such a costly project, their response was simple, "It's actually easier to punch through the fabric of reality than it is to enact meaningful change

at this university. To be frank, we'll be hopping over to the other side later today to have a quick chat and see how they managed it!" hunny reached out to representatives from the University of Sydney-B for comment but they were too busy at the opening of their University train station.

Survivor Contestant Fails to Readjust to Civilian Life, Wrestles Coles Employee for Roast Chicken >> pg. 9



Noot Noot! Nude Noods? Pingu Arrested for Public Nudity at Ramen Noodle Bar >> pg. 13



Durex Introduces 15c Thicker, Reusable Condoms

Nick Harriott Double Bagger

Earlier today, major prophylactic manufacturer Durex announced that it will begin phasing out its single-use condoms, with aims to replace them with more environmentally-friendly, reusable condoms by the end of 2019.

Durex was quick to reassure their customers, explaining that their new condoms will pair the convenience of single-use condoms with the strength and durability of their less popular green canvas condoms.

In a phone call, Durex Spokesperson Penelope Durex admitted that "customers weren't as quick to warm up to the canvas condoms as we anticipated. Feedback across the board was that the material was too coarse, and that people weren't sure what to do with the handles."

The success of this product remains to be seen, it does rely on the public's willingness to make the switch, but Durex have already been applauded by fellow industry leaders for leading the charge in environmental awareness.

Sex toy company Kinko's—not that Kinko's, the other Kinko's—fully support Durex's

new environmental policy after they made a similar switch themselves back in 2016.

"We used to sell a three-holed plastic cock ring that was very popular with our clients, but after we discovered our products were polluting the waterways and strangling sea turtles—and not in the good way—we had no choice but to discontinue the product," explained Mr. Kinko.

"Yes, Durex should expect some backlash," he continued, "there is a greater societal shift taking place, and Durex is but a small part of that change."

There's still plenty of time between now and 2019 for Durex's lofty plans to get waylaid, and only time will tell if they can see their plan to fruition. However, other brands can also see the writing on the wall and are jumping on the reusable bandwagon. Skyn condoms, one of Durex's competitors, have also announced that they are developing their own thicker, reusable product.

They are yet to reveal an official timeline for the product's release so there is no word on when we should expect Thick Skyn on our supermarket shelves.

Report: Feels Great to Decline Invitation, Savage to Not Get One >> pg. 17



DOON & ANDY'S HOT BOX

Deep Tea Digging Up

The Fake News Media Establishment 'Deep Tea Diving' have struck again with their pseudofactory. Last week's column noted:

"Punters have speculated that Nell Cohen is in talks to come aboard."

The only thing worthy of speculation here is the source of the "mermaid's" gossip. Nell Cohen is not rumoured to be connected to a Honi ticket, let alone one affiliated with Messers Jha and Verity. Nell O'Grady, on the other hand, Gen. Exec. of SURG and upcoming Verge Festival Coordinator, is a far more likely candidate and target of gossip.

Nell refused to confirm or deny rumours, telling The Hot Box she was "looking forward to the semester." We don't, however, remember which one we spoke to.

For who the Nell tolls, as they say.

Returning, officer

Leftists of all stripes and sects converged on iconic Newtown institution Gould's bookstore on Saturday night to say farewell to the beloved purveyor of revolutionary literature.

Amid drinks, books, and general reverie, many were shocked to see former USyd SRC Electoral Officer Paulene Graham on the bar, none more so than Grassroots-adjacent folks still scarred from last year's infamous #nomgate. Imogen Grant, current SRC President, told The Hot Box "Eep!"

Fortunately Paulene was

responsible in her serving of alcohol, adamantly refusing patrons after the serving deadline had passed.



Pulp Fiction

We all have times of identity crisis—picking a ticket name, converting election momentum into actually running a paper, redesigning the paper anew each year. We won't lie; it can take a toll on your humble eds.

So we spare a thought this week for whoever was running the Pulp Facebook page after the launch of their new website. The page quickly drew the ire of 'Fashion Police of USyd', and a fracas quickly erupted as a stream of Bianca Farmakis-adjacent Facebook pages boosted react counts and engineered some traction.

Are we being too obtuse? Bianca wields control over TIME for Honi, Fashion Police, and Pulp, among others, under one all-powerful thumb. Let's break up the monotony: next time you need the traction give us a shout.

Here at Doon & Andy we say: "bring back the biff."



USU

SEMESTER 2

Welcome Back Specials

MANNING BAR



**\$2 BEERS
4AM-6AM**



**CHICKEN?
IT'S FREE.**

HERMAN'S BAR



**2 BEERS
2 PEOPLE**



**WE DON'T
HAVE FOOD**

The USU promotes the responsible service of alcohol

This ad has nothing to do with the USU lol and these deals will never be offered.