

Honi Soit

WEEK 4, SEMESTER 2, 2021

FIRST PRINTED 1929



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Real estate agents aren't the only ones that have crept up on the Wilson St area. Following growth in enrolment after WW2, the University of Sydney was given the green light from the City of Sydney to expand into Darlington, destroying around 650 houses as well as shops, the Town Hall and the post office.

How to Tweet

@SUBURBANPOET / P.16

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE CIA

From hypnosis research to quantum computing, the CIA has long had a relationship with USyd.

Since the Cold War, America's foreign intelligence agency, the CIA, has kept tabs on the latest research and development being conducted at universities around the world, in the hopes of gaining the upper hand in a technological arms race with its rivals. In

the 1960s, the CIA's endeavours led them to a major hypnosis research lab at the University of Sydney, where they secretly funded a mind control experiment overseen by one of their most trusted scientific advisers. In the present day, with increased cyberattacks against industry and government, the CIA has returned to the University, exploiting scientific breakthroughs in quantum computing and artificial intelligence for

military purposes.

CIA-funded hypnosis research conducted at the University in 1960 by renowned American psychologist Martin Orne was referenced in an interrogation manual for CIA agents operating in countries engulfed by proxy wars. The findings of his experiment subsequently informed a document which laid the basis for the American military's interrogation techniques for the next

forty years.

Academic papers recently retrieved by the ABC establish a link between this research and Project MKUltra, an infamous experimental mind control program created by chemist and CIA spymaster Sidney Gottlieb. The program ran from the early 1950s to the early 1960s and was developed in response to reports of captured American soldiers defecting to the Communist side...

RYAN LUNG / P.12

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



Honi Soit is published on the sovereign land of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, who were amongst the first to resist against and survive the violence of colonisation. This land was taken without consent and sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Indigenous students and staff at the University.

people, we are the beneficiaries of ongoing colonial dispossession. The settler-colonial project of 'Australia' and all its institutions, including the University, are built on the exclusion of First Nations peoples and the devaluation of Indigenous knowledge systems. Beneath the sandstone buildings of USyd lie thousands of years of Aboriginal history.

As a team of settlers occupying the lands of the Gadigal, Dharug, Wangal, Bidjegal, Kuringgai and Wallumedegal

Colonialism is not a one-time event that occurred in the distant past; it is an ongoing structure. The genocide

of First Nations people is perpetuated and enabled by the government, who push ahead with the forced removals of Aboriginal children from their families, their Country, and their cultures. Aboriginal peoples are the most incarcerated on earth, and there have been over 474 documented Indigenous deaths in custody since the 1991 Royal Commission.

We pledge to actively stand in solidarity with First Nations movements towards decolonisation through our

editorial decisions, and to be reflective when we fail to do so. We commit to being a counterpoint to mainstream media's silencing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We remain cognisant that *Honi's* writers and readership are predominantly made up of settlers, and aim to platform Indigenous voices in our paper.

There is no justice without Indigenous justice.

Always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

University staff campaign for access to paid vaccination leave

CLAIRE OLLIVAIN

Staff at universities across New South Wales are campaigning for access to paid vaccination leave as the state records daily COVID-19 case numbers in the 800s and the government ramps up its vaccination rollout.

So far, the University of Sydney has not responded to the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU)'s requests to provide up to two days paid authorised absence for each vaccination.

USyd is currently lagging behind five other NSW universities which

used by staff to get vaccinated, creating a barrier for many staff who cannot book an appointment outside of a time where they would lose pay.

A University spokesperson said that they were offering some flexibility with work hours and that "staff may also take personal leave if needed to attend a vaccination appointment."

However, NTEU NSW Secretary Damien Cahill told *Honi* that continuing staff who have access to sick leave shouldn't have to use it to get vaccinated, and that this excludes casuals who don't have access to sick leave whatsoever.

"While we welcome news from the



paid vaccination leave.

"Paid vaccination leave is vital to ensure there are as minimal barriers as possible for staff at the University of Sydney being vaccinated, especially the 50% of staff who are casual."

"As with all policy, the most marginalised people should be at the forefront of any considerations about public health. For universities, that means making sure policies such as paid leave work for all casual staff rather than letting us consistently fall through the gaps."

NTEU NSW is circulating a petition for paid vaccination leave which has over 2,300 signatures at the time of writing. The petition emphasises that overcoming difficulties that face workers is a "key factor" in improving

SOURCE: NTEU NSW

low vaccination rates.

"Things have moved very quickly in the last week," Dr Cahill said of the five universities now offering paid vaccination leave. "I hope that University of Sydney management goes with the tide of opinion but also shows some leadership."

"This is something that's going to be essential in the future, we want all students and all staff to be vaccinated. Obviously, it's going to be essential for opening up to international students that people are vaccinated. So this is a very small step that the University could take to encourage staff to get vaccinated."

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Claire Ollivain.

EDITORIAL

MAXIM SHANAHAN

Laying up online is a bad experience and it makes me incredibly sad. Although I do feel a lot healthier since we've been banned from the office.

I've been spending a lot of time in the library's digital *Honi* archive. The modern day *Honi* is — for better or worse — a far more serious affair than back in the irreverent 'heyday' of the 90s. The paper of that era relied on satire, regularly pushing the boundaries of acceptability. A front page splash from 1995 making light of a girl's death from an ecstasy overdose, for example. By contrast, the contemporary *Honi* — at least since 2016 — has generally sought to replicate the design and breadth of professional papers. Whereas the paper of 20-30 years ago contained almost no news, so far this year we have published over 200 news articles, and tickets since 2016 have been similar. Such a change in attitude should not surprise — being a student in the 2020s is a far more serious affair than being a student in 1995. In his editorial for the last edition of that year, Charles Firth wrote that "1995 has been a small year...nothing much at all has happened."

Though Holly Hughes (page 17) would dispute this. I imagine *Honi* editors of that year spending afternoons at Manning, and evenings at nearby venues such as the Phoenician Club (page 11), enjoying

(a) the freedom to leave their homes, and (b) some form of vibrancy around campus.

Claire's article about Wilson Street (page 10) brings back memories of the mythic old uni life — an illegal bar in an anarchist squat — and the present reality: a New Year's Eve spent in the rain at Carriageworks, all venues closed by the pandemic.

Instead of strolling around uni, wasting time in Schaeffer and Hermann's, I've been spending my time on Twitter, taking screenshots and staring at myself on Zoom (all page 16).

Unfortunately, 2021 has not been "a small year." Besides the pandemic, this year's *Honi* news has seen relentless job cuts and department closures across the country, revelations of the University spying on its own staff and students, and attacks on student unions, with our Minister threatening to defund 'political' unions.

As aspiring editors release their idealistic policy proposals (page 8), it is clear that *Honi* will continue on its path towards professionalism. Radical, for sure, but more sincere and serious than irreverent.

Thankyou to Vivienne for reading about cephalopods over Zoom to Deandre, Claire and I while I write this.

Firth finished his editorial by saying "I hope next year is more momentous." I hope not. I just want to go back to The Royal with everyone.

GET IN TOUCH

Have you got a tip for a story? An angry letter to the editors? An article pitch?

Email us at editors@honisoit.com.

Scan the QR code to use our anonymous tip form.



Send mail to Honi Soit Editors at PO Box 974 Broadway NSW 2007.



Annamarie Jagose appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost

MAX SHANAHAN

Professor Annamarie Jagose, the current Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, will be promoted to Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost in October.

Professor Jagose has been at the forefront of FASS plans to dissolve the School of Language, Arts and Media and merge departments, which will see a number of job losses.

She was recently widely ridiculed after comparing herself to Brittany Higgins and questioning the "hermeneutically suspicious position" of protestors who made "insinuatingly gendered recourse to my first name only" in protest chants against the cuts to SLAM.

Jagose's background is in Gender Studies. She is the author of *Orgasmology*, a book about "the material and psychic practices through which erotic gratification is sought."

She is also the author of a novel about the relationship between a gay colonial sailor and a clergyman. Before moving to the University in 2011 to become Head of SLAM — the School which she is now trying to dissolve — Jagose was a Professor and Department Head at the University of Auckland.

Vice-Chancellor Mark Scott said that "Annamarie [Jagose] brings a strong combination of leadership and management experience at the University, along with experience

of leading change and shaping culture within complex academic environments."

Jagose said "I look forward to partnering with Mark and senior colleagues to lead the University in its next transformational stage."

The University will appoint an interim FASS Dean before beginning an "international search" for a permanent replacement.

Unprecedented 5-way race for Honi, head-to-head battle for SRC Presidency

SHANIA O'BRIEN & SAMUEL GARRETT

The SRC elections this year will see a two-way Presidential contest and an unprecedented five-way race for the *Honi Soit* editorship, after nominations for the 2021 Annual Elections of the University of Sydney Students' Representative Council closed on Wednesday at 5pm.

Matthew Carter (Student Unity) and Lauren Lancaster (Grassroots) will go head-to-head in a two-way battle for President. 29 other presidential hopefuls did not provide the minimum

10 supporting nominators to successfully register for the election.

Honi Soit will see a five-way race between three tickets: DRIP for *Honi*, CAKE for *Honi*, Legacy for *Honi*, and two lone candidates. This is the most candidates in an *Honi* election in at least the last decade, surpassing 2014's four-cornered contest.

375 candidates have registered for Council, with just 39 seats up for grabs — four more than last year. 61 candidates across nine tickets will run for the National Union of Students (NUS).

The nominations suggest a return to form for student elections, with both



LANCASTER (GRASSROOTS)

President and *Honi* candidates being elected unopposed last year, though as nominations remain provisional, the field may change before the election on 21-23 September.



CARTER (STUDENT UNITY)

Disclaimer: Editor Vivienne Guo is not involved in any of the 2021 coverage of *Honi Soit*, NUS, and SRC elections.



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Uni Adelaide reports \$40m surplus amid ongoing cuts

VIVIENNE GUO

Amidst ongoing austerity proposals and staff redundancies, the University of Adelaide has reported a \$40.8m statutory net operating surplus in 2020, in their annual report released this week.

In 2019, Uni Adelaide reported a \$42.9m net operating surplus, only marginally larger than their 2020 surplus. Uni Adelaide's 2020 surplus included \$10m in donations and requests, as well as \$20m of research funding.

According to Campus Morning Mail, Uni Adelaide recorded a relatively steady financial performance for 2020 when compared to 2019. This financial performance was due to cost-cutting measures such as staff purchased leave, the voluntary separation of 157 staff, and a pause on infrastructure projects, hiring of staff and other expenditures. The savings from these measures totalled around \$90m.

“Staff redundancies have cost \$23m”

The redundancies at Uni Adelaide despite its strong financial position reflects rising concerns of the neoliberal business model of universities, and the priorities of university management, which do not appear to lie with the university community but rather with profit.

In July, Adelaide University Vice-Chancellor Peter Høj proposed a range of cost-cutting measures, which included the forced redundancies of upwards of 150 FTE professional staff. These forced redundancies are in addition to 157 voluntary redundancies accepted by Uni Adelaide in 2020.

Notably, Uni Adelaide's expenditure on staff redundancies more than tripled compared to 2019; staff redundancies cost the university \$23m, compared to \$7m in 2019.

In universities across Australia, the logic of austerity and COVID crisis measures has been used by management to justify cutting staff jobs and even entire departments. At USyd, an operating surplus of \$106.6m was reported in 2020, a profit which came off the back off staff redundancies and other cost-cutting measures. Cuts to departments, such as Theatre and Performance Studies and Studies of Religion, remain on the table.

Now at Uni Adelaide, Vice Chancellor Høj has proposed new cost-cutting measures, including the merging of five faculties into three, further reduction of 150 staff positions, and a review of the minimum allowable enrolment sizes for courses. Casualisation at Uni Adelaide is one of the highest in Australia, marked at 52.52% in 2019.

A request for comment from the NTEU was not returned in time for publication.

Australian CUAVA-1 satellite launched aboard Space-X rocket in Florida

VIVIENNE GUO

An Australian satellite was launched aboard a Space-X Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida on Saturday.

The satellite, dubbed CUAVA-1, is bound for deployment from the International Space Station, carrying four experimental payloads in the hopes of giving scientists and researchers fresh insights from near-Earth orbit.

CUAVA-1 is a cubesat: a low-cost and simple way to access near-Earth orbit for scientific and commercial purposes. Cubesats are built from small boxes (only 10cm cubed, weighing no more than 1.3 kgs each!) that are chock-full of cutting edge technology. In the case of CUAVA-1, picture three of these small cubes joined together, making a rectangular box around 30 cm long and weighing around 3 kgs in mass.

The launch of the satellite, which for the next 12 months will live 400 kilometres above Earth, checks a milestone in the lead project of the Australian Research Council Training Centre for CubeSats, Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles and their Applications (CUAVA).

According to a press release received by *Honi*, the CUAVA-1 mission aims to: observe the Earth with novel imaging technology; investigate the Earth's plasma environment and space weather with the satellite's radiation detectors;

and test equipment that will go on to be used in future satellites that will search for signs of life on planets around Alpha Centauri, our nearest star system. The bright dreams attached to this tiny cubesat are fixed on future horizons of space exploration.

Based at the University of Sydney, CUAVA involves researchers and scientists from universities around the world, including the University of NSW, Macquarie University, multiple Australian commercial and government partners and the Rochester Institute of Technology in the United States.

The CUAVA project is partially funded by the NSW Government under the Australian Research Council's Industrial Transformation Training Centres scheme. CUAVA's government connections extend to its partnerships with the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and the Department of Defence. The responsibilities and parameters of CUAVA's partnership with the Department of Defence is as yet unclear.

CUAVA is also commercially partnered with Air@Wave Communications, ArborCarbon, HyVista and Saber Astronautics.

“This mission shows that Australian universities are at the forefront of our emerging national space industry,” said Professor Iver Cairns, of USyd's own School of Physics, and Director of Cuava. “Our CUAVA Training Centre is

leading in the development of near-Earth space technology and is a critical link in training the next generation of space engineers and scientists.”

In the largely uncharted cosmos, the CUAVA-1 launch sees the Australian space industry take a step towards building international space cooperation.



Students and staff band together as UTS employment negotiations begin

BONNIE HUANG & ARIANA HAGHIGHI

Amidst incessant funding cuts and job losses, the UTS Education Action Group (EAG) and the NTEU have banded together in solidarity to push back against management proposals for UTS' Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA), which will cover rates of pay and employment conditions for the next three years.

Negotiations began on July 20 and fortnightly bargaining meetings have been scheduled to continue indefinitely until an agreement is reached.

The EBA proposals made by UTS management have been criticised for undermining the rights of staff and the quality of student learning at the university. These include removing the 7am-7pm limit on working hours, reducing notice periods for termination, lowering redundancy pay and forcing staff to take leave once they have accumulated 20 days of leave. Management have also proposed to remove staff entitlement safeguards and job security protections like redundancy and unsatisfactory performance reviews, which provide workplace fairness.

These measures disproportionately affect women, who make up 45% of academic staff, as management proposes

to tighten the minimum requirements for parental leave from 40 to 52 weeks of service, locking out many staff members from seeking leave.

In addition to cutting jobs in the Science and Education departments, management wishes to modify job descriptions which are associated with a fixed pay rate, ushering in further opportunities to slim down staff wages.

UTS NTEU Branch President Sarah Attfield told *Honi* that “the University has produced a draft agreement that removes some of the current conditions which do not address job security, which is central to our log of claims”.

Management's proposals continue UTS' track record of austerity measures. In response to these mounting pressures, the UTS EAG ran a 'Fighting the Cuts' forum on August 26, attended by over 50 students and staff.

Women's Collective convenor Cat Doherty spoke about how many of her courses were shifted to online without any in-person options, planned before the onset of COVID-19. She condemned UTS as “a degree factory that profits off the exploitation of its staff”, highlighting that UTS' casualisation rates, like those in many Australian universities, are similar to that of McDonald's.

EAG activist Chloe Rafferty echoed this sentiment, highlighting UTS' capitalisation on COVID as a justification

for relentless cuts. “They're using this crisis as a pretext to ram through massive job cuts,” she claimed.

UTS cut over 350 jobs in 2020 through a university-wide voluntary redundancy program and announced a further \$3.2 million in cuts to FASS earlier this year.

Holly Hayne, a FASS student and EAG member, reminded the audience that “management are cutting staff because they want to, not because they have to”, highlighting the disparity between staff wages and the Vice-Chancellor's \$1 million salary.

At the conclusion of the forum, students and staff unanimously passed a motion that demanded UTS' cessation of cuts to jobs, courses and tutorials. The motion also appealed to the government to fully fund universities and revoke the university's “Fit for 2027” Graduate package.

The job loss crisis peddled by university management's austerity logic also finds roots at the University of Sydney, where twenty-two USyd library staff lost their jobs in February. Departments such as Studies in Religion and Theatre and Performance Studies are still facing closure.

The NTEU has organised a national week of action which starts on September 13, culminating in a mass action on September 17.

USU board meeting: charities, Catholics and cash

MARLOW HURST

My screen was awash with a sea of purple as the USU board came together to celebrate Wear It Purple Day. But while the day was purple, the USU is in the red.

Lockdown lunches

CEO Andrew Mills reported that the USU has served up over 2000 lockdown lunches so far from their kitchens.

ACNC reform

Mills spoke to proposed changes to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. According to Mills, these changes would place advocacy organisations at risk of being deregistered “even if they have not broken any laws.”

Mills expressed concern that these changes would hold not-for-profit and charities accountable for the actions of their members, with any illegal behaviour compromising the organisation as well as the individual.

Senator Rex Patrick has provided formal notice to the Senate that he is moving a disallowance motion on these new ACNC powers. In response to a question from USU Board Director David Zhu, Mills said the USU would “wait and see” what happened in the Senate before involving the student union in any efforts against the reforms.

Senate-appointed board director David Wright was less concerned with these changes, saying that he'd “like to know” if an employee or affiliate of the USU was engaged in illicit behaviour.

Finance

With a budget deficit of \$59,361 having been originally projected for July, the \$153,951 surplus that the USU closed the month on is glad tidings. That surplus

is unlikely to remain though, with a “less positive” result for August planned.

July's numbers have undoubtedly been buoyed by all staff agreeing to voluntarily reduce their hours by at least 1 day and supplement their income with disaster relief payments. In response to a question from *Pulp*, the Board reported that amongst staff who have applied for relief payments, all applications have been successful.

Social media

The USU's WeChat account received the most monthly growth, with 382 new followers. But all platforms experienced

“Amongst staff who have applied for relief payments, all applications have been successful”

some degree of growth. The USU's Instagram welcomed 151 new followers, while their Twitter and Facebook saw 19 and 15 new followers join their ranks. Twitter's growth exceeding that of Facebook should be welcome news to ex-President Connor Wherrett, who used his final months as an ex officio board member to express dismay over the USU's social media strategy.

To the USU's website, the C&S page received over 45,000 views during Welcome Fest, a 218% increase from last year. 357 of those views can be attributed to the Arts & Crafts Society, who received the most hits of any club profile. This uptick in views extended to the USU's entire website, with over 107,000 visits, totalling to a 514% increase on last year. I'm not sure what this means for the health of the Union, but it's surely good.

‘Flood the phones & emails’: Gas Free Hunter Alliance hold online action against Kurri Kurri gas plant

KRISTIN MIAO & PATRICK MCKENZIE

On Friday afternoon, the Gas Free Hunter Alliance convened an online action against the proposed Kurri Kurri Gas Plant in the NSW Hunter region.

Co-organised with School Strike 4 Climate and supported by Workers for Climate Action and the USyd Enviro Collective, the action called on attendees to contact key Government decision-makers to voice their opposition to the proposed gas-fired power plant.

Initially announced in May, the project would see government-owned Snowy Hydro Limited spend \$600m on building a 660 megawatt generator in Kurri Kurri, 38km west of Newcastle.

The plant has faced consistent opposition from community groups and experts, who have criticised the plant's environmental costs and lacklustre prospects for creating sustainable jobs in the region.

While the government has claimed the project would create 600 jobs at the peak of construction, the environmental impact statement submitted to the NSW government suggested that there would be 250 jobs during construction, and only 10 during operation.

“Even during construction, there is absolutely no guarantee that jobs will go to local people... this dinosaur could ruin Kurri's chances of reinventing itself and getting itself back to full employment,” said Janet Murray, a Kurri Kurri resident and chemical engineer.

Dayne Pratzky, an anti-fracking activist, spoke about feeling “overwhelmed” by the gas plant construction that occurred on his property in Western Queensland in 2009, and the “fallacy” of gas making a positive difference in the community.

“They built a pipeline probably about 80 metres from my front door, they drilled hundreds of gas wells around me, they spent a billion dollars on a processing plant,” he said.

The action comes amid an ongoing

President's report

President Prudence Wilkins-Wheat noted that, like most organisations, the lockdown has “hit us pretty hard.” Wilkins-Wheat is pursuing a number of projects to keep students engaged through. The USU Board Instagram has been revived and a collaboration between the USU and SRC on a student life e-newsletter is in the works. In a note to *Honi*, Wilkins-Wheat said that the USU, with specific mention to Board Director and Con Student Belinda Thomas, was working with the CSA to resolve many of the issues that arose from a recent article.

Revs

Wilkins-Wheat reported that most revues have been delayed or cancelled except for one. Wilkins-Wheat speculated that this was Arts Revue but didn't wish to be held to that. Engineering Revue has taken a different tack, with plans to publish a digital newspaper as a replacement. *Honi Soit* has always encouraged the diversification of the student media ecosystem, and welcomes EngoRevue's foray into print media this semester. Excited for the puns!

New Pulp editor

The board is set to meet on Monday to discuss developments in the recruitment process, but no clarification could be given as to what stage of recruitment the USU had advanced to. This process has been a protracted one, with previous *Pulp* editor Mia Castagnone having left at the end of sem 1. One begins to wonder if the USU will select a replacement editor at all.

Membership

Over 600 new USU members were reported during the Welcome Fest period, but once again, Rewards signups failed to meet their targets.

Miscellaneous notes

- Board Director Isla Mowbray was wearing a vibrant and captivating rainbow knit sweater. Hats off to her!

- CEO Andrew Mills delivered much of this news via a snazzy new powerpoint. He certainly spent the holidays brushing up his comms strategy!

- Senate-appointed Board Director David Wright took issue with the word “defend” in reference to the USU's efforts to explain the necessity of SSAFE fees during lockdown. In his opinion, “promote” might be better suited. Curious stuff!!

can't protest in conventional ways at the moment,” she said.

The community's opposition to further gas projects comes from a “responsibility, morally, to ensure that intergenerational equity is protected,” said Scott Franks, a Wonnarua man and native title claimant. “We don't own the land – we're here to look after it.”



The eternal balancing act: talking to student parents and carers at USyd

JEFFREY KHOO

“The choices you’re making don’t impact just you, but also your family.”

Jen Scott Curwood shows up to our interview with an unexpected visitor. She’s clutching her son, Luca, who just turned one month old. “He’s at that stage where he just wants to be held, but also rocked,” she apologises, even though Luca is incredibly well-behaved. Jen softly pinches his cheeks so they expand like a balloon. “His name comes from the Latin word meaning ‘bringer of light,’” she explains. “After such a dark time of the pandemic, that felt right.”

Jen, 43, is an Associate Professor of English Education and Media Studies at the University of Sydney. Before migrating to Australia, she raised her oldest son, Cole, while studying a second Bachelors degree, a Masters and a PhD at the University of Wisconsin. (Cole, 22, is a fourth-year Engineering student, a USU Board Director, Engineering Society (SUEUA) President, and now an “adoring” older brother.)

As incredible as her achievements were, the early years were tough. Due to weaker social safety nets in the US, Jen was back at university within six weeks of giving birth. “As a young single mum, I was really depending on food stamps and student loans. I was in survival mode.”

At USyd, most students are either recent high-school leavers or postgraduates. Socialising regularly with classmates, or dedicating time to extracurriculars, is a luxury many parents and carers don’t have. There’s no official data from the government or the University on the number of student parents, but “a lot of postgraduate parents are doing the juggle,” says Lexi Metherell.

Lexi, 39, jokes that she started her Masters of Nursing after a “sudden rush of blood to the head”. After receiving “fantastic” care when her son James, now 5, was born, she wanted to become a midwife herself. “Parenthood is a big, life-changing event, and you sort of pause and reflect on what you’re doing,” she says.

Ben Varley, a 52-year-old PhD student based at Westmead Children’s Hospital, spoke to as many parents as possible to prepare for the birth of his first child, including his auxiliary supervisor. The obstetricians and midwives he works with were a “great source of information,” but Ben says that “now it’s time to wait and see” what parenting brings.

When balancing parenting and study, every bit of time is precious. Lexi’s second child Frankie, 2, was born just one week before Semester 2 in 2019, meaning she had to multitask constantly. “I’ve breastfed him, typing an essay with one hand. I’d be standing at the kitchen bench typing while he slept on me.” COVID has made it easier to keep an eye on her children, but she’s wary of exposure risks.

Alongside physical exhaustion (four hours sleep is a luxury) and financial and mental strain, Lexi says that “sometimes making it to class is a logistical feat.” When classes were in-person, she’d

maintain several spreadsheets to organise childcare. Lexi is conscious she has family support to work part-time and take one subject; international student parents taking full-time loads have it even harder, especially those who are isolated from their partners in their home countries.

As such, student parents are forced to make tradeoffs on a daily basis, which often lead to feelings of guilt. “The choices you’re making don’t impact just you, but also your family,” says Jen. And trying to grapple with moral questions is hard for any parent, let alone a student. “I got the COVID vaccine at 34 and 37 weeks pregnant. So Luca was one of the first in Australia to be born with antibodies,” she recounts. “[Thinking about] what kind of world do I want to bring my children into ... [those are] really difficult decisions.”

As a lecturer, Jen’s taught a handful of parents. “One of the greatest compliments I ever got was from a young man, who said, ‘you have shown me what’s possible as a parent.’ He felt previously that a lot of doors were closed to him.” But often, students wouldn’t share that they had children until they learn she was also a young parent, or until they saw her pregnant belly on Zoom. “I had one student who had to miss class when their baby was in hospital,” Jen recalls. “My heart just went out to her.”

Her students and loved ones now understand the pressures of parenting. “[Cole] is helping to care for his little brother, and he’s like, ‘I have no idea how you did this on your own.’”

For student carers, this strain is amplified even more. Not only must they stretch themselves thin between studying and caring, they experience the major emotional toll of their loved one’s condition. Carers Australia says that young carers are “more susceptible to social isolation, financial and educational disadvantage, unemployment and poor physical and mental health.” Of approximately 230,000 young carers in Australia, 81% are secondary or post-secondary students.

Tiana* cared for her younger sister after she contracted a life-threatening illness that compounded her disability. “Out of nowhere, she started screaming in pain 24 hours a day ... It was very difficult to see my sister in so much pain.” Her illness was one that would’ve been easily identified in able-bodied people, but due to medical ableism, it took two years to get a diagnosis.

“We took her to the emergency room, I think, eight times in the span of a month,” she says, softly. “And each time, they turned us away saying, ‘Oh, she’s not sick. It’s because of her disability.’ ... We just kept pushing.” Her sister has recovered, but that stressful period is “reflected in my grades.”

“I think I’ve always been aware of a stigma [around young carers, as] something that’s maybe not fun, or not normal,” says engineering student Nick*. He lives with his mother, who has an autoimmune disease which requires constant care, and has no other family in Australia. But he says that caring for parents and grandparents is common

in his culture, so his role “feels a bit normal.”

He’s quick to stress that caring is not a burden. “I’ve never looked at it as a bad thing. I’ve become more resilient and mature.” With a kind smile, he describes his mum as a very warm person, who takes care of others before herself. It’s clear where Nick’s empathy comes from.

Tiana says she often hears ableist remarks from people around her, and is sometimes misinterpreted when she expresses frustration. “It’s taken like, ‘oh, it’s hard to take care of your family? How could you say that, that’s so awful.’ But I love my sister. I should be allowed to say, ‘I’m feeling tired, and I want to focus on myself,’ without negative assumptions about my feelings towards her.” It’s an immense mental and emotional load to carry. “When I’m not with her, I’m still thinking about her. I remember [feeling like] I can’t even self-indulge by studying, because that seems like a privilege.” Tiana has since moved out, but her siblings still face tradeoffs with work, caring and study.

Nick emphasises staying organised (it’s something you “acquire in the role” after adjusting to a demanding Engineering degree, he says), maximising his time, and maintaining social relationships. Relating with other carers, while those moments are rare, is something he “can’t really experience anywhere else.”

Student parents and carers are under-represented at USyd. There’s a Facebook group to connect student parents, but daycare services around campus are booked weeks in advance and don’t cater specifically to students. Reports of universities being unaccommodating to parents are nothing new, as UNSW closed its on-campus childcare service last year.

Even the SRC’s Disabilities Collective and Caregivers Network, which leads activism on disability justice, hasn’t come across many carers. “It is not only vital to the disabled community but the community as a whole that the University does more to support carers in completing their studies,” says Sarah Korte, SRC Disabilities Officer.

Lexi, who is pregnant with her third child, has started a petition for an on-campus occasional care service, allowing parents to drop off children for shorter periods than traditional daycare, to attend a tutorial or go to the library. She thinks that occasional care, and reviewing the University’s policy on children on campus, would help reduce structural barriers to attending university. “On campus, you don’t really see kids, you don’t see prams, that doesn’t reflect the real world,” Lexi says. In particular, it’s “a really tangible thing that the University could do to advance gender equity.”

Like many PhD students, Ben receives an RTP (Research Training Program) Scholarship as necessary income, but was shocked to learn that the University’s terms and conditions only allow five days of paid paternity leave (versus 12 weeks for mothers), reinforcing gender roles around caregiving. “Working with lots of families over the last few years, I have learnt the importance of [a] support



JEN SCOTT CURWOOD WITH SON COLE AND NEWBORN LUCA.

person when a newborn enters a family’s life,” he says.

Ben emailed me a few days later with great news: their baby, Alexandra, arrived safely on Thursday at 11:18am. (Lockdown will make parenthood “interesting,” without the usual family support.) While they’re ecstatic, he said more paid leave would help support longer recoveries, such as from caesarean sections (as was their case), or mental health issues like perinatal depression.

Nick has greatly benefited from the Young Carer Bursary, which made a huge difference to his HSC. “I’m grateful to have that support ... even just to get things like tutoring, and different supplies, it’s been helpful for sure.” He hopes other students can offer empathy to young carers. “People always have lives outside of what you see on the surface. ... I’ve developed the sensation of knowing if someone’s in pain, and if I ever work in a healthcare environment, I’ll be able to understand that.”

He hasn’t contacted the University much, partly because of bureaucracy. “It does take some empathy, and luck, on who is reading your special consideration application,” Tiana adds. Jen shares that accessing flexible working arrangements and parental leave was unexpectedly challenging: “I had to be really familiar with University policy and state law to advocate for myself.”

She encourages student parents to “reach out for the support that they need” and be “as goal-oriented as possible ... let’s just try to get through today, clear this one hurdle to make it to the next. ... Often university can feel very depersonalised, but your tutors and lecturers are people too.”

Being a parent while studying has made Jen’s relationship with Cole even more special. “He was there at my graduation ceremonies, and when I received my offer for here in Australia ... as a parent, every day, we’re trying to be the person we want our child to become.” This time around, she’s giving herself more grace, and is grateful for being in a more financially secure position. “Time is the one element we can’t get back ... with children, the days last forever, but the years go by in an instant.”

When talking about her sister, Tiana’s voice brightens instantly. “She’s pretty hilarious. She is just completely herself at all times.” They shared a room growing up, and because of their closeness, Tiana says it was easy to decide to become her carer in the long-term. “She’s a little angel ... I want to make sure that she’s happy and she’s with me.”

*Names have been changed.

Please hold the line: a closer look into lockdown bureaucracy

ANONYMOUS
ART BY DEAUNDRE ESPEJO

Experiences of a Service NSW customer service rep.

Thanks for calling Service NSW. How can I help you?

This greeting is said tens of thousands of times a day at Service NSW. As a Customer Service Representative in the COVID-19 Department, I answer COVID-19 enquiries, from public health orders to grant applications for struggling businesses.

When I answer a phone call, I slap on my best customer service voice and attempt to force a verbal smile. But the people on the other end of the line aren’t just “customers” — they are people crying out for help. They are parents struggling to put food on the table, business owners trying to keep their workers on the books, and vulnerable people who have fallen through the cracks.

I want nothing more than to help these callers, but a complex web of bureaucracy makes that extremely difficult to do. Updates from NSW Health and the government are rarely

communicated to us. All we have to work off are Frequently Asked Questions sheets and brief run-downs of internal communications. These are often an exact copy-and-paste of what is already on their website.

When callers come to us with questions, we often don’t have answers to give. We are the last to know every time Gladys Berejiklian steps up to her podium to announce new cases and restrictions. We were told of the latest rules a full half-hour after the

“We are the last to know every time Gladys announces new cases and restrictions.”

announcement, resulting in a 30-minute window of frustrated and angry callers. I can’t blame them; they had every right to feel that way.

The most common queries are about the lack of clarity surrounding Public Health Orders. Under these rules, there are no clear definitions of “essential worker,” “authorised worker,” or “compassionate reasons.” We are told to say that the rules are ‘open to interpretation’ and that it is entirely up to police discretion.

Is the take-home exam here to stay?

KIRAN GUPTA

The university is moving away from traditional exams in 2022.

As our fourth semester since COVID begins to heat up, we are again preparing for an exam season that consists primarily of proctored tests and take-home exams. We’ve become so used to locking ourselves in our rooms to tackle a final exam in a strangely informal yet equally nerve-wracking environment.

But what will happen to the humble take-home exam as Australia re-opens? Will it remain as a valued form of assessment even when things go back to normal? Or will the face-to-face exam return to rule the roost?

There’s a strong case that a well-designed take-home exam is actually of great pedagogical benefit - even more than a regular exam, says Associate Professor Peter Bryant, Associate Dean of Education at the University of Sydney Business School.

“As someone who believes in authentic assessment, I believe that take-home exams can be a better assessment of the kind of skills that people use in the workplace and often a fairer representation of what you’ve learned. ... I don’t necessarily see the benefit of exams that just repeat knowledge.” He stresses, however, that it’s “quite a skill to design a good online exam,” whether take-home or proctored.

But Associate Professor Nicole

Graham, Associate Dean of Education at Sydney Law School, believes that take-home exams cannot be considered as equivalent to the formal invigilated exam.

“You have advantages and disadvantages [of both methods],” she says. “If you’re a fan of exams, you’re going to love a sit-down and if you aren’t then you’ll prefer the take-home.”

She also stresses that equity is a concern with take-home exams.

“We set long release take-home exams so that people in different time zones are not disadvantaged,” she says, “but then, students inevitably spend the whole period on the exam. But some of our students are working or have carer responsibilities and could never spend that amount of time on the task. That’s a big concern for me.”

Whilst Bryant believes that take-home exams can stimulate more authentic, practical learning experiences, Graham suggests that the short deadline limits this benefit anyway.

“2 or 3 hours is a tiny amount of time to demonstrate 10 to 13 weeks of learning, whether unsupervised at home or in an exam room,” she says. “This is why some coordinators prefer assignment-based assessment to test depth of understanding.”

Many students and staff have raised privacy concerns over the use of ProctorU, with regular complaints about its malfunction during exams. To date, Sydney Law School has not administered any proctored exams.

“We have encouraged staff to move away from exams where it is possible

I remember one particularly heartbreaking phone call with a client. In tears, they said their partner and children had left in a bitter divorce, and they simply wanted to visit family. We couldn’t give them official documentation for a compassionate visit. All I could say was that they would have to justify their travel to the police, which involves explaining, in great detail, the trauma or pain they were experiencing. There was the risk of a \$1,000 fine if a cop were having a “bad

day.” Disheartened and powerless, the person on the line couldn’t help but cry some more.

On top of the poor communication, the technical infrastructure is appalling. The laptops we were given to work from home are in terrible shape, and the programs and systems used by Service NSW are far from user-friendly. Our phone system is constantly crashing too. Even more frustrating is that staff were mass onboarded for this lockdown but were only given half a day of

training and sent outdated ‘How to Use’ handbooks.

Customer service is already a gruelling job. It’s even more challenging when every single caller is desperate for help — help that our government claims they can access. But the reality is a waiting time of three to five hours, followed by a half-hearted non-answer from an exhausted phone operator. Despite being the most frequent place of transmission, NSW is beginning to re-open workplaces at dangerous rates. In addition to the great sadness and frustration I feel whenever I perform my role, I also feel great anger towards the government, its failed leadership, and of course, the bureaucracy.



contract cheating.”

“Our sector is under siege and there’s not a lot of cash thrown around,” says Graham, who says that the team of Law School academics investigating cheating has “more than doubled” recently, without receiving extra pay. “It’s unfortunate that our resources are being spent on detecting misconduct instead of learning. ... it doesn’t matter if it’s two hours or two months. Students who are going to cheat will cheat.”

Whilst it’s business as usual for Bryant, Graham says that the Law School is looking at new forms of supervised assessment in 2022, “perhaps through debates, moots, presentations or more class participation,” where staff can verify students’ identity.

Given that students often struggle with university bureaucracy and assessment requirements, Graham and Bryant emphasised their commitment to student welfare.

“I just want to say to students that we feel for you learning in a pandemic. It’s very suboptimal. We appreciate how hard it is and we’ll do the best that we can to support you,” Graham says.

So, whilst it seems that the take-home exam is here to stay for the foreseeable future, the utility of take-home exams should be determined by the “authenticity” of the learning experience in helping graduates navigate a post-COVID world. Given the continually changing environment and the diversity of skills that employers will increasingly expect, I think the take-home exam is certainly here to stay.

Election Analysis: *Honi Soit* & President

HONI SOIT

This year's *Honi Soit* elections have served up an electoral smorgasbord that hasn't been seen in recent years, with two ostensibly left-wing tickets, both with comparable levels of experience, competing for the editorship of this beautiful paper. Oh, and there's a mysterious sole candidate who we know nothing about.

While CAKE does have notably more members in left-wing stupol factions, and DRIP could be said to be more culture focused, the extent to which factional alignment is a substantial benefit for the prospective editor is questionable.

CAKE has promised to "sustain *Honi's* radical left-wing legacy," while DRIP has likewise promised to "honour *Honi's* proud radical history." However, CAKE go further in their policy statement, promoting "critical news writing" and vowing to "ensure *Honi* always represents student perspectives on educational policy."

We've crunched the numbers, and in terms of the number of *Honi* articles written, DRIP is the more experienced ticket. While both have collectively written over 50,000 words in *Honi*, DRIP members have a higher average and median number of articles (nine in both cases), compared to CAKE at just over six. Both tickets have published about two-thirds of their

collective *Honi* outputs this year. In terms of the median *Honi* articles published prior to election, DRIP are behind 2015 winners SCOOP (11) and 2020's BLOOM (10.5), and are comparable to 2019's FIT.

Members of both tickets have experience as editors of autonomous *Honi* editions. CAKE's Fabian Robertson and Ellie Stephenson have *Pulp* editor experience — completing GIPA requests and coordinating election coverage respectively. DRIP's Kristin Miao is a *Pulp* multilingual editor, and DRIP's Rhea Thomas and Amelia Raines are SURG Content Directors.

Five CAKE candidates have written less than five *Honi* articles, compared to two DRIP candidates. Although a *Pulp* editor, Kristin Miao, from DRIP, only applied to be a reporter last week and has only just published her first article in this edition, while Joe Fidler (DRIP) had only written one article before this edition. Carmeli Argana (CAKE) has also only written one article for the paper, while Christian Holman (CAKE) — despite seemingly having been around forever — has only published two, one of which was co-written.

PRESIDENT

While 2020's election was blissfully unmarred by competing presidential candidates, the same can not be said

of this year's presidential election. Environmental Officer Lauren Lancaster (Switch/Grassroots) and Intercampus Officer Matthew Carter (Student Unity) are going to the mat for a shot at the presidential leather couch.

In terms of their stupol backgrounds, Lancaster comes from the left-wing lands of Switch and Grassroots (known collaboratively as Switchroots), while Matthew Carter hails from Student Unity, otherwise known as Labor Right.

Presidential candidates can be expected to be extensions of their factions, and so it's worth taking a look at Switchroots' track record within the SRC; Lancaster can be expected to continue the traditions of her predecessors if elected. Switchroots has had fairly unimpeded hold over the SRC over the past two years, and has overseen the establishment of a mutual aid program, the continuation of activist collectives on campus including the Education Action Group which notably has taken up the fight against job and course cuts as well as the disastrous Higher Education (Job Ready Graduates) bill. However, despite their electoral success, Grassroots has been a shambles of late, which may affect the coordination of her campaign.

Meanwhile, Student Unity's track record is fairly unimpressive: they infamously helped the Liberals roll the Women's Collective in 2018. Recently,

Unity-led councils at UTS, La Trobe and Monash have placed heavy restrictions on collective organising, with La Trobe Unity even going so far as to attempt to dissolve its own students' union.

Lancaster is currently Enviro Officer and one of the convenors of the Enviro Collective. Enviro has seen an active year, with consistent organising including the May 21 Climate Strike. Lancaster has been involved in organising and speaking at protests around such issues, and is a founder of Law Students against the Cuts. If elected, Lancaster would be the first non-cis man to win the SRC presidency since Grassroots president Imogen Grant in 2018.

Carter also holds a representative portfolio as Intercampus Officer, and he is currently Treasurer of the Conservatorium Students' Association. Carter's work appears to be largely Con-focused, a change of pace (to say the least) from typical presidential candidates. Student Unity has a history of appealing to Con students and promising to represent them better in student politics; it seems that Carter will rely on this tried and true tactic. Carter has previously criticised the USU's lack of involvement within the Con in *Honi*. Carter's record of student representation and activism is notably less decorated than Lancaster's.

Read the full analysis online.

MAXIM SHANAHAN

Universities in Belarus actively conspire with security forces to silence students.

The entirety of the Belarusian Students' Association's executive has been forced to flee the country, after raids by the Belarusian KGB on their office saw 12 student unionists arrested and imprisoned for organising mass demonstrations against the dictatorial presidency of Alexander Lukashenko.

After students led the anti-Lukashenko protests of summer 2020, a wave of repression has since followed. Protestors have been faced with intimidation and expulsions from university management, and silenced through outright violence and torture from state security forces.

Rigged elections spark protests; students strike

The exclusion of opposition candidates and rigged results in the August 2020 Presidential election — Lukashenko purportedly won with 80.3% of the vote — sparked widespread protests at a level unseen before in post-communist Belarus. Inevitably, the protests were met with a brutal police response, with protestors beaten, tortured and disappeared.

As the academic year began in September, students organised strike committees within their universities. Already a prominent part of the protest movement, students began to plan their own marches in coordination with other universities. With arrests increasing, students switched tactics — striking from class to hold sit-ins, which were often violently dispersed as universities collaborated with the regime.

Students have reported activists being abducted by security forces on campus. In one case, activist Zmitser Mazura was taken from his university and held in administrative detention for 38 days, after giving a speech to striking students. In another instance, Associate Professor Natalia Dulina was taken from outside a campus building at the Minsk State Linguistic University, three days after she was asked to leave her job by management. At the same university, paramilitary police (known as OMON) wearing balaclavas, some in plain clothes, violently disrupted a sit-in, carrying students off campus and into waiting unmarked vans. Students described management "standing idle and doing nothing."

Maksim Zafranski, BSA member and student at the Belarusian State Economic University during the protests, told *Honi* that university administration actively conspired against him and fellow unionists: "University administration began to play information about students to police. They gave documents; they gave my phone number to [the KGB] so they could spy on me."

"I think that students who were arrested in university were arrested because of the administration."

Zafranski was arrested, interrogated and kept in administrative detention by the KGB for organising protests. Administrative detention — whereby

individuals can be detained without charge for extended periods — has been used as a regular tool of repression since protests began. The UN's Special Rapporteur on Belarus reports that since July 2020, "more than 35,000 people had been arbitrarily detained for exercising their right to freedom of peaceful assembly or expressing solidarity with victims of abuse."

Zafranski describes his experiences: "[the KGB] tried to intimidate me and put psychological pressure on me through their dialogue, through my parents, saying that they could have problems at work because of me." After his interrogation, Zafranski was taken to prison, where he was held for 15 days without charge and put in solitary confinement for 36 hours. "The situation was really tough — in solitary confinement I slept on the floor because we couldn't sleep on the bed. And when I was moved to an ordinary cell, we couldn't sit on the bed during the day or else we would be beaten. We didn't have walks outside, and they didn't turn the lights off during the night — so we had 24 hours of light on."

Since the beginning of the 2020 academic year in September, the BSA has recorded evidence of 492 detained students. 139 of those were placed in administrative detention, and a further 51 have had criminal proceedings brought against them.

Hostile universities

Zafranski's allegations of university collaboration with security forces demonstrate the close relationship between administration and the government. Curriculum in Belarusian universities is directly set by the Department of Education and "professors are to follow all official requirements, even if they do not agree with course materials." Failure to comply with the curriculum often results in disciplinary measures or sackings.

After coming to power in 1994, Lukashenko altered the procedure for appointing Rectors (the equivalent of Vice-Chancellors). Whereas previously Rectors were appointed by a vote of university academic councils, since 1994 Rectors have been appointed — and can be dismissed — by Presidential decree. Such a system fosters obsequiousness and loyalty to state dictates in university administration. For example, amid the student protests, Lukashenko replaced three Rectors at politically active universities less than two weeks after saying "Rectors are not doing enough. In the near future, we must solve the staff problem of such universities."

Government control of appointments filters down through the hierarchy — there is little autonomy within university departments, and faculty heads are appointed directly by Rectors. Oraz Myradov — the BSA's International Secretary — told *Honi* of the pressure exerted by universities on dissenting students: "If they know about your position, they will use your weakness as a student against you. They manipulate with their places and dormitories, with scholarships and with exam results."

"In some cases, we've heard of people from the administration tracking [students'] social media, searching for things they post on there, or repost, or even like."

Since the beginning of the 2020 protests, student groups have reported 915 cases of reprimands issued by universities against students, 246 expulsions, and 114 instances of students being deprived of scholarships. 103 teachers, including 12 Rectors, have been removed in the same period. At the Belarusian National Technical University, 55 students were expelled. The day before expulsions began en masse at BNTU in October last year, Lukashenko said "Whoever went out in violation of the law for unauthorised actions must be deprived of the right to be a student."

Suppression of independent student unions

Unsurprisingly, student unionism is not encouraged by the Belarusian authorities. The only authorised 'student union' is the Belarus Republican Youth Union, a successor of the Soviet-era Komsomol. The BRYU is government-controlled, and its members are expected to perform 'patriotic duties.' Membership is organised through schools, and, according to Kristiina Silvan, "it is the responsibility of eighth-grade teachers to ensure that most pupils join the organisation." During last year's protests, students, often passive members of the BRYU, returned their membership en masse.

By contrast, the BSA — founded in 1989 on anti-communist ideals — has been operating illegally since it was stripped of its registration in 2002. Myradov says the union made a conscious decision not to be publicly involved in last year's protests: "We knew that each time after protests a big wave of repression usually awaits each NGO that shows disagreement." Instead, the union "worked in secret," acting as a bridge between strike committees at different universities and coordinating protest organising groups on Telegram. "We were doing everything in secret. That's why we survived until November."

Black Thursday

The increasing pressure on students came to a head on November 12, which the union has termed 'Black Thursday.' After the removal of Rectors, abductions on university grounds, and mass expulsions, the KGB raided the BSA's offices and searched the dormitory rooms of activists, seizing documents, phones and arresting 11 students. The students were charged with "organisation or participation in group actions that grossly violate the public order." At a trial in May, the students were found guilty and sentenced to prison terms of between two and two and a half years, in addition to six months of pre-trial detention.

Among those imprisoned are the BSA's Press Secretary, Ksenia Syramalot, and BSA Secretary of External Affairs, Alana Gebremariam.

Myradov says "we knew that after the protests were over [the police] would come after us. But we couldn't have guessed that the intelligence forces themselves would work on the case. That requires a different level of security measures we needed to implement in our organisation and work, which we failed to implement."

On the morning of November 12, Maksim Zafranski was called into his

Dean's office and told that he was being expelled for "skipping a lot of classes." Understandably, Zafranski was unable to attend class during the two weeks he was imprisoned by the KGB. That afternoon he received news of the raids on BSA activists and was warned that "there was a risk of being arrested." "I spoke for 20 minutes with my girlfriend, and we decided to leave because the KGB could also come for us." Packing frantically, Zafranski and his girlfriend made their way to the Ukrainian border, where he was stopped and searched for five hours. Eventually, border guards let him through.

Union in exile

The raids and arrests of November 12 forced the BSA out of Belarus and required a re-evaluation of the union's aims and activity. Myradov says that it became "impossible to work safely within Belarus — the board members, the council members and the secretariat members are all outside the country now."

Even outside the country, safety from the Belarusian security forces is not guaranteed. Earlier this month, exiled activist Vitaly Shishov was found hanged in a Kiev park in suspicious circumstances. In June, in an incident which made international headlines, a Ryanair flight was intercepted by Belarusian fighter jets and diverted to Minsk to allow the arrest of opposition journalist Roman Protasevich and his girlfriend.

After reorganising itself following November's chaos, the BSA relaunched in February as an international representative of Belarusian students — aligning itself with the European Students' Union to advance the primary goal of "returning to Belarus the principles of democracy, legality and respect for human rights and freedoms."

The union has been forced to shift its focus from direct representation and protest organising, to providing emergency accommodation for activists at risk of arrest and helping students flee across Belarus' closed borders. Myradov puts it mildly: "We're just adapting to the new needs of student activists. We aren't like a normal students' union."

Dockside decasualisation and its resonances for today

IGGY BOYD

Lessons on decasualisation from the docks.

Casualised labour forces depend on sporadic and non-guaranteed work, behind which lurks an ever present body of unemployed labourers willing to take any work made available. With little financial weight to throw around, industrial action struggles within an inconsistent and desperate workforce which lacks the stability and radicalism to maintain a strike.

The casualisation of industrial work in the early 20th century was especially brutal, and docks were at its forefront. Docks had a hiring process whereby people would collect at the docks in the morning and hope to be chosen for work out of the crowd. This work was incredibly labour-intensive and very wage-unintensive. One would only be engaged for a few days at most and those who weren't chosen loitered around the harbour, hoping more work would emerge. Work was plentiful (in the 1920s Shanghai employed around 60,000 casual dock workers every day), but demand did not meet supply.

The fight against casualisation wasn't limited to improving employment, wages, and hiring practices. Dock workers almost exclusively lived in slum housing and were frequently exposed to disease. Further, the docks themselves were highly unsanitary and unsafe workplaces. The workers had to be represented by stable organisations which had their best interest at heart, which ultimately leads to the last factor —

support by state institutions and agencies.

In many ways, the early 20th century waterfront represents a primitive form of the casualisation seen in universities today. Dockworkers did not receive consistent wages, only payment per job completed. But university staff are rarely, if ever, paid by their hours worked — instead by hours contracted. Dock workers had much poorer working conditions, though university staff still work in classes that are over-subscribed with an insufficient capacity to keep up with the required work. Whilst the NTEU isn't negligible in size, it isn't comparable to unions at the height

proposed at the 1920 Shaw Inquiry to ensure consistent pay independent of the difficulty to ensure consistent work which was ironically found to be unworkable without a sufficient registration system.

What now? This impasse mirrors that of the USyd casual right now. It is a long fight without a huge amount to show for it as of yet, and despite the continued importance of unions, questions also continue of how much one should engage in such 'bureaucratic' institutions.

Many would laugh, but at a certain point in England decasualisation gained wide appeal. The Churchill government

"In many ways, the early 20th century waterfront represents a primitive form of the casualisation seen in universities today."

of militancy in the 20th century or even the largest unions in Australia currently. Further, the dockworkers of the past had a much greater reputation for militancy than teaching staff do in our times.

The glimmer of "registration" — the practice of keeping a register of consistent labourers — was first seen by Liverpoolians in 1912, securing a sense of quasi-employment. WWI saw an immediate jump in registration at docks, so much so that by 1919 a national body had been established to coordinate the registration lists. Alas, the voluntary nature of the schemes became a liability in peacetime once employers looked at their massively oversized registers and thought it right to trim the fat. Next came maintenance,

introduced mandatory registration and maintenance. 3134 working days were lost to strikes between 1939 and 1955, but workers' power had mainstream support it never had before. Even The Times favoured it on the grounds that the greater security for workers would be an efficiency boost. The application of the 1965 Devin Report ensured that the highest possible number of workers were attached to a single employer and less than 10% of one's work week was spent in other employment. Dock labour boards became equally made up of employers and employees. Officially, casualisation had 'ceased'.

A shallow history in such short time begets shallow analysis, but a number of questions and observations emerge. Strike

activity continued at a steady rate, but this doesn't indicate whether it continued for employment and wage reasons or for other reasons. Regardless, it was a successful decasualisation movement that was contained almost entirely within 'bureaucratic' unionism and parliamentary reformism: these were not wildcat strikes. British dock workers' unions were much larger than the NTEU, but surely this indicates even less capacity to maintain industrial action not supported by union executives. Many who argue that it is key to support the union rank-and-file and reject union organisers posit equally that it is more bottom-up democratic and also that it is in the workers interest. Would the same people believe this if it wasn't necessarily in the workers interest to reject Patrick Brownlee and his ilk in the NTEU?

Of course, union presidents don't fight for workers and I don't endorse them, but it poses the real question of what it means to engage in unions; do we engage in them because we wish to improve the lives of individual workers or because we believe that unions are the bastion of social change? To what end is it useful to align with people who are against you if it improves your working conditions? You can't believe both of these things; revolutionary unionists regularly reject legislative routes and attempt instead to radicalise individual union members and their wins are in many cases despite this strategy.

If nothing else, we learn that decasualisation is possible and from a much worse position than that which Australian university staff now maintain.



Vignettes of Wilson Street

CLAIRE OLLIVAIN
ART BY MAXIM ADAMS

Charting political memory on an ever-changing street.

In the thirteen fleeting months between lockdowns, a long backstreet connecting Darlington and Newtown on Gadigal land, called Wilson Street (or affectionately, 'Wilso') became a recurring setting in my life. The first party I went to after restrictions eased last year, and the last party I went to before we re-entered lockdown, were both at Wilson St terrace houses — every opportunity to go out felt like it could be the last. Once a blacksmith's workshop, the sheltered industrial area outside Carriageworks played an unwitting host to several evening gatherings with friends when there were restrictions indoors, or we just didn't want to pay for somewhere dry to sit. On New Year's Eve, rain rattled on the metal roof, filling our ears with static until the sun rose, and we danced and chatted as the hours trickled away.

As the air cleared into a quiet mist and early morning trains began rolling in, I couldn't shake the feeling that I was amongst the ghosts of histories I had only the vaguest awareness of but could sense in the transience of the place. Carriageworks was not only a refuge from the weather, but from police surveillance after many of the education protests on campus last year, where we meandered down the familiar route between the SRC and Wilson Street, stopping at the Royal for beers on the way. When I mentioned this to someone recently, they said that there were ASIO vans outside STUCCO Housing Co-op in the 2000s when residents were involved in G20 protests, and student protesters have been running down the street away from cops for 'yunks.' The landmarks of Wilso are a walking tour of collective memory that feels worth writing about in hindsight, when I live several kilometres away and can only traverse it in my mind.

The idea for this piece was first sowed during a conversation at a

Wilson St house party when my mate Seth remarked that the street had an interesting political history. Anarchists had lived in the house (which has iconic status among left-wing Stupol circles) for eleven years because of the cheap rent, but that was just the beginning. The box-shaped heritage building just down the street next to Hollis Park, which I have walked past countless times without a second thought, was a social centre and anarchist squat for thirteen years. A former hat factory and printery, people in the Black Rose collective began squatting in the space in 2001 and opened a shared kitchen, free library, bike workshop, and guest spaces for people in emergency situations. It was used as a base for activists, holding fundraisers for the Redfern Aboriginal Tent Embassy and organising campaigns like Food Not Bombs.

It was a space reclaimed for the community at a time of rapid gentrification and urban displacement. Little is documented about the Hat Factory beyond news stories that depict the squatters as criminals, which is often the case with underground histories. It was only through mutual friends that I could hear more about an event that, in many ways, embodies the fleeting existence of those living in this geographical space.

In July 2014, the Hat Factory's residents were promptly evicted after the landlord decided to sell it. An overly dramatic operation of around sixty police in riot gear brought in a circular saw to cut down the boarded-up entrances of the building, as a small crowd heckled, "How many coppers does it take to chop down a door?" The residents had moved most of their belongings by then, temporarily housing the Hat Factory's washing machine and freezer a hundred metres away in STUCCO, where I am told they were also fed for an evening with surplus food from a students' meeting. STUCCO itself began as a squat in a heritage glass factory in 1989 and is now self-managed student accommodation.

At the time of the Hat Factory eviction, residents read a statement:

"While housing prices in the city skyrocketed, thousands of buildings sit empty and countless people struggle to find a roof over their heads. These buildings should serve as shelters for those in need, not as speculative capital for absent owners." The Hat Factory was sold for \$1.725 million in September 2014 and renovated as two expensive-looking apartments. Complete with anti-graffiti paint on the streetside, the refurbished building is marketed as having a "bohemian legacy," making it attractive to gentrifying middle-class buyers.

Real estate agents aren't the only ones that have crept up on the Wilson St area and caused the community to undergo change. Following growth in enrolment after WW2, the University of Sydney was given the green light from the City of Sydney to expand into Darlington, destroying around 650 houses as well as shops, the Town Hall and the post office. It is not something you often think about, but most of the campus to the south of City Rd — where the Architecture, Engineering, Merewether and Wentworth Buildings (including the SRC and Honi Soit office) now stand — were once terrace houses in one of the most densely populated working-class neighbourhoods in Sydney.

The development saw opposition from residential action groups across several decades, including protest meetings and students squatting in terrace houses slated for demolition in protest. While the University has not bought up Wilson St, the displacement of the neighbouring community has left the fate of locals hanging in the balance — subject to the whims of a wealthy institution. It is no wonder transience is felt in the very street.

Many of those locals in Darlington and along Wilson St worked at the Eveleigh Railway Workshops, which provided jobs manufacturing and repairing engines. It was only recently that I learnt the workshops, known today as Carriageworks, were at the heart of early political activism and the birthplace of the largest industrial conflicts in Australia's history.

In August 1917, almost 6,000 workers went on strike over the introduction of a timecard system that intended to keep track of productivity — seen as an affront to workers' rights. The strike spread beyond the railways through 'black bans,' where workers in other industries withdrew their labour in solidarity with the strikers. It developed into a six-week nationwide strike, sparking weekly protests in the Domain. Against the patriotic backdrop of WW1, scuffles erupted at the picket-line, and the strike was ultimately defeated. Hundreds of teenage boys from Sydney private schools and Sydney University Engineering students put their hands up to do scab labour, attempting to break the strike. Many railway workers lost their jobs afterwards, and those who did return had their entitlements stripped away from them. It is surprising that such a watershed moment of politicisation is not more widely remembered among students at the University.

The first day I got on the train and left my suburb after the easing of lockdown last year, I walked along the Redfern Run on the way to a protest against staff cuts and glanced up at the spiked seed pods of a tree with red leaves announcing the end of autumn. I am unsure why this image of bright colours and unfamiliar shapes dancing in the breeze is seared into my mind. Maybe, having spent months at home, I felt for a short moment that I was seeing the world for the first time again. Having reached the light at the end of the tunnel and then being plunged back in again, I wonder if the rest of my twenties will look like this. Acting on every chance to do something spontaneous and condense months of lost time into weeks, haunted by the impending dread that everything could change in just a few days again.

If vignettes capture a brief scene in time, Wilson Street for me is remembered in these moments. Always on the knife's edge of uncertainty, it can't be just a coincidence that this is one of the first places I think of when looking back at the past year.

Rediscovering Ultimo's Phoenician Club

ANA-SOFIA PETROVIC
ART BY ELLIE STEPHENSON

From cinema to City Mart.

Sometimes, on walks, my roommate will stop to take photos of the charismatic facades of buildings around the inner city. It's hard to tell the life of a building from the outside, I think, because the outside can better conceal the markings of change.

On the corner of Mountain St and Broadway, Gadigal Country, stands a three-storey cream-coloured building with brown trimming. On the top floor, a semicircle-shaped window displays a sign that reads, "FOR LEASE." The building is not far from the University of Sydney, just across Victoria Park. But you may not have noticed it. Built in 1911, this unassuming building bears a fascinating history. It has been continually repurposed throughout its century-long life. Beginning as a cinema, it was converted first to a discothèque, then a ballroom, and most famously to the iconic music venue the Phoenician Club.

After the Phoenician Club shut down in 1998, the building was split into smaller, corporate and commercial premises. It is currently divided into a City Mart, a Wokmaster restaurant, and office spaces upstairs. Despite having been used as a large-scale entertainment venue for most of its life, the building is unlikely to ever be reassembled as one premise. Like many urban structures, it has been repeatedly repurposed, each time adapting to its surroundings and attracting new demographics.

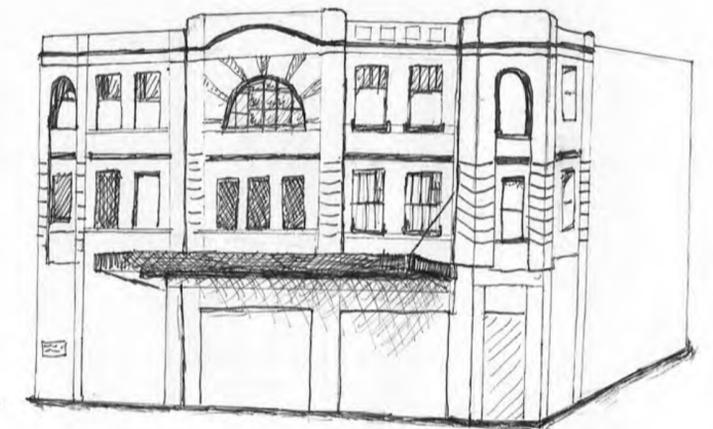
I came to know 173 Broadway in high school. It's perched on the corner of Mountain Street, just down the road from my school, and right near my bus stop. I would regularly stop at the City Mart to get gum, cheap American root beer and an opal card. I've since seen many photos of the building from years ago. The structure is substantially the same, only sometimes the colours were reversed; brown with a cream trim. The City Mart door is the original entrance to the Phoenician Club, whilst the entrance to Wokmaster has been carved out of the original building's side wall.

I discovered, by chance, a little of this building's history last year. I was drinking Sambuca with my partner and his godfather Paul. Paul was playing us Jeff Buckley's LP *Grace*. He recounted that the most mesmerising concert he had ever experienced was Buckley at the Phoenician Club in 1995. Not only was the concert so memorable, but Paul expressed that the building on Broadway will always, for him, be associated with that show: "Every time I pass by what was the Phoenician Club, on the bus or on foot, I always think of Jeff. I feel his spirit, our spirit, will always be there," he said.

The Phoenician Club was a highly influential music venue in the eighties and nineties, hosting acts like Jeff Buckley, Silverchair, Powderfinger, INXS, Nirvana, and My Bloody Valentine. There is, apparently, a commemorative plaque outside the building which notes its history, but in all my years of schooling I never spotted it. Intrigued by this deceptively average building, I scoured

through online newspaper archives to uncover the secret lives of 173 Broadway.

The building was constructed in 1911 as the Broadway Theatre. In this era, the Theatre bore a neon "BROADWAY" sign that ran vertically down the facade, beside the semicircle-shaped window. The theatre initially screened only silent films, however, in the late twenties it was adapted for sound. Families flocked to Broadway Theatre to see movies like Charlie Chaplin's *A Dog's Life*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *The Bride of Frankenstein*. The Theatre was by far the longest occupant of 173 Broadway, running for nearly five decades. In 1952, misfortune struck the theatre. In 1952, the Theatre was the site of a two man armed robbery. At 9.45pm on a Thursday in May, the perpetrators entered the Theatre's office and held a gun to manager Mr Williams. After leaving the Theatre with £115, they escaped by car and sped towards central.



The car aroused the suspicion of nearby police as its interior light had been switched off. Police followed the car and eventually arrested the perpetrators on Harris St. As TV came to rise, the Theatre officially closed in 1960.

In 1968, the building was purchased by 28-year-old John Spooner, then-owner of the popular teens' discothèque John Henry's. Spooner reopened the Broadway premises as Jonathan's Disco, a venue catering to a more mature crowd than John Henry's, and boasting impressive live brass bands. According to an article in *The Bulletin*, Spooner "spent \$60,000 on silver walls, plush lounges, shaped Perspex lighting and a sound system of infinite complexity." Jonathan's became pivotal in the rise of iconic Australian band Sherbet. In 1970, the band played an eight-month residency there, tirelessly performing seven hours a night, four nights a week. It was during this residency that Clive Shakespeare, who would later become Sherbet's lead vocalist, discovered the group. Tragically, the building's time as Jonathan's was brought to an early end, as a fire completely destroyed the interior in 1972.

For four years the interior was left in its dilapidated condition, while the outside remained deceptively intact. In 1976, the premises caught the eye of Sydney's notorious baker, ballroom dancer and bulldozer Keith Whatman,

possibly the most interesting character associated with 173 Broadway. Whatman began his career as a baker, but was forced to quit after developing an allergy to flour. Eventually, he found great success in his demolition company *Whatman Is Wrecking Pty Ltd*. *The Sydney Morning Herald* described Whatman as "short and nuggety, built much like the bulldozer he operates as if it were an extension of his body." He was affectionately nicknamed "the Godfather" by his employees. Nevertheless, Whatman must have had a certain grace, as he was an accomplished, medal-winning and passionate ballroom dancer. 173 Broadway was his passion project. He converted the fire-damaged building into a large ballroom where dance lessons were held. Unfortunately, Broadway Ballroom only lasted four years. Its failure, according to Whatman, was due to the emergence of new dance styles like disco, which turned people

song. "[T]he downstairs area was an elastic mass of churning, leaping and slam-dancing fans from the first note," Jon Casimir wrote in *The Sydney Morning Herald*. It was Nirvana's first Australian gig. And with the lucky intimacy of the venue, many claimed the show was one of Nirvana's best.

Though the Phoenician Club didn't officially close until 1998, it was events that occurred three years earlier that ultimately shut it down. By this stage, the Phoenician Club had garnered a grimy image, having attracted attention for regularly hosting raves inspired by the dance scene in Manchester. In October 1995, fifteen-year-old Anna Wood passed away in hospital, two days after taking ecstasy at a Phoenician Club rave event. Her cause of death was hypoxic encephalopathy, following acute water intoxication secondary to MDMA ingestion.

Wood's tragic death intensified pre-existing public anxieties about the overlapping of raves, youth and drugs. On the grounds of breaches of the *Registered Clubs Act*, the Phoenician Club was fined \$100,000, and its function authority was suspended for six months. Further restrictions from the NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing followed, and the club finally closed in 1998.

The walls of 173 Broadway have provided stability and continuity to the building over the years. The inside has been burned, ripped up and renewed many times, but the walls have stayed the same. Within them, pairs shyly approached each other on plush lounges whilst Sherbet performed "Cassandra" under Perspex lights. Some may have found freedom in the mosh of the Manchester-inspired raves of the early nineties. Gigs at the Phoenician Club may have left impressions that haven't subsided in decades. And, occasionally, schoolkids come there to buy root beer on humid Friday afternoons.

Last night, my roommate showed me a photo of a terrace behind the Lansdowne. I wondered who once shared that house, and whether they frequented the Phoenician Club, or Jonathan's, or even Broadway Theatre. I wondered how many invisible ley lines might cross the city, between the Phoenician Club and the homes of all the people so drawn to it for so many decades.



QUANTUM COLD WAR

RYAN LUNG
ART BY MAXIM ADAMS

From hypnosis research to quantum computing, the CIA has long had a relationship with USyd.

Since the Cold War, America's foreign intelligence agency, the CIA, has kept tabs on the latest research and development being conducted at universities around the world, in the hopes of gaining the upper hand in a technological arms race with its rivals. In the 1960s, the CIA's endeavours led them to a major hypnosis research lab at the University of Sydney, where they secretly funded a mind control experiment overseen by one of their most trusted scientific advisers. In the present day, with increased cyberattacks against industry and government, the CIA has returned to the University, utilising scientific breakthroughs in quantum computing and artificial intelligence for military purposes.

Part I: Mind control and psychological warfare

Since the Cold War, America's foreign intelligence agency, the CIA, has kept tabs on the latest research and development being conducted at universities around the world, in the hopes of gaining the upper hand in a technological arms race with its rivals. In the 1960s, the CIA's endeavours led them to a major hypnosis research lab at the University of Sydney, where they secretly funded a mind control experiment overseen by one of their most trusted scientific advisers. In the present day, with increased cyberattacks against industry and government, the CIA has returned to the University, exploiting scientific breakthroughs in quantum computing and artificial intelligence for military purposes.

CIA-funded hypnosis research conducted at the University in 1960 by renowned American psychologist Martin Orne was referenced in an interrogation manual for CIA agents operating in countries engulfed by proxy wars. The findings of his experiment subsequently informed a document which laid the basis for the American military's interrogation techniques for the next forty years.

Academic papers recently retrieved by the ABC establish a link between this research and Project MKUltra, an infamous experimental mind control program created by chemist and CIA spymaster Sidney Gottlieb. The program ran from the early 1950s to the early 1960s and was developed in response to reports of captured American soldiers defecting to the Communist side during the Korean War, leading the CIA to believe that the Communists had developed mind control techniques, and that they needed to do the same. MKUltra often subjected

unwitting participants to psychological torture, sometimes using electroshock and lethal doses of LSD. Due to the top-secret nature of the program, the number of people who died or were incapacitated by the program is unknown.

Experiments were shrouded in secrecy, with some being covertly funded at universities and research centres, and others in American prisons and in detention centres in Japan, Germany, and the Philippines. To obscure their intentions, the CIA would fund academics whose research was thought to be valuable to MKUltra through "research foundations" which were, in truth, front organisations. This meant that most academics were unaware of the program, except for a select few.

Professor Orne was one of the few academics who knew about MKUltra throughout the program's existence and was regularly consulted by the Agency. His research at the University of Sydney was funded by the Human Ecology Fund, one such front organisation which operated out of Cornell Medical School. At the time, the University contained one of the few significant hypnosis labs in the world and Orne was tasked with finding out if hypnosis could force people to act against their own will. If the experiment was successful, its findings could be used to brainwash the CIA's enemies.

The experiment involved hypnotising volunteer undergraduate psychology students and then asking them to perform a set of dangerous tasks. Orne and his assistants instructed their subjects to stick their hand in a jar of fuming nitric acid, throw nitric acid into the assistant experimenter's face, and pick up a poisonous diamondback rattlesnake. Of course, the nitric acid had been neutralised by the Chemistry Department and the snake had been rendered harmless by the Biology Department. Both hypnotised and non-hypnotised subjects carried out the tasks knowing that the danger was only simulated. Though the experiment was flawed, Orne concluded that it was highly unlikely that hypnosis could be used to force people to act against their own will.

Mind control, through hypnosis, was impossible after all.

Yet, Orne's findings ended up informing the creation of the 1963 *Kubark Counterintelligence Interrogation Manual* and the 1985 *Human Resource Exploitation Training Manual* — two highly controversial CIA training guides for interrogators seeking to obtain information from prisoners.

The original *Kubark Manual* was authored by James J. Angleton, the infamous chief counterspy of the CIA from 1954 to 1974, whose paranoia led to brutal interrogations of suspected communists both inside and outside the Agency. It also served as the basis for the 1983 *Human Resource Exploitation Training Manual* which was distributed to American-backed militants in Latin America by CIA operatives and U.S. army special forces between 1983 and 1987. After reports surfaced of these

militants committing atrocities, the document served as a focal point of U.S. Congressional investigations.

Both documents were originally released in 1997 under a Freedom of Information Act request by the *Baltimore Sun*. Upon the *Kubark Manual*'s initial release, the *Washington Post* went so far as to claim that parts of the *Kubark* manual went on to inform interrogation techniques used decades later during the U.S. invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Orne's contribution to the manual was in the form of an evaluation of the limits and uses of hypnosis. The Manual cites Orne's belief that "Both hypnosis and some of the drugs inducing hypnoidal states are 'popularly' viewed as situations where the individual is no longer master of his own fate and therefore not responsible for his actions. It seems possible then that the hypnotic situation, as distinguished from hypnosis itself, might be used to relieve the individual of a feeling of responsibility for his own actions and thus lead him to reveal information."

As the Manual progresses, citations of Orne's recommendations for interrogating individuals become more violent. For example, "As Orne himself later points out, the interrogatee 'could be given a hypnotic drug with appropriate verbal suggestions to talk about a given topic. Eventually enough of the drug would be given to cause a short period of unconsciousness. When the subject awakens, the interrogator could then read from his 'notes' of the hypnotic interview, which would include the information presumably told to him." This tactic would require the interrogator to possess significant knowledge of the interrogatee beforehand, giving the interrogatee the impression that they had divulged secret information under hypnosis, and thereby breaking their mental resistance to interrogation.

The legacy of the CIA's mind control project and their interrogation tactics serves as a reminder of the tragedy of the proxy wars and conflicts that proliferated during the Cold War. History has proven to repeat itself in the human rights abuses committed by Western troops in their invasion of the Middle East.



Part II: Espionage meets venture capital

In the film *Skyfall*, an ageing James Bond is forced to reckon with the changing nature of spycraft in the digital age. When Bond meets "Q", the resident gadget-master at MI6, for the first time, he is surprised. Previous incarnations of "Q" in the spy film franchise had portrayed him as a greying old man, and Bond spurns the youthfulness of his new colleague.

But "Q" won't have it.

"Word has it I can do more damage on my laptop sitting in my pyjamas before my first cup of Earl Grey than you can do a year in the field," Q retorts.

"Oh, so why do you need me?" Bond replies, mockingly.

The message is clear: old-fashioned cloak-and-dagger operations have lost their relevance in a world where bits and bytes pose a bigger threat to national security than a loaded gun.

It is, therefore, no surprise that the CIA has a "Q" of its own, one that operates not undercover, but in boardrooms and laboratories. Named after "Q" himself, the investment arm of the CIA, In-Q-Tel, has been funding and supporting technology start-ups that have been spun out of Australia's major research universities.

The company's mission? To gain access to the development of cutting-edge technology that can be deployed, within 36 months, in American intelligence agencies' national security operations such as automated intelligence gathering and analysis.

In-Q-Tel is currently backing four start-ups that have partnerships with Australian universities in research and development of their technology: Quintessence Labs (ANU, University of Queensland), Q-CTRL (University of Sydney), Advanced Navigation (ANU, RMIT) and Myriota (University of South Australia).

Each of these companies develop technologies that provide either increased cybersecurity, better military hardware, or weaponry to U.S. intelligence agencies and their military. Quintessence Labs focuses on quantum cybersecurity, Q-CTRL works on quantum control (having applications for artificial intelligence and machine learning), Advanced Navigation develops navigation technologies and robotics, while Myriota creates low earth orbit

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE CIA

nanosatellites.

Q-CTRL, founded in 2017, emerged from research conducted by the University of Sydney's Quantum Science Group and is funded by various global venture capital firms in addition to In-Q-Tel. The company focuses on "producing firmware for quantum computing and other applications based on... research efforts in the Quantum Control Laboratory housed within the Sydney Nanoscience Hub", and now has offices in the CBD, Pyrmont and in Los Angeles, California.

All four companies advertise their products as having potential for defence purposes on their websites. While Quintessence Labs and Myriota seem to advertise their products for non-militarised purposes, the others highlight the relevance of their technology to combat operations.

In a promotional video, Advanced Navigations advertises the world's largest military contractors and arms manufacturers — BAE Systems, Raytheon, Leonardo, Airbus, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Thales — as clientele under the heading "They Trust Us". Advanced

Navigation's product brochure also includes a stylised picture of a weaponised drone, suggesting that the technology it sells could be used to build machines capable of warfare. Meanwhile, Q-CTRL says that its technology "could be deployed by military personnel to detect underground, hardened structures, submarines or hidden weapons systems."

Unlike typical venture capital firms, maximising returns is not In-Q-Tel's primary goal when it invests in a company. In-Q-Tel typically invests \$500,000 to \$3 million (USD), with approximately 15-20% of those funds being used to purchase equity in the company and the majority going towards licensing agreements and contracts to adapt the company's technology to fit the needs of the CIA.

A 2011 survey of 34 of In-Q-Tel's portfolio companies found that "more than half of the companies found equity investments to be the least valuable asset of their interactions with In-Q-Tel." According to the In-Q-Tel website, "Investments typically range from \$500,000 to \$3 million and often involve partners from multiple agencies." By

venture capital standards, these numbers are modest. The real benefit of In-Q-Tel's backing lies in opening the door for start-ups into a network of government and defence agencies who could be potential clients and partners.

Serious concerns have been raised over the ethics of commercial technology acquired by In-Q-Tel being used for military and espionage purposes. For example, Orbital, a Silicon Valley-based AI company which analyses satellite images, drone footage, and smartphone data, has been criticised for its intelligence connections and its role in "bomb targeting" in Afghanistan for the U.S. military. Additionally, Palantir, another data analytics company based in the U.S., has come under fire for its role in enabling mass surveillance. Government agencies have used Palantir to track air travellers and immigrants while private companies have used the company's services to surveil their employees.

It has also come to light this year that Dataminr, an artificial intelligence alert system, was used by the University to keep track of planned protest action by staff and students last year. Dataminr is another company included in In-Q-Tel's investment portfolio. That the University should use militarised tactics against its own community is a sign of an increasingly out of touch bureaucracy.

The fact that mastery of these advancements in the fields of quantum computing, artificial intelligence, robotics, and the Internet of Things now determine the espionage and cyberwarfare landscape shows just how far human interaction has become digitised. As society undergoes this massive transformation, we must find ways to stop corporations in yet

another reckless attempt to commercialise anything they can get their hands on.

By harnessing the power of quantum computing, governments may be able to further extend the reach of their surveillance activities. Mathematicians and computer scientists believe that current cryptography methods, which encode information such as online passwords through specific mathematical equations, will be rendered obsolete by future developments in the field. This could potentially destroy the public's already diminished confidence in the notion of privacy.

The same interconnectedness provided by the digital age which has allowed human beings to stay close during a global pandemic is also what allows governments to spy on its citizens, and develop increasingly sophisticated weaponry — setting the stage for the emergence of surveillance states where privacy no longer exists.

In commercialising scientific breakthroughs for profit, universities and the start-ups they partner with have opened Pandora's Box.

A parallel emerges between the CIA's attempts to facilitate American expansionism through the latest developments in science and technology during the Cold War, and their efforts now. Where the CIA once sought to expand the United States' influence geographically, supporting militias and toppling national governments, in the hopes of destroying communism, it now also seeks to conquer the frontier of cyberspace.

That the University should use militarised tactics against its own community is a sign of an increasingly out of touch bureaucracy.



Finding Flora

BONNIE HUANG, TOM MARTIN
AND MAYA SEELIG
ART BY RHEA THOMAS

On anti-style graffiti in Sydney's Inner West.

If you've ever caught a train, driven down Parramatta Road, or walked through any main streets of the Inner West, chances are you've seen graffitied ants or the word "flora" scattered about. The tags range from illustrations of ants and flowers, to various iterations of "8it", "pest", or "flora", which seems to be the main tag. They have a visually distinctive style characterised by bold outlines, blocks of colour and imperfect shapes — indicating that they're all the work of one local artist, or perhaps a graffiti collective. We decided to investigate the infestation of ants that appear to be slowly spreading through Sydney.

Flora's wide-ranging oeuvre marks our city, creating a secret network of flora and fauna only visible to the keen eye. Their work ranges from elaborate large-scale multi-colour pieces to vague ant shapes messily drawn on the pavement with industrial glue. The ants sprawl across suburban alleyways, climb up railway bridges and crawl on corrugated warehouse doors.

Graffiti tagging involves using a stylised signature or a series of symbols repeatedly in strategically or centrally located places. It is the most common form of graffiti and has historically been used to indicate presence or ownership of territory. In this fashion, Flora's tags are most notably saturated amongst inner-city suburbs like Marrickville and Petersham. However, they have also been spotted at bushwalking trails like the Wodi Wodi track at Stanwell Park. At these locations, far and wide, Flora's ants are immediately recognisable and stand out amongst the hubbub of industrial urban settings.

Flora's work exists at a crossroad between the urban and the natural. Drawing from both industrial and natural imagery, they express an environmentalist message with an underlying eco-terrorist approach. Eco-terrorism are acts of disruption or destruction made with the intention to

hinder activities considered damaging to the natural environment or its animal species. In Flora's practice, their use of graffiti is a disruption to the built environment of steel and concrete, serving as an ever-present reminder of the Australian bush. The ants face the threat of being buffed or painted over, reflecting how the bush, which is already meagre in metropolitan Sydney, has been sidelined by urban sprawl and gentrification.

In the city, Flora's environmentally conscious graffiti acknowledges the natural environment as it takes up urban spaces, often identifying and referencing the names of the original biomes of urbanised spaces. Also appearing in abandoned places and the bush, the ants are left as a mark that there was once human activity. However, most remarkable is Flora's invisible body of work, one that is made up of native bushes that have been guerrilla planted in the empty spaces of pavement nature strips.

Flora's work showcases an appreciation for the persistence of nature

"Flora's wide-ranging oeuvre marks our city, creating a secret network of flora and fauna only visible to the keen eye."

in the urban environment, commenting on environmentalism whilst poking fun at the idea of "pest control" when the true pests are, perhaps, us. Their practice is highly considerate of how the city has been built on stolen land, thus radically vandalising the city is not an egotistical act of self proclamation but a reflection of the pre-existing tug-of-war between the urban architecture and the natural world.

Graffiti artists must consciously consider the world in the development of their pieces, much like how a photographer chooses to frame an image. Graffiti is born out of its metropolitan environment, appropriating urban architecture to subsequently become part of it.

The infestation of ants over the past few years is indicative of how Sydney graffiti artists and writers have begun



to experiment with new ways to present their tag aliases within the world, creating a more vibrant and inventive scene. A city has its own unique style and graffiti culture, just like any other underground scene. A symbiotic relationship exists where graffiti feeds off its environment, which is simultaneously marked and characterised by the paint.

archive of anti-style graffiti. On the international anti-style graffiti scene, there is @trashgraff, @antistylers; but more locally, @florapest is an account that has started documenting Flora's work since early August. Dr Lachlan MacDowall, professor in Screen and Cultural Studies at the University of Melbourne, explains how this Instagram phenomenon of graffiti documentation has allowed instances of graffiti to "have longer life and a larger audience as a digital object" that isn't bound by their ephemerality or hidden locations.

"Instagram is fundamentally reshaping the practices, aesthetics, and consumption of graffiti and street art...they are increasingly produced as digital objects for digital audiences," Dr MacDowall writes.

Ultimately, the anonymity of the artist is what makes Flora's work so engaging. The ephemerality and mystery of these smiling ants make a direct encounter with Flora's work ever so precious. Flora denies us the possibility of turning the artist into a celebrity object, thus allowing the work to earnestly speak for itself and reject commodification. Anti-style is a further radical departure from the elitist protocols within a traditionally high-brow art world.

Our initial desire to uncover the identity of Flora slowly subsided as we came to revel in the experience of coming across their work in unexpected corners of the urban environment. Creating a cult following for Flora on Instagram would be counterproductive to the scavenger hunt style inherent to the distribution of their ants. Flora's work is a reminder to closely observe our immediate environment, and to live in the real world. Anonymity is integral to the experience of graffiti tagging, whether as the artist or as the audience.

Flora's work espouses an appreciation for nature through the radical use of the ant as a symbol of resistance. The ant is a hybridisation of urban aesthetics and nature. With its rounded body and power plug face, it embodies kitsch. Like anti-style, the emergence of kitsch correlates with the "lowering of taste among post-industrial urbanised masses, and a heightened capacity for boredom." The repetition and familiar imagery makes it accessible and appealing to the masses, even to those who don't usually pay attention to graffiti.

Flora's anonymous ants will multiply even as our city is in slumber. Staining concrete and dripping down steel, the infestation will persist beyond our time on this Earth.

Non-standard McDonald's and our modern day ruins

HARRY GAY
ART BY NANDINI DHIR

Remembering The Corner McCafe.

While doom-scrolling in lockdown, one thing that always catches my eye and piques my interest are non-standard McDonald's, and I have become obsessed with finding out about as many obscure ones as I can. The famous twitter account @nonstandardmcd was the progenitor to this fascination, as it's dedicated to logging a range of uniquely styled McDonald's restaurants all around the world; from astronaut McDonald's, brutalist McDonald's, and the McSki McDonald's. I was delighted to find out last year that Sydney Uni had a non-standard McDonald's of its own, called The Corner McCafe. Sadly, like many businesses in Sydney, it now sits boarded up and closed forever.

Unlike many other non-standard McDonald's, which usually owe their unique designs to individual managers choosing to style their restaurants any way they like, The Corner McCafe was a wholly unique entity. Designed as a way to tap into the special preferences of the Inner West, the standalone cafe offered customers a wide variety of healthy food options and taste sensations. They swapped out Big Macs and chicken nuggets for corn fritters, avocados, quinoa, and brioche buns! All the while served on wooden boards by inner city millennials wearing brown faux-rustic aprons. As unique as this was, McDonald's claimed that the experiment failed to generate enough revenue to warrant expansion, and closed its doors for good in October

of last year.

The Corner McCafe became a regular landmark on my walk to classes in the second semester of last year when I was thankfully allowed on campus once again. Just on the outskirts of the University, hidden between the Charles

sipping coffee and having lively chats amid the marijuana scented smog that enveloped the area.

It is sad thinking about what was lost, that electricity that buzzed in the air, and the sense of solidarity despite the corporate conceit of its inception.



Perkins Centre and St. John's College sat the quaint dining experience. The McCafe was a bustling communal space where everyone would meet in perfect synchronicity, from doctors just off their shifts at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, to Uni students heading to their seminars and lectures, and the many poor and destitute looking for shelter. The open outdoor seating area, with an absence of anti-homeless architecture and a shady covering protecting people from the elements, facilitated this cosmopolitan melting pot of people, with everyone

Obviously, the loss of a McCafe is not the worst thing in the world, but rather what it represents. And with non-standard McDonald's closing all over the world, along with many businesses in general shutting their doors, one must wonder what relics and ruins this era of humanity will leave behind.

While relics are often imagined as the royal palaces of 15th century kings and queens, one can also find wonder in the exploration of abandoned shopping centres, hospitals, and other spaces of urban decay. The key differences

between these places, besides the notable temporal separation, is a stark one. While roaming the halls of royal palaces and museums allows these figures to hold on to their power in a way that extends beyond their lives and into death, the act of urban exploration is never tailored to any particular people but rather general places, ones that would be very uninteresting to visit if not abandoned to time. The sense one gets from urban exploration that they don't get from museums or palace tours is a sense of 'lived in-ness', the feeling of historical hustle and bustle that something like a hospital or school provides but the living quarters of a feudal Baron does not.

I imagine in some far off dystopian future, or even some fast emerging present, people exploring these defunct McDonald's restaurants and being in these spaces, with the energies of a thousand lives and voices flowing through them.

McDonald's is a massive corporation, with restaurants all around the world, and is a fixture of everyone's lives in some way or another. As with many companies, it is exploitative in that it benefits from the worst aspects of modern day capitalism. I hope, however, that the executives at McDonald's can become humbled by the prospect of scavengers, in some dystopian hellscape, sifting through the ashes and finding what remains of the Corner McCafe. They will not think about McDonald's and its vast wealth and power, but rather the people who walked through its doors and filled its spaces.

*My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and
Despair!*

- Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)

Be kind to your bartender

JOE FIDLER

On the darkside to Australia's favourite pastime.

The ringing of the food-bell, the jingle of the gaming machines, the smell of stale beer and ammonia in the ancient carpet, the foot-sore feeling at the 8th hour. These are the sensations synonymous with working in a Sydney pub.

Like many, I'm a student working in hospitality and, upon reflection, I've noticed that when two fellow hospo workers find themselves in conversation, it always leads inexorably to horror stories. There's a certain catharsis, a validation and sense of comradeship that comes from airing each other's baggage. And it's generally always the same: mind games and explosive outbursts from customers and management: ripped off, burnt out, jaded, and missing their superannuation.

Earlier this year, hospo dons and owners of the Mary's Group, Jake Smyth and Kenny Graham copped some flak after labelling the young hospitality industry workers of today as "Self-entitled." They blamed an "over-correction" for this perceived change in attitude. Smyth went

so far as to say, "Work-life balance... is one of the most dangerous terms young people have been introduced to." Former Mary's Group staff members kicked back, citing a toxic culture of substance abuse within Mary's Group venues, as well as some pretty bad behaviour from both Jake and Kenny. Speaking to Triple J's Hack, they made mention of deteriorating mental health, chairs being thrown, and verbal and physical confrontation sometimes accompanied by an apologetic shot of Jack Daniels. One former worker stated that, "You never knew what mood they were in, if they were high or hungover. If they had been to a bad meeting or they had problems you would know about it." Another remarked that "(They) don't think it was ever acknowledged that working gnarly hours, drinking and doing drugs all the time, had any effect on us really." Like a Gen X comedian faced with the wrath of the youth, Jake and Kenny were quick to blame "cancel culture," though I'm not so sure that's the issue here. I'm not here to cancel Jake and Kenny, nor psychoanalyse the millennial man-child. Rather, I found this story to be indicative of a wider collective experience working behind the bar, lobby or on the floor. The stories I've heard, as well as my own experience, can attest that this is not just a Mary's Group Problem, but an industry problem.

I was 18 when I got my first bar job. My starry-eyed innocence was extinguished after being sent into the pokies to spray wipe around a tradie doubled over a machine, crying into his hands. He got a free coke. I'd go 3-4 weeks without pay, with it sometimes coming straight out the till. The general manager would switch between smugness and red-faced rage, and the head-chef employed a miserable cheap sarcasm that was impossible to interpret. The Hotel went into liquidation and the owner, who resembled a Dickensian villain, took off with wages left unpaid. The next place had Live, Laugh, Love-like phrases plastered on the walls. I got a call from their accounting agency claiming they'd overpaid me and wanted the money. I told them I'd spent it all and never worked there again. The third place I worked garnered a local patronage of conservative retirees and broken adults who were all too comfortable airing broken marriages with a 19-year-old.

It became clear to me that a certain kind of apathy is fundamental in facilitating legal vices. I found that a dark sense of humour, tinged with misanthropy was a coping mechanism used by those who had been in the business for a long time. On nights out, hospo veterans tend to push it to the absolute limit with a nihilistic vigour, using multiple substances, often disgracing themselves. They too become the broken adults. Bar work can be a delight after being sent into the pokies to spray wipe around a tradie doubled over a machine, crying into his hands. He got a free coke. I'd go 3-4 weeks without pay, with it sometimes coming straight out the till. The general manager would switch between smugness and red-faced rage, and the head-chef employed a miserable cheap sarcasm that was impossible to interpret. The Hotel went into liquidation and the owner, who resembled a Dickensian villain, took off with wages left unpaid. The next place had Live, Laugh, Love-like phrases plastered on the walls. I got a call from their accounting agency claiming they'd overpaid me and wanted the money. I told them I'd spent it all and never worked there again. The third place I worked garnered a local patronage of conservative retirees and broken adults who were all too comfortable airing broken marriages with a 19-year-old.

This must change, but in the meantime, please be nice to your bartender.



Shall I screenshot this message?

DEAUNDRE ESPEJO

On the joys of a screenshots folder.



According to my iPhone user manual, the Photos app is a “home” to all my captured memories. That would make my screenshots folder the closet under the

staircase, where possessions fade into oblivion, collecting dust until necessity calls. While a screenshots folder comes in all shapes and sizes, mine is an archive of past conversations (I counted 977 DMs.) In it, you’ll find group chat hijinks, cancellable takes, and traumatising ticket negotiations from last year’s *Honi* election.

I first questioned my penchant for saving messages during a conversation with a friend. After sending them screenshots of a heated argument, I received an unconventional response: “I don’t want to see these.” In the face of rejection, I wondered whether I was violating some postdigital social code. Admittedly, there is something sinister about the experience of receiving a screenshot. Without warning, it thrusts you into someone else’s intimate conversation. The sender holds a set of binoculars to your eyes, demanding you to peer through an open window. Unlike a grapevine, reading messages verbatim makes you feel complicit in the sender’s

violation of trust.

But I don’t buy the whole ‘vowing to abstain from screenshots’ schtick. Screenshots are social currency, begging to be exchanged and replicated. Through a string of carefully curated messages, you can manufacture any narrative you want. Screenshots are the future of gossip, removing the need for a meddling middleman. For the more cunning collector, incriminating messages become a vault of blackmail material, for which student politicians live and die. After a screenshot serves its purpose, it turns to junk in our phone storage, waiting to be found and deleted.

Like all social interaction, screenshotting comes with unspoken rules. A good screenshot leaves no room for unwanted speculation. The most convincing is a full-length, uncropped series of messages (we want receipts!) While I can forgive the occasional crop or omission, one should be careful about

abusing one’s artistic license. Context is your friend, while isolated messages attract suspicion. Proofreading is a must — it’s embarrassing how many times a clumsy pop-up notification has exposed some sordid secrets. And finally, never post messages on your Instagram stories. No one wants to read your in-jokes.

Despite the power it can bestow, screenshotting isn’t always a crooked business. It’s nice to collect fragments of your favourite conversations, even if they are destined to rot in your storage forever. Sometimes I wish I took more screenshots of friends’ messages, but I doubt I’d go back and scroll through them fondly. If I did, I would probably just use the search function anyway.

“977 message screenshots seem to be around the average for an almost-two-year-old phone, though I have heard of one stupid bigwig that has over 17,000 screenshots and counting.”

Ratio or be Ratioed: Reluctant notes on Twitter

@SUBURBANPOET

The trials and tribulations of Twitter.

Twitter is where my good ideas go to die. It is a medium created for solipsistic yelling into the digital abyss with the most fucked up Jerry Seinfeld inflection imaginable.

When an editor suggested I write a guide to Twitter, I had instant reservations. Not only did I fear it would sound like a VICE article, but speaking about Twitter, not ON Twitter itself, can descend into a Fibonacci spiral of sacrilege. Recent pieces by the *New Yorker* on the Post-Dirtbag left or the *New York Times* article on Lindy Living received decimation on Twitter in response — decimation I typically would find myself in the camp of.

Making sense of Twitter’s ironic side is a self-indulgent endeavour. It’s condescending to pin a hypothesis to the humble practice of taking the piss. Categorising Twitter phenomena as some benign theory or as being “symptomatic of modernity,” in a cold-brew of abstract terms, is insufferable and boring. However, I’m willing to impart some advice for the Twitter novice without becoming a cushy,

condescending thesis shielded behind a paywall.

Twitter is an absurd platform that should be met with a reciprocal level of absurdity. I rarely tweet earnest opinions. It feels heinously reductionist to condense earnest ideas into the space of 280 characters.

There are many spheres of twitter that are algorithmic blind spots to me that I cannot account for. Personally, my timeline consists mainly of Sydney and Melbourne’s sharehouse population and ‘weird’ twitter, known in ‘twitterature’ as an absurd genre of tweeting pioneered by users such as @dril.

Twitter is a choose-your-own-affliction novel. You may choose to have your timeline flooded with sanctimonious blue checks or curate your algorithm to cater to your niche and interests. You may choose to fall into a number of different rabbit holes, which can often quickly mutate into k-holes of wild fringe beliefs. You may ask yourself, in a David Byrne voice, how did I get here?

There are several tropes to avoid on Twitter, including:

1. Former Gifted Children: The most pretentious kind of poster. Avoid at all costs.

2. Reply Guy: The Reply Guy is typically found in the replies section of podcast hosts (typically women). They can occasionally be funny but are known more for being dispensaries of desperation.

3. Taking provocateurs seriously: Those new to the platform may be tempted to bite the perpetual hooks of ironic bait. Don’t.

Once you’ve avoided the tropes, there are many avenues for forging a voice on Twitter. Many friends of mine stream of consciousness tweet, but I’m an unwavering tweet drafter. Ideas will marinate for days, maybe weeks. Some will live to see the paradisiacal light of the timeline; others will perish in draft-folder purgatory.

Patterns for new users can fall into many traps, especially that of clinging onto buzzwords parasitically. What starts as a bit, can shift into vacuous name-dropping of cultural references for likes. It can start with calling something Lynchian, making crass references to The Sopranos, or podcasts. More endearingly, Melbournians are responsive to tweets about incu and Hope St Radio. I’m not against the use of buzzwords, but it must be done judiciously.

Once you’re amongst all of this, you may begin to wonder how one reaches a

status of Twitter oligarchical opulence. This is all in the art of the ratio. To “ratio” means that a reply or a quote tweet receives more likes than the original poster. Becoming the ratio victor is comparable to reigning triumphant in gladiatorial combat. It is essential that you ratio anyone who comes for your honour.

For a beginner, Twitter can be hard to navigate. For a long time, I was under the impression that Twitter was a boring place, until my friends corrupted me by way of a well-cultivated algorithm. Twitter is a five-dimensional multiverse rich in subcultures. Instagram meme accounts such as @on_a_downward_spiral (which I have since unfollowed) meticulously follow what Twitter sets as the comedic agenda by reposting whatever was viral on Twitter that day.

To enjoy the platform the most, you have to keep the earnest-to-irony pendulum swinging. Otherwise, the app can become a rather insipid experience. The shunned, aforementioned *New Yorker* article quotes podcast host Sam Adler-Bell, stating “[I]f You get a reputation for being earnest around here” — Twitter, that is — “you’re in trouble.”

to the experience of women. Especially on Zoom, everyone is constantly affronted by their own image.

In the Zoom world my options are fairly clear; I can turn my camera off or I can hide self-view, meaning I won’t see what my camera shows everyone else. This option somehow makes me feel worse, as if I’ve eviscerated myself from digital existence. I’d rather have a grey box with my name than no space whatsoever, even if I know others can still see me. As for turning off my camera, I’ve found this perhaps a little rude — there’s a mutual respect in allowing yourself to be seen when you can see your lecturer. I know

in their place I’d want at least a few faces looking back at me, and I think it creates a more human feel to the digital learning space. Although, as the semester drags on I’m giving myself permission more often to not be seen.

Perhaps I’m late to learn this lesson, most of my tutorials are already endless seas of grey boxes. At the very least, I’ve learned to appreciate anonymity. I could not have understood the power of my own gaze until I turned it so harshly against myself. For now, I’ll keep the camera on when I’m up for it, and try to stop feeling guilty when I turn it off.

Nothing’s fair in love and war

HOLLY HUGHES

Biopic bedlam from nineties nostalgia.

The year of 1995 was full of notorious celebrity romances. Bill Clinton “did not have sexual relations with that woman” Monica Lewinsky in the White House. Socialite Patrizia Reggiani ordered a hitman to murder her ex-husband Maurizio Gucci (yes, that Gucci) after he left her for a younger woman. And Baywatch starlet Pamela Anderson married Motley Crue drummer Tommy Lee within 96 hours of meeting, leading to a tabloid-friendly union characterised by drugs and violence.

All three of these scandals have adaptations due for release within the next six months. American Crime Story: Impeachment will no doubt spur a million breakdowns of what’s factually correct and what’s just a dig at Clinton for the sake of it. As the pre-exam blues set in, we’ll turn to House of Gucci to muse on a powerful family’s savage sense of fashion and morality. Sometime next year, we’ll binge the fallout of one of the first celebrity sex tape scandals in Pam & Tommy. Each of

these stories is grounded in the women, who history has proven to ruin in scandal more readily than men. Concurrently, relatively “modern” media phenomena like 24-hour news networks and internet gossip columnists painted these incidents in highly dramatic strokes, revamping celebrity sex scandals from risqué rumours into prime time entertainment.

Today, audiences are deeply embroiled in an invigorating sense of nostalgia, using sitcom revivals, platform sandals and the Bennifer reunion to be transported back to a glorious COVID-free era. Indeed, research conducted by the University of Southampton has found that nostalgia counteracts loneliness, anxiety and boredom, and can quite literally “increase meaning in life”.

But there’s something bigger going on here. As an audience that’s post-postmodern and hyper-analytical, we demand more complexity in our stories. We want to re-explore, re-evaluate, and re-experience the past through a new lens to better understand it. In a post-#MeToo era, these productions are notably a chance to dive into the women’s perspectives, who (regardless of their level of guilt) found themselves decimated and often de-

legitimised by a subsequent media storm. And these tempests can last for years. In 2013, after nearly two decades, one particularly bombastic magazine headline exclaimed “Sex Tape Found! How Monica Seduced Bill...”

On that note, the jury’s not out on the ethics of these adaptations. Their critics argue they’ll just bring up decades-old trauma for the sake of entertainment. In the case of Pam & Tommy, neither the titular pair nor anyone close to them is involved in the production; in fact, they all think it’s a bad idea. Anderson’s long-time friend Courtney Love went so far as to call leading actress Lily James “vile” in criticism of reinvigorating interest in a highly traumatic period that “destroyed” her friend.

Perhaps, though, this is the point. The focus of each of these productions is on a scandal: an event regarded by popular consensus as morally disreputable and therefore immensely intriguing. The subsequent media response spares no effort under these circumstances. Gucci’s murder was just the prologue to the infamy of a tragic “black widow”. Anderson and Lee’s already volatile relationship was overshadowed by the frenzy surrounding

the first viral sex tape. And Clinton, Lewinsky and the rest of his presidency were swallowed whole by media scrutiny. The implicit focus of these upcoming adaptations is not just on what happened, but on the virality of it; the drama of the event rather than the event itself. If executed well, these productions will reach out, grab the audience by the collar, and say “What do you think of this now?”. In doing so, they promise to evaluate these events through a reflective, almost ironic lens. Our manic engagement with these events will be revealed as the scandalous act, rather than the events themselves.

In 1998, all of these dramas came to some sort of resolution. Clinton was impeached by the House of Representatives for perjury and obstruction of justice, but was later acquitted by the Senate. Reggiani was sentenced to 29 years in prison, but only served 16 of them. Anderson and Lee divorced, but would go on to give their relationship an unsuccessful second shot. Maybe in three years, we’ll rectify our vagrant fascination and declare we no longer care for decades-old sex scandals, but I doubt it. To quote Bo Burnham: “apathy’s a tragedy and boredom is a crime”.

Yesterday’s mixtape: Driving through the past

TASIA KUZNICHENKO
ART BY DMITRY KUZNICHENKO

Sounds of childhood memories and the music that accompanied them.

When I was eight years old, my mother brought home a CD. On it was a discounted Target price tag and a photographic cover of sharp, deep green grass. It was called *Amazing* and it became my family’s car CD.

Car travel wasn’t a big part of my life until we moved to the Central Coast in late primary school. My dad didn’t even learn to drive until we moved. From then onwards, we commuted between two houses almost every weekend: one in Sydney’s Inner West where we visited my aging grandparents, and the other, almost another world away (or less than two hours drive) in North Avoca.

My grandparents still lived in Marrickville and we kept up the facade that we were located minutes away — due to my mother’s fear of abandoning them in their old age. My garish yellow Terrigal Primary School polo would be torn off my head before I ran to greet my grandmother on her porch, Holyoake flowers bending towards me on the path.

I began to associate the commute between the two parts of my life with this random compilation CD. It became common practice to “put *Amazing* on”. The Chemical Brothers’ trance-like-track ‘Star-Guitar’ cements me in the back seat of our bright blue Honda Jazz, crossing the Brooklyn Bridge, its steel beams stark against the sparkling Hawkesbury River. I was a fan of the jarring drum solo in ‘Radio Number 1’ by Air. I can still envisage exiting the hot-asphalted freeway, rolling down the windows as the air quality changed — the lazily muttered lyrics of the French duo psychedelically floating from

the stereo.

When the Verve’s ‘The Drugs Don’t Work’ played, I would always feel embarrassed. Urgently, I would talk over the sombre ode to misery with some nonsense about a spelling bee or recent camp — evidently aware that its lyrics were a little too dark for a year-four student.

I only realised the formative effect of this car CD in early adulthood. It came with the epiphany that my music taste has reverted back to what my parents played me as a child.

The Mamas & the Papa’s (both my

“Even if the artists are different, I look for the same rhythms and timbres to the songs,” my good friend Kira tells me. She was born and bred in Sydney’s inner-west to left-wing, academically minded parents. The sounds she was raised on — New Order, the Pixies and Nick Cave (to name a few), contributed to her prolific music proclivities. “My parents would blast music in the car... Every feeling was augmented and amplified over the stereo so there was no chance of missing it.” Her love for New Wave has never wavered. “I listen to a lot of the same bands... Bjork,

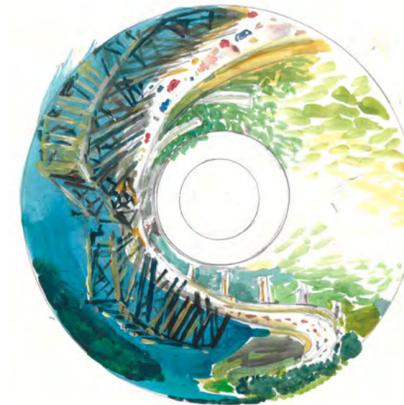
Alexa, now an eclectic, indie-pop listening med-student, recounts how her father listened to The Best of Bowie when he drove her around as a four-year-old. ‘Space Oddity’ has stuck with her. “Since my parents’ divorce, it makes me feel nostalgic and sad for my father because I haven’t seen him in... seven or eight years. It just feels like the distance between us is [similar] to that person on a space station looking down at Earth.”

For some, the music they played in the car provided a connection to culture, belonging and identity. “We used to always listen to a South African singer called Johnny Clegg... on car trips and got into learning all of the lyrics... in Zulu”, Anneka recalls. Her parents moved to Auckland in 1999 from Cape Town. “It was [how] my sister and I learned more about our South African heritage”.

For others, the music their parents played alienated instead of embraced. Vanessa, a fresh graduate and my long-time friend, grew up on mixtapes of her aunt’s favourite Chinese music. I ask her whether, when she hears those songs, she feels some sense of kinship with the music of her background. She laughs and tells me she doesn’t.

It wasn’t until University that she developed a love for music. “I still remember going to Splendour for the first time.” We reminisce about listening to Triple J together on the drive up, blasting it by unsuspecting sheep, “going to that festival sparked my new love for music... It was just such an amazing experience”.

Whether tinged with fondness, melancholy, apathy or comfort — the car CD provided a soundtrack to the psyche of many a childhood. In the age of Bluetooth, boundless playlist choices have overtaken the predictable tangibility of a tracklist. I think that’s okay because one thing always remains the same — nostalgia thrives on change.



Reflections on our digital reflection

AMY WARNER

Why do we self-monitor on Zoom?

I can’t stop looking at myself.

We’re staring at ourselves a lot lately through these Zoom portals. I find my eyes constantly flitting back towards my own camera asking; is my hair ok? Do I look interested enough? No wait, not too interested though, that’s weird.

Perhaps I’m simply incredibly narcissistic and, like a child enamoured by their reflection for the first time, am enjoying constantly rediscovering my

appearance more than my lecture content. Though this wouldn’t be too surprising, I wouldn’t say my compulsion to stare at myself comes from a place of self-love and delightful discovery. I’m not looking in admiration at all, I’m monitoring myself.

In *The Robber Bride*, Margaret Atwood writes, “You are a woman with a man inside watching a woman. You are your own voyeur.” Every morning I get up and look at — no, I *inspect* — my body in the mirror. I log into class and watch myself watching myself. Even though I’m aware of this internalised male gaze I can’t seem to shake it. This is an issue embedded within feminist theory, but it is not limited

I've had 18 COVID tests, here's what I've learned

MARLOW HURST

Testing the waters.

One phrase has defined this pandemic for me. “If you have symptoms, get tested.”

It has featured in every press conference held by the NSW Government throughout the course of this pandemic. And it's a phrase I've taken very seriously. After 18 tests, across 18 months, at over 6 different testing clinics, I can safely say: when I've had symptoms, you can best believe I've gotten tested.

The way there

The journey to the clinic is a test of its own. As I've been lucky enough to live within walking distance to several clinics, the walk there has done wonders to screen out false positives. Sometimes “flu like symptoms” need to be put to the test, and I had a multi-stage screening process to do just that. Before even leaving the house, a piping hot Earl Grey and a sticky bowl of porridge screened out any symptoms that were just a legacy of sleep. If they persisted, the walk to the clinic itself applied further rigor to my claims. So a brisk constitution, paired with crisp city air, and the mental stimulation of exercise were the perfect appraisal. When I lived in Pyrmont and

frequently nipped off to the East Sydney Arts Center testing clinic in Surry Hills (a personal favourite), I gave myself till Hyde Park to really prod and poke at whatever “symptoms” I was experiencing. This is the “Hyde Park Deadline,” a technique pioneered by my dear mother and refined through consistent use. Often, that scratchy throat or shortness of breath was just a product of morning lethargy, but a variant of which that resisted the ministrations of breakfast. If, by the time I'd reached Museum station, my symptoms remained present and active, I'd allow myself to go the distance.

My first time

The first time I ever got tested was at the Pyrmont Bay Pop-up Testing Clinic. This was quite early in the pandemic, and the testing infrastructure was still a bit... eccentric. After getting my test, I had to create an account on a specially made NSW health results portal. As if registering for an MMO, I created a username and password and spent the rest of my day refreshing the results page, desperate for any sign of life. My negative result came the next morning – I promptly logged out of the portal. Sometimes I still wonder if that portal remains active, sometimes I think about checking in on it, just to make sure my negative result stays that way. My first test was a special one, not just because of the online portal or even because it was conducted in a supply closet at the Maritime Museum (discarded exhibits propped up against the wall and all). No, it was because it gave me a taste of what peace of mind in a pandemic felt like.

The test

The overwhelming majority of tests in Australia have been conducted through the PCR (Polymerase chain reaction) method. Invented in 1983 by American biochemist Kary Mullis, PCR allows laboratories to amplify and multiply a small sample of DNA for closer analysis. In his oddly titled autobiography *Dancing Naked in the Mind Field*, Mullis explains that the idea came to him while driving his silver Honda along

California's Highway 128.

“What subtle cleverness can I devise tonight to read the sequence of the King of molecules?” He opined.

Later crediting LSD as an influence on his moment of genius, Mullis pulled over at mile marker 46.58 and scribbled the secrets of diagnostic divination onto the back of a glove compartment envelope.

Mullis is an odd man (or at least his autobiography gives that impression). After receiving the Japan Prize for his work on PCR, he claims to have called the Empress of Japan ‘sweetie’ - a feat he's quite proud of and considers himself alone in. Later, when he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, he jokingly offered his son's hand in marriage to King Carl XVI Gustaf's royal daughter. Less amusingly, he denies significant human influence on climate change and has consistently questioned the connection between HIV and AIDS.

Luckily, PCR hasn't been cancelled by association. Australia itself has conducted 30,743,658 tests to date, around 0.000058% of those were at one point or another in my nose or in my throat. At around 18 months into the pandemic, my 18 tests equate to exactly one per month. Across this period, I've witnessed the many evolutions of Australian COVID testing. I've had swabs of my mouth, of my nose, and of both. And those swabs have ranged from eye watering to tickle inducing. These variations weren't simply a product of preferential testing technicians, but rather a reflection of the evolving testing recommendations at both a state and federal level.

During the early stages of the pandemic, horror stories would be passed from person to person about the absolute excruciating agony of getting a COVID test. “It's like they're touching your brain!” Online commentators would insist.

These rapiers of the genetic material collection world are nasopharyngeal swabs, nasal swabs that extend about 12cm in length and are inserted up through the nose and into the back of the throat. Official

guidelines recommend technicians swivel the swab and then remove, resulting in a deeply uncomfortable testing experience. Times have changed though, while this was how testing was administered in the early days of the pandemic, we've since pivoted to deep nasal and oropharyngeal (throat) swabbing - the latter of which need only penetrate a maximum of 2-3 cm of an adult nasal passage.

Personally, I miss the nasopharyngeal swabs. When they were still in broad use, a test used to mean something. I'd leave the clinic with a stabbing pain in my head, but that pain reassured me that if, by some microscopic chance, I had COVID, there is no way it had escaped the impressive 12cm reach of the swab that had just been poking around past my nasal vestibule. While the more discrete tests we use today certainly spare me from the rigning feeling in my head, the evidence of their use (a dull throb for about 15 minutes after removal) disappears too quickly for my liking. Comparative studies have proven both tests are equally as sensitive when it comes to detecting SARS-CoV-2, and yet the deep penetration of the nasopharyngeal swabs of yore bestowed on me something far more important: peace of mind.

Wrap up

Mullis was a great believer in astrology. A Capricorn himself, the Californian biochemist believed that, like ancient Babylonia and China, we too should “look to the heavens for help in understanding life on earth.” While PCR testing uses a far more precise science, when I go and get tested, I can't help but feel like an ancient astronomer myself. I climb that grassy hill, set up my telescope, and consult the winking stars above.

“The DNA molecules in our cells are our history, and they are the stuff of which our future will be crafted.” Mullis claims. For me, I'm concerned with a very near future, and all I wish to know is: am I okay?

at the clinic that I ended up attending (conveniently located one train stop away) that I found out there were people who could help me.

Unfortunately for many, help is not one train stop away. Carol Bennett of Pain Australia, a group that advocates for those with chronic pain, told me that “access to effective pain management is the exception rather than the rule.” Whilst people suffering with chronic conditions in metropolitan areas usually live close by to the specialist care they need, those in regional areas usually have to take time off work to travel, or make do with online consultations.

To ease the financial burden, Pain Australia recommended to the Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce in 2019 the introduction of a multidisciplinary Chronic Pain Management Plan item, which would help cover visits to multiple allied health professionals. It was denied.

We're fragile things, and there are people who aren't getting the care they need. For their sake, I hope whoever wins this upcoming election rises to the occasion.

pain-free — was somewhat alarming to me.

I trawled through more posts by pain-wracked dudes, proselytising their reasons for their prostatic woes — they were unconvincing.

What is wrong with me? I asked myself.

I tried to figure it out: I had torn my hamstring two years prior and it had not mended well, causing the tendon connecting to my ischial tuberosity (the bone you sit on) to become inflamed. My sciatic nerve (which runs all the way down your leg) became irritated shortly after. Could the same, I wondered, be happening to my pudendal nerve?

One's pudendum is the area of one's body of which one apparently ought to be ashamed.. The embarrassment associated with pelvic-related dysfunction is why the pelvic physio I eventually ended up seeing believes that some people wait several years before seeking help.

When they do seek help, their doctors can be dismissive of their pain, or simply ignorant as mine was (the pain I had for a year had nothing to do with my prostate). As a consequence, many do not get the care they need.

It was only by stumbling upon an article on pudendal neuralgia, written by a physio

have to examine your prostate.”

I took off my pants, lay prone on the bench, and the doctor who used to give me jellybeans when I was a kid put his hand up my ass.

“Well I didn't feel a mass,” he declared after his examination, “which means you have non-bacterial prostatitis — an inflammation of your prostate.”

“Oh, okay,” I said.

“No one knows why some men get it,” he said.

“Right. How do I treat it?”

“You just have to manage it the best you can.”

Managing it did not appeal to me. When I got home I searched up *Prostatitis*. WebMD was no help. Turning to Reddit, I quickly found a community of people who suffered from the condition and clicked on the first post.

“Brothers,” it began. “How long have you suffered?”

I flitted through the comments. Some had suffered for a year, some five years, some a decade.

Shit, I thought to myself. The prospect of being not only hamstrung, but also impotent and mentally addled — I could not think about anything else besides getting



Ah! My Loins!

ALEXANDRE DOUGLAS

Prodding at pelvic pain.

It was early in semester two last year when I felt a rather painful sensation in, of all places, my penis. I got up from my seat in Fisher, went to the bathroom, sat in a stall, and waited for the pain to subside — the sounds I heard during the interim were not pleasant. After ten or so minutes, the pain had dulled enough that I felt I could resume studying. I went back to my desk, wrote down some notes that I never looked at again, and wondered when the pain would be gone completely.

Two months soon passed.

I tried to ignore what I felt, but the pain I was experiencing — which had also extended to certain other areas of my body — did not abate, and was becoming debilitating. So I went to visit my family's doctor. He asked me some questions, told me to collect my urine in a small container — by that point I felt like I was pissing out of a straw — and come back in a couple of days.

“The tests came back negative,” he told me at our next appointment. “I'm going to



Rad Ed review: Marxist Rabbithole or Pluralist Oasis?

SAM RANDLE

Political economy is the future.

There's this sentiment in the popular conscience that students go to university where the liberal elite turn them into Marxists. I recently transferred from engineering to political economy because, well... this just hadn't happened yet. As part of my formal radicalisation, I thought it appropriate to attend the SRC's Radical Education Week workshop ‘The Ongoing Struggle for Political Economy.’ Much to my dismay, indoctrination by the liberal elite was not on the agenda.

The workshop took the form of a panel discussion with Q&A MC'd by SRC president Swapnik Sanagavarapur. The panel consisted of ECOPsoc VP Lia Perkins, department academic Joe Collins, and Emeritus professor Frank Stilwell. The session kicked off with a history lesson of the department, or “The Battle of Hastings,” as Stilwell described it. It then shifted into a discussion of

the contemporary relevance of political economy versus mainstream economics. Finally, there was a lively discussion about the political impacts of the discipline, its activist orientation, and accessible communication. Perhaps intentionally, the department's history was reflected in the panel, with students and academics (young and old) all represented.

The department of political economy emerged through decades of struggle by students and younger academics. Starting in the 1970s, students did not see the issues of war, environmentalism, and women's rights discussed in the economics classroom despite their relevance to the discipline (think the military-industrial complex, resource depletion, and women's workplace participation for example). What Stilwell made clear was that students wanted to learn about these things because they wanted to see them fixed through social, political, and economic means.

Students of all stripes can surely relate to many of the same grievances. Today we bear witness to the fallout of COVID-19, growing wealth inequality and the climate

catastrophe. I enjoyed not just Stilwell's enthusiasm and jokes, but the emphasis on action. Political economy has normativity at the centre of its project. We should be seeking to change things for the better beyond just understanding them. Perkins' position as SRC Welfare Officer speaks to the meaningful overlap between academia and activism that many political economy students embrace. The pluralist thought advocated in the discipline enables great flexibility in analysing and acting on the issues we all care about.

The strength of the workshop was in its intuitive delivery. There was discussion of very observable phenomena like unequal power relations and how they do harm. Joe Collins spoke to the COVID-19 outbreaks in south-west Sydney where distribution centres, rather than office towers, are located. Being empowered to work from home means some are better protected. The south-west is a lower socioeconomic area and so its residents are less likely to enjoy such a privilege. Studies of power have been central to my

study of political economy. However, I was a little disappointed to see slightly less discussion of the struggle for relevance within the broader economic discourse. My training as a Marxist super-soldier will be for naught if I don't know where I'm going to be deployed, after all.

All jokes aside, this workshop was invaluable for those looking to make a start on their political economy journey and for those setting sail. While wrapping up, Collins told us of the final lecture slide he leaves all his students. On it is the name of a book wherein Australian bureaucrats attribute their navigation of economics to their university training. It is imperative that students study the social and economic causes they care about if they hope to be part of the change. Political economy is a great pathway to pursue, and this workshop made that clear. Unfortunately, if you take this journey you'll be even more critical of Marx than when you started — so much for the indoctrination!

Rad Ed review: The IPCC reports a Climate Catastrophe

ZARA ZADRO

In opposition to gas-led recovery.

Hosted by Angus Dermody and Tiger Perkins, Tuesday night's Radical Education Week event emphasised the need for a just transition to publicly owned renewables in the Australian energy sector in light of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) staggering new report on climate change. It comes as the second event in the Radical Education series; a student-led public education programme highlighting the radical knowledge that's fostered within and beyond the university, collectives, and activist community spaces.

Through speaker-led discussion, the talk contextualised the IPCC's alarming findings within Australia's political and environmental landscape. Both speakers underscored the importance of providing green energy jobs for fossil fuel workers, and the Australian government's responsibility to cease its ‘gas-led’ pandemic recovery, in particular the new projects in Kurri Kurri and Narrabri.

The IPCC's report, published on 7 August, is a culmination of three decades of research by over a hundred scientists, urging for drastic and immediate cuts to fossil fuel emissions to prevent catastrophic levels of global warming. It finds that temperatures will likely breach a ceiling of 1.5C above pre-industrial levels by 2030 with current emissions-reduction strategies, surpassing the ambitions of the 2015 Paris Agreement. This will expose us to the devastating effects of further warming, including far more extreme weather events.

“There have been reports every seven years but none have been this high profile or had such immediate information” said Dermody.

In Australia, 1.5°C of warming will provoke more fires, further sea levels rise, and fewer and more intense days of rain, while 2°C of warming will increase droughts across the country.

“It is not the end of the world... action is going to have to come from us, the general public,” Dermody said.

Some audience members expressed concern about the unpaid hours of work that went into producing the report, and

the IPCC's political position being too conservative in forecasting the intensity of devastation caused by climate change over the past few years.

Perkins slammed Scott Morrison's new gas projects and emphasised the need to “eliminate the wedge between climate action and workers.” The Australian Prime Minister has consistently ignored 2030 global emissions targets and defended the sustained use of fossil fuels as the country's primary energy source (around 79 per cent in 2019), noted Perkins.

“Gas is a fossil fuel, and subsidising fossil fuel projects these days with the state of our environment is utterly ridiculous,” he said.

The Kurri Kurri gas plant, a \$600 million project for NSW's Hunter Region, is central to this fight. “After it's built, Kurri Kurri will only create ten full-time jobs. What it will create is 14.8 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions,” said Dermody. The taxpayer-funded project is also far more costly than renewable alternatives like wind and solar, deterring investment from the private sector.

Similarly, Perkins denounced the \$3.6 million Narrabri Gas Project to be

carried out by Santos in the Pilliga, which will “poison entire water sources and ecosystems that rely on them” through fracking across 850 coal seam gas wells. The project, approved by the Independent Planning Committee in 2018, has faced continued resistance from Indigenous leaders, farmers, locals, and activist groups, with 98% of some 25,000 public submissions being against the project in the IPCC's hearing last year.

The talk ended on a positive note, discussing what a just transition to publicly owned renewable energy in Australia will look like, including elevating the voices of First Nations people, fossil fuel workers and local communities. Speakers also discussed the need for “high-quality, well paid, safe, unionised jobs” in the renewable energy industry. “We reject the exploitative logic of capitalism,” said Perkins.

To close, a motion was passed to oppose Scott Morrison's gas-fired recovery and support the The Kurri Kurri Week of Action, which began August 23 and will end August 30. A video in support of the Week of Action produced by Usyd's Enviro Collective was also played.

President

SWAPNIK SANAGAVARAPU

Welcome back to yet another Presidential report. This week has been quite a busy one, with a number of issues coming to my attention and taking up my time.

To start with, I want to express my solidarity with all students who are in Afghanistan at the moment, or may have Afghan family and relatives, in this extraordinarily difficult time. After a decades long, brutal war waged in Afghanistan, those most intimately involved in the war have suddenly abdicated their responsibility in their exit. Australia must accept as many refugees as possible from Afghanistan, given its extreme culpability as a partner in the NATO-Coalition forces. I've heard some harrowing testimonies of students trying to leave the country and I wish them all the best. The

SRC supports the campaign from the Afghan community for: permanent residency to all Afghans in Australia who are currently on temporary visas, expedited family reunion visas from Afghanistan, increased humanitarian intake of Afghan refugees and an end to offshore detention of refugees.

Secondly, I would like to thank Emilie Heath, who this week wrote a great article in Honi Soit detailing the endemic issue of sexual harassment on clinical placements. I've been working with Emilie to raise this issue further with the University. Every student deserves a safe working and learning environment, particularly in such difficult and high-stress situations as clinical placements.

Third, we've been made aware once again of the government's continuing

attempts to restrict the freedom of charities through changes to the ACNC Governance Standard 3. To quote from an Honi article about the issue, "the ACNC would be able to investigate – and potentially deregister or revoke tax concessions from – entities who have been involved in certain lower-level summary offences. According to the Explanatory Statement to the Draft, this would include "unlawfully gathering or remaining on land or in a building", which would affect organisations which undertake direct action or physical acts of civil disobedience." In March, the SRC made a submission to the Treasury about the kind of detrimental impacts this would have on our activities. Quoting from our submission, "In the media release accompanying

the draft bill, the Assistant Minister for Charities signalled his intention to curtail the activities of "activist organisations masquerading as charities". From the point of view of the SRC, the distinction between activist organisations and charities is a spurious one."

Finally, on a positive note, we've rebooted the SRC's Youtube channel this week, and you will be able to find recordings of the sessions from the SRC's Radical Education Week on there relatively soon! The channel can be found here: youtube.com/user/srcusyd.

Until next time,
Swapnik

General Secretary

PRIYA GUPTA & ANNIE ZHAO

Hello!

Rad Ed Week [The Series] has begun! We have had three fantastic events so far, on radical pedagogy, climate activism in the face of the IPCC report, and USyd's Political Economy department. The recordings of these sessions, as will happen for the rest of semester, will be uploaded to the SRC's Youtube Channel where you can catch up if you missed them!

In case you don't know, The Radical Education Week Series is a democratically run, liberatory education series made by students for students. Twice a week this semester, at Tuesday 6pm and Thursday 2pm, we

will be holding a session with students and sometimes a special guest. Students deserve control of our education, from deciding what we learn to being treated as students and teachers alike. Rad Ed Week is one in a long history of students breaking free of the often-stifling model of education which we currently learn under, and attempting to escape from the hyper-competitive, individualistic, and profit-driven structure of tertiary education.

If the promise of interesting and interactive sessions led by your peers isn't enticing enough, every week we are also doing a draw to choose a winner for a \$30 Better Read Than Dead book

voucher. Check out our Facebook page (@RadicalEducationWeek) for more details and to see the events!

Also, we have got in touch with OISH, the Oz International student Hub. We have helped them hold the first table talk with some Chinese international students. Both of us realised there are many international students who have suffered from illegal low wage work, unfair treatment by landlords and many more sad stories. Hence, we want to care more about the international students especially under such a stressful global pandemic period. We would collaborate with OISH to hold more events. Also, we have already given four Orientation

talks during the first week of Semester two. Since there are more demands from international students, we would like to offer more events for international students to join. For example, we would hold a session with the NSW Police to give international students an overview about what the police can help them during October. If you are one of the international students and want to make a change or need more information, feel free to contact us by email src@src.usyd.edu.au or by phone 9660 5222 (International phone: +61 2 9660 5222).

Vice Presidents

ROISIN MURPHY & YUE (MARIA) GE

In the past two weeks, my work focuses on the sudden issue of VPN, some promotion work of SRC, the promotion of the election, and some regular meetings and committees.

Sudden issue- VPN: Though the VPN has improved due to previous work, it broke down again on the night of Friday on 20 August. I collected the problems and raised them to Matthew, Philippa, Antoinette, and Susana. I got their replies the next afternoon and was happy to find that

they worked through the morning and fixed the problems. Then, after one day, most of the students were able to get connected to the VPN. Since some students still do not have stable access to VPN, I will keep tracking this issue.

Election: To increase the election's fairness by informing as many students as possible, I work with Rikki and Publication Manager to do the translation work of the election notice, and we posted it on multiple

platforms.

Promotion: I created a working group and led them to promote different officers of SRC to the international students. In our first three days' project of promoting Wom*n Collective, we finally got 1324 views, 137 likes, 69 sharing, and eight volunteers who want to contribute to the women's affairs. Besides, we promoted the survey provided by the Migrant Workers Centre to the international students related to their

Migration Reform Campaign.

Roisin got vaccinated and did not feel well. However she still cares about the students and is currently working with previous projects and the new ones especially related to the rent issues. She will give a fully report next time.

We hope every one of you takes care and gets vaccinated. If you have any problems, feel free to contact us.

Maria

Indigenous Officers

MATILDA LANGFORD DID NOT SUBMIT A REPORT.

International Students Officers

ANGELA LI, HILDY ZHANG, YUEZHOU (GRACE) LIU & ZEYU HE DID NOT SUBMIT A REPORT.

Mature Age Officers

CORIE SUTHERLAND DID NOT SUBMIT A REPORT.

Do you think a grade was unfair or incorrect? Here's How to Appeal a Grade

Start with an informal appeal.

You have 15 days to start an academic appeal. Late appeals are not usually considered, without a very compelling explanation for why you are late.

Attend the exam review session or email the subject coordinator to ask for the breakdown of your final mark, or clarify why you received that mark. They may be able to provide you with a marking rubric. You will need to understand why you received your mark if you are going to explain why the mark is incorrect. Your informal appeal may be through a portal or emailed to the subject coordinator. Check for your Faculty's procedures (www.sydney.edu.au/students/academic-appeals). You will need to be clear about exactly where your mark was not correct, e.g., in section 2 the questions asked for 3 theories, and was worth 9 marks, but you wrote about 2 theories, so you should get 6 marks. Focus on the facts of your case rather than the emotional impact for you.

Explain why your mark was not correct.

It is not good enough to say that you thought you should have received more marks because you worked really hard, or that you should pass because it will be bad for you if you don't. Similarly having a "bad" teacher is unlikely to be considered a reasonable basis for a change of marks. You should use the complaints process for this situation, or you could also contact the Subject Coordinator, or the Head of School/Department.

Explain what you want.

Have a realistic idea of what outcome you want, e.g., a second academic opinion, a remark, an extra assessment, a different type of assessment or a change of weighting towards a particular piece of work. Not all of these options are available for every situation, but it is helpful if you know what you want. Keep in mind that the Faculty do not need to give you what you want, but it might be helpful to see if it is possible.

Consider their reasoning.

They should respond to you explaining why you received that mark. Consider if their explanation is reasonable. If so, it is a good idea to focus on your future studies, rather than chasing an academic appeal that you will not win.

Make a formal appeal.

If you are able to refute their explanation, you can make a formal appeal to the faculty. You have 20 working days from receiving the informal appeal result, to submit your formal appeal. Use the procedure outlined in the link above. Again, don't miss the deadline. If you are not successful you should receive an explanation of why. Again, you should consider their reasoning.

Appeal to the Student Appeals Body (SAB).

If you were not successful with your formal appeal and you think that the Faculty have not correctly considered your appeal, or that the Faculty have breached policy, you may be able to appeal to the Student Appeals Body (SAB). The deadline is 15 working days from the Faculty response and you will need to clearly identify areas of procedural unfairness or breach of policy with the Faculty's decision. This may include faults in the formal appeal outcome, or that the Faculty did not fully consider all of the information provided to them. If the appeal is to be considered you will meet with the SAB, together with a representative from the Faculty, who will ask you any questions that they need answered to make a decision. They will not consider new information from you, only what you have included in your letter, so make sure your letter has everything you want to say.

Be realistic.

The appeal process can be a long one, so be sure that you have that time and emotional energy. Appeals are not often successful, and must be very clear in outlining where you have received the incorrect mark.

The University was wrong.

If you have exhausted the appeals procedures within the University and feel that the University has still not followed its policies or there is procedural unfairness you can lodge a complaint with the NSW Ombudsman. Note: this is not just another level of appeal that you can use if you are unhappy with the decision. You will need to show that the University has not followed its policy or has been procedurally unfair. The Ombudsman will not change a decision but can make recommendations to the University on actions they should take to resolve the matter. This step almost never leads to a change in mark.

Ask Abe

SRC caseworker help Q&A

Student Income Bank (SIB): working while you study



Dear Abe,
How much can I work while I'm on Youth Allowance?

Working

Dear Working,
Youth Allowance and Austudy recipients have a Student Income Bank (SIB), which allows you to work while receiving a Centrelink payment. Each fortnight you are allowed to earn \$437 without any reduction to your payment. If you earn less than \$437 in that

fortnight, the remainder is carried over to the next fortnight. This can accumulate to a maximum of \$10,900 a year. If you earn more than your SIB in a fortnight, your Centrelink payment is reduced by 50 cents per dollar for every dollar between \$437 and \$524, then 60 cents per dollar for every dollar afterwards.

These amounts are valid until 30 June, 2021, and should be increased after that, but who knows what the mean-spirited Centrelink will do.

Abe.



For additional information on financial and support resources during the lockdown head to:
srcusyd.net.au/src-help/covid-19-support-resources



Did you know you can **APPEAL a GRADE?**

You have 15 days to start your appeal.

Ask the SRC!



Puzzles by Tournesol



Picture A



Picture B



Picture C



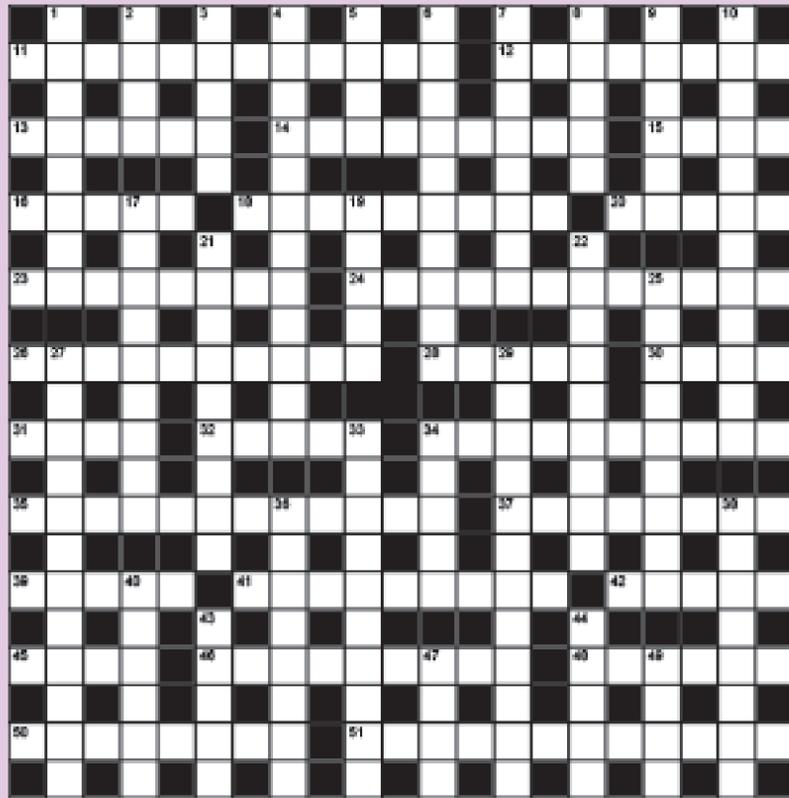
Picture D



Picture E



Picture F



Cryptic clues are marked with ?

Across

- 11 ? A medieval cry, reckless and foolhardy (5-3-4)
- 12 Picture A (8)
- 13 Picture B (6)
- 14 Paused before acting or speaking (9)
- 15 Picture C (4)
- 16 Traveller, wayfarer (5)
- 18 De-moistened one's hair by machine (4-5)
- 20 ? One trade is optimal (5)
- 23 Benison (8)
- 24 Bond between two or more things, especially people (12)
- 26 Emergency vehicles (10)
- 28 Sarandon, Boyle, Pevensie (5)
- 30 Assistant (4)
- 31 Correct errors in a piece of writing (4)
- 32 Swiss mathematician (5)
- 34 Non-police detective (7,3)
- 35 Looks like I picked the wrong week to quit ... (12)
- 37 Marsupial (8)
- 39 Purgatory (5)
- 41 ? As per power cable bank (9)
- 42 ? Hebrew has the Spanish gem (5)
- 45 Broad, kidney, green (4)
- 46 See 4 Down
- 48 Indifference, lack of concern (6)
- 50 Final (8)
- 51 One who runs a fancy diner (12)

Down

- 1 Treachery (8)
- 2 Search engine (4)
- 3 Video game: ... Us (5)
- 4/46 Today's pictures (12,9)
- 5 taxis (4)
- 6 Marine reptiles (3,7)
- 7 Least full (8)
- 8 Mocking, derogatory (5)
- 9 Remained (6)
- 10 May 8? (9,3)
- 17 Picture D (9)
- 19 Australian animal rescue organisation (5)
- 21 Means of inhaling tobacco (9)
- 22 Bubbles (9)
- 25 ? Truce called by Spooner between man and government (9)
- 27 Young Frenchwoman (12)
- 29 Spotlessly clean (5-3-4)
- 33 A Beatle (5,5)
- 34 Affected one's stance (5)
- 36 Big knives (8)
- 38 ? Halve our assembly and examine it closely (8)
- 40 Picture E (6)
- 43 Beat It (5)
- 44 Picture F (5)
- 47 A Friend (4)
- 49 Creative (4)

CROSSWORD CLUES

CROSSWORD CLUES

QUIZ!

All answers begin with the letter Q.

1. Who was the first woman to serve as Australia's Governor-General?
2. By what name is singer and actor Dana Owens better known?
3. What word is a surf-wear brand, a Marvel superhero, and a common term for the metal Mercury?
4. Which marsupial lives only in small areas of bush on the coast of Western Australian?
5. Experts in food, fashion, culture, design, and grooming appear on what rebooted reality television series?
6. Who is the Aztec god of life, light, and wisdom?

Searching for answers? Go to honisoit.com

Columns



Abe GOSSIP

Bark! Hello everybody, it's me again. Before I begin this week's column I would like to address some criticism I received during the week. I was informed that Lauren Lancaster 'tweeted' that I was "criminally unfunny" and requested that I be started on "an aggressive course of dog sertraline." Three points. First of all, I respect your opinion and I apologise if you were disappointed with my column. Secondly, it is in the terms of my contract that I am to provide vetted and authorised gossip, not salacious rumours, however humorous they may or may not be. Finally, if there is one thing I learnt from my torrid relationship with Miss Soit in the 60s it is this: it is not in your best interests to put a gossip columnist offside.

Legacy for Honi

I was told by an email courtesy of the Electoral Officer that five(!) tickets nominated for the *Honi* elections. These included the mysterious 'Legacy for Honi' as well as two individual candidates. While I cannot reveal the identity of these people, I can report that Legacy as well as one individual candidate were excluded from the *Honi* race because they had also nominated for another position in the election. That is a breach of Regulation 12.4.2! How silly of them!

Everybody please be nice!

I was glad to hear that Cake for *Honi* manager Telita Goile got in touch with Drip for *Honi* manager Matthew Forbes to propose a meeting to "set some ground rules" for the upcoming election. I am told that all 21 aspiring editors plus their managers will be in attendance. While the election is sure to be tense, I am glad that they are getting together. I hope for a fun and free election and may the best ticket win! (though remember to play by the rules).



Fergus Keane

THIS WEEK IN CAMP

Over the last year, it has become common for weddings to take place during the pandemic. Such events call to mind images of gas-masked civilians in early 20th century wartime. But not only are these Lynchian inversions of idyllic white-picket life a curiosity, but they emanate a profound feeling of discomfort.

This is due not just to the ongoing trauma in that depicted world, but rather, in the way the participants have forced themselves to conform to the aesthetic paradigms of society. There's certainly a camp sensibility at play here; An earnest attempt at normalcy, resulting in a surreal version on the dream day.

We are obsessed with the grandeur of the wedding. But such images call into question the validity of these institutions. Is the value of a wedding still connection if you can't connect? They reveal how heavily we rely on the rigid cultural notions of our society to guide us. Even when meaning is lost, the associated aesthetic remains.

From this, comes its 'campness'. But it is a sad camp, that of an expensive birthday party to which no other child showed up. It is yearning, sincere, and, perhaps, ill-advised.



Daanyal Saeed

LIVING IN SPORTING LIMBO

Football season ended abruptly in mid-August. Yet, I still had weekly strategy sessions about forward running patterns and stoppage formations; clinging to a morsel of strange, desperate hope that if I was ready to go when the time came, the cases would go down.

Sport enjoys a privilege of importance that's been highlighted during the pandemic, with the justification that small joy is important. But what joy is there to find in pretending I'll be running around Oval 1 with my mates in a week?

This is not to suggest football deserves exceptionalism, but to ask; at what point is this all simply not worth it? What do we stand to gain from being ready to go, if the time ever comes? As the sun starts to lose its timidity and nets in parks everywhere begin to echo again with the sound of willow on leather, I prepare myself for another summer of Saturdays getting sunburnt in fields with 10 middle-aged men I resent, and ask myself – what good is being ready to go when the time comes, if its banality has been laid bare?

Go well, I guess.

Manning House - 3 a.m.
April 1952 - Honi Soit Issue 5



Ariana Haghghi and Eamonn Murphy

ABSURD ANIMAL ANECDOTES

Do NSW's COVID restrictions unfairly target our wildlife?

Masks outdoors? Ink about it – not tentacool

Soft-bodied? Multi-limbed? Definitely. However, the octopus lacks ears; instead they hear through a statocyst. Here, the octopus is at a serious disadvantage. When we're required to wear face masks outdoors, what are our earless friends to do? Where can a mask's loops possibly go?

5km limits? Stop this inhumanatee

The manatee is a migrator at heart. Averse to cold weather, manatees travel thousands of kilometres to reach warm water. So, how can manatees be expected to stay within five kilometres of their home? How is this fair on our migratory mates?

Please no curf-owoo

When we are able to complete our 1 hour state sanctioned exercise by daylight, the Powerful Owl rests; as the sun sets, she rouses for her fly around the block. But alas – curfew confines her to the hole inside her tree trunk!

Rat-astrophic social distancing

Whilst it is hard enough for us to remain apart, for the affectionate rodents, the prairie dog, kissing is essential to upholding the community. Prairie dogs embrace indiscriminately for a survival reason – during a kiss, they can determine whether a fellow rodent is an invader. Gladys, don't impede on their traditional rituals!



From the archives

Manning House was broken into last week and ransacked. The nightwatchman discovered this at 3am and immediately called the police. Further investigations showed that several pounds worth of goods were damaged and stolen.

The thieves entered by a ground-floor window, which was supposedly smashed by a length of gas pipe. However, this pipe has not yet been found.

Police discovered that the thieves searched the secretary's office and the housekeeper's room. After a futile attempt to break into the secretary's safe, £2 was stolen from the housekeeper's room. The thieves then went to the dining-room. Here they took several pounds worth of sweets. They next served themselves milk-shakes and ice-creams.

Contrary to a downtown newspaper report, ice-cream and soft drinks were not spilt all over the floors. However, the thieves did leave the housekeeper's and secretary's rooms in a deplorable condition.

The detectives investigating the case believe the culprits to be juvenile delinquents. They point out that there is much more valuable property around the University for criminals to steal. Both the police and Manning House officials link this crime with a similar one last October. Students will remember that thieves then broke into the Women's Union and left the place in a shambles.

Police are still investigating, but as yet there have been no new developments. All inquiries have been balked by the fact that the tool used for smashing the window prior to entering cannot be found. It is thought that were this available investigations could proceed rapidly. Any student with information to offer should contact Detective Cotter, of the Newtown Police (LA2988), who is handling the case.

Letters



There were no letters this week. Email your letters to editors@honisoit.com, send a tip to the anonymous tip form on our Facebook page, or send mail to:

Honi Soit Editors
PO Box 794 Broadway NSW 2007



src activism advocacy representation



The Boot



WEEK 4, SEMESTER 2

UNION BUSTING SINCE 1942

Legacy for Honi ticket REVEALED!



LEGACY: (n) pushing the boulder to the very top of the wrong mountain.

BY M SCOTTUMS

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Wiggles introduce new non-binary drone operator: "They/them strike indiscriminately"

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Anti-lockdown protester has never heard of Manus Island

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We've run out of comedy, we're just too depressed

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Honi hopeful pens love letter to current editor in Facebook comment section

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OnlyFans porn backflip proves that sex sells

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Delta Goodrem announces birth of daughter Lambda Goodrem

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SpaceX set to colonise Venus next for International Women's Day

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Non-binary Wiggle appointed as next FASS Dean

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Campus Liberals announce return from two-year hiatus on USYD Rants

After mysteriously going into hiding for two years in the wake of their 2019 Presidential candidate's defeat, approximately three campus Liberals have recently announced that, yes, they still exist, in a series of USYD Rants posts just in time for the election.

The Boot spoke to two Libs who were brave enough to share their stories. Their names have

been changed for their protection. Liberal A* has been a member of the Liberal Club since his first day of uni.

"It's really difficult for me to express my laissez-faire capitalist views on campus. I experienced the full force of cancel culture after being called a racist on Eastern Ave during the 2019 campaign. This is untrue, I went to school with some Polynesian rugby players."

"I fear for my safety, and told this to Alan Jones when I went on his show, and to the *Daily Telegraph* when they came to take photographs of me for a full page spread about me."

"USYD Rants is the only forum where I feel safe talking about phrenology without risking my mental health and well being."

Liberal B* is a member of the Conservative Club, and tells *The Boot* that she

went into hiding after she was called "a bigot" by a Grassroots member who, like Liberal B, owns a rural getaway property.

"I was unable to leave the Northern Beaches, and had to abandon the Newtown share house which my parents pay for because I kept running into the people who bullied me puffing strawberry vapes outside Birdcage."

*Names have been changed.