
Honi Soit.

WEEK 3, SEM 1 2022

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY - FREE STUDENT NEWSPAPER - NEWS, CULTURE & ANALYSIS

Est. 1929



Where to for the NTEU: the past and present of industrial action at USyd

By Patrick McKenzie & Ellie Stephenson

Senior management at the University of Sydney are no strangers to staff and students' disdain. In early March 2013, just under a year before retiring from a University Chair position, eminent sociologist Raewyn Connell wrote and circulated a letter addressed to then-Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence. "With performance management, online surveillance systems, and closed decision-making, it appears that the university authorities these days don't really trust the staff - to know our trades, to act responsibly, or to share in running the place," she said. "The very last thing a university needs is an intimidated and conformist workforce."

Continued on page 10

Fighting words: the role of language in protest

The human world is built from language. We use language to instruct, empathise, and learn. Perhaps the most impactful domain of language is persuasion. Using words alone, one can change the worldview of another or inspire them to actions they've never considered before

Nicola Bryan spells it out - p.13

ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

Why do we all have imposter syndrome? - p.8

The forgotten history of women in electronic music- p.14

What does it mean to be a doctor when a computer can make better decisions than you?- p.18

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Honi Soit is published on the stolen land of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation. Sovereignty was never ceded; the invasion of this land was, and still is, a process of immense violence, destruction, and theft.

The Editors of *Honi Soit* acknowledge the suffering caused by ongoing colonial structures and commit to confronting the political, economic, legal and social systems which continue to oppress First Nations people.

As a collective, we acknowledge that we are each living, writing, and working on stolen Gadigal, Dharawal and Darug land. Further, the university which we attend is an inherently colonial institution, one which upholds the systems of knowledge and power that have caused deep harm and pain on this continent.

As a student newspaper which operates and distributes within such an institution, we have a responsibility to remain conscious of, and actively

combat, complicity in colonisation.

It is important to recognise that First Nations people have, since 1788, resisted and survived colonial violence. Our newspaper needs to platform the voices of this ongoing resistance, truly valuing and heeding Indigenous knowledge and perspectives.

Honi has stood on stolen land since its inception 93 years ago; embedded in the history of this paper is the tireless resistance to oppressive, colonial structures within society by

First Nations writers, contributors and editors — it is our duty to uphold their legacy, champion their voices, and continue to fight for First Nations justice.

We pay our deepest respect to Elders both past and present, and extend that respect to all First Nations students, staff, and readers of *Honi Soit*.

Always was, and always will be Aboriginal land.

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EDITORIAL

By Ellie Stephenson

For most of my life, I have been pretty conflict-averse. Consummately passive, I chronically provide the answer I guess is expected of me and laugh at jokes I don't get. Despite being an avid debater, I am liable to cry if I get into a 'real argument' and I have been known to make my boyfriend deal with difficult emails I didn't feel up to (sorry Swap).

Incongruously, I should be good at confrontation: naturally blunt, argumentative, with little capacity to suffer fools easily. Yet reliably, my instinct for confrontation would be defeated by the tightly-bound knot in my stomach of anxiety and introversion.

My deeply ingrained policy of appeasement is the product of 20 years of socialisation – an unfortunate, but perhaps wise, adaptation. When, determined to stand my ground, I have attempted to be confrontational, I end up hearing the irritating refrains of "sorry you feel that way" and "you're being irrational."

This is a feeling many young women, people of colour, working class and disabled people encounter. It's an uphill battle to get people to listen to you at all, let alone when you're being confrontational. It's worse still when you're in a largely socioculturally exclusive and elite institution like USyd.

My cover is inspired by the autonomous women's *Honi* editions of 1984,



which feature effortlessly cool rude girls dancing and smoking in bold colours. My rude girl walks where she likes, and rolls her eyes when she feels like it; she depicts and embodies how I wish I felt.

I wanted to publish an edition on confrontation because we need to think through how we confront – and not in a respectability politics, Michael-Spencean 'disagreeing well' way.

Confrontation should be generative, exhilarating, a moment of passion. It's OK if confrontation is uncomfortable, and it doesn't have to be polite. Confrontation is the release of a taught elastic, the cathartic stomp of a foot. It is infinitely preferable to a fraught and frustrated silence, but we need to do it with an end goal in mind.

Confrontation isn't just individual: as Patrick McKenzie and I write in the feature, contestation between managerialism and staff collective action is an essential driving force in the future of our University. As Nicola Brayon writes on Page 6, the language of confrontation and protest has deep social implications. As the writers on Pages 16 and 17 discuss, books and films can be tools of productive confrontation. As Oscar Chaffey argues in our STEM section, there are socio-medical issues we will have no choice but to confront in a digitalised and marketised world.

Confrontation is important; shying away from it will not do. I hope this edition inspires you – even a little – to tackle conflict robustly and to respond to confrontation with curiosity.

Sex & the City Rd



It is Week 3 - meaning the university semester is now in full swing, and as the rains subside, all of our would-be overlords are also making their 'return to campus'.

While election season is yet to formally begin, it can never be too soon to hit a campaign trail. This takes us to Heaps Gay's Mardi Gras event hosted at Manning Bar, the perfect place for stupor hopefuls to attempt, often insufferably, to debut their brands and forcibly sear their presence into the University's social life.

And so it was that one hungover prospective campaign manager must've woken up with one hell of a headache on Sunday morning, when an aspiring BNOC fumbled the ball, and instead got caught hot-mic'd in the back of an instagram story seemingly giving an ode to their non-African roots with what sounded like a little-too-faithful cover of Saweetie's 'My Type'.

It also pays to have friends in high places. When whispers of this cursed karaoke rippled its way to USyd Rants, troops were swiftly called in to snuff out the fire with SRC head honcho asking admins to take it down.

St Andrew's college too was overheard diving into its cultural roots and flirting with scandal. Chronically insecure Drew's second years initiated fresher hazing by forcing their younger counterparts to nominate who they thought was the "hottest" in their cohort. Freshers were also volunteered as tributes in hostage listening parties, putting their auditory endurance to the test against hours of dance monkey and foreign-language lecture marathons. We love their good faith commitment to cultural competency. You go Glen Coco.

The Michael Spence Column for Disagreeing Well*

In the weekly column where we air an ill-thought out hot take, Ellie Stephenson lets loose!



Leaf blowers are a shit-tier piece of machinery. They are the garden tool for people with a love of the myth of Sisyphus and a hate of their neighbours. Blowing leaves from one spot to the next sounds like the kind of garden maintenance a toddler would think up. An infantile exercise in futility, the leaf blower serves only to waste precious petrol reserves (and the even scarcer reserves of my patience).

Also, leaves are nice. They provide cover for useful insects and sometimes they produce cool leaf skeletons. Blowing them into a nearby gutter is an act of aesthetic cruelty. Leaf blowing represents the worst tendencies of rampant neoliberalism. You do not solve that which troubles you (leaves). Instead, you blow it elsewhere where it's not your problem. Onto your neighbour's driveway, perhaps, or off to clog up a gutter. It is an intensely individualistic pursuit, symptomatic of a malaise of the soul.

Many, many years ago someone invented the rake. That implement was basically perfect for its intended purpose. Simple, yet elegant. And then at some point in the 20th century an idiot went and invented the leaf blower: a noisier, less effective, more sedentary, more carbon intensive version of the rake. One despairs!

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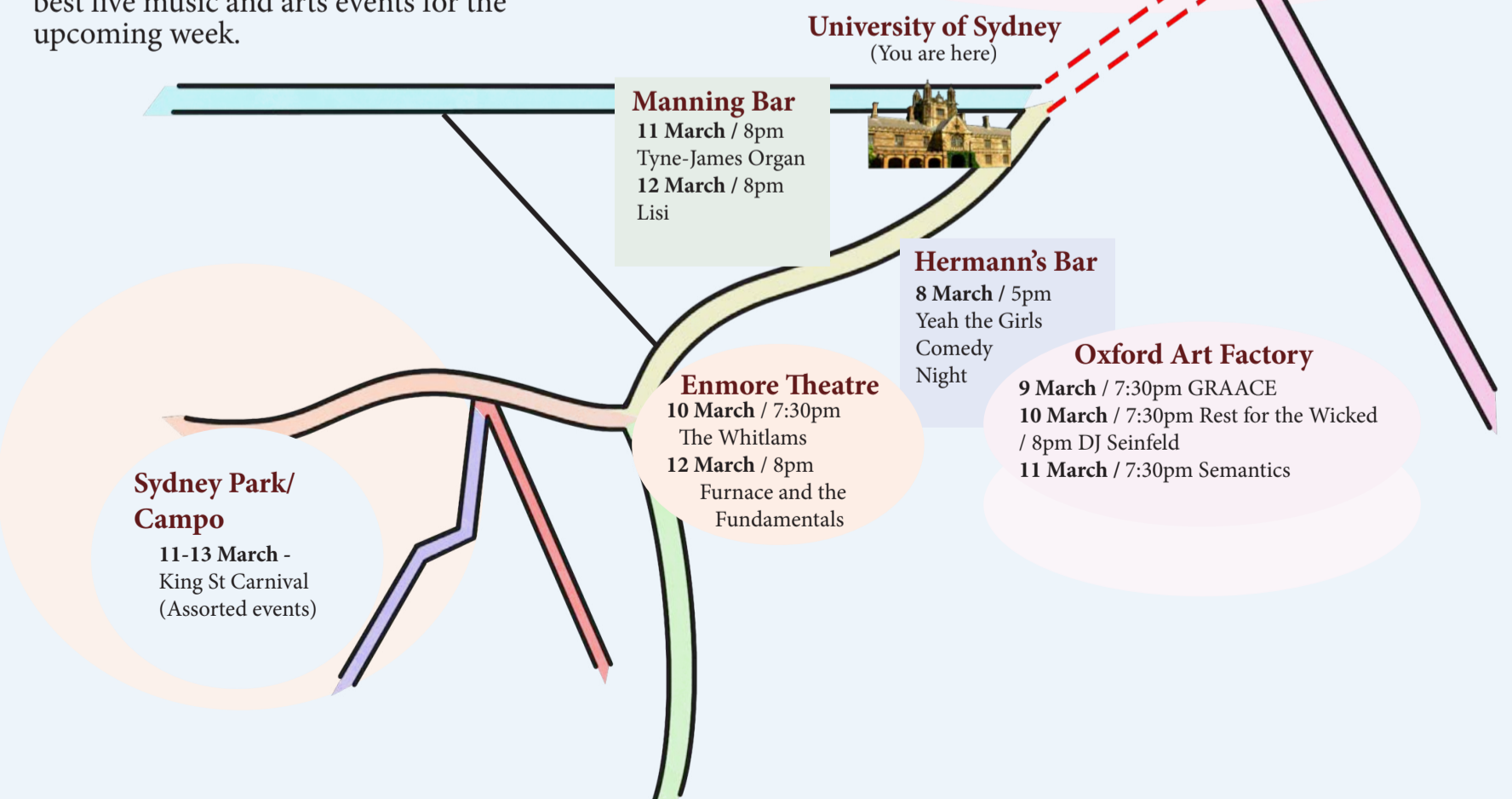
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The Secular Assn bookshop is open from time to time at Humanist House, 10 Shepherd St, Chippendale.

The Gig Guide

Looking for a way to fill your evenings? New to Sydney and keen to get a lay of the land? Look no further than your weekly gig guide, where we'll hunt down all the best live music and arts events for the upcoming week.



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University Registrar apologises for racist incident in MATH1021 lecture

Khanh Tran and Vanshika Singhgupta report.

The University Registrar has issued an apology to MATH1021 students after a handful of attendees posted racist comments against Chinese students via chat in a Zoom lecture.

Lecture attendees sought to harass students by attempting to associate Chinese citizenship with the pandemic, a racist narrative that has been criticised globally since the start of 2020.

Several Zoom accounts sent messages such as “China gov make [sic] this Cov-19” and “Wuhan-covid”. Some accounts are confirmed to have been made under false identities.

In an email distributed to all MATH1021 students, Associate Professor and University Registrar Peter McCallum apologised to the student community.

“I would like to apologise to all students, and particularly students who may have felt the target of these comments, that the university’s IT infrastructure was used in this way,” McCallum said.

Following preliminary investigations, the University of Sydney has found that some accounts deliberately used misleading and false names in order to escape identification.

“The settings on the [Zoom] link were well set up by the coordinator, Professor Myerscough, and we have already identified that some false identities were used,” McCallum said.

In response to the incident, SRC President Lauren Lancaster met with Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Life) Susanna Scarpato, the University Registrar to file a joint motion with Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA) to launch an investigation.

Lancaster issued a statement in her President’s report, reaffirming the SRC’s commitment to anti-racism and emphasised a zero tolerance policy towards cyberbullying and trolling.

“I want to reiterate that the SRC is committed to anti-racist organising across campus and racist cyberbullying/trolling is entirely unacceptable,” Lancaster said.

“We cannot commit to radical political organising without recognising that casual and targeted racism exists and continues to alienate members of the student body.”

This follows two years in which civil organisations have raised alarms over increasing racism towards Chinese and Asian communities in the wake of COVID-19 and heightened tensions between the Australian and Chinese governments.

Survivors condemn UniMelb for sweeping ‘institutionalised abuse’ under the rug

Carmeli Argana and Sam Randle report.

Content warning: Mentions of sexual and racial abuse and harassment.

Survivors at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), a subsidiary of the University of Melbourne, published an open letter yesterday condemning the University for its inadequate response to reported sexual assault.

The letter, which was posted by VCA students Sinead Fernandes, Antoinette Tracey and Mia Boonen, reads: “We, the undersigned, stand together as survivors and allies as we call on the University of Melbourne to address institutionalised abuse it has long swept under the rug.”

The open letter was published following a walkout on Monday in protest of the University allowing a male student with multiple sexual assault allegations to return to campus.

“Since 2019, the University of Melbourne has failed to act on multiple reports of harassment and assault, and the man reported has been allowed on campus alongside those he has harmed,” Boonen said in a press release on Tuesday.

Testimonies from survivors describe a high degree of insensitivity from a specific member of staff, who allegedly mishandled their reports of sexual abuse.

“The whole ordeal occurred from the kitchen bench of this teacher’s home. Sinead [Fernandes] and I were recorded for two hours as we begged this teacher to stop telling us to sympathise with assault and racial harassment,” Tracey said in Tuesday’s press release.

“We were told to view sexual and racial acts of violence as compliments. We were told that we’d never make it in the industry if we continued to speak out about injustices.

“We were told that if he were to self-harm it would be because we ostracised him.

“We were told that our past experience with sexual assault and the possibility of us being on our periods made us unreliable in our assessment of the situation,” Tracey said.

Fernandes also noted how she and other survivors were forced to continue working with the teacher in question after she was appointed director for their project.

“We went directly to the Head of Theatre to make a complaint [about the teacher] and ensure that it didn’t happen again, but no changes were made,” Fernandes told *Honi*.

“But when [the Head of Theatre] left, [our] case left with them. We were not notified at all... We didn’t pursue anything further because we assumed the case was being taken care of, or moving up.

“The new Head of Theatre, from what I know, was never notified.”

Fernandes, Tracey and Boonen are currently completing their final elective units online because they do not want to be “subjected to an unsafe environment”, nor be in the same location as the alleged perpetrator.

Boonen also described having to “fend for ourselves” after being denied support

in their studies from the University.

“We’ve made our displeasure known a million times when addressing the VCA, but all we got told was that ‘our concerns were taken seriously’. Then nothing happens,” Boonen said.

She said that statements the University has provided to the media suggest that the situation had been satisfactorily resolved, which is contrary to her experience.

“We are not able to comment on the specifics of this matter, however the University has taken appropriate steps to respond to the issues raised, in line with our policy settings and values. We can confirm that this process has concluded,” a University spokesperson told *Honi*.

“The University of Melbourne acknowledges the concerns that have been raised this week and we take all feedback of this nature very seriously. While we are confident in the integrity of our formal processes, we are committed to listening to our students so that we can continue to improve how we address these matters.”

This statement comes in spite of claims from Boonen, Tracey and Fernandes that “nothing” came out of such reassurances from the University.

The spokesperson also said: “The University has strict policies to ensure campuses and workplaces are safe areas for staff, students and visitors, and have been strengthened by a new, stand-alone Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy, which was issued in October 2021.”

The policy in question was a result of years of campaigning from students and survivors, but was criticised by Boonen as “co-opting the language of survivors” without taking any substantive action.

The spokesperson continued: “In addition to the University’s Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy, the University has begun an education program to equip everyone at the University to play an active role in identifying, responding to and preventing sexual misconduct. Further programs are due to be rolled out this year.”

“These initiatives are one component of our approach to ensure all our staff and students feel able to raise any concerns and that issues will be handled in a way that is respectful, fair and confidential.”

University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) Women’s Officer Lauren Scott criticised the new Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy for being ineffective and unenforceable.

“Policy means nothing if there is no action, and it’s very clear that the University isn’t acting in a trauma-informed or survivor-centric manner on reports and incidents on campus,” Scott said.

“They have a legal obligation in the policy to be dealing with these issues, and they are not. They have not been for the past few years at the VCA, and they haven’t been [doing so] in many more incidents.”

When asked about the University’s ‘further programs’ and initiatives scheduled to be implemented this year, they emphasised the need for immediate action.

“Plans for the future are great, but... we need these issues to be tackled now,” Scott said.

“Students are being harmed on campus now. It is beyond frustrating to be constantly hearing platitudes of initiatives that are coming, or that these issues will be dealt with, when we’ve seen from precedent that they are not.”

In describing the UMSU’s role in supporting survivors, Scott said that the Union’s Women’s Department has been taking a “backdoor approach” in line with the wishes of survivors.

“We’ve been following the direction of the VCA students involved. Our number one priority is to centre survivors in this,” they said.

“It starts with the University and ends with the University.”

This sentiment was echoed by UMSU President Sophie Nguyen, who said: “UMSU stands in solidarity with those victims, but also understands and respects how they want UMSU [to support them].”

Nguyen told *Honi* that there are two pathways through which survivors can seek support from the UMSU: the Women’s Department or the Advocacy Department.

The former focuses on building campaigns and advocating for internal structural change within the University, while the latter involves sexual harm coordinators who are trained in providing therapeutic and victim-centred support.

In a statement to *Honi*, USyd SRC President Lauren Lancaster said: “The USYD SRC stands in solidarity with students at the Victorian College of the Arts, UniMelb, against their university’s failure to protect survivors and act on their so called zero tolerance policy to sexual harassment and violence on campus.”

“Survivors everywhere ought to be believed,” Boonen said. “We’ve had DMs from university students all over the country who’ve had similar experiences... It’s systemic.”

“The University [of Melbourne] are first and foremost the ones who allow people to be on campus, and allowed him [the alleged perpetrator] to come back,” Fernandes said. “It starts with the University and ends with the University.”

Residents of the Brisbane river, Peter (59) and Theresa (60) were at home when

Sign the open letter linked here.



March SRC Council recap

Chaos descends over Council as it debates last week’s train lockout, Ukraine invasion and the upcoming Federal Election.

Khanh Tran and Christian Holman report.

Following two relatively uneventful Students’ Representative Council meetings, the March Council saw plenty of impassioned expletives and rancour over a number of motions where members of the Young Liberals defended the state and federal Coalition governments.

Chaos over train lockout, Ukraine and Federal Election motions

Drama began to simmer when SRC General Secretary Grace Lagan moved a motion supporting the RTBU and condemning NSW Transport Minister David Elliott’s controversial comments on last week’s train lockout.

Despite the motion’s success, SASS Ethnocultural Officer and Young Liberal member Ben Jorgensen (Lib) drew widespread condemnation from the floor when he defended the Perrotet Government by arguing that the Coalition was following “due process” and acting in the interests of “transport safety”.

In response, SRC Education Officer Deaglan Godwin (SAlt) compared Jorgensen’s rhetoric to “Margaret Thatcher” and Vice President Mikaela Pappou (NLS) questioned Jorgensen’s motive for attending the meeting.

“Why do you come here while doing nothing while not furthering the cause of student unionism?” Pappou said.

A number of impassioned speeches came upon a motion expressing solidarity with Ukraine with speakers denouncing Russia. SAlt councillors Lydia Elias and Owen Marsden-Redford expressed strong opposition to western sanctions, believing their impact will not be felt by Putin or the Russian oligarchy but by the working class, and being of little deterrence.

SAlt Councillors also opposed attempts to characterise NATO and the US as defenders against imperialism, believing they were not “any better than Russia” but rather “an aggressive military alliance that has never had any care for the self-determination of any peoples”.

Floods wreak havoc upon major towns in NSW and QLD, thousands affected

Zara Zadro reports.

Thousands of homes have been submerged and at least 14 people have died due to unprecedented floods across New South Wales and south Queensland.

Record breaking rainfall devastated major towns along Australia’s east coast, with Brisbane receiving close to its annual rainfall in the six days from 23 to 28 February.

New South Wales Premier Dominic Perrotet has described the extreme weather as a “one-in-a-one thousand-year event”, with thousands evacuated from badly-affected areas including Lismore, Brisbane, and its surrounding towns such as Ballina. Around 33 places recorded more than one metre of rain during the period, with Brisbane recording its wettest summer on record.

Residents of the Brisbane river, Peter (59) and Theresa (60) were at home when

SRC President Lauren Lancaster echoed the framing of the war as one between imperialist powers, chiding the US for “being adamant in escalating the conflict under the pretense of Ukrainian sovereignty and international law”.

Julian Alley (SLS) also took issue with the Morrison government’s use of the conflict to stoke fears about China, stating “sinophobia is a dangerous election tactic”.

Later, Pappou roused the room when she labelled Jorgensen a “p*ece of sh*t” when Jorgensen attempted to defend the Morrison Government’s handling of Russia’s invasion. SRC General Secretary Alana Ramshaw (Switch) then reluctantly censored Pappou citing regulations.

Heated debate was also witnessed when a motion on political endorsement in the lead-up to the Federal Election was considered. The room was divided into two contingents: Labor campaigners and Switch/Grassroots/Socialist Alternative and Solidarity. The former argued that other factions were naive and ignored Australia’s two-party system whilst the latter make political support conditional on supporting free education amongst other demands.

“We live in a world where there are two choices: Labor or the Liberals. I know who I would like to elect for government.” Lagan said, echoing other Labor-aligned students such as Pappou and Alley.

Characterising his Labor counterparts as “dead-eyed hacks”, Marsden-Readford (SAlt) retorted that the party “offers no hope for students” and argued that political support must be withheld from parties that do not support free education.

A noted dissenter, Jorgensen submitted objections to a total of four motions over the night.

Departmental budgets, constitutional review and a flood-damaged SRC

SRC President Lauren Lancaster gave an update on her duties which included work on the University’s onerous special

consideration system and USyd’s lack of a sound disability framework. Lancaster also noted that the SRC is in talks with the USU and USyd over potential new offices following concerns over its dilapidated state and water damage in WoCo’s Office.

Departmental budgets were released for Office Bearers and Collectives following a slight increase in allocations by the Executives to \$63,000. Some collectives, such as Environment, saw a small decline in their budget whilst others, such as *Honi*, experienced a minor increase.

In response to a question posed by *Honi* over an unprecedented \$1,100 allocated to the Executives, Lancaster said that the money is set for speedy approval of “miscellaneous activist projects” such as a \$400 donation to Adelaide University SRC.

Of note was Lancaster’s review of the SRC Constitution following 2021 Electoral Officer Riki Scanlan’s recommendations. Easily missed by the ordinary eye, Scanlan’s 41-page report contains significant and sweeping recommendations for the regulations. For instance, Scanlan found that Standing Legal Committee Member Cooper Gannon’s “election was invalid from the outset”. In response, Gannon has been removed from the post and Stephanie Zhang has been elected unopposed in that position.

Other recommendations include a ban on political endorsements from USU Clubs and SRC Collectives following the EO’s concerns surrounding potential breaches related to these organisations. Should these be implemented, the campaigning landscape will look very different come September.

Conclusions

The SRC concluded the night with a motion to recognise Mardi Gras’ historic roots and activist nature in lieu of its corporate counterpart set to be held in Sydney Cricket Grounds. The Council condemned conglomerates such as ANZ and Qantas for supporting deportation policies and depoliticising the march.

Nina weather pattern of the rain,” said Peter. “It was just raining everywhere in Brisbane and around Brisbane, and they’d never seen that before.”

Queensland authorities estimate 15,000 properties were damaged by floods, and almost 40,000 properties were without power on Tuesday morning.

Climate experts say that an increase in the frequency and intensity of deluges like those affecting NSW and QLD correlates with the heating of the earth’s atmosphere.

Dr Blanche Verlie, a researcher at the Sydney Environment Institute at the University of Sydney, said that as climate change worsens, communities like those in Lismore and Brisbane will likely face several disasters over a short span of time.

Mardi Gras protest 2022

Khanh Tran reports.

Protester marched down Oxford Street in protest of religious discrimination, corporatisation of Mardi Gras and in support of transgender rights within the context of a looming federal election.

The rally was a joint effort between Community Action for Rainbow Rights (CARR) and Pride in Protest (PiP).

Several contingents were sent by various community organisations ranging from Leichhardt Uniting Church, the Socialist Alliance and USyd SRC Women’s Collective.

In an impassioned speech, Wei Thai-Haynes, an organiser from PiP and a Mardi Gras Board Director, framed the action as a crucial strategy against political developments such as the shelved Religious Discrimination Bill and Claire Chandler’s proposal to bar transgender women from competitive sports.

“The Religious Freedom Bill is shelved but it is not dead. They can bring this back up when they win re-election,” Thai-Haynes said.

Refugee rights activist Dr Lyngaran Selveratnam, who hails from the Tamil community, also delivered a speech criticising the Morrison and past Labor Governments for the deportation and mandatory detention of asylum seekers.

“We have to hold every one of these bloody politicians to account,” Selveratnam said.

Similarly, April Holcombe, an organiser from CARR argued that both major parties were committed to enforcing religious freedom legislation and advocated for mass activism. Other USyd speakers highlighted the ongoing battle within higher education to secure more generous leave entitlements for gender transition.

Protesters then marched the historic route down Oxford Street towards Hyde Park with various chants such as: “When trans rights are under attack! What do we do? Stand up, fight back!”

The rally culminated in a dance at Hyde Park with tunes by dedicated DJs.

“For a lot of people, [the disaster is] not only that they don’t have the financial resources to do it again, but it adds a lot of emotional trauma and burn-out,” she says.

Theresa says that several neighbours experienced the 2011 floods and helped in the immediate response.

Blanche emphasised that better planning for extreme weather events and emergencies, as well as mental health support for people in the emotional aftermath, will be necessary.

“We talk about people having fire plans a lot in Australia, but we’re increasingly going to need people to have flood plans as well... to normalise them.”

Continued heavy rainfall and floods are predicted in eastern NSW and south-east Queensland for the coming week by the Bureau of Meteorology.

Time autonomy is timing out

Jess Page explores the autonomy provided to us during Covid-19 lockdowns, and asks where it went.

During the height of the pandemic, months of lockdown introduced us to a new and frightening concept: time autonomy. Also known as ‘work autonomy’ in different contexts, this new concept gave us leniency over how we spent our days as well as a genuinely unprecedented amount of trust that students and employees would be committed to their daily responsibilities. In a break from authoritative and capitalistic work structures, individuals were able to operate without a strict schedule or harsh penalty for falling short of ‘normal’ expectations.

Initially, the freedom to set my own routine felt like an extra chore. It required an amount of mental space that was already clogged up with stress and uncertainty. However, as this newfound experience of autonomy over time was slowly and silently accepted into our lives, a rhythm of work, hobbies and creativity emerged. And I worry about it going away too soon.

For many, the re-opening of the country post-lockdown has probably coincided with a dramatic drop in any sort of creative output. Whilst it’s unlikely that this output was ‘thriving’ during lockdown — and to suggest that artists who found it hard to create in a pandemic have failed to use their time well would be incorrect and damaging — I noted some trends in how we went

about allocating our time.

“Hobbies, creativity and personal expression will return to the periphery of our lives as we all become the ‘better’ workers we once were at the expense of our health and our quality of life. I, for one, do not want this to happen.”

As someone who craved routine more than anything during lockdown, I set myself hard deadlines for pieces of fiction I wanted to finish and polish over the lockdown period. I filled the unexpectedly empty spaces in my schedule with new plans to write more and write purposefully. Myself and others who found themselves similarly engaged during lockdown revelled in this autonomy over our time, and the

knowledge that flexibility existed was often enough to feel on-track. Lockdown was just a small sampling of what time autonomy looks like, and now it is beginning to fall away.

Among the many things leaders and employers expect to quickly snap back to normal is this: our newfound level of control over our time must be handed back, despite the benefits it brings to our lives having been thoroughly realised. Hobbies, creativity and personal expression will return to the periphery of our lives as we all become the ‘better’ workers we once were at the expense of our health and our quality of life. I, for

one, do not want this to happen.

Staring down the scary reality of unfilled time helped me realise that it was not a lack of time that prevented me from writing, but rather a complete lack of agency over how my time should be organised.

As hard as it seemed, we made time autonomy work for us over lockdown. Flexibility was the norm and we became the benefactors of it. As a new semester starts, I am continually reminded of its benefits, even as it seems to be fading into memory.

ART BY KHANH TRAN



CFMMEU and Jamsek: A tilt favouring the gig economy

Swapnik Sanagavarapu and Max Vishney analyse the seismic implications of the legal cases on gig workers’ rights.

Two recent employment law cases decided by the High Court have signalled a significant departure in how Australian courts determine whether a person is an employee of a business or merely an independent contractor. These cases signal a dramatic shift in Australian employment law, turning away from an approach that looks at the social reality of a working relationship to a focus on the contract signed between the worker and the putative employer. The stakes of these rulings are very high — independent contractors are not entitled to statutory protections such as paid leave, remedies for unfair dismissal and minimum award pay. These rulings will likely lend credence to the claims of gig economy employers (Uber, Deliveroo etc.) that their workers are in fact contractors and not employees.

The first of the two cases was *CFMMEU v Personnel Contracting*, a case that came to the High Court of Australia on appeal from the Federal Court. The case concerned a dispute brought by the CFMMEU on behalf of Mr McCourt, a 22-year old British backpacker in Australia against Personnel Contracting, a labour-hire company based in Perth.

The CFMMEU alleged that Personnel Contracting had engaged in what is commonly referred to as “wage theft”, as they had failed to pay McCourt in accordance with the award rate he would be entitled to as an employee of Personnel. Under the labour hire arrangement, Mr McCourt had only earned 75% of what he would have been entitled to under the Building and Construction General On-

Site Award 2010.

Critically, the agreement that McCourt signed with Personnel labelled him as a “contractor”, preventing him from accessing the entitlements available to employees under the Fair Work Act. The crucial issue before the Court was therefore whether McCourt could be classed as an employee, entitling him to compensation for Personnel’s failure to pay him according to his award. A majority of the High Court reversed the decision of the Full Bench of the Federal Court in finding that McCourt was in fact an employee, focusing on the substance of the relationship formed under the terms of his contract with Personnel rather than the “contractor” label that was applied to him.

The second case decided was *ZG Operations v Jamsek*, also on appeal to the High Court of Australia from the Federal Court. In this case, Martin Jamsek and his colleague Mr Whitby had been engaged by ZG Operations as truck drivers for nearly 40 years. Both men had begun as employees, but by the late 1980s, had agreed to purchase their own trucks and become independent contractors who would continue to make deliveries for ZG Operations under a contractual arrangement.

Upon termination of this agreement in 2017, Jamsek and Whitby commenced proceedings against ZG Operations, alleging that they were employees of the company in substance and were owed entitlements such as long service leave and superannuation. A similar approach

to *Personnel Contracting* was adopted by the Court, focusing on the substance of the contractual relationship between the parties. However, a majority of the court found that Jamsek and Whitby were both independent contractors, and therefore not entitled to the benefits that they sought. Jamsek and Whitby had driven exclusively for ZG Operations for almost 40 years, however in 1986 the Company insisted that it would no longer employ the drivers and would only engage them in the future if they purchased their trucks and entered into contracts to carry goods for the company.

“These cases signal a dramatic shift in Australian employment law...”

The plurality judgments in these cases, composed of Chief Justice Kiefel, Justices Keane and Edelman, simplify the distinction between employers and contractors in Australian law at the cost of discarding the broader-ranging considerations lower courts have taken in recent years. Borrowing from American and English doctrine, judges in the lower federal courts have previously been attentive to the social and economic circumstances of plaintiffs’ employment which are left unsaid by their contracts with employers. For example by

recognising in *Fair Work Ombudsman v Grancity (GW) Travel & Tour Pty Ltd* the vulnerability of migrant workers to exploitation by employers who seek to engage them on terms that circumvent the protections owed to employees.

Similarly, the majority in both cases overturned the long-standing practice of observing how work was carried out after the contract was formed to determine whether or not a relationship was one of employment or not. In the context of the gig economy, where multinational corporations depend on engaging a vast and replaceable workforce of precariously employed workers in arm’s-length legal relationships, the High Court’s judgements in *Personnel* and *Jamsek* will come as a relief to companies like Uber in the face of growing opposition by courts and legislators around the world to unaccountable contracting practices which have driven their growth.

These decisions signal the need for urgent legislative reform in gig work and other precarious industries. With the ambiguity in the determination of employment status settled, it is likely that these employers will find it increasingly easier to source their work through contractors — all that is required is a ‘watertight’ contract, regardless of the nature of the work undertaken after the contract has been entered into. Given the inequality of bargaining power between workers and employers, workers may have little option but to accept these agreements.

Cleaning House: Fixing the Culture of Sexism in Parliament

Noni Reginato gives an analysis of the House.

For decades, the machinations of Australia’s Parliament House have been concealed from the public eye. The historic pattern of sexism and misogyny, not to mention the numerous instances of sexual harassment and abuse, have been foiled by the House’s culture of silence, an unspoken agreement upheld by politicians and staffers.

As an underexamined and underreported issue, the mistreatment of women in parliament finally garnered widespread national and international media attention in February of 2021, when political staffer Brittany Higgins revealed she had been raped by a male colleague in a ministerial office two years prior.

Higgins’ disclosure tore back the curtain on the treatment of women in politics, and more specifically, in the corridors of power. Female politicians began to come out in support of Higgins, sharing their own stories of sexism and harassment in the House and igniting a public debate on the necessity of safer workplaces for women.

Yet, the mistreatment of women in Parliament House certainly wasn’t new information when Higgins shared her story in 2021. Female politicians and staffers have been victims to the culture of ingrained misogyny within the House for years, often being forced to ‘shut up and put up’ out of fear of being labelled a troublemaker.

In a workplace that, as of 2021, employs around 5,000 people, it’s both confusing and disturbing to know that an employeemaking an offensive sexual slur or touching a colleague inappropriately wouldn’t be met with some form of disciplinary action. It’s even more concerning to know that this

bad behaviour wouldn’t be considered unacceptable.

The fact that it has taken a political staffer publicly discussing her experience of rape for the Government to take the workplace culture of Parliament House seriously suggests that this is an issue of ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’. It has shone a light on the lack of accountability mechanisms within the House that has enabled this type of conduct to continue for decades.

“What this shows is that the House’s internal human resources department is ill-equipped and arguably, not intended to handle complaints regarding misconduct, particularly those affecting female staff.”

After looking into the Parliament House’s human resource department for evidence of codes of conduct or some form of behavioural regulations for politicians and staffers, it became apparent that no such things exist. In fact, when I rang the Department to ask about their process of

reporting incidents of misconduct, I was rushed off the phone and promised that “someone will get back to you”. I’m still eagerly awaiting their response.

What this shows is that the House’s internal human resources department is ill-equipped and arguably, not intended to handle complaints regarding misconduct, particularly those affecting female staff.

What the House desperately needs are robust mechanisms that protect female workers from sexism, harassment and abuse, a notion echoed in Stephanie Foster’s 2021 Review of the Parliamentary Workplace. The implementation of explicit and binding codes of conduct for all staff at Parliament House, with disciplinary consequences for members who breach them, would be an important first step in revising the House’s hostile culture towards women.

However, the most significant recommendation of the ten (all of

which the Government has agreed to implement), is the creation of an independent body for the confidential reporting and management of serious incidents that occur within Parliament House. Such a system dismantles the expectation of women to keep incidents of mistreatment to themselves, instead offering a safe forum where the issues can be properly investigated and handled with disciplinary action.

With that being said, changing the culture of ingrained misogyny within Parliament House is not an overnight fix. Implementing these concrete measures are likely to improve behaviour and attitudes towards women within the House, but they are no panacea. What these changes should seek to do is continue the conversation about the treatment of women in all workplaces, especially Parliament, and keep at the fore discussions of sexism and harassment in work environments across the country.



Facing Protest: Confrontation Within Confrontation

Mahmoud Al Rifai challenges the discourse.

Walking down Eastern Avenue, situated within the University of Sydney, primarily considered Australia’s most politically charged university, is an endeavour often characterised by exposure to political activism of some sort. You will most likely hear a language of resistance developed by Westernised institutions.

This is no surprise. Student activists, aiming to confront injustice, ultimately reflect a resistance and an education undoubtedly influenced by Western universities.

As described by Julie Cupples in *Unsettling Eurocentrism in the Westernized University* (2018), the Western university is a site of producing, acquiring and disseminating knowledge that is ultimately Eurocentric. The knowledge it imparts on students assumes a universality and objectivity that, more often than not, has taken hold through violence at the expense of non-Eurocentric languages of resistance.

Democracy, liberalism and law are the ingredients of slogans chanted across campuses. They are used to police injustices by characterising them as deviations from Enlightenment values. For example, critiques against wealth inequality are rooted in arguments proclaiming an absence of genuinely democratic institutions, making the point

that the former inspires the latter.

It is hard to disagree. For example, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* (2012) by Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson is a brilliant exploration of that claim. However, if we were to be honest, democracy and all other slogans of resistance originating from a Eurocentric worldview cannot be detached from a history of violent military expansion and colonialism.

Ultimately, there is a confrontation within a confrontation; resistance against injustice may be a continuation of violence, material or epistemic.

The argument here is not to discredit or shun democracy or the liberal world order; the idea is, to be honest about the nature of the confrontation that becomes manifest when we attempt to use the West’s assumed rationality and rhetoric of resistance.

The Western World claims such tools to be a gift, an Apollonian exercise of a beautiful aesthetic and framework to criticise the world. But one cannot ignore that, in the words of Yassir Morsi in *Radical Skins, Moderate Masks: De-Radicalising the Muslim and Racism in Post-racial Societies* (2017), the decorative language of liberalism, rationalism and secularism foregoes the history of violence that

played a significant role in making these paradigms the tenets of critique and reform that they are today.

Consider our conception of the ‘law.’ Legal principles and values, whether they arise from liberalism or secularism or humanism, play a vital role in promoting the cause of social justice; however, they are ultimately a Western conception. One should ask whether the spread of these values and systems result from a ‘superior’ science, or are the result of colonisation and extreme violence.

The Global North was fixated on imposing its law on subjugated peoples and went to considerable lengths to ensure that such systems would remain their own. For example, New South Wales Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Bathurst recently characterised Australia’s justice system as “white man’s justice” in its refusal to recognise Indigenous customs. The ‘confrontation within a confrontation’ is whether the words of the white man’s justice, which may be conducive to betterment, continue that process of violence.

Consider another example outside the ‘law’ and our borders: the Syrian Civil War. Both the Assad regime and the opposition were criticised by the white man’s justice; the former as undemocratic, the latter too Islamist and Dionysian. Should one have adopted the West’s language of

resistance, there would be no end to the ensuing violence.

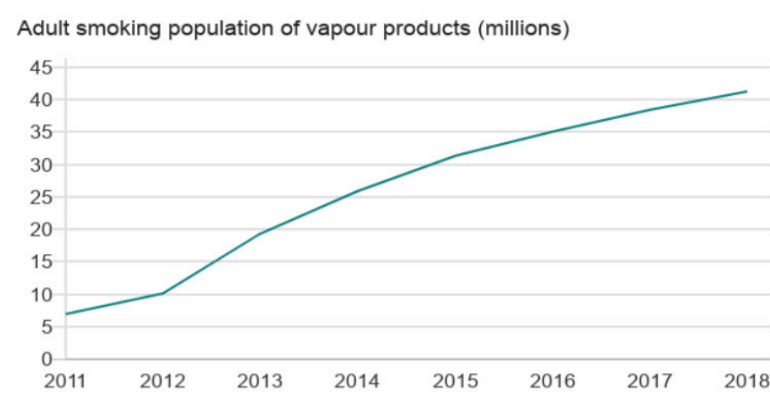
We may have intended to promote the cause of justice, but in reality, we perpetuate a cycle of violent confrontation by affirming no side is worthy of our genuine solidarity and thus, fail to bring an end to the conflict. The application of a Eurocentric flavour outside of the Western sphere is a confrontation in and of itself, and when exhibited in protest, becomes a ‘confrontation within a confrontation.’

Therefore, a ‘confrontation within a confrontation’ is a product of honesty, not judgement or critique. It requires activists to be conscious of their role in perpetuating a system of violence in attempting to mitigate violence. Otherwise, we risk fighting fire with fire.

As the world faces historic challenges, Eastern Avenue will continue to be a site of confrontation, drawing on familiar language of international law, democracy, liberalism, and secularism. Though they may be valuable tools of confrontation, they perpetuate conflict and violence of a different kind. The task is to look beyond Eurocentricity and question universality when bettering a world that lionises Western intellectual and epistemic achievements at the expense of non-Eurocentricity.

Colouring vapes: a matter of life and death

Vapes kill, but lives can be saved through plain packaging measures. **Stepan Zhigulin** opines.



Disposable nicotine e-cigarettes, also known as vapes, have been on the global market for over a decade. Their popularity has been steadily increasing across this period.

From 1 October 2021, it became illegal for Australian consumers to import products that contain nicotine liquid, including disposable nicotine vapes. However, in most countries around the world, they are still legal.

In the short term, e-cigarettes have shown that they could potentially lead to certain illnesses, such as heart diseases, lung diseases, cancer, and promote tumour development. Those illnesses have led to deaths, but these cases are very rare.

Furthermore, the presence of nicotine in vapes can cause a person who has constantly been vaping for several months to crave a smoke and suffer withdrawal symptoms if the person ignores the cravings. However, e-cigarettes' health impacts are unknown in the long term since they have existed on the market for little over a decade. Thus, consumers should be cautious of their long term

vape usage.

A substantial concern with vapes is that they act as a 'gateway' for tobacco cigarette usage. Vape users are more than four times more likely to start smoking cigarettes within 18 months than their peers who do not use them. An Australian study has shown that intentions, willingness, and curiosity to smoke tobacco cigarettes were higher among users of vapes than non-smokers. Furthermore, the study showed that the relationship remained statistically significant even after controlling for numerous covariates.

Even one or two puffs of a vape have the potential to increase susceptibility to tobacco cigarette smoking among individuals. A 2018 research paper found that 7 per cent of people who have ever used a vape became cigarette smokers one year later. Thus, potentially harmless use of vapes could lead to a usage of tobacco cigarettes, which has extensive research demonstrating the health consequences, including death.

One solution to the epidemic of vaping

is adopting plain packaging akin to its more notorious counterpart - smoking. Weakening brand identity can reduce smoking behaviour, as demonstrated by significant quantitative research from Australia. Numerous systematic reviews of the research have concluded that cigarette plain packaging works. It does so by decreasing the appeal of cigarettes, drawing attention to the health warning labels, lowering the power of the cigarette pack as a marketing vehicle, and disrupting smoking-related attitudes and cognition.

When plain packaging was introduced in Australia, smoking rates fell by 0.55 per cent between December 2012 and September 2015. Before plain packaging, about 20 per cent of people made attempts to quit over the course of a month; after the introduction of plain packaging, that number went up to 27 per cent. Reports in the UK showed similar results regarding smokers' attitudes towards tobacco cigarettes due to new plain packaging.

Plain packaging vapes could be implemented to prevent people from making the first couple of puffs from a vape. Increasing self-awareness can be effective at fostering negative perceptions towards using vapes. The public has the combination of naivete and temptation, believing that they won't get addicted to vapes by taking the first couple of puffs. Plain vape packaging could help deter potential users and shake that mindset. Colour can influence and mirror people's emotions. It can influence customers' feelings in regard to a brand or a product. Colours have strong emotional associations and can influence taste perception. Many people predetermine how they will perceive the

flavour and taste of the product even before the vapour even hits their taste buds. Hence, tobacco companies use colours that would match the flavours of the e-cigarette. For example, mint flavour is coloured green; strawberry is coloured red, and so on.

Research shows that bright, intense and saturated coloured packages were judged as more attractive. Tobacco companies use this psychological technique in vape design to attract more buyers. According to research on colour perceptions, the most unappealing colour for smokers was Pantone 448c - an off-green. If regulators enforced a colour change to Pantone 448c and the removal of fruit imagery from the vape packaging, they could prevent many from trying a vape.

Pantone 448c

In summary, vaping can result in tobacco cigarette smoking, which causes illnesses and deaths. Therefore, a change of packaging would nudge consumers' behaviour and prevent them from buying the product. Changing the colour of vapes and removal of fruit imagery from the packaging would result in a reduction of vape use by approximately 77,000 people a year globally by preventing the public from buying their first vape. Hence, this intervention would result in a reduction of tobacco cigarette users by approximately 5,400 people based on the 7 per cent conversion rate from vaper to smoker. This would significantly reduce the number of illnesses and deaths associated with smoking cigarettes. Overall, this straightforward intervention could save 3600 lives per year globally. Regulators should pay attention.

Lessons in discourse from atrocious debate app Polemix

Ellie Stephenson talks discourse.

I have been a debater for more than half my life. I first attempted the activity in Year 5, as a prim, quiet almost-ten-year-old bedecked with something of a pageboy haircut. From my naive perspective, it was a resounding success: I stood, drawing up to my full 1.4 metres, palm cards in hand, passionately negating the topic 'That we should ban school uniforms'. My team won; we ate a victory meal of Arnotts biscuits and orange cordial in the staffroom. An argumentative older sibling, I had found my groove - later that year I attended the Primary Schools State Debating Championships, my grand final speech exhilarating at the time, but in retrospect, cringeworthy.



Primary School Debating State Championship Finalist (unvictorious)
Ellie Stephenson, 2010

These days, teaching debating and public speaking to students around the state, the activity hasn't lost its magic. Some days I watch the minds of tiny Year 5s steadily unfurl and absorb information as they debate via Zoom from far-flung corners of NSW. Sometimes I get grilled on the complexities of foreign policy by some of the best public school debaters in the state. Each week, when I'm coaching my Year 11s, we spend the first 10 minutes of the lesson chatting about a news story of their choice - I watch them grapple with tricky issues, form opinions, and propose solutions.

Debating has given me a lot: it brought me out of my shell as a child, gave me something to take pride in as a teenager, and introduced me to some of my best friends upon coming to Sydney. For me, it has been overwhelmingly beneficial.

But for an activity geared around argument, does debating really help us to argue well? Do the lessons I teach in debating coaching really help my students to engage in productive discourse?

Some of the world's most prominent minds say no: novelist Sally Rooney, who herself was at one point the best debater in Europe, is critical about the way debating treats argumentation:

"Competitive debating takes [an] argument's essential features and

reimagines them as a game. For the purposes of this game, the emotional or relational aspects of argument are superfluous, and at the end there are winners. Everyone tacitly understands that it's not a real argument," she wrote in an essay for the Dublin Review.

I may not be a preeminent international writer, but I disagree. Of course debating is an artifice, of course it's a mental game. Anyone entering the activity with the desire to earnestly explain their takes needs to try Toastmasters. But the constructed affirmative-negative binary, the compulsion to defend something you don't really believe -- apart from being fun for silly nerds like me, are valuable intellectual challenges.

Defending something you don't believe isn't lying (necessarily). It can be an act of humility; it's hubristic to assume you're totally right about the world and irresponsible not to challenge yourself to understand your opponent's arguments.

Debating as an activity does not intend to build up a concrete and positive vision of the world, and nor should it. At its core, it's about thought experiments: your job is to imagine and reason out and weigh up how different ideas would impact the world. It requires you to think about the things (both rational and less so) which motivate people, to characterise institutions and movements, to extrapolate why norms and policies operate the way they do.

These tasks by no means lead you to inherently good conclusions, but I feel strongly that to attempt to understand and make arguments about processes of change is a basically good pursuit. Debating is not a panacea; it can just teach you sneaky tricks to defend your terrible ideas. All the same, being able to dissect the assumptions underlying an argument and structure your responses to it are skills I want to see more young people equipped with.

Although I'm willing to defend debating in theory, it leaves something to be desired in practice.

One barrier to really profound discursive benefits is the bias for style over substance. For many years, men with polished accents from Oxbridge, Ivy League, and sandstone universities topped international speaker tabs with manicured rhetoric and melodious speaking voices. I do not claim that these speakers were not very impressive, but a consciousness of gender and accent bias has over time encouraged denser and more stylistically diverse speeches, with adjudicators attempting to prioritise content when analysing debates. Still, many debaters lament the tendency for rapid-fire, rhetorically dry speeches to reap rewards at modern tournaments (as a speaker who was never particularly eloquent, I don't share in this regret).

The recent zenith of the above tendency is the terrible debating app Polemix, which sponsored the most recent World Championships. The app encourages debaters - as well as

"philosophers", "consultants" and other such intellectuals - to submit TikTok style videos arguing for or against a motion. The app is awful: the arguments are lazy and abbreviated. There is a limited capacity to respond to arguments, with users instead encouraged to click 'respect but disagree' or 'convinced by you' buttons, as though they're swiping through Tinder. Topics are vapid, things like 'Squid Game: hugely overrated?' or 'Should we cancel cancel culture?'

This is an app which leans into the worst tendencies of debating: intellectual showboating, logical shortcuts, style over substance. Where in a real debate we have eight minutes to untangle the intricacies of issues like war in Tigray or the gig economy, Polemix-ers use lazy rhetoric to try to convince you in 30 seconds or less.



A related, and worse, aspect of debating is the demographic and ideological narrowness of the activity. While debating - especially online - has made positive strides to include speakers from more diverse backgrounds and language statuses, it remains an extremely male and upper class pursuit. Debaters largely see things from a liberal capitalist perspective, often with Global Northern blinkers on. Debaters, naturally, hold the beliefs you would expect from people who go on to work at McKinsey or get a fellowship at a foreign policy think tank. Their worldviews are what happens when elite private schools try to foster social awareness among their students.

I have often struggled with feelings of alienation when I hear debaters make arguments about, say, public schools or young parents. There is certainly a tendency to view people as homo economicus - rational, incentive-driven actors with minimal room for human frailty and tenderness. Debating sometimes displays a narrow economicism and a dismissiveness towards ethics.

Some of the speeches that have hit me hardest as a debater have been those that transcend these limitations. Speaking about forgiveness, about communities interpreting their religion, hearing speakers talk about their country's experiences of conflict: these are the moments when the tools of logic and rhetoric combine in interesting and refreshing ways.

In fact, in Australia, public school students have widespread access to debating and public speaking. The Premier's Debating Challenge is one of the largest debating competitions in the world, with thousands of public schools taking part every year. Video conferencing, Department of Education workshops, and dedication from school teachers facilitates this effort. Unfortunately, this does not carry through to university: I recently realised I am the only publicly educated Director of USU Debating since I started University in 2018, and university debating societies inappropriately consist of students who attended elite GPS and CAS schools.

This is a self-perpetuating system partly because of geography and differing tertiary education attendance rates, but also because of private coaching and systems of patronage where alumni of particular schools receive automatic prestige and acceptance upon entering university. As a coach, both of school and representative teams, it's hard not to feel complicit. I began first year energised to empower public school debaters, and I begin fifth year feeling profoundly incapable of changing a system stacked in favour of wealthy men.

Debating - although something of a bizarre niche - remains a major pursuit of the wealthy and powerful at universities around the world. Within it are the tools to become more critical, more confident, more brave in tackling your opponents. I believe they are good tools, but they're rarely in the right hands. It's when I spend time with the Year 5s in rural NSW debating about standardised testing that I feel maybe, some day, they can be.



Polemix interface

Why do we all have imposter syndrome?

Katarina Kuo considers.

One of my initial observations about university was that people spoke differently - people leaned on different words and phrases, and frequently used specific expressions to describe things. While the fact that people in different environments speak differently is not a shocking revelation, there has been one particular phrase that has surprised me: at uni, everybody says they have imposter syndrome. Across a range of disciplines, it is astonishing the number of students that so casually and offhandedly label their experience as one of perpetual alienation.

At first it irritated me. Imposter syndrome, as a term, was originally coined to describe a discrete set of experiences, and to hear so many people use it to describe their discomfort seemed indulgent. I guess it's important to have some perspective, but when so many people feel out of place, that's clearly not the issue. The fact that people so irrationally yet routinely feel like outsiders suggests that something about our institutions makes them feel that way.

Neoliberalism makes people feel like their personality and identity is a commodity - they must push themselves to broadcast their uniqueness to the world and must constantly be doing more

to succeed. We are taught to believe that good things must be earned, that our own individual failure to be productive is the reason we can't have them. Most imposter syndrome starts here - we expect to be able to differentiate ourselves, but often feel alienated when we try.

The desire to differentiate oneself can be compounded by various forms of internalised discrimination. For example, internalised misogyny often breeds the desire to be 'not like other girls,' and internalised racism often breeds the desire to maintain one's image as a 'model minority.' By placing the blame on the individual, oppressive narratives often tell people from minority backgrounds that they can escape discrimination if they're different - if they can only be smarter, or more hardworking than other people like them. These instances, where people are structurally made to feel like outsiders, are where imposter syndrome can be the most pernicious.

The expectation to differentiate ourselves is felt particularly keenly in academic environments. In our highly individualistic culture, the pursuit of knowledge is framed as an avenue for individual self-improvement, and intelligence is seen as a metric of moral superiority. School systems are often structured in a way that reinforces these

beliefs. For example, exams like the HSC and the IB pit students against each other, with their performance measured on their individual success compared to others. When people attach significant moral and personal value to their education beyond their pure enjoyment of it, tackling the myriad of expectations they carry with them to university can often be isolating.

Part of this feeling can be expected. In one sense, spending the formative years of your life in a big, academic environment can make you feel displaced in a way that is totally normal. However, there are parts of our academic institutions that make this feeling worse. The corporatization of universities, which prioritises cost-effectiveness and sees students as a set of money makers to be churned through, has created a particularly atomising experience.

Higher education is structured to tell us that we should be special but preclude us from ever feeling like we are. When attending big tutorials with tutors who are overworked and underpaid, communicating with impersonal and detached student services systems, and wondering whether your classes will be cut, it can be hard to feel like you're achieving the things you set out to. When the idea that you ought to be special

comes face to face with an environment that makes you feel like a number, the result is often feeling like an imposter.

Because of the individualism with which people view education, they often attribute this feeling to their personal failings - they perceive that the experience could have been different if they had been smarter or worked harder. The flip side of imposter syndrome is that when people are successful, they tend to view it as fraudulent or unsatisfying. Part of this stems from the need to feel productive - it is difficult to savour success when you're constantly pressured to move on to the next thing. Success requires exhausting productivity routines; removing yourself from them to enjoy success, even for a second, often leaves people feeling deeply purposeless. Particularly for women and minorities, there is also a cultural expectation to be modest; to not be too loud or take up too much space with your own self-satisfaction.

The cumulative effect of these factors is a society where people feel the perpetual need to prove themselves and compete against others, but where doing so requires a life of attrition against terrible systems. With this state of affairs, perhaps it's more surprising that anyone doesn't feel like an imposter.

Where to for the NTEU: Exploring the past and future of industrial action at USyd

Patrick McKenzie and Ellie Stephenson situate staff strikes.

Senior management at the University of Sydney are no strangers to staff and students' disdain.

In early March 2013, just under a year before retiring from a University Chair position, eminent sociologist Raewyn Connell wrote and circulated a letter addressed to then-Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence.

"With performance management, online surveillance systems, and closed decision-making, it appears that the university authorities these days don't really trust the staff - to know our trades, to act responsibly, or to share in running the place," she said.

"The very last thing a university needs is an intimidated and conformist workforce."

It was the end of Week One, Semester One, and university staff were on strike for the first time since 2003.

Industrial action at USyd: the past and present.

Today, sometimes multiple times a week, ardent contingents form outside Fisher Library or the immediately recognisable Quadrangle. Long-time staff members and enthusiastic first-year students alike show up, impassioned against ongoing university austerity measures; the cutting of subjects, hundreds of staff, and entire schools.

These efforts were sustained even in the throes of lockdown, with activists gathering in small groups in accordance with social distancing restrictions, only to be met with a heavy-handed police response which would disperse, and in some cases assault, attendees. Academics held teach-ins, and in 2020 students held a storied six-hour occupation of the F23 Administration building in which USyd's senior managers reside.

While attacks on teaching and learning conditions are endemic to USyd, so is the willingness of its learning community to fight back, not just for ideal or so-called 'ambitious' conditions - but for the bare minimum. Basic sick leave entitlements and yearly pay increases to keep up with the rate of inflation became the subjects of tense negotiations as livelihoods were won on the strength of staff organising.

These education campaigns and protests are usually waged by academic and general staff who are members of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU), and are supported by student activists and members of the public. In the last decade, staff have gone on strike twice in 2013 and 2017 respectively, during the University's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) period

where the NTEU negotiates wage and employment conditions with University management every four years.

Current USyd NTEU Branch President Nick Riemer is enthusiastic about the role students have to play in supporting staff, repeating the oft-cited aphorism that "staff working conditions are students' learning conditions."

"We want classes to be less crowded, we want staff to not be casualised and be on decent conditions, to be given the time they need to do research in their disciplines... All of these things are key union demands and have an obvious impact on the student experience in the classroom," Riemer says.

The strike that kicked off in 2013 was

"We want classes to be less crowded, we want staff to not be casualised and be on decent conditions, to be given the time they need to do research in their disciplines... All of these things are key union demands and have an obvious impact on the student experience in the classroom,"

the culmination of a months-long stalled bargaining process the year before, during which staff claims were minimised and demands routinely ignored.

Michael Thomson, USyd Branch President of the NTEU from 2003 to 2016 and NSW Secretary of the Union until April of last year,

understanding management had of university staff, things like workload weren't important to them."

The EBA period also came in the wake of assorted academic job cuts in 2011, which the union fought largely successfully. The response of industrial action in 2013 - strikes during Week One, Open Day and later in Semester Two - Thomson recounts, wasn't a course of action that was taken lightly.

Under current legislation, unions are obliged to seek authority from the Industrial Relations Commission in order to conduct a ballot. For an action to go ahead, more than 50 per cent of union members have to respond, and a majority have to say yes.

Riemer is firm on the power of prospective strikes during the current EBA period and on the motivations that underpin action itself.

"An employer's power is particularly arbitrary in the sense that, in exchange for a salary, we essentially forfeit our autonomy for the period of our employment... Withdrawal of labour is the principle means that employees have of exercising their

to management is reliant on a rigorous internal democratic process, comprising meetings, debates, amendments, a survey of members' concerns and consultation with branches at other universities.

"When you went to management and gave it to them, your members had ownership of it and, therefore, bargaining power," he says.

While the strikes in 2017 brought less attrition, the conditions and demands were all too familiar. Staff stood up against the University's unwillingness to grant pay rises, reduce forced redundancies and casualisation, and preserve the '40:40:20' percentage split of staff workload between teaching, research and administrative work. Then-Branch President Associate Professor Kurt Iveson wrote a year later that staff were, and continued to be "driven to despair by a toxic combination of insecure work, workload intensification, and corporatisation."

Thomson breaks effective industrial action into the effective targeting of three outcomes. The first is making sure that union members themselves feel confident and involved, especially if there is potential for further action.

"You've got to make it clear to them that you're not going to be treated like dirt. You're not going to be ignored in a stand up and, if necessary, you will actually shut down teaching,"

The second is having an impact on university management; that the prospect of striking is real.

"You've got to make it clear to them that you're not going to be treated like dirt. You're not going to be ignored in a stand up and, if necessary, you will actually shut down teaching, you will shut down a whole lot of what the university is about," Thomson says.

Third is creating solidarity between strikers and the wider community. A strong action illustrates its importance at events like Open Days, disrupting the glistening public image the University tries to project so as to illustrate the truth:

"The reason you're aggro is because management is treating you with disrespect," Thomson explains.

Today, years of remote teaching during the pandemic and extensive casualisation throughout the sector could threaten that solidarity. Last

year, Honi reported extensively on the insidious impacts of casualisation at the systemic level; universities are not obliged to provide leave entitlements, and the piece-rate structuring of payment essentially ensures that casuals are exploited and overworked when marking assessments.

Further, scant requirements on how universities report their employment data leaves the extent of casualisation and job losses across NSW's public universities unclear - though it's estimated that, at the very least, half of academic university staff are casual employees. Given universities are unwilling to even report their casual employment statistics, it is clear that casual employees are often the first to be sacrificed in service of financial ends: a tranche to cut loose in the event of a government policy change or revenue shortfall due to a drop in international enrolments.

Not being able to know the scale of the problem makes it exceptionally hard to organise against it and, as Thomson argues, weakens the union movement itself.

"Clearly, it hurts the people who are casuals and who can't get ongoing employment, but it also breaks down that sense of community. Casuals can sometimes be working at two or three different universities. Some don't even have their own desk,"

"I'd be surprised if, at many universities in this next round of bargaining, there wasn't industrial action," he says.

On the ground, Thomson is resolute that the path forward is to simply to keep campaigning, building union power both in scale and across other public sectors in the face of obstinate management systems and combative government policy.

"I think at the moment, we've got a government that prides itself on anti-intellectualism... They have no appreciation of why education should be available for everybody and should be free for everyone," he says.

Yet, the persistence of these conditions nevertheless brings into question if a better future is even possible.

Building staff power

Looking at the long-term, systematic mistreatment of staff in universities, one wonders: why are these issues so entrenched? And can we ever expect them to change?

Dr Michael Beggs, an academic in the Department of Political Economy and a member of the NTEU's Enterprise Bargaining Team, characterises the intensification of staff workloads and rise of job insecurity as a "pressure valve". University management, responding to the financial imperative for surpluses, squeezes extra value out of overworked and underpaid staff.

Beggs suggests that the diversity and complexity of academic work - which typically involves research, teaching, and administration - means it is far less "concrete and easily quantifiable" than financial outcomes. As a result, managers engage in "magical thinking" about academics' capacity to manage their workloads sustainably, underestimating the time it takes to complete their given tasks.

Professor John Buchanan, an Industrial Relations researcher and member of the Enterprise Bargaining Team, adds that complexity poses new challenges to labour organising.

"It creates a challenge of solidarity... it's hard to build a simple, mobilising narrative; you've got to think very hard about how you put together priority issues that will address a diverse audience but bring them together around common concerns," Buchanan says.

One common thread through the array of iniquities facing staff is that the priorities of the University often seem irrational. Workload and job security issues erode the quality of teaching and learning. Where educators are pressed for time, they have to pick between completing research, marking, course preparation and supporting students.

Similarly, Beggs argues that it is pedagogically and organisationally problematic to uncouple



ART BY AMELIA KOEN

the research-teaching nexus by creating teaching-only roles and forcing staff to individually negotiate their research and teaching time.

"One of the benefits of the combination [of teaching and research] is we keep across the field and we can use research to feed into teaching... [Compromising this] means people get burnt out quickly, they feel like they're doing a disservice to their students," he says.

On a financial level, it is also unwise; although it is cheaper to pay people only to teach, it relies on academics committing to unsustainable and unsatisfying academic labour, stretching staff thin. Moreover, Beggs explains that government funding to universities is tied to the cost of delivering courses per student:

"Workload and job security issues erode the quality of teaching and learning. Where educators are pressed for time, they have to pick between completing research, marking, course preparation and supporting students."

"[Cost-cutting is] setting the University up to be squeezed further in the future... if the costs come down, there's nothing to stop funding from coming down with it."

There are two main problems underlying this state of affairs.

First, creeping

neoliberalism and 'small government' ideologies have permeated tertiary education. Buchanan explains that governments have "walked away from funding [universities] properly... that's where you get these kinds of pathologies." Similarly, Beggs suggests that university management - albeit not publicly - feels it is between "a rock and a hard place", where the drive to remain in surplus is placed under stress by stagnant funding. Beggs stresses that the University is in a relatively solid financial position despite COVID-19, but nonetheless is structurally geared to "take the easy way out" by seeking uncompensated productivity gains from staff.

This right-wing policy environment also produces the conditions which constrain staff power; a viciously constrictive industrial relations landscape where, despite enjoying relatively high levels of public approval, a hostile legislative environment constrains unions' options.

"trust academics on how long it takes to do things," Beggs says. The NTEU is calling for staff workload committees to have union-appointed or elected staff representation, rather than the current system of appointments by the relevant Dean. Meanwhile, the University wants to

"Industrial action is an opportunity for academic workers to develop and advocate for a positive vision of the University;"

go further than the status quo, aiming to abolish workload committees altogether and leave negotiation to individual workers and managers.

Professor Buchanan describes the current system of managerialism as an "attack on expertise", but warns against romanticising past systems. Instead, he sees the bargaining process as a way to "think through how you would create a quality system".

Industrial action is an opportunity for academic workers to develop and advocate for a positive vision of the University; one where they are compensated properly for their time, and one where the financial imperatives of senior managers do not undermine the long-term integrity of the institution.

Looking beyond the university

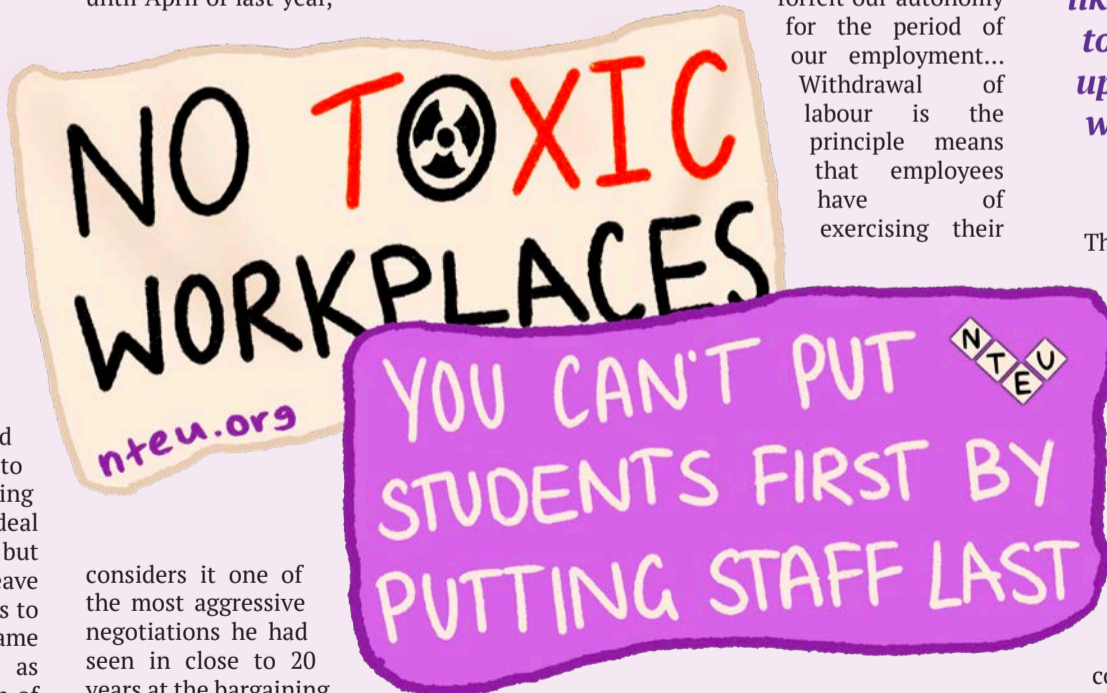
The University of Sydney is a big player in tertiary education, which itself is a big industry in the Australian economy. How, then, might industrial action at USyd have broader significance for Australian workers?

"I wouldn't say universities are regarded as wage leaders," Professor Buchanan says, but USyd is "influential within the university sector." While workers across the labour market face a host of restrictions on industrial action and legislated wage caps, making strong arguments for workers' rights remains important: "these are tough times... You've got to be very clear about what it is you're campaigning about, what you dispute about"

Dr Beggs suggests that, from a macroeconomic standpoint, the Government is passing up an important opportunity to use the public sector to shape the economy: "public sector jobs... absolutely have a really important role to play in setting the pace in wages and conditions in the private sector as well. They hire from the same labour market. If the private sector has to compete it has to have an impact [on conditions]."

In the context of a pandemic, cost-cutting has the "macroeconomically speaking, irrational" effect of suppressing spending, as workers face low wages and uncertain hours, Dr Beggs says.

It is clear that, across the public sector, essential workers experience ever-escalating pressure. These workforces are treated as shock absorbers for systems under stress, asked to do more work for less pay and disheartened by the attacks on their profession. As we see nurses, transport workers and educators striking, it is a sign that rampant neoliberalism is wearing thin; the unsustainability of treating workers as a pressure valve is coming into focus.



Review: Heaps Gay at Manning

Thomas Sargeant and Roisin Murphy get heaps gay.

No Mardi Gras season is complete without a Heaps Gay party, and this year's instalment at Manning Bar did not disappoint. The venue was split into multiple zones, each with a different atmosphere and music. If you had your fill of Dua Lipa for the night, you could cross the venue and enjoy live performances from local artists.

Unfortunately, the price and demand for tickets rendered the party inaccessible for many USyd students — *Honi* had a brilliant time and was fortunate enough to receive complimentary media tickets. We want more of our friends to have the opportunity to attend next time! Despite this, it was still impossible to move through a room without running into every person you've met on campus, from ever-present BNOcs to tute-bound whos.

Front Courtyard

Manning Bar's front area was fenced off to create a large outdoor dance floor, complete with a DJ stage and colourful decorations to make an ideal dancing atmosphere. It was easy to spend most of the night here, with tunes from the likes of Charli XCX and Doja Cat keeping energy levels high.

The occasional cool breeze was a perfect counterbalance for an otherwise sweaty night, and a sprinkling of Rain (*On Me*) was welcomed with open arms. Ghanian-Australian DJ duo Kinder performed a crowd-pleasing set that effortlessly flowed between pop hits and electro tunes, their own hit song 'Bus Stop' a particular highlight.

Getting lost in Manning was an absolute joy - trying to find friends, belting lyrics with strangers and reconnecting on the dancefloor. The energy was on par with any pre-pandemic Mardi Gras street dancing, and certainly outshone the parade locked into the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) for yet another year. Having such a memorable experience at Manning with my own cohort felt like the Uni experience that we were promised, and was a fantastic way to welcome back a restriction-less Mardi Gras.

Back Courtyard

For those who relish in a live performance, the back courtyard came in hot. With a lineup of diverse, local acts, the shows truly embodied the spirit of Mardi Gras. Whether you were sick of hyperpop (*how?*) or the endless crowds, the area was an exciting change of pace compared to the other stages.

Performances on the stage varied in tone and genre, allowing everyone to immerse themselves in an experimental zone akin to a classic Mardi house party. Partying the night away with a view of the Physics building was only a slightly sobering reminder of tutorials in the coming week.



Korky Buchek and Gold Fang delivered a high-energy performance that got the crowd moving, with attendees leaving their shelter under a marquee to get closer to the stage and into the mosh. Later in the night, Dirty Versachi teamed up with Mo•Louie to deliver a drag/DJ set that wouldn't be out of place in any of Sydney's major venues.

Upstairs Dancefloor

The upstairs dancefloor of Manning is a familiar sight to many for a range of events dissimilar to Heaps Gay (see:

USU election results announcements). The atmosphere last night was an entire transformation. With a seamless three-way flow between the bathroom, the bar and the dancefloor, Manning's upper level provided the perfect place to settle for those who didn't enjoy the circuit of moving between levels.

A balanced mix of DJs and live performers meant there was always something to keep you stimulated. Highlights included young First Nations artist Djanaba who excited crowds with her latest single 'Big Titties', and show-stopping performances from a number of drag queens and dancers.

The upstairs bar delivered a

conversation. As a result, the true highlight of Heaps Gay at Manning was the opportunity for exploration within its intimate spaces.

Gender neutral bathrooms were a particularly welcome change, importantly for those who require access to non-gendered bathroom use, but also for boy-girl bestie combos who were in the middle of very important discussions.

Many a life-changing D&M was had in the stairwell, in the various cupboards and on the floors of hallways. A note for attendees at future events: a welfare check is *not* required each time somebody sits down on the ground.

Unfortunately, a less exciting nook-cranney was a police desk that had been set up inside the building. Given the fraught relationship between police and the queer community, which both historically and currently is marred by violence and discrimination, many attendees informed *Honi* that the police presence throughout the event made them feel incredibly anxious and uneasy. *Honi* understands that police took at least two individuals into custody, with one seen being taken away in a paddy wagon.

Unlike the police, the paramedics, who had set up an emergency room on the ground floor, were welcome and supportive in ensuring that partygoers enjoyed a safe night and had access to healthcare free from discrimination.

Manning proved to be the best possible venue for an event of this magnitude. Having the option to either dive into a packed dance-floor or enjoy somewhere more intimate is exactly what is needed, and no other venue is so thoroughly ideal.

From arriving on the Manning Road runway, to exiting for kick-ons via the Eastern Ave freeway, it was a night which left even the tamest of individuals feeling unbaptised. Thanks to the USU for giving *Honi* the chance to come and check it out - we'll certainly be back for more.

Nooks, Crannies, Holes

Surely the most important criteria in the rating of any Mardi Gras party is the ability to step away for a private

Writing a better reality: the case for optimistic sci-fi

Holly Hughes actually likes how the future looks.

I've always been a fan of optimistic science fiction: future worlds that aren't based on repressive class systems, technological enslavement, or that are otherwise abhorrent to live in. If I ask you to think of a sci-fi work, you're likely to think of one of these dystopias before something sanguine, like the *Star Trek* universe or *WALL-E*. So, I wonder: where is all the optimistic sci-fi? Where are the fantasies we'd actually want to live in?

To put it broadly, science fiction is speculative fiction involving futuristic concepts based in advanced science and technology. These imagined worlds can take a pessimistic or melancholic tone for many reasons. Firstly, the defence of a made-up world allows creators to explore and criticise their contexts when circumstances can make it difficult to do so directly. In a post-WWI, economically devastated Germany, Fritz Lang's silent epic *Metropolis* is centred

around working-class exploitation and industrialisation.

Even without external pressures, sci-fi is able to extrapolate contextual concerns to a didactic or satirical extreme. Themes can range from government power (*a la* George Orwell's *1984*) to environmental anxieties (such as in Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*). They can also be on a smaller, more personal scale, such as the pursuit of feeling loved in Spielberg's *AI: Artificial Intelligence*.

Bleak scenarios are often explained as having been caused by some uncontrolled or inequitable technology that gave extreme power to an exclusive group (such as the titular luxury space station in *Elysium*) or took it from humans altogether (think Skynet in the *Terminator* films).

Technology is ostensibly meant to improve human life in some way, but one

persistent problem with new technology is that it doesn't outright 'fix' problems, as it'll come with its own set of ethical or technical issues. Dealing with these can reveal further hitches and hornets' nests, leading to a perpetual cycle of catch-22s.

The approach in sci-fi, then, need not be technologically-*optimistic*, but rather technologically-*solutionist*. Take *The Martian*: Matt Damon's 'science the sh*t out of this' attitude embodies a progressive, problem-solving ethos in a dismal situation. Or *Star Trek*, where, despite conflicts, technology and progressive values have engineered a galaxy defined by ideals of peaceful exploration and multicultural harmony.

An important note is that the description 'optimistic' does not equate to 'utopian'; these are not perfect worlds, but ones where the balance tips toward positive progress. To frame optimism as shallow or unrealistic, then, is to ignore

the efforts (not to mention the successes) of countless people throughout history. Cynical perspectives are necessary in fiction, but such widespread resignation is a disservice to sci-fi's core parable of imagining possibilities, especially those that reach beyond our society's injustices; ones that see the progress we are capable of and embrace it, rather than always warning against some heinous alternative.

To quote legendary sci-fi author Ursula LeGuin: "Hard times are coming, when we'll be wanting the voices of writers who can... imagine real grounds for hope. We'll need writers who can remember freedom — realists of a larger reality."

To create a better future, we need to first see its shape. To confront today's problems, we need to believe there is a better way to live.

Fighting words: The role of language in protest

Nicola Braynan spells it out.

The human world is built from language. We use language to instruct, empathise, and learn. Perhaps the most impactful domain of language is persuasion. Using words alone, one can change the worldview of another or inspire them to actions they've never considered before. We are at once empowered and made vulnerable by language.

Every linguistic choice a speaker makes is indicative of their worldview. Word choice can indicate opinions: if I eat a sandwich and describe it as 'tasty', I likely have a positive opinion of it. Opinions can also be revealed through grammatical choices, such as using the passive voice to disguise the agent of an action (consider 'the police shot the man' versus 'the man was shot'). Consequently, the language we hear, chosen by the person we are listening to, shapes our understanding of the information we are learning. This means that the linguistic choices made by the media, who communicate information to many people at once, have great potential to influence how those people understand the issues they discuss.

To understand the narratives about protest being pushed by the media, I've analysed the way three organisations covered the January 26th Change the Date protests: a *Sky News* bulletin, an *ABC News* bulletin (both from 2022), and a 2018 article by Teila Watson from the *New Matilda*. They reflect three approaches to protest coverage respectively: opposition to protest, downplaying dissent, and confrontation.

Although each outlet focused on protests about Invasion Day, each chose to focus on different aspects of those protests and different levels of engagement with the protests' demands. *Sky News*' bulletin did not outline the reason that people were protesting, but focused solely on the fact that people were protesting. This was done by describing protesters as a "noisy minority" and suggesting they "get on with things". Taking attention away from why protests occur and focusing on the fact there is dissent is strategic: it isolates protesters, makes their cause seem unsympathetic, and makes viewers less likely to engage with the core of their complaints.

"Taking attention away from why protests occur and focusing on the fact that there is dissent is strategic."

ABC News foregrounded issues of Indigenous deaths in custody as the reason people were protesting. It was

only the *New Matilda*, however, that identified the full extent of systemic racism that the protests were intended to engage with. *ABC News* also had a more positive outlook than Watson's *New Matilda* article: while *ABC News* put emphasis on the "hope" that protesters had for the future, Watson described changing the date as "meaningless" unless greater systemic change was achieved. It seems that *ABC News*, while happy to engage with the gravity of the protest's demands, is focused on resolving conflict by downplaying the partisan root of the protest. In contrast, Watson actively identified with protesters, not shying away from anti-government sentiment that may isolate some readers.

the protesters, validating their outrage by describing them as "upset" and "angry".

Finally, grammatical choices are also indicative of the outlets' stance on protest. *Sky News* relies heavily on the pronouns 'them' and 'us' as substitutes for the names of protesters or organised movements.

This obfuscation of identity serves to place the viewer in opposition to the protesters ('us' is inclusive of the viewer, 'them' is not) and further



Each outlet also uses specific vocabulary to achieve these different ends. *Sky News* fearmongered by describing protesters as "controversial" and "divisive". The descriptors "noisy minority", "impolite", and "immature", were used to undermine the legitimacy of the protests.

To explore the relationship between language and protest, I spoke to USyd academic Dr Nick Riemer, academic, activist and president of the USyd branch of the NTEU.

"The mainstream media," Riemer says, "often doesn't take protest seriously... Protesters are often seen as irrational, purely reactive, emotional, immature, rather than as representatives of changing winds in society." In contrast, *ABC News* and the *New Matilda* were more sympathetic to

delegitimises protest as an organised political movement. Riemer describes how this grammatical anonymisation of campaign organisers creates the impression that protests simply 'happen', undermining their political legitimacy. *ABC News* is also guilty of this; although they rely less on the pronominal schism of 'us' and 'them', the protest's organisers are not named, nor are the targets of the complaints. Only Watson's article names the government as an actor with the power to create the change protesters demand.

Media outlets may have various incentives for opposing or downplaying dissent, such as fear of isolating viewers, fear of condemnation by an opposition, or ideological disagreement with those protesting. It is also worth noting the intersectional biases that may

predispose reporters to be dismissive of protest. Riemer cites class prejudice as a reason that media coverage of grassroots politics, which is more accessible to people without access to a lot of money and resources, is less favourable than 'official' politics. Women and BIPOC are often labelled as emotional or overly reactionary when voicing unhappiness with the systems that oppress them.

Even media outlets that intend to straddle the fence by downplaying the confronting nature of protest are committing an act of violence against these causes; allowing the majority to remain 'uninvolved' comes at the cost of meaningful change for minorities.

The only media coverage that furthers the purpose of protest is confrontational. It demands its viewers pick a side, and interrogates them on their choice. It does not sweep nuanced criticisms of a broken system under the rug of 'hope for the future'. It does not coddle its viewers by referring to them as 'us' while condemning the 'them'. It lays out the complaints of protesters, no matter how ugly or hard to swallow, and encourages the audience to pick a side. Notably, this also applies to media that wants to effectively condemn protests. There is a meaningful difference between undermining Invasion Day protests by refusing to engage with their complaints, calling them 'immature', and condemning anti-lockdown protests by pointing to the very valid reasons that a COVID lockdown was necessary. If the best criticism of a protest that an outlet can offer is that it is 'divisive' and that we "just want to get on with things", that criticism is not worth listening to.

There are two major takeaways that should be drawn from this article. The first is the importance of being critical of the media you consume. Every word you read, even the ones in this article, were constructed with an intended impact in mind. Seek media that is not afraid of confrontation and use it to inform your own opinions, especially when discussing something as important as protest.

Secondly, in your own writing and conversation, talk about the protests you support in the way they ought to be talked about. Identify who is demanding change and from whom that change is being demanded. Use words that empower and validate. Frame protest as a legitimate political tool.

"I emphasise the utility of protest," Riemer says, "because there's often suspicion about it." Language is an incredibly powerful tool, and, in the hands of passionate people, it can be used to change minds and inspire tangible action. Use it wisely. Use it to confront."

ART BY NICOLA BRAYAN

‘Women who hear music in their heads’: The forgotten history of women in electronic music

Maddie Clark rewires history.

It's common knowledge that the music industry today is overwhelmingly male-dominated. In 2019, only 21.7% of top songs were performed by female artists, 12.5% written by female artists, and only 2.1% produced by women. It might surprise you then, as it surprised me, that there is a musical genre for which women have been historically and uniquely present: electronic music.

As a new listener of electronic techno music, I was instantly drawn into investigating the grassroots history of its development. From Chicago house to Detroit techno, modern electronic music has stemmed from a rejection of the mainstream music industry. The proliferation of techno music in the United Kingdom through the form of raves simultaneously represented a political response to not just neoliberalism, but more broadly, direct legislation against gatherings “characterised by the emission of a succession of repetitive beats”.

But the role of women? It seemed to me that, like in other genres, the contribution of women was, if not limited, at least unknown and forgotten.

While watching the 2020 documentary *Sisters with Transistors*, as part of the recent Antenna Documentary Festival, I discovered that my assumptions were incorrect. Without women, electronic music would not be what it is today. Take Daphne Oram. Oram worked for the BBC as a junior studio engineer in the 1950s and was central to the development of electronic music. While working at the BBC she would stay back after work and experiment with tape recorders. She would use her tape recorder to splice up and loop sounds back together. With BBC funding, she was the co-founder of its Radiophonic Workshop which was dedicated to the development of electronic music. While there, she became its first studio manager, and

when the BBC couldn't fund the more experimental areas of her work, she set up her own independent music studio.

She was a central figure in the foundation of modern electronic music production and even invented the Oramics System — a sound machine and technique that transforms drawings into sounds.

The documentary spotlighted eight other women such as Delia Derbyshire, who created the electronic version of the *Doctor Who* theme score, by Ron Grainer. Although she was not credited with the work, the theme song of *Doctor Who* helped popularise the sounds of electronic music to a sceptical mainstream audience.

Bebe Barron, along with her husband Louis Barron, was another pioneer in the field. They wrote the first electronic music for magnetic recording tape as well as the first score that was entirely electronically produced. Together, they composed and produced electronic music in a recording studio in Greenwich Village in New York,

on the cutting edge of the avant-garde music scene in the 50s.

“Electronics let us make music that could be heard by others without having to be taken seriously by the male-dominated ‘establishment’.”

But, apart from the women *Sisters with Transistors* focused on, women have been key players throughout electronic music's history. Michiko Toyama was the first international student to join the Columbia-Princeton Electronic Music Centre (CPEMC) — the first space dedicated to the creation of electronic music in North America in 1956. Else Marie Pade was the first Danish composer

of electronic and concrete music. Yvonne Turner pioneered house music, despite only being credited as a producer once, and even then with her name misspelt as ‘Evan’ Turner.

Perhaps women's involvement in electronic music can be explained by the fact its production only requires one person; it doesn't have the same barriers other genres in the music industry have. As composer Laurie Spiegel says in *Sisters with Transistors*, “we women were especially drawn to electronic music when the possibility of a woman composing was in itself controversial.”

Continuing to say, “Electronics let us make music that could be heard by others without having to be taken seriously by the male-dominated ‘establishment’.”

While this history goes untold, its impact can be seen in the genre today. Not only are 45% of electronic music listeners women, but the industry is more easily accessible to female artists. A 2019 study found that it is easier for female talents to enter into this industry through electronic music than through other musical genres. This is reflected in the names of headlining acts.

Today, the top two most booked DJs in the world are women, and three take spots in the top five: Nina Kraviz, Charlotte de Witte, and Amelie Lens. Not only that, but the proportion of female acts at electronic music festivals has more than doubled since 2012. These statistics are encouraging to aspiring female artists and listeners alike, especially in an industry that is stereotyped as a ‘boy's club’. For the largely forgotten female pioneers of electronic music, this also matters. Listening to electronic music today, I feel like their legacy lives on, even if their names do not.

ART BY SAM RANDLE

Growing pains

Ramneek Thind argues for better reproductive health services.

At age eleven, my body was assailed by unexpected stabbing pains. It was a bittersweet pain; a nuisance yet a relief. My cells had finally started labouring away so that I could eventually enjoy the fruits of puberty.

But the growing pains didn't stop there.

As I've gotten older, I've been forced by sour-faced adults into a rude awakening: with aging, there will always be pain. Half-awake and still rubbing my eyes, I presumed they were grumbling about arthritis. But as I approach twenty-one, I've been disturbed by another rude awakening: my first pap smear.

Like many my age, a trip to the gynaecologist is something we put off until necessary due to fears of pain. They're kind of like a lingering toothache that you neglect until it festers into a full-blown infection. Only then do you begrudgingly drag yourself to get a root canal done.

Much like dental work, gynaecological procedures can be very painful. The

difference is that no one is going to dispute your dental pain. No one is going to say that it's ‘all in your head’ or deny you a generous prescription of high-strength painkillers.

Pain and discomfort during gynaecological services are instead normalised. They are left untreated, ignored, or written off as a necessary part of reproductive health that we have to cope with. Cervical biopsies, IUD insertions, and hysteroscopies are just a few procedures that can be extremely painful, traumatic and are often carried out under no anaesthesia. At most, doctors advise for a Panadol to be taken before these procedures to dull the pain. Yet Panadol isn't even enough to subdue a toothache. Imagine if your dentist proposed that you undergo a root canal with nothing but a Panadol. Personally, I'd rather have that tooth ripped out with rusty pliers.

Myths regarding the cervix's anatomy are but one contributing factor to the normalisation of pain in gynaecology. Many medical providers falsely believe

that the cervix has little to no sensory nerves despite this being disproved by research, including that of Goldstein and Komisaruk in their 2020 editorial, ‘Is Evidence Based on What We Know or Do Not Know? Secrets of the Cervix.’ Yet this belief still circulates in the medical field, fuelled partly by the disinterest of some professionals in learning the intricacies of the female reproductive system.

As Elizabeth Chloe Romanis et al. state in their 2021 article, ‘Reviewing the Womb,’ this disinterest is heightened by the view that female bodies are littered with complexities. The womb is seen as a “mysterious” organ because it is a deviation from the male body and thus requires patriarchal interference. Meanwhile, male bodies are deemed superior as they're traditionally depicted as sleek, simple, and efficient and are hence the default body treated within medicine. Studies ignore our bodies because they are perceived as a poor investment for researchers who see our innate complexities as a time-consuming burden, rather than worth understanding.

Ultimately, the normalisation of pain and discomfort within gynaecology poses dangerous consequences. It is why many delay pap smears only to find out they've developed preventable cervical cancer. It's why we fear getting an IUD with some of us preferring to risk a pregnancy scare than deal with the white-hot pain. It's why we clench our fists and bite down on our tongues before the doctor even glances at us; we're conditioned to endure the inevitable, incoming pain.

For women and others who need gynaecological care, the ‘growing pains’ never cease. The transition to each phase of our lives is marked by a new type of pain, whether it be menstruation, pregnancy, chronic reproductive health issues, or menopause. And that's only the physical pain we endure. To add to this list is beyond unthinkable. Yet the medical community has us convinced of an incredible irony which is that excruciating pain is normal. It is time that we recognise this fallacy and not only confront our pain, but contest it.

East Palace, West Palace — A rebellion on the screen

Leon Yin writes on Chinese queer cinema.

Although queer cinema has been forced to exist underground in China due to political censorship, the exploration of identity and gender on screen has never ceased. For the Chinese queer community, which grew up under cultural and political oppression, the screen constitutes a weapon to fight against discrimination with images and pleasure.

Playing on themes of power, masochism, drag and sexual fantasy, *East Palace, West Palace* (1996) was one of the first radical and rebellious steps for Chinese queer cinema. Revolving around the interrogation and recollections of Alan, a cis gay man, after his arrest by Xiao Shi, a police officer, the film reveals the marginalisation and defiance of the Chinese gay community in the 1990s under bureaucracy and the heteronormative order.

As a gay man, Alan does not conform to traditional notions of ‘masculinity’. Instead, he is a slim man with a soft voice who was caught having sex with another man. It is these feminine transgressions that bring scorn and correction upon him. In response to heteronormativity, Alan's linguistic resistance takes a form of confession; by recounting his experience as a homosexual, he denounces stigmatisation from Shi and consequently reconstructs an authentic discourse of queer life.

The relationship between Shi, representing the authority of the state, and Alan, who is marginalised, controlled and intimidated, is also an embodiment of the reality of the general aphasia of the queer community in China. When Alan changes into a dress and wig left behind by a previously-arrested transgender man during the interrogation and declares his prisoner-police sexual fantasies, the political power relations of the pair are reversed. Shi, as the masculine counterpart, becomes flustered, rather than sexually confident and authoritative. This scene alone powerfully dissolves fixed connotations of gender and identity, revealing the constructedness of both societal and gender norms.

Notably, the actor who plays Alan, Si Han, is gay in real life. Therefore, his character's line, “I'm not despicable, I'm just like you,” also constitutes the first time that the Chinese queer community has been able to refuse its stigmatisation on screen.

However, as Chinese cinema seeks to increase queer acceptance and visibilities in mainstream culture, the radical expression of gender and identity in queer cinema gave way to more romance.

From *Happy Together* (1997) to *Lan Yu* (2001), these narratives instead follow a stereotypical (traditionally heterosexual) love story template of tribulations and love. Gender identity is downplayed; experiences and meanings of queer identity are no longer the focus of the narrative. Although decentring queerness in these stories arguably creates a common ground with the heterosexual majority, it paradoxically conforms and reinforces the legitimacy

of the heteronormative order. This in turn further marginalises the exploration of queer identity in film.

Nevertheless, the Chinese queer community's on-screen resistance is far from over and even extends beyond. The film *A Dog Barking At the Moon* (2019), a direct discussion of the condition of queer people in rural China in the 1980s, won the Teddy Award at the 2019 Berlin Film Festival. When asked to censor scenes for screening qualification back in China, director Xiang Zi refused and released the film in full length on social media.

“I hope my country and government will one day understand that one can love anyone without censorship,” said a defiant Xiang.

“The screen constitutes a weapon to fight against discrimination with images and pleasure.”

For over 20 years, Chinese queer cinema has been through trials and silencing, but its defiance on and off-screen still echoes beneath the iron curtain of Chinese political censorship.

TRANSLATION BY LEON YIN

《东宫西宫》——荧幕上的反抗

Leon Yin 谈中国酷儿电影。

虽然时至今日，酷儿影像在中国电影审查制度下只得以“地下电影”的形式存在，但荧幕上对身份与性别的探索却从未停止。因为，对于生长于文化与政治的压迫下的中国酷儿群体而言，荧幕恰好构成了他们以影像与愉悦来反抗歧视的武器。

以权力、受虐、变装、性幻想为主题的《东宫西宫》(1996)为中国酷儿电影迈出了激进与反叛的第一步。围绕着男同性恋者阿兰被警察小史逮捕后的审讯和回忆展开，这部电影揭示了90年代中国同性恋群体在官僚主义和异性恋秩序下的边缘化与反抗。

作为生理性别的男性，阿兰不符合传统的“男性气质”规范。相反，他是一个纤细与柔弱的男性，在公园与同性交欢时被当场逮捕。而也正是这些女性化的举止让他成为众矢之的。为了回应异性恋霸权，阿兰用自白的形式进行语言上的反抗；通过诉说他作为同性恋者的经历，他拒绝了小史对他身份的污名，并由此重新构建了一个真实的酷儿话语。

影片中，代表国家权威的小史和被边缘化、控制与恐吓的阿兰之间的关系，也是对中国同性恋群体普遍失语的现实写照。而当阿兰在审讯时换上之前被捕的跨性别犯人所留下的衣服和假发，并宣布他的囚犯-警察性幻想时，

权力关系被颠覆，作为男性气质象征的小史反而变得慌乱与不知所措。仅仅这一幕就有力地消解了性别和身份的固定内涵，这反过来又向观众揭示了社会和性别规范的建构性。

更值得一提的是，饰演阿兰的演员司徒本身便是一名同性恋者。因此，那一句“我不贱，和你一样”，更是中国酷儿群体第一次在荧幕上掷地有声地拒绝对自己的污名化。

然而，随着越来越多的电影希望提高酷儿群体在主流文化中的接受和可见度，酷儿电影中对性别和身份的激进表达则开始逐步让位于浪漫爱情。

从《春光乍泄》(1997)到《蓝宇》(2001)，这些电影的爱情叙事都

“荧幕恰好构成了他们以影像与愉悦来反抗歧视的武器。”

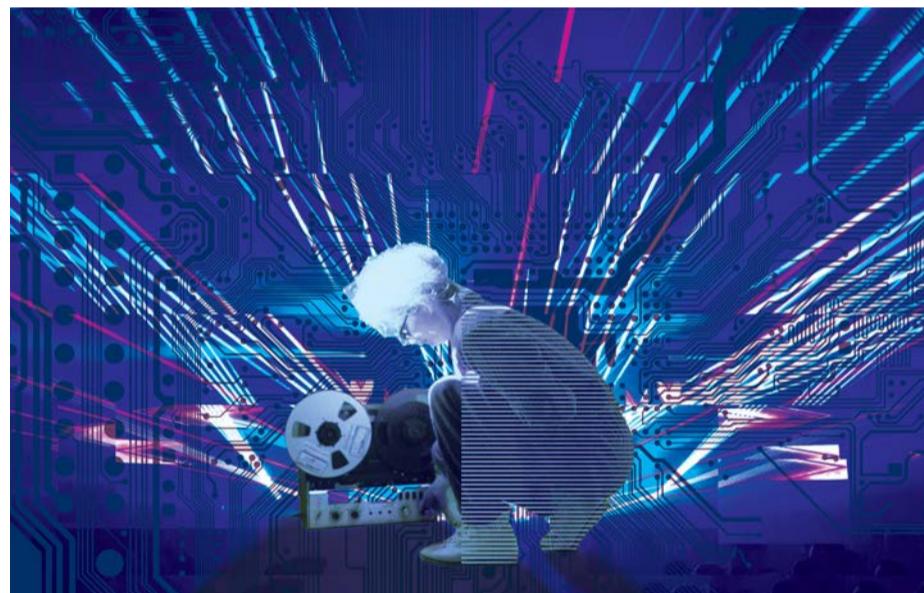
刻板地遵循了一个有关磨难与真爱的异性恋爱情故事模版。性别与身份的讨论被淡化，酷儿身份的经历和意义不再是叙事的重点。尽管对爱情故事中酷儿性的淡化为酷儿群体与异性恋主流大众间建立起了可供交流的平台，但它又矛盾地认同并强化了异性恋秩序的合法性，将酷儿身份的探索置于更加边缘的境地。

尽管如此，中国酷儿群体在荧幕上的反抗远远没有结束，甚至延伸到了荧幕之外。2019年，直面80年代中国乡村酷儿群体状况的《再见，南屏晚钟》(2019)获得了柏林电影节的泰迪熊奖。当被要求删减影片以获得国内放映资格后，导演相梓将完整的电影上传到了网络上。

“我希望我的国家和政府有一天可以明白，一个人是可以爱任何人的。”相梓说道。

20多年来，中国的酷儿电影或许经历非难，但他们在荧幕内外的反抗依然在中国政治审查的铁幕之下回响。

ART BY JOCELIN CHAN



President

Lauren Lancaster.

Happy Mardi Gras everyone! I hope you had a fun and safe weekend. I, along with the Women's Collective, attended the Mardi Gras protest at Taylor Square on Saturday - it began with a number of excellent speakers followed by a wonderful, energetic march down Oxford St. Extinction Rebellion kept the radical queer spirit going with a pop-up dance floor in Hyde Park. It is important to remember that while we in NSW and Australia have come a long way for queer rights, there is still endemic discrimination against queer people across the country, not least evidenced by bigoted policy like Mark Latham's religious 'freedoms' bill which was shelved recently (but has not been ruled out by either major party). The violence of the state against queer people continues to be felt disproportionately by people of colour and disabled people, so it was heartening to see the intersectionality of the rally's speakers featuring a Tamil

activist and doctor, disability advocates and unionist allies. The SRC will continue our work as part of the queer liberation movement through our collectives, come join QuAC or WoCo for starters!

It was excellent to meet many new faces at the SRC Party last Friday at Hermanns. I hope that those of you who were able to get along enjoyed meeting your Officebearers, and learned more about what your student union does and our plans for the year. A big shoutout to Grace and Alana our General Secretaries for their mammoth organising efforts, and Anusha Rana and Lachie Lugg for their wonderful DJing. It was a great way to punctuate our orientation activities and I am very proud of all our officers who made it a success.

In other news, the first Academic Board of the year last Wednesday was a fairly packed affair, with the University

opening up consultation for the 2022 Thematic Review to student reps on Board and beyond. The Review focuses on shaping growth at the university to improve student outcomes, staff conditions, research output and more. But that should also incorporate a much more radical, accessible and equitable idea about what a university education is. I spoke about how we want fewer staff casualisations, in-person learning, better disability services and efficient special considerations processes, an entirely revamped sustainability strategy (that fights to ameliorate the conditions of the climate crisis in which we are living) and better resources for mental health struggles, survivors and international students. You can all be part of the consultation stages, by taking part in focus groups, surveys and more. It is critical that a diverse range of student voices contribute to a vision of our University for 2022, so keep an eye on our

social media page for more details or get in contact with me.

This week I am looking forward to the next stage of constitutional redrafting and a slightly less packed agenda to focus on internal administration and action some more of my election promises. See you all around campus (pending more extreme climate catastrophe weather...)

Vice-President

Mikaela Pappou and Emily Storey.

Hello again fellow USydians, it was fantastic to meet some of you at our SRC Welcome to Uni party this past Friday! With University life officially back in the swing of things we your Vice Presidents are here to keep you up to date with our work and all things student life at USyd.

In 2022 your Vice Presidents are committed to action on the improvement of student welfare services at the University. In keeping with the work of previous councils, we are getting ready to recommence our Food Hub programme. Food Hub became an essential service provided by the SRC during the Covid

lockdowns of 2020 and 2021, we are excited to be continuing this programme to ensure that students are able to access food and other such essentials. Updates will be provided regarding the details of Food Hub and we encourage anyone who is interested in supporting the SRC in being able to provide this service to get in contact with us.

This semester will also be vastly important for staff of the Uni, including our tutors and lecturers with the NTEU (National Tertiary Education Union) in the midst of bargaining for a new Enterprise Agreement with the University. This EBA

period follows years of staff cuts that have resulted in vastly increased workloads for remaining staff, wage theft, rampant casualisation, and worsening conditions, explained away under the guise of Covid-19. It is vital that as students of the University that we show our support and solidarity with any and all actions that the NTEU decide to undertake during their negotiations with the Uni, and remember staff working conditions are student learning conditions.

Keeping in mind the weather that has passed and is to come, we hope you're all keeping safe and as dry as possible

as you move around campus. If you find yourself running into any trouble with your courses as a result of weather based disruption we recommend you contact the SRC's casework service who will be able to support you through any issues you face at Uni.

If you have any further questions about our work, want to get involved, or just want to have a chat, please feel free to contact us at

vice.president@src.usyd.edu.au.

Student Housing

Henri Collyer, Ricky Rangra, Shiyun Cheng, and Silei Wen.

Hello everyone and welcome to 2022. This year is going to be a huge year for the Student Housing team and we plan to create greater support for all students both looking and dealing with housing issues.

With the federal election coming up one of the most important goals of our collective is to remove the failing Liberal government that has done nothing to

solve our housing crisis as more and more young people struggle to make rent or even find housing. However both Labor and the Greens housing plans are inadequate to deal with this current crisis. We wish to continue to support and campaign for student housing cooperatives such as STUCCO in order to provide affordable and comfortable places for students to live in.

Finally we hope to provide further services in regards to helping students currently in difficult situations by providing more information about our current legal services. Many we have spoken to throughout the university do not know about these services in regards to solving disputes between landlords and thus we feel it is important to encourage. These can be found on the "SRC Legal Service" section of the USYD's

SRC website and includes things such as Tenancy Law factsheets, Share Housing Agreement templates and phone numbers for communicating with our very own legal service.

If you have any further ideas or queries about what we are working on, please contact

student.housing@src.usyd.edu.au.

Gen Secretary

Alana Ramshaw and Grace Lagan.

Hello brothers and sisters in Christ,

We're pleased to announce that we survived Welcome Week with minimal lasting trauma. We packed bags, ran the stall on Eastern Ave, hosted the NUS President and Welfare Officer, and talked to countless first years, twisting their arms until they followed the SRC's socials. If you didn't grab a tote bag and a

planner, sorry for your loss.

We've also been preparing for the SRC Welcome to Uni Party at 6pm Friday at Hermanns. This party is an opportunity for new and old students to get involved in the SRC and to meet their collective convenors and have a drink and a boogie to the sweet tunes of some talented DJs. This party will happen before this edition

is published, (so once again sorry for your loss if you didn't make it) but it hasn't yet happened at time of writing (but I'm going to proactively say that it was good. Everyone had a great time). Entry is by gold coin donation, and proceeds are going to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

A big part of our role as General Secretaries is supporting SRC Office Bearers and facilitating effective

communication within the SRC. To that end, we will be holding ongoing fortnightly all-in meetings with the executive and collective convenors, now that we're all collectively settling into our semester routines.

Stay safe and hydrated, see you next fortnight.

Time Management Tips & Resources for University Students



Time management allows you to achieve the most within the limited time you have available. At University that might mean balancing all of your readings and assessments, with work, a social life and home responsibilities. It's like a budget for your time.

The internet is awash with time management resources. A good place to start is with the **Learning Hub** (sydney.edu.au/students/learning-centre.html) information on how to make a daily timetable, for all of your classes, private study time, and other responsibilities; as well as a semester planner to map out when each of your assignments are due, so that you allow enough time to complete each of them. Try each of these for a few weeks, and make whatever adjustments you need to have them suit you.

Sometimes poor time management can be caused by other factors, such as perfectionism and procrastination. The Uni's Counselling Service has some resources online, and you can also talk to a counselor to get some strategies. ADHD is also a major cause of time management difficulties. If you have a diagnosis, you can register with the Uni's Disability Services Unit to get adjustments, like extra time for your assessments. There are lots of support groups that share information on techniques that help to start tasks, remain focused, and manage the anxiety around ADHD. There are plenty of resources that are quite expensive, and some that are free, so take your time to find whatever works best for you. It is also a good idea to talk to your lecturers and tutors to let them know what you find difficult, and what they might do to help you to succeed.

Sometimes you cannot get things done, because there are too many demands on you. If you need to work, or have other responsibilities, consider taking a reduced study load.

Students on a Centrelink payment will need to talk to a caseworker, while students on a visa will need to consult the SRC's migration solicitor, before dropping a subject. Some students think that having a smaller study load will mean they will graduate later, but the reality is that you will progress more quickly, and at less cost, if you do three subjects and pass them all, than if you attempt four subjects and fail some.

When completing any assignment, take the time to check that you have correctly referenced, and be mindful to paraphrase as you go. No matter how busy you are it is not worth risking a fail grade, because you have plagiarised, either deliberately or accidentally. Buying an assignment from someone, or using a fake medical certificate is likely to be discovered by the Uni, and is likely to lead to a suspension from Uni. If you are not sure what you could do instead, please talk to an SRC Caseworker, who can offer a free, confidential, non-judgmental service, that is independent of the Uni.

If you need more help call the SRC to book an appointment with a Caseworker or email: help@src.usyd.edu.au

Learning Hub:
sydney.edu.au/students/learning-centre.html

University Counselling Service
sydney.edu.au/students/counselling-and-mental-health-support/resources-workshops.html



Ask Abe

SRC caseworker help Q&A

Sexual Health & Consent



Hi Abe,

I am embarrassed to say that I am still a virgin, and I don't know much about sex or sexual health. My boyfriend has been very patient, but I think I will need to have sex with him soon or he will leave me. I feel scared and I don't know what to do. Please help me.

Embarrassed

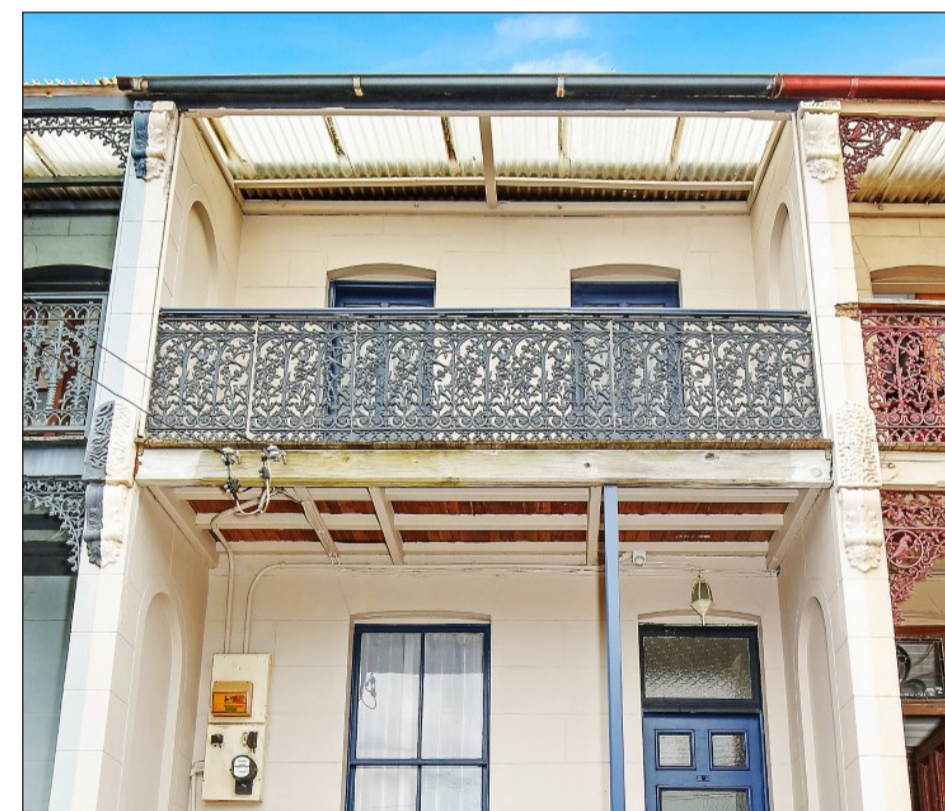
Dear Embarrassed,

I am sorry to hear that you feel embarrassed about being a virgin. Media and friends can put ridiculous pressure on us to conform to standards we don't all subscribe to. You should have as much

consensual, safe, and fun sex as you like. If that means none, then that is what you should do. If your boyfriend does not like that, you do not have to be in a relationship with him. Also consider that not all relationships have to be monogamous, and this might be something you could discuss with him. The **Health Direct website** (healthdirect.gov.au/safe-sex-overview) has information on sexual health and safe sex, and there is specific information for international students through the **NSW Health International Student Health Hub website** (internationalstudents.health.nsw.gov.au). You can also get free telephone advice on 1800 451 624.

Abe

For more information on sexual health see:
Health Direct: healthdirect.gov.au/safe-sex-overview
International Student Health Hub: internationalstudents.health.nsw.gov.au



Do you need advice on a **SHAREHOUSING** or **TENANCY** issue?

Ask an SRC caseworker!

help@src.usyd.edu.au or call 02 9660 5222 to book a phone or Zoom appointment

SRC CASEWORKER PHONE OR ZOOM APPOINTMENTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

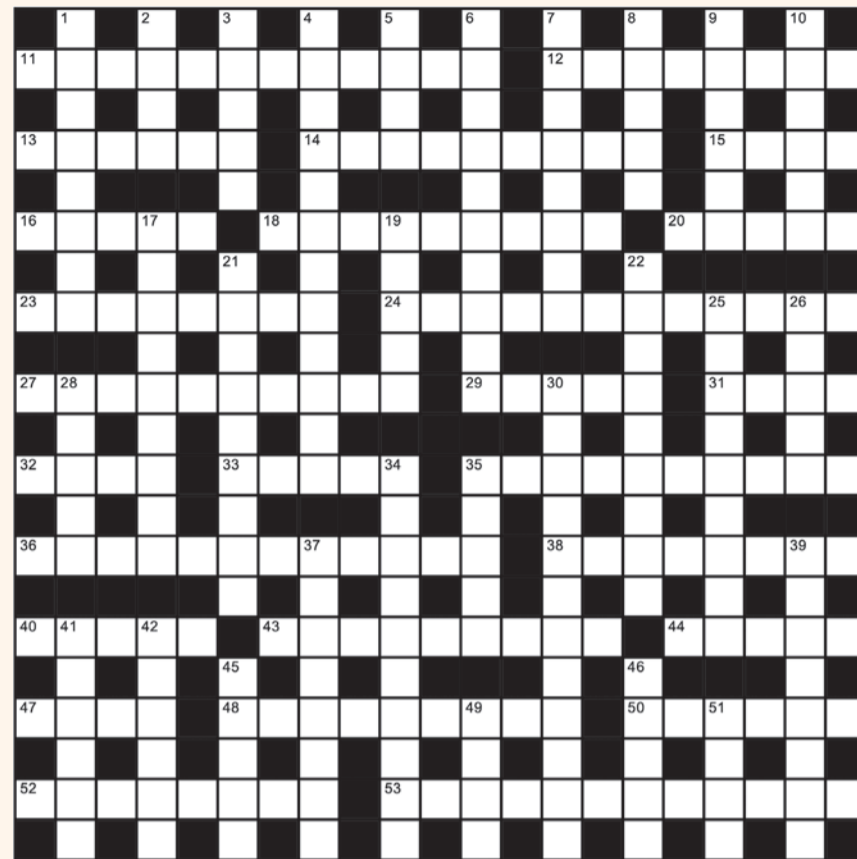


Puzzles and quiz by Some Hack

Target

10 words: Kenny
 20 words: Burke and Willes
 30 words: Phileas Fogg
 40 words: Neil Armstrong

L	O	R
E	D	I
W	W	D



Omega Crossword

Across

- ScoMo's Band (7, 5)
- From 9 Down (8)
- Lake Victoria, Kampala Country (6)
- Multiple 12 Across (9)
- Ratatouille, Paella, Masala Dosa (4)
- Boot Country (5)
- Tonya Harding, Brian Boitano, Torvill and Dean (3-6)
- Cross (5)
- Where everything is (8)
- Turkey is in this Continent (4,2,6)
- Where you would find a Redskin lolly rapper (2,1,7)
- Ethnic Group from the Caribbean (5)
- Country that definitely, 100 percent has Weapons of Mass Destruction and definitely not heaps of oil (4)
- ? Between Lagos, London and European Capital (4)
- Sweet Liquid (5)
- Don Bradman Passed this 12 times (3-7)
- The Two Main Languages spoken in Rome throughout History (7,5)
- Genius (8)
- ? A singing sea Crab stops abruptly In African Capital (5)
- ? Question about sheep quality discussed in Asian Capital (9)
- Country That Sounds cold (5)
- Aussie Delicacy (4)
- Deliberately (2,7)
- ? A French life confuses Nan in European Capital (6)
- Nato, Nasa, Unicef (8)
- There is 2000 km between this Asian Capital and this European Country (6,6)

Down

- Head's Century in the West Indies (8)
- Set Fire to Radio in European Capital (4)
- Los Angeles, Pennsylvania Southern Santa Cruz and American Capital (2,3)
- wot I didn't youse wen writin this clo (12)
- Country that shares its name with an 80s song (4)
- Fire Starter (10)
- Bruce Wayne, Bruce Banner, Clark Kent (5,3)
- What Moody Teenagers have (5)
- ? 50 on Bradman in England (6)
- F*** This Clue (6)
- ? Organ Fund in England (9)
- Guernica is this Country (5)
- Carpenter, Brick Layer, Electrician (9)
- ? Gibson Supported raucously in Victoria (9)
- Depression in the land for drainage (4,5)
- Most Answers in this crossword are this (5)
- What it would say on a sign if it wanted you to stand (2,3)
- ? Without loss Oriel Jade Iron I destroy in South America (3, 2, 7)
- Good Humus Fodder (5,5)
- Pacific Island Country (5)
- Played on Anzac Day (4,4)
- Where Chicago is (8)
- Canadian (6)
- Catalonia, Balkans, Scandinavia (6)
- ? Japanese Capital Taken from Kyoto! (5)
- West African Coast (5)
- How a Cockney would say Forks (4)
- Berlin, Germany, Timor (4)

Quiz

- What connects Pavarotti's majestic performance of "Nessun dorma" in 1990 and Diana Ross' calamitous performance of "I'm Coming Out" in 1994?
- Which Australian icon bowled the "ball of the century" to dismiss Mike Gatting in the 1993 Ashes?
- Name 3 of the girls that Lou Vega wants "a little bit of" in his 1995 hit *Mambo No. 5*?
- What all time great film from 1999 features the iconic lines "now this is podraging" and "this is getting out of hand now there are two of them"?
- Which 1997 televised event is still the most broadcast in Australian TV history?
- Who was the Prime Minister or President of each of these countries on the last day of the 20th century? UK, Australia, USA, Russia and France.

8			3		9		7
		4					
7	1	5				6	4
	3	7			5	4	
			9			1	
				6	3		
	7		4				3
				8			5
5			7			8	

Answers



Puzzle answers available online at honisoit.com/puzzle-answers

EXCLUSIVE PULLOUT: VR Mardi Gras root experience! Just like the real thing!

*Incoherent.
Always.*

The End Times



Wed Feb 30 Vol. 420 + 3 Cheaper and more available than toilet paper! The only newspaper. Proudly Murdoch. Pro-News. Anti-Truth. People's Republic of USyd. \$4.20

INEQUITY TICKETS: MY PRESENCE AT MARDI GRAS

Op-ed by *Motto Flanagan*.

Straight activists and Motto Flanagan and Blanche Wilton have spoken out about the lack of inequity tickets at Manning

Bar's Heaps Gay party: "We simply don't see why those who happen to be straight, like us, are disqualified from enjoying ourselves for

a discounted price at the event of the year," Flanagan complained, as Ms Wilton gazed wistfully at the lesbians doing [redacted]

further up in the bathroom line. "I'm an ally! A gold star ally!" Wilton insisted.



ALBO ANNOUNCES LINE OF SIGNED LABOR DOUCHES IN LEADUP TO ELECTION

HAZMAT CREW DEPLOYED TO CLEAN MANNING BAR BATHROOM IN WAKE OF HEAPS GAY

SYDNEY EQUESTRIAN INDUSTRY STRIKES AS KETAMINE PRICES REACH ALL TIME HIGH, NO SIGN OF COMEDOWN

Sydney's equestrian industry has declared a strike for the remainder of this year's Mardi Gras festival following a skyrocket in the price of medicinally sedative substances.

a horse owner at the Centennial Park Equestrian Centre, said his horses were in distress. "They're shaky, they've got the chills, they're reaching for UberEats. To be frank, they appear depressed. Their mood needs a bump."

In speaking with *The End Times*, K. Pitt,



SALT CONDEMNS ROUNDABOUTS

Socialist Alternative headkicker Greg Dogwin has spoken out about the capitalist menace of roundabouts facing our nation's cities. "People might think that they are simple, bucolic traffic management

devices, but they're wrong," Dogwin railed. "Roundabouts obfuscate the dialectic flow of traffic, buying into deluded postmodern notions of cyclicity. Don't romanticise them."

AUTONOMOUS COLLECTIVE FOR UGLIES DECLARES NDA FOLLOWING MARDI GRAS

The University of Sydney SRC's Autonomous Collective for Uglies (ACU) has declared a National Day of Action following Heaps Gay's Mardi Gras party on Saturday night.

The End Times spoke with E. Vile, the convener of the collective, who highlighted the group's list of demands.

"We're sick of feeling like outsiders on our own campus," Ms Vile explained.

"Year after year, the USU organises this event knowing full well that it will cause an influx of Sydney's hot and popular population. We say it's got to go."

ACU's action will take place on 20/4/22. A petition is available online.

USU WEBSITE CRIPPLED BY RUSSIAN CYBERATTACK

Vladimir Putin has claimed responsibility for the USU's downed website. In a statement from the Kremlin, Putin

justified the attack by alleging the USU was developing nuclear missiles.

Doomed	Destined
Lip syncing	Late submissions
Club Penguin	#Kony2012
Cocaine	Ketamine
Solar energy	Cunnilingus
NATO	Manning Bar
Sovereignty	USyd Rants
SASS x SULS	Hoarding
Leg spin	Dehumidifiers

IN THIS ISSUE:

Sydney farmers strike as ketamine prices reach all-time high
- Bailey Hay

Hip Hop Divas: a close reading
- Homer Grovel

War bad (?)
- Arellana Shoe

Can I fuck my cousin if he's hot?
- William Wyatt II

Why I will no longer write
- Saul Oozer

What raincoats say about neo-liberalism
- Beau Stringer

PRESENT THIS AT NEWTOWN POLICE STATION FOR GET OUT OF JAIL FREE CARD

Want to reopen Fisher Library rooftop?

Email the Vice Chancellor at
vice.chancellor@sydney.edu.au
to let the University know!

From: ____@uni.sydney.edu.au
To: vice.chancellor@sydney.edu.au

Dear Vice Chancellor,

I'm FIRSTNAME LASTNAME, a student at the University of Sydney in my Xth year of DEGREE NAME.

I am extremely disappointed that the University isn't willing to allocate funds to make the Fisher Library rooftop terrace safe for staff and students to use. As an existing space attached to the library, the terrace would be an ideal expansion to study spaces on campus.

I look forward to hearing what steps the University will take to make the rooftop terrace accessible.

Regards,
FIRSTNAME LASTNAME