

Honi Soit.

WEEK 9, SEM 1 2022

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

Est. 1929



A masterclass in greenwashing by the University of Sydney

When examined in light of its \$3.41 billion fossil fuel-ridden investment portfolio, USyd's so-called sustainability initiatives amount to nothing more than vacant posturing: public relations measures utterly soaked in greenwash. Enviroweek, for example, held plant-based food trucks, bake sales and floral treasure hunts – all while \$338,000 of the USU's

funds were effectively financing BHP, Rio Tinto, and Woodside Petroleum.

USyd's investment portfolio is closely guarded by public relations professionals and bureaucrats, only accessible by a 'Government Information Public Access' (GIPA) application. Emails released to Honi under GIPA legislation reveal the layers of bureaucracy complicit in USyd's greenwashing.

Fabian Robertson investigates p. 12

Who the fuck is in USyd's Senate?

In the wake of consecutive attacks to learning and teaching conditions at the University of Sydney, much of activists' ire has been thrown at the elusive figure of 'university management'. But who exactly are they referring to?

At the top of this heinous hierarchy is Belinda Hutchinson. Hutchinson's dubious resume includes her role as Chairman of Thales Australia, owned by French global weapons manufacturer Thales Group.

Carmeli Argana writes p. 10

Also in this edition:

Fuck the Minister for Home Affairs p. 9

Fuck USU, USyd for not having a disability space p. 10

Fuck the LNP's Discontinue legislation p. 9

Fuck Vivid, Academic Papers and John Green p. 15

Fuck Goalkeeping 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* 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

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GET IN TOUCH

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

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Scan the QR code to use our anonymous tip form.

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EDITORIAL Fabian Robertson

Perhaps the greatest thing about this silly little paper of ours is that it gives students a mouthpiece to voice their opinions, a platform that amplifies their reach and power. This edition focuses on the use of that mouthpiece to level criticism, shine light on injustice and call out bullshit.

Honi is, in part, what separates USyd from the likes of UTS, UNSW and Macquarie. Having dealt with USyd's Public Relations department on multiple occasions, I can testify to the fact that University management are shit scared of the power that *Honi* has. USyd's viability as an institution is reliant on its reputation and *Honi*, gratefully, provides an accessible platform to besmirch this reputation when such besmirching is justified. Through *Honi*, then, students retain some power over management; to push for change, to fight for our interests.

Many sections of this edition capitalise on this power. Khanh Tran, on page 6, chronicles the years-long fight against USyd and the USU to get a disability space on campus. Carmeli Argana, on page 10, looks into the secretive corporate board running our university. Tran and Argana combine on page 9 to analyse how the Federal Liberal Government is fucking over students in two separate departments: the punitive changes to discontinuing subjects (DC) and forcing international students to seek research verification from the Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs.

My feature (page 12) aims to call out USyd and the USU on their greenwashing practices after 10 painful months

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Letters



Please send us letters! We love contention, critique, compliments, etc. You can send them through to editors@honisoit.com

Sex & the City Rd



After a restful — albeit gossip-ridden — midsem break, I'm back with the latest student shenanigans. Read ahead to find out what's making the headkickers of USyd sweat.

Awkwardly, Onor Nottle reached out to *Honi* editor Carmeli Argana to ask her to join her USU campaign — sorry lovely, she's actually not planning on campaigning for anyone this year x0. Meanwhile, fellow Switch candidate Madhullikaa Singh was spied grabbing some happy snaps on Eastern Avenue. I wonder what that impromptu modelling shoot could be for? Anyone's guess!

I hear that Alexander "Pied Piper" Poirier could be facing some intra-Unity dissent after Unity bigwig Belinda Thomas allegedly tried to deter him from running for Board. Ouch!

I have also heard about a schism between MixSoc minions including LibDependent Michael Grenier and SRC Ethnocultural Officer Ashrika Paruthi, with the former pettily describing ACAR as a "far-left" body. Yeah, duh.

On that same note, given that Grenier has struck up quite the partnership with former Phoenix headkicker Victor Liang, engaging in some potential brinkmanship with Penta in next month's Council by attempting to rescind an earlier Penta SRC motion to rename 'Lunar New Year' to 'Chinese New Year'.

Here's to election season!

The Michael Spence Column for Disagreeing Well*

Fabian Robertson asks: Why the fuck are the desks so low in Fisher Library?

Anyone who has spent more than 15 seconds sitting at any desk in Fisher or the Lawbry should have noticed just how low they are. They're like those doorways in vintage homes that you have to stoop to walk through because they were designed in the Victorian era or some shit, when the average height of humans was apparently 93cm.

Studying at Fisher is like the first time you realise you're too big for playgrounds, when you're crawling around in some plastic rainbow tunnel and it hits you that you're just a little bit too big for it, that your childhood is beginning to end, that the good times are over, that you gotta learn to ride a bike or take up reading instead.

Well, to the people responsible for the furniture in Fisher: playtime is over. Please, grow the fuck up and give us adult-sized desks.

Studying at Fisher necessitates agony-inducing stooping to the subterranean level of your laptop. This naturally arches your spine so that you end up hunched over the desk like a possessed gremlin. At this point, Fisher should be serving up complimentary painkillers upon arrival to pre-empt the inevitable soreness that comes from studying there.

As someone of reasonable height, I genuinely have to stack three or four thick books under my laptop to survive. On more than one occasion, the prospect of contorting my stupidly long frame

behind Fisher's desks has pushed me to brave UTS' library, where the fear of being ejected by grumpy seccies is outweighed by the fear of developing chronic spinal issues.

There are only four tables of appropriate height in the entirety of Fisher, with one on each of Level 2, 4, 6 and 8. Here, the raised desks stand tall above their tiny compatriots, sanctuaries of promise in an otherwise barren hellscape for tall people. Too often, however, this towering haven is occupied by humans of below-average height — students so short they are blissfully unaware of the physical torture they are indirectly inflicting upon their colleagues of lankier stature.

Seriously, though, Fisher needs some bigger furniture. Even my average sized friends think the desks are too small. It's an accessibility issue and one that is so integral to the performance of sleep-deprived students.

If anyone in USyd management is reading this, just take a hundred grand out of your \$3.41 billion investment portfolio (read more on page 12) and give us some proper desks. I have no doubt that you pricks get the luxury of leather wheely chairs behind large mahogany desks so at least give us a chance to study without messing up our necks, spine and posture.

Special Considerations is still inhumane #1

Fabian Robertson

In my opinion, one of the worst parts about USyd is the mistreatment of the most vulnerable members of our student body by our Special Considerations system. This column will highlight aspects of the system that need reform until change is achieved.

In 2021, the head of one of my units told us to avoid Special Cons at all costs: "it's simply inhumane," she said.

Sadly, that is still the case. One of the most horrible parts of the current system is the rigid enforcement of inflexible rules to determine the outcome of students' applications. There is no room for discretion in decision-making. Rather, students are at the mercy of a heartless and intimidating web of bureaucracy that has the power to dramatically shape one's tertiary education and life.

One of the fundamental flaws in the system is a lack of staff and funding leading to extended delays for applications to be processed. Applications are meant to be processed within four working days, but this often balloons into weeks.

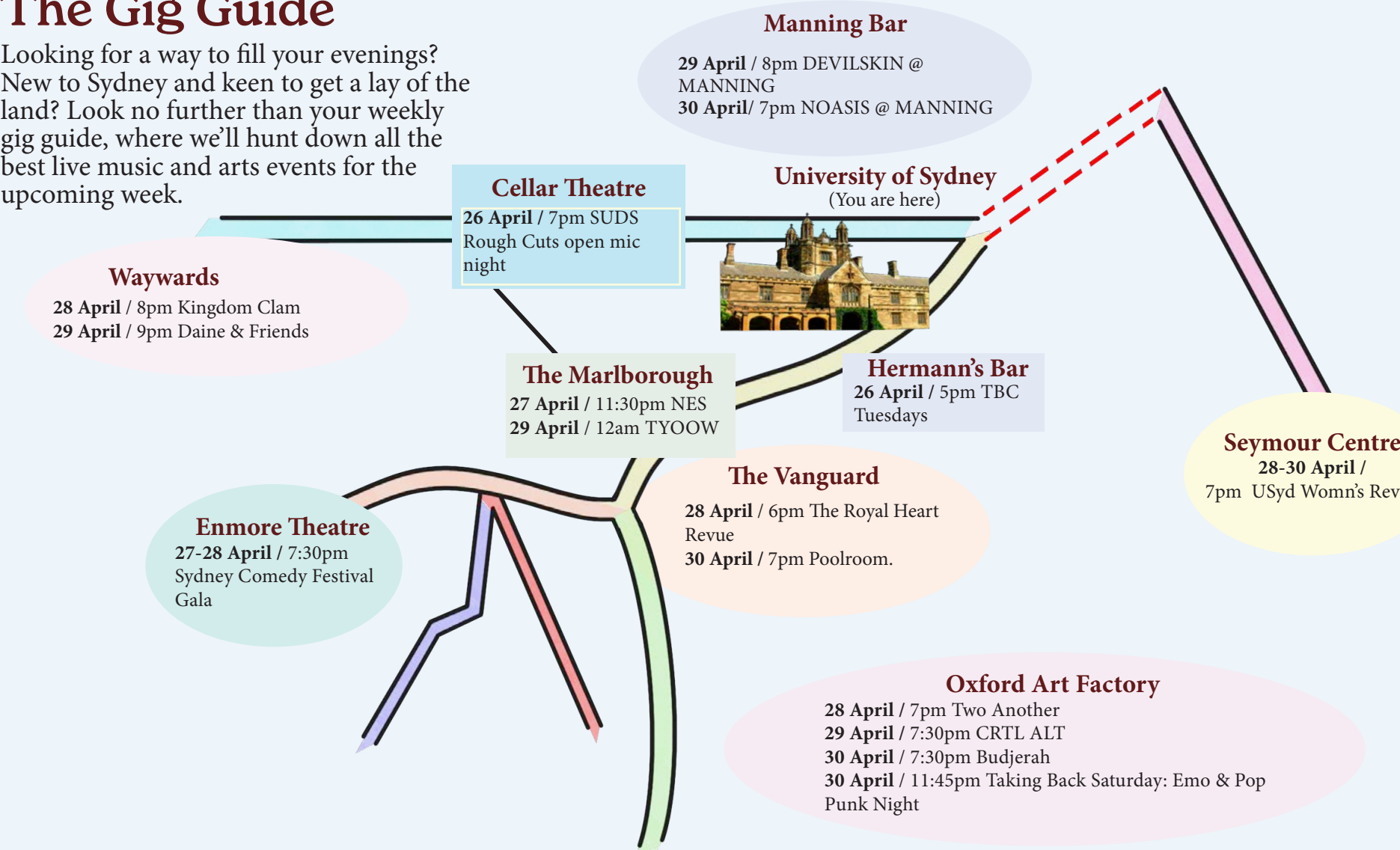
Charlie* had a one-week short release assignment but had sustained a serious eye injury. Special Considerations did not approve their application until five days after the assessment was due, leaving them in the dark about whether they would be accepted and forcing them to complete the assessment in spite of their injury in case their application was rejected.

Similarly, Jordan* was granted Special Cons for a replacement exam but due to extensive delays in the application outcome, was not told this until the date of the replacement exam had already passed. Due to a lack of funding then, their Special Cons outcome was simply not actionable.

Unlike some of the more complex issues that plague Special Considerations, processing delays is one that can be easily resolved with more funding. It's down to the University to put their money where their mouth is and actually invest in a system that serves, rather than punishes, students.

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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USyd fined for radiation control breach

Ellie Stephenson, Thomas Sargeant and Khanh Tran report.

The University of Sydney has pleaded guilty to two offences relating to the *Radiation Control Act 1990* and the *Radiation Control Regulation 2013* following the improper disposal of a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner.

The University engaged a contractor to dispose of the scanner, which contained a sealed radioactive caesium-137 source, without approval from the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The company which transported the scanner did not have the required licence to possess it.

It is understood that the PET Scanner used to be stored at USyd’s Brain and Mind Centre between 2007 until 2019 when the machine was removed from the building. After falling into redundancy since its last use in 2013, the equipment was dismantled and discarded by the University.

Subsequently, staff members at the scrap metal facility where the scanner rested measured that a component was emitting 734 microsieverts (µSv) per hour — far exceeding the 1000 µSv per year public exposure limit under the law.

To put this amount of radiation in context, a dose of 734 µSv is less than a single CT scan, and is approximately equivalent to half the average annual exposure to natural background radiation in Australia.

The breach did not harm any people or the environment as the radioactive source remained contained and was detected.

The University was ordered to pay a fine of \$61,000, legal costs to the EPA, and to publish a notice describing the incident in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, in The Australasian Radiation Protection Society Newsletter, and on the University’s Facebook page.

In a statement, USyd said that the case is now resolved: “There is no suggestion [that] the offences were intentional or caused by negligence or recklessness”.



Student Unity NUS Office Bearers accused of financial mismanagement

Ellie Stephenson and Khanh Tran report.

Student Unity National Union of Students (NUS) Office Bearers have allegedly seriously mismanaged the organisation’s finances through a contract created in 2021.

In information revealed to *Honi*, the Office Bearers involved started the Australian International Students’ Association (AISA) in 2021, an alternative international student organisation to the Council of International Students Australia (CISA), with 2021 NUS General Secretary Param Mahal being allocated \$9,500 for the project.

Mahal allegedly passed the money on to ex-Unity Convenor and 2020 NUS General Secretary Samuel Roberts to be a ‘consultant’ on the project. Mahal allegedly entered into this contract unilaterally. Roberts was initially meant to receive 30% of the fee upfront, and the remaining 70% upon completion.

PooNR: Peter Nicol Russel Building bathrooms overflow with faeces

Thomas Sargeant reports.

Students at the Peter Nicol Russel Learning Hub were disappointed - but not surprised - as human faeces overflowed from the bathrooms two weeks ago.

Engineers familiar with Newton’s Third Law will already know that for every PNR, there also exists a PooNR, and the University’s failure to maintain the space has now resulted in multiple bio-hazardous incidents.

Just over a year since the infamous Pissgate incident in which PNR overflowed with urine, the very same bathrooms have yet again resulted in an unsafe (and gross) environment for students.

The issue was reported at 5pm on Wednesday to the University Health and Safety team, with a Health and Safety Senior Partner promptly responding: “Thanks for letting me know. I’ll alert our campus services team immediately and get a plumber across to rectify.”

As of 3:30pm today, the bathrooms had not been fixed or cleaned.

The University responded to a request for comment at 5:35pm on Wednesday: “We apologise for the delay in addressing this issue. The toilets are now unblocked and will reopen shortly.”

“The case was incorrectly classified as non-urgent in the reporting system. As soon as we spotted the error, we took action. We respond urgently to all health and safety issues, and monitor for such cases 24 hours a day to ensure they are appropriately investigated and resolved.”

In relation to Pissgate, the University attributed fault to incorrect use of the bathrooms.

“We are aware there have been previous incidents of blocked urinals in this building. None of these incidents have been the result of faulty infrastructure, but of objects flushed down the toilet pans. Signage is in place to advise all users not to flush hand wipes and to place

However, NUS sources raised concerns over the amount of work done by Roberts. Nonetheless, Mahal paid the full amount. Despite not being an Office Bearer at the time of payment early this year, Mahal continued to have access to the NUS’ accounts.

The current NUS General Secretary, Emily Sagolj, who is also a Student Unity member, discovered the alleged mismanagement in February.

The NUS is seeking legal advice on the matter, as well as advice on improving financial oversight.

The NUS, which is Australia’s peak student body, elects its Office Bearers annually at its National Conference. This issue follows longstanding issues with factionalism and lack of accountability within the union, which has only recently begun to publicly share detailed minutes and OB reports.

The General Secretary position has historically been controlled by senior members of Student Unity. This pattern

these in the bins provided.”

Upon *Honi*’s inspection, the smell was particularly egregious. The men’s bathrooms were in an unusable condition, with human faeces and toilet paper on the floor near the sinks. The tiled floor itself was partially flooded, and multiple sinks were filled with water and trace amounts of faeces.

Images and witness accounts confirm that the women’s bathroom is in a similar state of contamination.

Bella Anderssen, Vice-President of the Sydney University Engineering Undergraduate Association (SUEUA), spoke to *Honi* about the issues facing students in PNR.

“I think PNR is an often-overlooked space on campus, and the fact that we are subjected to these conditions is not conducive to a healthy learning environment. It’s fucking gross,” she said.

Recalling last year’s incident, Anderssen noted that “the fact that this happened twice in two years is fucked. The fact that this is a staple of the Engineering experience does not speak well about the University of Sydney.”

Similarly, SUEUA President Riley Vaughan, was concise in his response: “It’s pretty poop.”

The issue was reported to the Health and Safety team by Sean Auer, Engineering undergraduate representative on the Academic Board. Auer notified other engineers by posting on the SUEUA Members 2022 Facebook group that “maintenance (should) be on the way according to Health and Safety Manager.”

“In meantime best to avoid clogged sinks/urinals to avoid pissgate pt. 2!”

Auer spoke to *Honi* about the incident, explaining that “I alerted an Eng [sic] faculty Health and Safety manager yesterday to an urgent WHS issue in the PNR bathrooms, to which they promptly replied and said the issue had been escalated to the campus services team. So my individual experiences with staff has

has previously, and continues, to raise accountability concerns, as members are bound by factional allegiances. The current revelations coming to light relied on Sagolj’s willingness to raise misconduct by members of her own faction.

Additionally, the issue has implications for other portfolios. The NUS Education Department’s planned campaign on increasing SSAF allocations and running EdCon could be diminished by poor spending within the Union coming to light. Office Bearers reportedly expressed concern about the ways that the scandal might affect perceptions of the Union.

Current NUS President Georgie Beatty told *Honi*, “The NUS treats matters of transparency and financial accountability to our members with the utmost seriousness. We are a union of our members.”

“The NUS is pursuing legal advice, therefore cannot comment further on these allegations.”

been positive and attentive.”

“However the fact that the same catastrophic sewage overflow has occurred for the second time in the space of a year is indicative of the systemic, critical failure of the university to properly fund and perform essential maintenance across the faculty.”

The University is well aware of the issues facing PNR. Cole Scott Curwood, USU Board Director and 2021 SUEUA President, said in a statement to *Honi*: “Last year, I was the undergraduate member of the University Executive WHS Committee due to my role on the SRC Executive. I reported to the committee in early 2021 on the regular infrastructure problems in the PNR Building.”

“This included last year’s PNR bathroom incident. The response to my report was immediate, but the sewerage currently sitting in the PNR bathrooms evidences that systemic issues remain.”

Bathroom issues seem to plague the engineering faculty, with students reporting multiple issues in the new Engineering and Technology Precinct (J03). Livy Smith, President of Sydney University Queer STEM Society (QUEST), told *Honi* that the society has already received many complaints that most of the women’s toilets in the new \$200 million building do not have sanitary bins.

These issues compound the existing infrastructure failures of PNR. For example, a specific heavily duct-taped pipe in the learning hub tends to drip water intermittently throughout the day, and consistently at 6pm every day. Engineering students report that this has been occurring since at least November 2021, and has developed a large patch of mould on the carpet below the leak.

Vaughan’s words on Pissgate unfortunately once again ring true: “This incident cannot be allowed to become normalised, humorous, or unimportant. It is unsafe for students to be allowed to stew in the fumes of human waste.”

National Day of Action for free education unites staff and students

Christine Lai reports.

Staff and students marched from Fisher Library to UTS two weeks ago to oppose the corporatisation of universities, demanding free education and better working conditions for tertiary staff at universities.

The rally was hosted by the National Union of Students (NUS) and supported by the USyd National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) and the Sydney University Education Action Group (EAG). NUS Education Officer Luc Velez and USyd NTEU President Nick Riemer co-chaired the rally.

Riemer discussed the significance of NTEU’s recent ballot to authorise industrial action at length. He criticised successive government attacks on unions’ ability to decide when and how to take strike action, including the *WorkChoices Act (2005)* created under the Howard government.

“We have to go through an incredibly obstructive and time-consuming bureaucratic practice to ballot all of our members, not on our terms, but on terms established by the federal government with the precise intention of hampering the union’s ability to act collectively.”

SRC Education Officer Lia Perkins spoke on behalf of USyd students, emphasising the need for student support with staff during the enterprise bargaining period.

“It is staff who make the University run and have the most in common with students, not management. Students need to be energised and angry about the state of their education,” Perkins said.

Dani Cotton, the Casuals representative on the USyd NTEU Branch Committee, expressed anger at casualisation in the workplace, noting that 74% of USyd workers are on an “insecure” contract.

“I’ve been paid 13 minutes per assignment to mark. You cannot read,

mark, and give meaningful feedback in 13 minutes, it’s impossible.”

Cotton remarked on the success of Melbourne University to add the clause into their enterprise agreement, which led to casual staff winning \$15 million in backpay.

UNSW Education Activist Shovan Bhattarai spoke on class warfare in the education sector and the power of workers through collectivised action.

“We’re fighting on the same side as the public sector workers who’ve been out on strike in recent months. Thousands and thousands of teachers, train drivers, nurses. They’re resisting everything that capitalism has to offer in 2022,” Bhattarai said.

USyd NTEU Branch Committee member Jennifer Huch-Hoogvliet spoke on the need for staff pay to reflect the cost of living and working in Sydney.

“The cost of living has skyrocketed. It is so expensive to live and afford petrol, food, your rent, and mortgage. What we really need in this enterprise bargaining agreement is a genuine pay increase above inflation,” she said.

Jeremy Heathcote, an Indigenous man and USyd NTEU Branch Committee member, emphasised the 3% target for First Nations employment and called out management’s lack of action in engaging students and staff in a “First Nation agenda”.

“We’ve lost a number of staff in the last two or three years due to cultural safety, staff not being recognised and having no voice in their areas,” Heathcote said.

UTS NTEU Member Tilly Fay described how crucial this bargaining period is as “the one time we can legally take protected action to stand up for ourselves.”

Fay also condemned the Liberal government’s response to university funding, which had already been slashed

prior to COVID: “They brought in the disastrous Job-ready Graduates Package making student fees more expensive for particular disciplines like arts and law, effectively drawing a line in the sand where your financial situation growing up determines what you can choose to go to university and study.”

National President of the NTEU Dr Alison Barnes also denounced the Morrison Government’s cuts to higher education: “Morrison changed the rules to deny university workers access to JobKeeper. He cut funding to universities and doubled the costs of some degrees.

“Morrison did not hold a hose; he held a petrol can to our sector.”

Additionally, NSW Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi criticised the private interests of “short-sighted governments” and their influence on the higher education system.

“Decades of neoliberalism has really destroyed the public focused mission of universities. It’s making them places which churn our job ready students and the focus on research is becoming more profit-maximising,” Faruqi said.

NSW NTEU Secretary Damien Cahill described the dire situation academics have been facing on the frontline of university struggle for years and a need for ongoing student solidarity with staff.

“We’re going to push back against the tide of insecure employment, against the tide of overwork, we’re going to win gender affirmation leave, we’re going to win sick pay for casuals,” Cahill said.

Riemer closed the rally by asserting that students and staff have the same interests with one goal in mind, “the end to the corporate university and a restitution for free public, properly resourced education for the good of students, for the good of staff and for the good of society”.

“We’re not going to rest until that is exactly what we get,” he said.

Staff call for students to support strikes

Luke Cass reports.

students share the same interests as opposed to university management.

Lancaster agreed, pointing to examples of the connection between staff working conditions and student learning conditions. She cited last year’s Draft Change Proposal, along with a lack of one-on-one time with tutors and inadequate assignment feedback as examples of declining learning conditions that have simultaneously harmed staff.

The forum also discussed the University’s attacks on the 40/40/20 model, which sets the ratio of research, teaching and administration work staff are required to complete. These attacks include casualisation and the introduction of teaching-only positions.

Riemer reminded students of the pitfalls of “the people in front of you being teaching drones...not at the cutting edge” of their fields. He also identified the impossibly demanding marking quotas that lead to diminished assignment feedback quality for students and creating unpaid time spent at work for markers.

The panel agreed that student

solidarity is important to the success of staff strikes, with Riemer saying: “We’re stuffed without you”.

He further said that “there has not been a single significant staff movement that has succeeded without the mass support of students.”

Lancaster argued that the importance of solidarity with staff was more important than “the minor inconvenience” of missing class.

A participant speaking from the floor also noted that online learning could make crossing the picket line easier for students and urged attendees to call out their peers for doing so.

The forum also touched on the societal importance of the strikes, with Huch-Hoogvliet stating that it “is important that we set an example”, given the leading national role of the USyd NTEU branch.

Riemer, Landcaster and Godwin also further emphasised the importance of universities as a means of collective intellectual growth, with Riemer describing them as a “nodal link” to the workforce and activism more generally.

Staff set to strike Week 11 and 13

Simon Upitis reports.

Staff at the University of Sydney voted two weeks ago to take strike action within a month in Week 11 and 13.

The strike will last for 48 hours on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 May, and a second 24-hour strike will be held on Tuesday 24 May. It represents a significant step forward in the National Tertiary Education Union’s (NTEU) campaign to reach a new Enterprise Agreement with management at USyd.

The meeting, attended by more than 300 NTEU members, voted on four motions.

The first and fourth motions passed near-unanimously. They called for a strike on Wednesday 11 May as the first step in the industrial campaign, and planning for an escalating strike campaign throughout 2022 in pursuit of “secure, quality jobs in an efficient and respectful university.”

The second motion, which extended the 11 May strike into a 48-hour strike, passed 221-71. The third, which called for a potential further strike on 24 May, passed 278-3.

Staff members spoke to support a militant industrial campaign to win the union’s key demands of a pay rise and an end to forced redundancies and exploitative casualisation. Speakers highlighted the need for industrial action in the face of intransigence from management.

The meeting debated the merits of having a 24-hour instead of 48-hour strike, with the latter option being carried by a large majority.

Week 13’s strike will take place a few days before the beginning of National Reconciliation Week, drawing attention to the failure of the University to set an enforceable 3% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment target.

When contacted for comment, NTEU Branch Committee member Alma Torlakovic said: “The resounding vote for strike action as the key element of our campaign is confirmation that union members know what they want and how to get it. Our sector has been through two years of turmoil, and this is our chance to win back some of what we’ve lost. On pay, on job security, on casual claims, and on our vision for a better society.

“I’m particularly proud of the follow up strike set to happen in Week 13. Unions have something to say about social issues, not just economic ones,” Torlakovic said.

“Union members will be attacked for disrupting teaching, but the reality is we’re the only ones fighting to improve student learning conditions on campus.”

Student Representative Council (SRC) Education Officer Deaglan Godwin told *Honi* “This is an enormously positive step for the fight by both staff and students against the corporate university. I wholeheartedly support strikes by any workers, and it’s fantastic to see university workers join nurses, teachers and rail and bus workers striking to win better pay and conditions.”

‘Such an exhausting process’: The years-long fight for a Disabilities Space on campus

Khanh Tran gives an account of USyd’s broken promises and the ongoing struggle for disabilities inclusion on campus.

USyd remains the only university within the Group of Eight (Go8) that does not have a dedicated social space for students with disabilities. This stands in stark contrast to the ANU’s Spoon Space, UQ’s Disabilities Space, and UWA’s Access Department room. Outside of the Go8, Wollongong University invested in a multisensory space designed with the disabled community in mind. These spaces not only provide a central meeting spot but also offer respite from the hustle and bustle of university life.

The obstacles facing the Disabilities space were two-pronged as hurdles were hurled upon USyd’s Disabilities Collective (DisCo) by the USU and the USyd in an uphill struggle against an intransigent university bureaucracy.

Ping-pong with the USU

Some of the first attempts to secure a space for DisCo date back to the 2017 efforts of Noa Zulman, Margot Beavon-Collins and Robin Eames, who were the 2018 and 2020-21 SRC Disabilities Officers, respectively.

The trio spoke of their frustrations with the lack of interest from the USU with Beavon-Collins noting that in 2018, the organisation was initially cooperative with the Collective’s demand given the relocation of the old Queerspace from the Holme Building to Manning that year.

“The University failed to elaborate on why it failed to progress the Disability Collective’s request.”

“It was all in the USU spaces where identity spaces were being managed. We knew that the Queerspace was going to move,” said Beavon-Collins.

Honi understands that in late 2018, the USU expressed informal support for DisCo to move into the old Queerspace near the Cellar Theatre.

These conversations took place with USU board members and USU staff in its Facilities Department who preside over infrastructure management.

According to Beavon-Collins, the USU soon showed a sense of disinterest, leaving the Collective in the dark until DisCo was blindsided by the USU informing them that the space was denied, citing a need for excess storage.

“That space [the original Queerspace in Holme] to this day is just being used for chair storage. They were like: Oh, it’s super important that we have a space to store all these chairs.”

“At the end of the day, it’s through the SRC, through the University, not the USU,” she explained. For her, the USU represented an overly bureaucratic

body detached from student activism. Beavon-Collins’ view is one that has dogged the USU, with its mixed records following staff cuts in 2020 and lack of transparency leading to critics arguing that the organisation is more beholden to industry stakeholders than student welfare.

“It felt increasingly uncomfortable at the idea of having this corporate entity that is, for all intents and purposes, separate from the University, administering the space. This space should be provided by the University.”

In 2019, progress was finally attained when the USU Board passed a motion to support a disability space, with former Board Directors Adam Torres and Maya Easwaran credited as having assisted in drafting and drumming up consensus for the motion. Honi understands that there was a lack of action from the USU’s Facilities Department in the years that followed the motion.

Similar obstacles were experienced by former USyd student and 2018 SRC Disabilities Officer Noa Zulman. In 2020, Zulman approached current USU Vice President Ruby Lotz to help DisCo’s request given her extensive involvement and institutional knowledge of the project. Initially, Zulman received a warm reception and keen interest from Lotz.

However, this fell by the wayside as COVID-19 continued to dominate the USU’s agenda in the second half of 2020, following the first lockdown in NSW.

“They seemed to be really on board. But then after that meeting. She just wasn’t super responsive,” Zulman shared on the difficulties she faced attempting to put the proposal on the Student Board’s agenda. Compared to Beavon-Collins, Zulman is more optimistic about the USU’s ability to enact positive change to student life.

“I guess during the pandemic, during lockdown or just afterwards, I guess it wasn’t the priority of the organisation.”

In response, Lotz said that following the 2020 discussion, the USU gave the Disabilities Officers a tour of possible spaces.

A perennial problem, for Zulman, is that USU Board Directors often “make big promises” when they enter office, yet are rarely able to realise these to “any great extent”. Once Board Directors leave following their two-year terms, only a “little bit” of institutional knowledge is passed on, leading to a vicious cycle of non-commitment over the long run on projects such as the Disability space.

Mismatched expectations meant that DisCo soon invested more energy towards conversing with the SRC and University following the 2018 ordeal whilst still engaging with the USU. However, what followed was a familiar pattern of administrative disinterest that encapsulates the struggles facing disability advocacy on campus.

‘You just get this brick wall’: Administrative cat-and-mouse

At the university level, Beavon-Collins and Robin Eames encountered a myriad of issues as they continued to lobby for the disability space. Among the most problematic is the instability of USyd’s byzantine administrative machinery. Beavon-Collins explains that a combination of austerity and internal “shuffling” meant that staff turnover was high, leading to DisCo having to re-litigate the space proposal anew each time.

“You would get partway through a conversation and it would start looking really, really promising,” Beavon-Collins recalled, stating that USyd’s Disability Services agreed with the Collective on the need for an autonomous space.

“We had a really big meeting we planned and had. We had this whole list of things that we needed. It was gonna happen. And then, suddenly out of nowhere, it just turned into radio silence.”

“The University can no longer rely on tokenistic gestures and should approve funding for the space immediately if it wants to repair its relationship with disabled students.”

Eames concurred, saying that matters were constantly “bounced around” forcing them to start “from scratch again” each time. At each turn, USyd passed the buck onto the next temporary staff member and took little co-leadership or interest in DisCo’s project, despite touting its 2019-24 Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

In June 2021, Gemma Lucy Smart, a former SUPRA Disabilities Equity Officer, submitted a SSAF application for a disabilities space under SUPRA’s name. In reality, this is a joint effort between the SRC, SUPRA and the USU, aimed at increasing the proposal’s success.

The University told Honi that the joint application has been in limbo since June 2021 due to COVID-19 complexities but the University expects “to be able to confirm an outcome very soon”. They further explained that the space being considered for refurbishment by the University is located in the Manning Building.

USyd confirmed that in 2019, former SRC Disabilities Officers Wilson Huang and Hayden Moon also requested a disability space. However, the University failed to elaborate on why it failed to progress DisCo’s request.

These failures, in Eames and Smart’s view, are emblematic of a university that is far more interested in tokenistic gestures as opposed to implementing substantive change.

Eames described their consultations with USyd management as an exercise in “patting themselves on the back”. This extends to plans for more “tactile routes” around the Camperdown/Darlington campus, which were never delivered and remain a broken promise.

“The problem is that they [the University] want you to be at the table because it makes them look good. But then when they actually have to do something, it’s very difficult for them,” Smart said.

“When you actually try and get someone to change, or someone to do something, you get a brick wall.”

Why Disabilities spaces and advocacy matters

Smart and Zulman pointed to the unique challenges that DisCo has to contend with as a collective of disabled students who have to confront a variety of access issues from their surrounding environment. An autonomous disability room, then, offers a restful space in which the Collective can be empowered to plan its activism.

“The burden of the work for being an advocate is actually proportionately larger than it is for other student advocates,” Smart said on the challenges facing disabilities activism on campus.

They argue that these challenges strengthen the case for an autonomous disabilities space. Zulman, for instance, argues that the 3,600 students at USyd who indicated a disability is an underestimation of the true number of students who belong to the disabled community given the prevalence of invisible disabilities and mental health challenges.

According to People With Disabilities Australia (PWDA), invisible disabilities encompass everything from intellectual disabilities to learning disabilities and chronic health conditions.

“Organisations shouldn’t underestimate the amount of people who experience disability or mental health conditions or invisible conditions on campus. We know that one in five people in Australia, statistically speaking, have a disability or mental health condition,” Zulman explained.

“A perennial problem, for Zulman, is that USU Board Directors often ‘make big promises’ when they enter office, yet are rarely able to realise these to ‘any great extent’.”

Zulman pinned part of DisCo’s struggles as stemming from an outdated medical understanding of disability confined to a “small number” of physical disabilities that is deeply embedded at the University.

“The disability space is not just for a few. I think it’s valuable for students with anything from anxiety, depression or chronic fatigue, who need a place to rest on campus.”

This sentiment is one shared by the current SRC Disabilities Officers Holly Zhang, Sarah Korte and Ira Patole, who emphasised that, beyond being a platform for activism, the space provides chances for meaningful conversations and community that USyd sorely lacks.

“Casual social interactions in an accessible physical space provide a rare opportunity for social inclusion contrary to Australian housing, education and workplace which fail to affirm disabled students’ dignity,” they told Honi.

“It provides a space for students to meet access needs. Whether it be administering medication in private or having a break from sensory overload. The space is essential and currently the University does not provide a space for students to meet essential access needs so they can complete their studies.”

Despite the struggles that they’ve been through, DisCo is adamant and confident that they will continue to defend disabled students’ rights and hold the University to account.

Once again, success looks within arm’s reach, with the University set to announce the outcome of SUPRA, the SRC, and the USU’s proposal for a space in the near future. Should the proposal succeed, it will be a small win for DisCo as part of a wider, ongoing fight for reforms to curriculum design and campus accessibility.

Should the University fail to uphold its end of the bargain, then, for Smart, students should prepare to rally against university management as it would amount to a glaring breach of trust with the community.

“This is the only one that we [SUPRA] are aware of that involves more than one student association asking for the same thing. If it was ultimately rejected, I’d be very surprised. I would say that would be grounds to be angry, very angry,” Smart said.

Echoing the age-old political adage: ‘Nothing about us, without us’, the Disabilities Collective looks forward to continuing the fight for disability justice on campus and beyond the Quad’s perimeters.

“The University can no longer rely on tokenistic gestures and should approve funding for the space immediately if it wants to repair its relationship with disabled students.”



ART BY ELLIE STEPHENSON

Spilling the tea on USyd’s delayed maintenance of hot water facilities

Josephine Lee turns up the heat.

Since Week 3 of this semester, hot swater or ‘Zip’ taps in various places on the Camperdown campus have stopped working. Although some have been fixed during the mid-semester break, others still wait to be repaired. As a broke USyd student who brings their own tea bags to brew the crucial beverage to survive strenuous, gruelling hours of study, this delayed maintenance has tested my patience and endurance.

Before mid-sem break, this situation reached a fever pitch with hot water taps in Fisher Library, Carslaw Learning Hub East, and the Social Sciences Building all being unusable.

When asked, a University of Sydney spokesperson said: “Slight delays in repairing Zip taps in the Carslaw Learning Hub and in the Social Sciences Building were due to an unavailability of parts.”

During mid-sem break, the University got around to some of these repairs: “The tap in the Carslaw Learning Hub was reported as faulty on 6 April and was working again on 20 April. The tap in the Social Sciences Building was reported as out of service on 9 March and was

returned to service on 29 March.”

The University said that the Fisher Library tap has been repaired several times already and hence is due for replacement. “As there are many people using these amenities daily, Facilities Services are installing a second Zip tap in the kitchen to meet increased demand.”

After receiving comment from the University, I did an audit of all the hot water taps I could think of on Camperdown campus to ensure no other hot water taps remain non-functional. I discovered that not only Fisher library, but also Abercrombie Learning Hub South were not working.

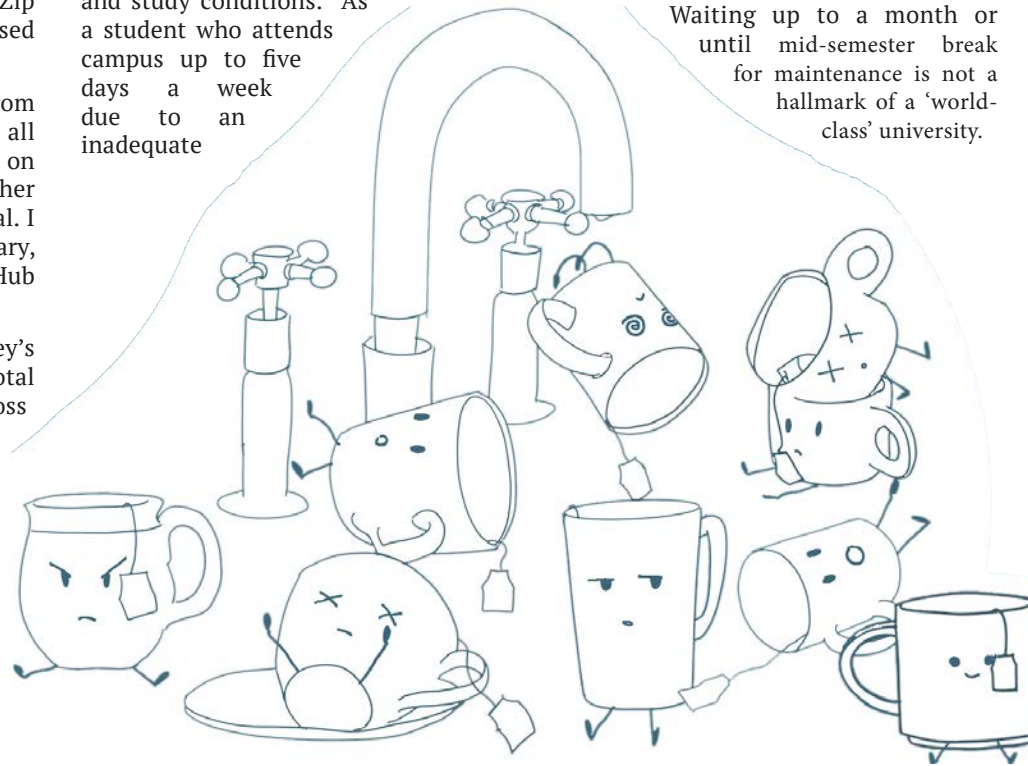
So far this year, University of Sydney’s Facilities Services have received a total of 9,732 maintenance requests across all campuses. The University claims that their Central Operations Services team carries out periodic scheduled maintenance check-ups of facilities, and that Library staff check on the facilities daily in Student Hubs to ensure all maintenance issues are “reported and resolved in

a timely manner”. My empty cup of tea says otherwise about the alleged timeliness of these repairs.

Whilst hot water taps on campus may appear an insignificant issue, it cuts to the heart of student comfort and study conditions. As a student who attends campus up to five days a week due to an inadequate

study environment at home, I want to make my study space as comfortable as possible, for my productivity and mental health.

As students, we pay for these facilities and for study spaces. Waiting up to a month or until mid-semester break for maintenance is not a hallmark of a ‘world-class’ university.



ART BY FAYE TANG



ART BY KHANH TRAN

Controversy at The Con

Alexander Poirier chronicles.

ART BY FAYE TANG.

Ever since it was founded in 1915, the Conservatorium has been in the public spotlight many a time, for better or for worse.

The universities of Adelaide and Melbourne had established a Conservatorium in 1900 and 1913 respectively. These Conservatoria were based on the ideals of the English system, focusing on the academia and analysis of music rather than performance.

The University of Sydney was quite slow to follow suit, instead believing in 1909 that “the subject [of music] was only useful as an academic ornament and its cost would therefore have to be met by private philanthropy”.

Because of this insistence of “no music”, the Conservatorium wasn’t always part of the University. Originally called the NSW State Conservatorium of Music, the Con was founded by the Labor Party, spearheaded by Campbell Carmichael, the Minister for Public Instruction from 1911 to 1915. The Con was a pet project for him, founding a Committee without debate to find a location to host the building and its director. Prominent early-twentieth

century composers Camille Saint-Saëns and Edward Elgar were both asked to join the director-appointment committee, but declined. Carmichael promptly ignored every recommendation given to him. The search for directors looked all over the world (as long as they weren’t German), with letters of recommendation coming from renowned composers such as Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky, until Belgian violinist Henri Verbrugghen was finally appointed.

The building hosting the Con was originally the new stables commissioned by Governor Macquarie in a direct contravention of an order from the Colonial Office, and began construction in 1817. Designed by colonial architect Francis Greenway, they were so marvellously lavish that the English Judge Commissioner John Briggs was aghast at the “useless magnificence”, ultimately leading to Macquarie’s offer of resignation in 1820.

This is only the beginning of the



story of the Con and its colourful history. Much more recently, Professor Kim Walker brought legal proceedings against the University of Sydney for defamation. It was alleged in the press that Walker had plagiarised content in lectures given to the Art Gallery of NSW. The immediate previous Dean, Professor Karl Kramer, was also asked to resign in 2015 after his expenditure of \$5000 of University money came under investigation. It was revealed

that \$1000 went to a supposedly lavish staff dinner, to which one of the listed attendees commented about the proceedings of the night, “I wasn’t even in the country”.

There are so many controversies in the Con’s history that the *Sydney Morning Herald* has an entire timeline dedicated to documenting them. Surely, going into the future, we can expect the Con and its inhabitants to produce even more.

Stop the economic determinism on sexual violence

Ellie Stephenson writes.

CW: sexual violence

If you attended the most recent USyd SRC meeting in March, you would have seen the organisation’s budding activists and student politicians grappling with the distressing results of the National Student Safety Survey (NSSS). Released last month, it revealed the devastating extent of sexual violence in Australia’s universities.

This is, without a doubt, a challenging issue. It’s important that we can discuss it openly and think deeply about the root causes of sexual violence on campus.

All the same, in the SRC meeting, I was frustrated by the prominence of one particular narrative: the idea that sexual violence is a economic phenomenon which is exclusively produced by capitalism and can only be ended by anti-capitalism.

Before I unpack why this worries me, I’ll make some caveats: poverty, exploitation, insecure work, unpaid labour, etc. etc. have obvious, undeniable implications for the status of women in our society. It is true that the way our economic system is set up disadvantages women. It is also true that economic vulnerability puts women at greater risk of experiencing violence. Nonetheless, I disagree with the framing of sexual violence as a purely economic issue on a few levels.

First, let’s consider the claim that sexual violence is a direct consequence of capitalism.

There is a deep, excellent body of literature (see: Federici) which tackles the orthodox narrative that history is rife with the mistreatment and oppression of women, and that capitalism has represented teleological improvement in those conditions. These scholars point out that women’s rights have not been linear — instead, the rise of capitalism occurred concurrently with a shrinking in the

acceptable sphere within which women could thrive. Capitalism was indeed fuelled by the unpaid domestic labour of women, who — unseen, and for free — engaged in ‘social reproduction’ (that is, fed, clothed and raised the workers capitalism requires).

I find this theory pretty persuasive, but in my view, *certain* socialists extend it beyond its logical implications. To claim that capitalists, as a cohesive and conspiratorial class, created gendered oppression requires a fairly unintuitive and ahistorical ignorance of centuries of chauvinistic classical philosophy. It’s not like rape and violence is absent from contemporary accounts of the ancient world!

More realistically, the interests of capitalism as it developed, at the dawn of widespread industrial and colonial expansion, conveniently aligned with the already existing interests of conservative religion and patriarchy.

So while it is true that capitalism often benefits from and perpetuates gendered structures of reproductive labour, it isn’t really true that misogyny is endogenous to capitalism. There are other deeply rooted and culturally ingrained sources of misogyny that need to be confronted.

Second, even if it is true that sexual violence arises solely from capitalism, does it then follow that ending capitalism necessarily fixes it? I think it’s a logical mistake to assume it does. The structures of sexism have practical effects on the way that individuals and communities view the world — people internalise misogyny.

Why do individuals undertake sexually violent acts? Most people would acknowledge that it is not purely because of the perpetrator’s economic position. Clearly, on a phenomenological level, sexual violence has more to do with a sense of entitlement and the dehumanisation of the victim.

Why do communities tolerate sexual violence? Again, not straightforwardly because of their economic composition. Attitudinally, many communities are disposed to disbelieve survivors. Culturally, communities often hope to protect those with social power and prestige — who have the most social license to commit sexual violence.

Even if these mechanisms are produced by capitalism, they would likely persist beyond it, because they are now ingrained in our psyches. Anyone with protracted involvement in leftist spaces on campus will be more than aware that even the most revolutionary of socialists can be implicated in sexual violence. Looking at some of the men who consider themselves part of a student ‘vanguard’, I find it challenging to believe that sexual violence would somehow organically disappear if they were central to a fledgling socialist state.

Why does this matter? I feel that the narrative that only anti-capitalism can end sexual violence can be used lazily. It means that socialists can feel comfortable in the fact that by opposing capitalism they are necessarily addressing sexual violence, avoiding dealing with the ubiquitous sexism within their own spaces. It declines responsibility for addressing sexual violence as a specific issue in its own right.

We ought to think seriously about what it would take to truly end misogyny. We need to imagine what a society with ethical and effective accountability measures would look like. Deprioritising these conversations to exclusively favour anti-capitalism is a real disservice to survivors.

Third, economic determinism is a grim prospect for survivors stuck in the status quo. When people insist that sexual violence can only be fixed by anti-capitalism, it is often accompanied by a heavy serve of dismissiveness towards

current policy attempts to address the issue.

Obviously, tokenistic and myopic measures like university consent modules totally miss the root causes of sexual violence. Endless bureaucratic reviews and university drinking bans have similarly minimal chances of actually working.

However, I think we should be reluctant to say that nothing short of a revolution can alleviate sexual violence. The revolutionaries on the SRC are, frankly, not particularly close to success. It is an incredibly dire prospect to imagine that survivors must simply wait for them to emerge victorious in revolution before we get some semblance of justice.

Activists have creative and principled minds. I think we should be optimistic about the extent to which they can be deployed usefully in the status quo. I’d like to think we can make people appreciate the cruelty of sexual violence now, that misogynists do have a hope of changing their minds, and that our communities can create systems to care for survivors properly.

Fourth, sexual violence isn’t just about gender. While sexual violence is a gendered phenomenon, the analysis that capitalism produces sexism which produces sexual violence is overly simplistic. In particular, it leaves little room for explaining sexual violence within queer relationships. Being prescriptive about who does sexual assault and why risks neglecting some of the most vulnerable survivors.

Frankly, the argument that sexual assault can only be fixed by anti-capitalism is likely just student socialists trying to fit the issue within their overall schema of how the world works and how we ought to fix it. Nonetheless, it doesn’t stand up to scrutiny. By being overly simplistic and deterministic about sexual violence, we lack imagination and accuracy — to the detriment of survivors.

New ruling requires international students to gain ministerial approval before changing course

Carmeli Argana and Khanh Tran write.

International students completing postgraduate studies will require ministerial approval in order to change their course of study, thesis or research topic under new student visa rulings from 1 July.

In new regulations that were signed by the Governor-General at the end of March, students on a Subclass 500 (Student) visa will only be able to transfer courses if “the [Home Affairs] Minister is satisfied that there is not an unreasonable risk of an unwanted transfer of critical technology”. Presently, the Home Affairs Minister is Liberal MP Karen Andrews.

‘Critical technology’ is defined by the amendments as anything that will “harm or prejudice” Australia’s security or defence, the Australian public’s health and safety, Australia’s international relations, and anything that will “interfere or prejudice” the prosecution of a criminal offence against Commonwealth law.

It is also of note that these amendments were added to both the conditions of the Subclass 500 visa and the “public interest criterion” of the Migration Regulations (1994).

Such amendments are additional clauses to existing regulations that already require visa holders to prove to the Minister

that they “are not likely to be directly or indirectly a risk to Australian national security” before transferring courses.

The changes will affect international students pursuing graduate certificates, graduate diplomas, master’s degrees, doctorates, or any bridging courses required as a prerequisite for a master’s degree or doctorate.

What does this mean for students?

The new ruling has clear implications for international students at universities, who have already been disproportionately affected by a slew of government measures in recent years, including strict border closures due to the pandemic.

In a statement to Honi, Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA) Education Officer, Yinfeng (Benny) Shen, criticised the Federal government for showing a “poor level of compassion and understanding” for students and argued that the measures may undermine students’ ability to pursue their interests.

“University and education institutions [must] serve as a free land for students to identify the areas they are passionate

about,” Shen said. “The new measure discourages the self-development process for students.”

Shen expressed concern about students’ need for flexibility in their research topics throughout their studies, which is a fundamental and necessary aspect of most research projects.

The Go8 also expressed concerns in March about the proposed diversification index: “The introduction of a Diversity Index in the current geopolitical and economic environment would send a negative message to students and their families who are currently considering Australia as a viable option for their higher education.”

The course change amendments, in this context, risk amplifying that negative message.

Why is this happening?

These changes fit within the context of rising geopolitical tensions between Canberra and Beijing as the Federal Government ramps up rhetoric against ‘foreign interference’. As such, they also raise questions about what constitutes the ‘public or national interest’.

Quiet change in USyd academic policy sees end of no-fault ‘Discontinue Without Fail’

Khanh Tran breaks down the implications the changes will have on the student body.

Changes to USyd’s Coursework Policy in September 2021 reforming its academic policy to mandate that all students must submit documentation and proof of extenuating circumstances in order to discontinue courses without counting as failure.

16 April 2021 but after the Census Date (2 April 2021), would not have had to submit any documentation or reason to access Discontinuation Not to Count as Failure (DC).

Those who discontinued after the old DC deadline would have had to apply directly to their home faculty and provide documentation proving “unexpected, serious and long-term illness or misadventure” or “circumstances beyond your control”.

Today, anyone who applies to discontinue a unit after census date must provide documentation to satisfy the above criteria to access DC. The only other difference is that all successful DC applications will automatically result in a refund of students’ fees for the relevant units.

What implications might this have on student welfare?

SRC Welfare Officer Grace Wallman is one of many student advocates who is worried that the quietly implemented changes will be highly detrimental to student welfare. She expressed concerns that disabled, financially disadvantaged and international students stand to be disproportionately affected.

“Those who may not have had any issues on their transcript or a Fail on their transcript, are affected. They [are going to]

have to explain [that] to employers when they’re applying for postgraduate studies... It’s reproducing the disadvantages that already exist,” she said.

Drawing from consultations that she had with affected law students in her work as SULS Disabilities Officer, Wallman fears that these changes will impose unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles on the student community.

“The consultations I’ve had with students indicated that even if people get their DCs approved on the [University’s] service portal, it can take a very long time for that to be reflected on your actual transcript,” said Wallman.

Though she understands that universities were forced to change its policy due to the JRG, she expressed frustration with USyd’s lack of transparency and communication on the changes. For her, USyd has failed to discharge its duty of care in “shielding students from the worst” of the changes’ effects. Instead of leaving students in the dark, the University should have made public statements and designed easy-to-read guides to help students with navigating DC applications.

“Even for students who’ve navigated these systems a lot, there’s a real lack of knowledge about SRC and SUPRA Caseworkers, so many people have no idea these services exist,” Wallman told Honi. “They [USyd] just advise students to

Last year, Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) Director-General Mike Burgess fronted parliament and warned of “covert, clandestine and deceptive means to obtain Australian research”. This follows on from an incident in 2019, when ASIO alleged that China was behind a data breach at the Australian National University (ANU).

Although Prime Minister Scott Morrison has not released a list of what constitutes “critical technology”, it is expected to be broad and include “vaccines, autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence”, among others. Framing the amendment as a “public interest” measure aligns with recent messaging from the Coalition about being tough on national security in the lead up to the Federal Election.

The amendments have clear implications not only for postgraduate international students and the quality and accessibility of an Australian university education, but also for Australia’s relations with its neighbours in the Asia-Pacific region. With an upcoming federal election looming large, Australians must consider the current and future state of our country’s education sector and the international student community.

call the Student Centre - they’re useless. Usually, you’re going to be on hold for hours and just say they can’t do anything anyway.”

Increased accountability must be part and parcel of reforms for the University’s much-touted Service Portal redesign to be meaningful. Wallman cites multilingual explainers, implementing concrete turnaround times and increased staffing of the Student Centre as essential in order to improve the notorious bureaucracy associated with DC applications.

“I find everything to do with Job-Ready Graduates to be extremely paternalistic,” she said. “The Government and University just need to trust students more because almost everyone is an adult who is holding employment, who’s able to vote. Our academic lives are an extension of that autonomy.”

Encapsulating these sentiments, SRC President Lauren Lancaster condemned the Federal Government’s changes as “rubbish”, characterising 2020’s JRG Package as a step in the “selling off of tertiary education”.

“It is deeply unfortunate that the university has to carry out such changes that unduly punish time-pressured and struggling students, and make them pay for courses they may not undertake for good reason.”

Who the fuck is in USyd’s Senate?

Carmeli Argana breaks it down.

In the wake of consecutive attacks on learning and teaching conditions at the University of Sydney, much of activists’ ire has been thrown at the elusive figure of ‘university management’. But who exactly are they referring to?

**Belinda Hutchinson
Chancellor (2013 - 2025)**

At the top of this heinous hierarchy is Belinda “bossgirl” Hutchinson, who is currently in her third term as Chancellor. Although many have been quick to point out that Hutchinson’s position is merely symbolic, the Chancellor plays an important role in reflecting the modern university – one that prioritises administrative efficiency and corporatisation over high quality education and public service. Last year, *Honi* reported extensively on Hutchinson’s dubious resume, which notably includes her role as Chairman of Thales Australia, owned by French global weapons manufacturer Thales Group. Despite being the University’s Chancellor, she has no academic credentials beyond her Bachelor of Economics, although she’s previously and currently holds multiple directorships within the private sector – QBE Insurance Group, Telstra, Coles Myer, Energy Australia, TAB, to name a few.

**Richard Freudenstein
Deputy Chancellor (2017 - 2025)**

Hutchinson’s second-in-command in the Senate isn’t our beloved VC, but Minister-appointed external Fellow, Richard Freudenstein. He got his start in leadership with CEO roles in Murdoch-owned media giants *The Australian*, Foxtel Group and News Digital Media. He also has extensive experience leading companies who (allegedly) underpay their staff; he is currently a non-executive director for Coles Group Ltd and REA Group. It’s no wonder he’s a perfect fit as Deputy Chancellor of a university also embroiled in its own wage theft allegations! However, the general public knows him best for the shitstorm following former Test captain Tim Paine’s resignation last year. Freudenstein, who was then-Cricketer Australia’s Chair, fumbled the ball by claiming that his administration would have dealt with Paine’s allegations differently and swiftly, despite the fact that he had known about them for years after becoming Chair.

**Professor Mark Scott
Vice-Chancellor and President (2021 -)**

‘Professor’ Mark Scott, who was handed that title after being appointed Vice-Chancellor and not through any academic training, joined the University last year. At the time of his appointment, he touted his “ability to lead large public-facing organisations through change, and to be stronger and more robust on the other side”. This is certainly true, if we define ‘change’ as unforeseen budget cuts like those the ABC faced from 2014 onwards whilst Scott was Managing Director, and ‘stronger and more robust’ as administrative efficiency at the expense of staff jobs. It’s no wonder that his appointment was met with such furore, especially since he arrived in the context of increasing education cuts and trends of neoliberalisation across universities, under the guise of COVID-induced austerity.

**Dr Lisa McIntyre
Pro-Chancellor (2021 - 2023)**

Dr Lisa McIntyre is the other Minister-appointed external Fellow and one of the few high ranking Fellows with a research background (although much of her experience involves non-executive director or chairman roles in private organisations). Her bio states that she has “a particular interest in biotechnology, medical and health services research”, which is reflected in the companies and organisations she is part of. She is presently a non-executive director of Nanosonics, an ASX-listed company that manufactures ultrasound probe disinfectors; Fisher & Paykel Healthcare, which creates

products and systems for use in the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea; and the not-for-profit health fund HCF Group.

**Jason Yat-sen Li
Pro-Chancellor (2021 - 2023)**

If Jason Yat-sen Li’s name sounds familiar, it’s probably because he was recently elected as the NSW Member for Strathfield under Labor’s banner in the February by-elections. Li has been outspoken against the government’s escalating tensions with China. Somewhat controversially, he suggested that Australia invest in China’s Belt Road Initiative in 2019, an initiative found to be at risk of overusing natural resources and disrupting ecosystems. Prior to politics, Li was a leader in the business sector, which is likely why he was appointed as an external Fellow. He founded and was a managing director for Yatsen Associates, a corporate advisory and management consulting firm focused on the Asian market. Presently, he is the chairman of investment company Vantage Asia Holdings, and an advisory board member for UniMelb’s Asialink.

**Kate McClymont
Pro-Chancellor (2019 - 2023)**

For the MECO grrlies and other media-attuned readers, Kate McClymont should be a familiar name. A seven-time winner of the Walkley Award, McClymont is one of Australia’s best known and most esteemed investigative journalists. One of her most notable and hard-hitting investigations was her investigation on former Labor power-broker Eddie Obeid. Her reporting resulted in numerous ICAC investigations into Obeid’s conduct and his eventual sentence to five years imprisonment in 2016. With the issue of a federal ICAC shaping up to be an election issue, she has also spoken in favour of a commission modelled after NSW’s ICAC. From 2015 to 2017, she was chairman of the Walkley Advisory Board.

**Emeritus Professor Alan Pettigrew
Pro-Chancellor (2019 - 2023)**

Professor Alan Pettigrew is a Senate-appointed external Fellows and is another one of the few high ranking members with a research (as opposed to a corporate) background. As well as being a Senate Fellow, he is an external councillor of HCF Australia and an external expert for the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency. He was previously a council member for the Brisbane-based QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, as well as on the board of directors for the not-for-profit charity Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute. From 2006 to 2009, he was the Vice-Chancellor and CEO for the University of England.

**Professor Jane Hanrahan
Chair of Academic Board (2022 -2023)**

Recently elected as the Chair of Academic Board in January, Professor Jane Hanrahan is the third of the Senate’s three official members. She was the Deputy Chair of the Academic Board until 2021, and has also chaired the Undergraduate Studies, Admissions, and Academic Standards and Policies sub-committees. In her teaching roles, she is an academic in the Sydney Pharmacy School at the Faculty of Medicine and Health. She is also on the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Advisory Committee on Prescription Medicines (ACPM) and Pharmaceutical Sub-committee (PSC). She is also an NTEU member.

Karen Moses (2017 - 2023)

“We are committed to embedding sustainability in every aspect of University life”, Mark Scott once said. However, it’s hard to believe the sincerity of this commitment when people like Karen Moses sit on the University’s highest governing authority. A search through Moses’ LinkedIn reveals a long list of roles at some of the world’s worst environmental offenders.



She is currently a non-executive board member at Snowy Hydro, which is responsible for the Kurri Kurri gas plant which is expected to produce 500,299 tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions annually, and a non-executive director at Orica, the explosives company behind a number of chemical leaks in Port Botany and Kooragang Island. Previously, she was also an executive director for electricity and natural gas retailers Origin Energy and its then-subsiary, Contact Energy, the former of which operates Australia’s largest coal-fired station in Lake Macquarie. Her LinkedIn also shows that she started her career in BP (the oil company that killed multiple people and continues to impact wildlife today) and the climate-denying oil and gas corporation Exxon.

Peter Scott (2017 - 2023)

A serial directorship-holder, Peter Scott is an external Fellows who seems to have spent most of his career in boardrooms. He’s a non-executive director at Transurban Group, the toll operator that holds a monopoly on toll roads across multiple states. The rest of his work experience boasts his leadership and affiliation with elusive, high profile companies. He is currently a director at O’Connell Street Associates, a private networking group that the *Australian Financial Review* described as “blue blood by definition” and has considerable influence in helping would-be directors gain seats in coveted boardrooms. He is also involved with The CEO Group and The Confidere Group, which are also networking groups for executives and boardroom leaders. Until 2017, he was also the Chairman of financial services company Perpetual Limited, which provides “wealth advice” to its clients as one of its services.

**Associate Professor Maryanne Large
(2019 - 2023)**

Professor Maryanne Large was elected in 2019 after running with fellow NTEU members Associate Professor Stephen Clibborn and Dave Burrows. Large is a professor in the Faculty of Science and is the Sydney Branch NTEU Vice President (Academic Staff). She is presently a member of USyd’s Nano Institute. Beyond academia, she is the director of a few small research-related companies; she is the CEO and director of Wirriga Pty Ltd, which is working on a project that will measure air quality across Sydney using sensors. Large also founded the now-defunct company Kirirama Pty Ltd, which supplied speciality polymer optical fibres and capillaries.

Professor Renae Ryan (2021 - 2023)

Professor Renae Ryan is the other elected academic staff Fellow. One of the newest members of the Senate (along with the Vice-Chancellor), she is a Professor of Biochemical Pharmacology in the Faculty of Medicine and Health. In addition to her academic research, Ryan has also worked to improve gender equity in her field. She is currently the academic director of the Science in Australia Gender Equity Program at the University and was previously the chair at the Sydney

Medical School Gender Equity Committee. She is an *ex officio* council member of the Women’s College. It is unclear whether she is an NTEU member like her predecessor.

Dave Burrows (2019 - 2023)

Dave Burrows is the third elected staff Fellow representing non-academic staff. Burrows works on USyd’s ICT help desk and is a workplace delegate with the NTEU. Outside of his work at the University, he is involved in a number of advocacy roles; he is a member of the Lived Experience Advisory Panel at the not-for-profit mental health facility Black Dog Institute, and a White Ribbon Ambassador.

**Lachlan Finch and Gabi Stricker-Phelps
(2020 - 2022)**

In case you’ve forgotten the controversial capers of our student Fellows, allow me to remind you. Supported by the ModLibs, Finch and Stricker-Phelps ran an unusual ticket-style campaign in 2020 for their respective positions of postgraduate and undergraduate Fellows. Both also stepped into their Senate roles immediately after finishing their previous terms with the USU and the SRC.

Under Finch’s auspices as the 2020 USU Vice President, the organisation cut staff pay by 40 per cent without any consultation. Meanwhile, Stricker-Phelps’ term as the 2019 SRC Women’s Officer was marked with controversy; her election was the first time in over 20 years that the collective’s autonomy was breached. Stricker-Phelps is also a vocal Zionist; she is a member of the Australasian Union of Jewish Students and Jewish Board of Deputies, both of which are pro-Israel organisations.

Why should students care?

Of the fifteen Fellows sitting on the Senate, two thirds are non-elected. The Fellows who are elected hold the least power, sitting on the least number of committees and constitutionally barred from chairing any committees. And of the Senate’s ten non-elected members, the majority come from business (as opposed to academic) backgrounds.

Things weren’t always like this. The Senate’s current composition is the result of sweeping reforms in 2015, which saw the number of Fellows reduced from 22 to 15. All seven positions that were axed under the changes were elected roles, including two staff and five alumni roles. At the time of the changes, the then-second year Chancellor called the size of the Senate a “problem”, as the debates encouraged by more participants decreased efficiency of meetings.

The term ‘senate’ implies some level of democracy, a model of governance comprised of elected representatives and robust debate in service of the public good. But the University of Sydney’s Senate seems to stand in direct opposition to its name. Functionally and compositionally, the Senate appears to be more akin to a board of directors at an increasingly corporatised institution.

‘Basic crime and various dangerous shit’: The criminal history of USyd’s pubs

Emily Moore looks into the criminal underworld at arm’s length from USyd.

Wandering through the streets of Newtown on my way back from the pub, the fragrant lingerings of Mr Yeeros dissipating with every step, I am no stranger to the sights and sounds of the area’s rough-around-the-edges side. That said, being caught by the stray words of an aggressive drunk, or witnessing a thrilling (but undeniably small-time) drug bust outside one of King Street’s numerous EzyMarts, is about as close as I have come to the underbelly of the beloved suburbs I frequent; a far cry from the gangland glory days of Sydney.

De Leede’s then de facto partner, who wishes to remain anonymous, described how they handled the looming pressure of the gangs.

“[They] were taking money off some of the other pubs in order to gain the gang’s protection, we resisted participating but there was a time when we did have a discussion about whether we would need to be paying them,” they said.

Written in a love language of subtle, implicit and untraceable blackmail, threats to these businesses followed along the lines of: if you pay us, we will protect you in case someone ‘throws a brick through your window’. If you refused on account that you didn’t need protection from ‘stray bricks’, the gang would then throw said brick through the window and return to you saying that if you had paid them in the first place, they could have protected you from the outcome — a tactic that proved effective.

**“Roger ‘the Dodger’
Rogerson is known to have
had dealings with prolific
gang members in the area.”**

The Rose, however, enjoyed a degree of immunity from gang criminality, due to the hoard of police who frequented it.

“We would have about 40 or 50 coppers come up and drink every Tuesday morning after the change of shift. They knew us then and if there was trouble at night, when they were coming to look after it, well we knew them because they had been drinking beers in here the morning before,” said de Leede.

Though it would later come to light that a number of high profile officers were themselves involved in criminal dealings, their mass congregations at The Rose proved vital to its avoidance of targeted attacks.

“It’s handy having all the coppers of Sydney in your pocket, I guess.”

The most notorious crooked cop in Australian history, Roger “the Dodger” Rogerson, is known to have had dealings with prolific gang members in the area and to have committed the very crime, in 1981, that ultimately led to his undoing, within spitting distance from The Rose in the neighbouring Dangar Place.

“Roger Rogerson was quite a renowned crooked cop. He shot a guy dead in the lane behind – Warren Lanfranchi. It was a bit of a gangster area. A few of the gangsters used to have the odd beer in the pub but we didn’t talk much about sort of killing people, they just probably had a couple of beers after they shot someone’s head off. At my joint I probably served them,” de Leede said.

Eventually it would be this murder, unveiled by famed whistleblower Sallie Anne Huckstepp, that brought Rogerson’s long reign as one of NSW Police’s golden boys to an end. Rogerson was also linked to Neddy Smith, a prolific underworld figure involved with armed robbery and

mass heroin trade. By age 22, Smith had already amassed eight convictions, including armed robbery and rape. After his release 12 years later, Smith would reengage in the kind of criminal activity that would eventually earn him two life sentences for murders. Smith and Rogerson’s business partnership cost Warren Lanfranchi, an associate of Smith, his life.

Huckstepp’s tell-all *60 Minutes* interview, in which she named Rogerson as one of Sydney’s most violent criminals and the murderer of her then partner Lanfranchi, would eventuate in her untimely death five years later. Her murder case is still unsolved to this day.

Though Rogerson remained a free man until 1999 when he was convicted of perverting the course of justice and was removed from the police force in a biting fall from grace over a decade earlier in 1986, he would not be convicted of murder until 2014.

Like The Rose, The Lansdowne Hotel, situated on the corner of Broadway and City Road, a mere stone’s throw from campus, was once a melting pot of criminal activity. This was orchestrated by kingpin heroin dealer and third generation gang leader Barry McCann, who managed the pub at the time. After allegedly murdering gang-implicated ‘Chicka’ Reeves, and stepping on the toes of rival gang member Lennie McPherson, by attempting to expand his dealings into the realm of illegal casinos, McCann was shot dead in a Marrickville park on December 27th 1987. The act was considered not only to be one of the last notable murders of Sydney’s gangland era, but one of the events that catalysed its decline.

McPherson, whose primary illegal



ART BY AMELIA KOEN

A MASTERCLASS IN GREENWASHING

Fabian Robertson investigates.

The term ‘greenwashing’ was coined in 1986 by Jay Westerveld, an environmentalist who visited the Beachcomber Island Resort while on a surfing trip to Fiji. The resort urged patrons to reuse towels to ‘reduce ecological damage and help the environment’, while simultaneously expanding its premises into the natural surrounds at the forefront of a pollution-heavy tourism industry. Of course, reusing towels would also reduce cleaning costs for the burgeoning establishment, which is now worth \$15.95 million.

Greenwashing has since been widely employed to bolster the public image of amoral entities attempting to exploit the growing prominence of environmentalism in the global consciousness. Even Saudi Arabia, the world’s top oil exporter, attempted to greenwash its reputation by pledging to plant 10 billion trees to offset carbon emissions in 2021. At the University of Sydney, a culture of

greenwashing becomes evident in the stark contrast between public posturing about sustainability and the reality of its unpublished \$3.41 billion investment portfolio. Indeed, when examined in light of the hundreds of millions financing fossil fuel-ridden equity funds, USyd’s so-called sustainability plans and commitment to edible plates on campus amount to nothing more than empty promises: public relations measures utterly soaked in greenwash.

Untangling the web of bureaucracy

USyd’s investment portfolio is closely guarded by public relations professionals and bureaucrats, only accessible by a ‘Government Information Public Access’ (GIPA) application. Emails released to *Honi* under GIPA legislation reveal the layers of bureaucracy complicit in USyd’s greenwashing.

ART BY YASODARA PUHULE-GAYAMALAGE

Immediately after *Pulp Media* requested access to the investment portfolio on 29 April 2021, USyd’s in-house GIPA team alerted the Vice Principal of External Relations, Director of Media and Public Relations, and Senior Media Advisor of the application. Background research had been conducted on the applicant, seemingly to assess the threat to public image: “the University has received an application... [from a student] who appears to be an editor with *Pulp Media* and has written for *Honi Soit* in the past”.

USyd’s culture of greenwashing becomes evident in the stark contrast between public posturing about sustainability and the reality of its 3.41 billion portfolio.

Consequent emails reveal that, between the application date in April and the information release on 18 June, USyd’s media team made preparations to announce a change to its investment strategy. By 2 June, drafts of a brand new ‘Sustainability Investment Strategy’ (SIS) were being revised and edited. The strategy was launched on 9 June in coordination with the publication of a puff piece in *The Australian* organised by USyd Media, headlined ‘University of Sydney is doing its bit for sustainable investment’.

On 16 June, the GIPA team checked with USyd’s Senior Media Advisor before releasing the portfolio. In emails which have been largely redacted, the Advisor appeared to stall the release for two days, during which communications (again, mostly redacted) mentioned the SIS and *Honi Soit*’s article critiquing the strategy.

USyd’s dirty investments

USyd holds \$3.41 billion in three separate pools: a long term, medium term and short term fund. The contents of the long and medium term portfolios, which were

released to *Honi* as of 30 November 2021, reveal hundreds of millions indirectly invested in fossil fuel companies.

The vast majority of the \$2.08 billion that *Honi* was able to access is held in externally managed private funds, the majority of which establish their operations in the Cayman Islands for tax evasion purposes. Many of these funds use their investors’ contributions to invest in fossil fuel companies. Although such funds do not make their holdings publicly available, various shareholder documents illuminate the makeup of a select few.

For example, USyd had \$56.5 million in Plato Investment Management, which invests in BHP, Woodside Petroleum and Rio Tinto, with BHP accounting for 13.2% of the \$2.2 billion fund’s annual yield.

The following table overviews the funds that *Honi* was able to link

to fossil fuel companies at the time of publication. The values provided represent the amount of money USyd has in each investment fund. Cited companies are ones which those respective funds support financially.

Additionally, \$88.22 million was linked to Amazon, and \$47.11 million to French betting company Francaise de Jeux. Multiple funds also name Westpac, Commbank, NAB, and ANZ in their top holdings, who collectively loaned \$7 billion to 33 new or expansionary fossil fuel projects from 2016 to 2019.

\$56.5 million was held in Plato Investment Management, which invests in BHP, Woodside Petroleum and Rio Tinto, with BHP accounting for 13.2% of the fund’s annual yield.

Ultimately, the limited data available on private portfolios means the true extent of USyd’s financial ties to the fossil fuel industry is still unknown.

Fund	\$ mm	Fossil fuel companies
MCP Credit	115.69	Santos, Caltex, Whitehaven Coal.
Palisade	76.46	Merredin Energy, Tasmania and North Queensland gas pipelines.
SVP	60.11	Pacific Drilling
Plato	56.50	BHP, Woodside Petroleum, Rio Tinto.
KKR Asia	47.94	Weststar Aviation, LCY Chemical Group.
Convex	47.40	New Fortress Energy, Vistra.
Clearlake	44.61	Gravity Oilfield, Hi-Crush Inc, Knight Energy, Smartsand.
THB	42.60	Clean Energy Fuels Corp.
Lexington	38.37	Extraction Oil & Gas.
Harbourvest	22.40	Crown Rock Minerals
Warburg Pincus	20.51	Ensign, Navitas Petroleum, RimRock Oil & Gas, Stronghold, Sundyne, Tall City Exploration, Terra Energy, Trident Energy.

BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Sustainability Investment Strategy

The SIS promised to “increase investment in sustainable solutions and exclude fossil fuel companies with inadequate transition plans from investments.” The ultimate objective of the SIS is alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and the University’s broader aim for Net Zero by 2050 – an unambitious and tepid target for a non-industrial and wealthy institution that houses the very scientists at the forefront of climate research.

The announcement, however, did not establish specific aims for the portfolio, nor indicate how USyd’s investment strategy would be amended. Rather, it promised, “by the end of 2021, the University will have established and communicated clear milestones and methodologies”.

10 months after the announcement, no milestones have been communicated. A University spokesperson said “work is well underway, with updates to our Investment Policy drafted and expected to be presented to the May 2022 meeting of the Investment Subcommittee of Senate for approval, and actions to divest already undertaken. We will be able to communicate our agreed milestones and methodologies to our community once the revised policy has been approved.”

The differences between USyd’s portfolio at December 2020 and November 2021 indicates one notable of instance of divestment, with funds pulled from BHP-linked Martin Currie Equity. However, sometime in 2021, \$26.78 million was invested in Staude Capital, who have “minimal consideration of environmental and social elements within their investment process” according to an independent review.

University of Sydney Union (USU) embarrassed by investments

As of 31 March 2022, the USU held \$2.89 million in the Australian Foundation Investment Company (AFIC). The company advertises BHP, Rio Tinto and Woodside Petroleum as comprising 8%, 2.5%, and 1.2% of its holdings respectively. Investment in AFIC comprises 60.6% of the USU’s total portfolio, with the remaining funds held in Australian Ethical Investment.

The USU held \$2.89 million in the AFIC, which advertises BHP, Rio Tinto and Woodside Petroleum as comprising 8%, 2.5%, and 1.2% of its holdings respectively.

Yet the USU attempted to strategically undercut any breaking information about its portfolio. After *Honi*’s initial inquiry on 23 March, the USU stalled disclosing the data until it could preempt negative press with a 20 April media release publicly admitting a portion of its investments were “unethical”. Like the SIS, the announcement was vague and full of PR spin, promising to review its

investment strategy “with an eye towards developing a future ESG [Environmental, Social and Governance] framework”.

USU board members – enjoying annual salaries ranging from \$4,900 to \$29,900 – were seemingly unaware of the fossil fuel investments they presided over, passing a motion to call on USyd to divest from fossil fuels

Worryingly, our elected student board members – who enjoy annual salaries ranging from \$4,900 to \$29,900 – were seemingly unaware of the contents of the million-dollar portfolio they presided over; it was only after *Honi*’s inquiry that the USU began to review its holdings. In August 2020, the USU Board unanimously passed a motion to call on USyd to divest from fossil fuels, apparently ignorant of the dirty investments under their very noses. Seemingly, then, the USU’s hypocritical greenwashing was likely a product of sheer incompetence rather than any deliberate attempts to deceive the public.

The findings also contradict much of the USU’s work surrounding sustainability more broadly. In 2021, the USU trialled edible plates in a progressive move to reduce waste and, just this year, CEO Andrew Mills banned clubs and societies from producing stickers.

Arguably, the USU’s investments somewhat undermine the legitimacy of its flagship sustainability festival, EnviroWeek. Held from 5–7 April this year, EnviroWeek was advertised with the tagline “Sustainability in Action”. The USU’s website describes the week as “a time for action, education and change as we recognise the growing environmental and climate crisis the world faces”. The festival included sustainability lectures, plant-based food trucks, bake sales and floral treasure hunts – all while \$338,130 of the USU’s funds were effectively financing BHP, Rio Tinto, and Woodside Petroleum.

Signs of progress?

A 2019 GIPA application by the now inactive advocacy group, Fossil Free USyd, revealed that the University had previously directly invested in fossil fuel corporations BHP, Woodside Petroleum, Santos, and Whitehaven Coal. Today, USyd no longer invests in individual companies, instead abdicating responsibility to fund managers. However, USyd would undoubtedly be aware of a fund’s holdings prior to investment, and the financial support for fossil fuels is materially identical. Rather, this shift in strategy in itself is a form of greenwash: halting direct investment merely serves to distance USyd from immediate association with ethically questionable companies.

However, it would be remiss to ignore the progress that USyd has admittedly made. As of 30 September 2020, the

portfolio’s ratio of carbon emissions to revenue had decreased by 50% from 2014.

According to a University spokesperson, USyd’s revised investment policy “includes metrics related to our commitment to exclude publicly listed equity investments that are significantly involved in fossil fuels (defined as companies that generate 20% or more of their revenue from the extraction of, or generation of power from, fossil fuels), unless companies or investment managers can demonstrate their genuine alignment with a low carbon transition.”

In accordance, USyd apparently instructed fund managers “to divest a number of non-qualifying investments including Ampol, Oil Search, Santos and Woodside Petroleum.”

While admirable, such progress is arguably inadequate, and long overdue. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) 2022 report, humanity has a near-zero chance of limiting global warming to 1.5oC above pre-industrial levels, with the phasing out of fossil fuel infrastructure cited as a key step in meeting this goal.

If USyd is truly committed to sustainability, it must divest the hundreds of millions it uses to finance the very companies driving climate change. The funds in USyd and the USU’s portfolios is money that belongs to students and the citizens it purports to serve as a publicly-owned institution; it should not be used to poison the environment.

To date, USyd has operated its investments relatively unscrutinised. At the very least, students have a right to know exactly what this money is being invested in. It should not require an arduous GIPA process to uncover the portfolio’s contents, especially when those contents shape the future of the planet.

It seems USyd is less intent on being sustainable than it is on appearing sustainable. Yet, there is a clear path forward to reverse this culture of greenwashing.

The University must engage in swift and comprehensive divestment; the advent of sustainable investment funds provides viable means to do so. The positive impact of divestment is not restricted to the financial impediment of fossil fuel companies; it incentivises carbon-intensive corporations to transition to sustainable practices and sends a powerful message that unclean energy sources have no economic future.

EnviroWeek held food trucks, bake sales and floral treasure hunts – all while \$338,130 of the USU’s funds were effectively financing BHP, Rio Tinto, and Woodside Petroleum.

The bottom line is simple: USyd is sinking millions of dollars into a fossil fuel industry responsible for killing the planet, and no amount of press releases, sanctimony, or edible plates can wash that reality clean.



The curse of knowledge: Why are academic papers so difficult to read?

Sharaf Fozdar conveys informational tidbits via linguistically-driven visuo-symbolic pathways.

If you have ever read an academic paper, you’ve probably encountered sentences like “The individual member of the social community often receives his information via visual, symbolic channels.” It means “people read.”

Pick up an academic journal and you will find the prose defies everything you were taught about good writing. The articles are usually long-winded, needlessly dense and incomprehensibly jargonistic. Speaking from experience, even when you have background knowledge of the topic, papers are often very, very difficult to understand.

The question is: why is so much academic writing so bad? Why did the academic who wrote the first sentence not just write ‘people read’ instead?

One common theory is that academics write badly on purpose. Rather than trying to be as clear and understandable as possible, scholarly articles are attempts to impress other academics with how obscure and complex their research is, or worse, hide the fact that they have nothing new to say. This may be partially true, but to claim that all academics are egotistical show-offs is too simplistic. The causes for the prevalence of poor writing are more complex and more interesting.

In reality, part of the reason academics don’t try to engage their readers is that

they don’t really need to. They are not writing for a wide audience, but for a small circle of fellow academics who are equally knowledgeable and have a vested interest in finding mistakes in their research.

Read any academic paper and you will find liberal use of “virtually”, “partially”, “probably” and other fence-sitting modifiers. This is largely to do with the scientific instinct of not making blanket statements. But it is also a safety net. Sprinkling your paper with these words makes it harder for your critics to pin you down. Academics are, after all, writing for a very small audience of competitors who want to destroy them. They’ve been trained to do this since their induction into academia with their ‘PhD thesis defence’.

Scholarly articles are written in the literary equivalent of a defensive crouch. They are not meant to interest their readers, they are meant to survive their readers. The more inaccessible an article, the greater the effort required to tear its arguments apart.

But the underlying reason for bad academic writing goes deeper than the culture of academia, and is a problem that academics share with anyone else who is considered an expert. The theory, put forward by several academics including Canadian psychologist Steven Pinker,

states that if you know something, it is very difficult to imagine what it’s like to not know it. If you’ve spent your career researching a topic, you will be writing with a wealth of knowledge not available to most people. Putting yourself in the position of a reader who knows less than you is difficult.

This phenomenon is known as “the curse of knowledge,” and goes a long way in explaining why academics have so much trouble communicating their research. Writing is difficult: our minds have evolved to speak, not to write. Few people can actually write clearly, succinctly and engagingly. Add the fact that academics can’t understand what it’s like to read their papers as a layman, and it’s not hard to see why academic literature is usually poorly written.

Unfortunately, difficult-to-understand academic papers create a self-perpetuating cycle. Undergraduates learning to write scholarly articles learn by reading them. The style I’ve adopted for writing scientific reports is very different from the style I wrote this article in. When writing this, I tried to be as straightforward and engaging as possible. But when you read academic papers, you realise that isn’t the priority.

Undergraduates who read academic articles tend to imitate the so-called

“academese” style. You begin to worry that your own writing isn’t ‘academic’ enough. But the truth is that the convoluted, jargonistic and often incomprehensible writing found in academic journals isn’t a writing style, it’s simply poor writing.

Reading academic papers is a skill that it takes a while to acquire. Generally speaking, understanding what the author is talking about before reading the paper helps. Reading the introduction and conclusion, headings and topic sentences to get an idea of the overall structure helps you to skim over the less relevant passages. Over time, you become more adept at judging what is important to read, and what is just waffle. However, no matter how good you become, you invariably end up spending a depressingly large amount of time and energy deciphering needlessly complex prose.

Bad writing makes life difficult for undergraduates and junior researchers. It also discourages anyone interested in the sciences or humanities from pursuing that interest. Public engagement and trust in science are damaged if scientists cannot effectively communicate their ideas. The general population does have an interest and will read about complex topics, but not when ‘reading’ is described as ‘receiving information via visual, symbolic channels.’

Livid about Vivid

Thomas Sargeant has seen the light.

Vivid Sydney is the saddest excuse for a “festival” that I have been unfortunate enough to witness. Vivid has a very specific and narrow target audience: young families looking to take the kids on a night out, tourists, and underage teens taking party drugs and finding their futures in the pretty lights. If you are passionate about Vivid and do not fit into any of these demographics, please take a long hard look at yourself in the glowing reflection of the harbour. Then maybe throw yourself in.

Vivid has its humble beginnings in a series of light projections on the side of the Opera House in 2009. Colourful, swirling designs put the sails of the iconic structure into clear relief against the night sky, and project (no pun intended) an international image of Sydney as a modern, creative city. I believe Vivid has still not moved past its purpose as a marketing exercise for the city, and this is reflected through its inoffensive content.

Consider the artworks of Vivid. If this sounds difficult to you, it’s because there is not all that much to consider. Whilst there is a large degree of technical skill involved in putting together the impressive projection-mapping displays that comprise Vivid, it is unfortunately not used for art that actually matters. The point of the art at Vivid, broadly speaking, is now to be photographed and shared on social media. The works are not created to provoke nor express any emotional truths or question social realities. In all honesty, art is a generous term here. These are light shows designed for likes and shares.

Take this year’s upcoming pieces as an example. Already helpfully posted on the Vivid Sydney website so you can plan your Wednesday night out in the city months in advance, you’re able to see a ‘kinetic canopy of light’ that looks like neon decor from AliExpress. Or potentially you’d like to check out *Macula*, which comes with a glowing (pun intended) promo from Vivid: “Expect *Macula* to be one of this year’s crowd favourites given it provides an extraordinary backdrop for selfies and videos.”

The most concerning and saddening example of socially irrelevant art at Vivid 2022 is set to be *Bump in the Night* at Tumbalong Park. The installation work comprises a series of glowing tents with noises coming from inside them, which viewers can walk between and be a part of, while still apart from the individuals inside. One would expect this to be a commentary on people experiencing homelessness, perhaps even the way in which Vivid can displace them from parks and shelters in the CBD. To assume such a basic level of self awareness would clearly be naive.

Vivid’s website provides some helpful info about *Bump in the Night* to help dispel such notions.

“In Sydney, things tend to go bump in the night. Perhaps it is a possum party in your roof, noisy bats eating your mulberries or a brush turkey flirting with your chickens... This artwork resembles a peaceful campsite, with muffled snores heard from within the tents... Want to be a drop bear? A Bunyip? Or just a hungry bat? You decide, be loud, and be that bump in the night.”

Beyond its lack of artistic merit, the festival is particularly frustrating when viewed in the context of Sydney’s dwindling nightlife scene. Six years of lockdown laws, followed by two years of rolling lockdowns and a lack of adequate income support, has resulted in countless venue closures and a club culture on life support.

Thankfully, Vivid was safely insulated from the pesky lockdown laws. In 2019, over 3000 venues were eligible to be granted extensions to their trading hours on Sundays during Vivid. How generous of the State Government to ensure that their festival wasn’t subject to their own lockdown restrictions — I’m sure the cruise ships and Insta shares were worth



the hypocrisy.

This isn’t to say I think Vivid is irredeemable. Expansions to the program such as Vivid LIVE and Vivid Ideas are extremely welcome, and this year’s lineup looks fantastic - Tkay Maidza, Future Classic and Astral People are obvious highlights. It’s a shame that such a great program shares a name with the titular lightshow.

If Vivid is a festival of light, I’d rather be left in the dark.

ART BY LAUREN LANCASTER

The fault in your writing, John Green

Danny Yazdani hosts a much needed intervention for his generation.

I’ve always admired a play on words. Whether that be my dad making some cringe-worthy joke, or a café like Sappho’s in Glebe that fuses the names of its dishes with classic texts, I love wordplay. Witty, intertextual and frequently cynical, the technique is one that I often employ in topical conversations regarding none other than international criminal and literary terrorist, John Green.

Evident in this article’s title, this man is often the victim of my word play. An Abundance of Failures (*An Abundance of Katherineines*), Looking for Quality Writing (*Looking for Alaska*), Snoozeville All the Way Down (*Turtles All the Way Down*) and so on. I’ve struggled with *Paper Towns*, because there is the teeniest tiniest ounce of flair and originality in his analogy of towns and paper. But this is far from earning his redemption.

I have cleansed my bookshelves of the weight of his trashy fiction. Why not make room for literary masterminds like Katherine Mansfield and Agatha Christie and John Steinbeck? Or, if we wish to deviate from the typicality of the literary canon, leave shelves for new writers like Trent Dalton and Julie Koh, knowing full well that their careers in literature have only just begun. I don’t need to clog this valuable space with the works of a man who indulges himself in the worlds of angsty, hormonal teenagers. This man has been allowed to use the same sort of boy-meets-girl dynamic and ‘finding your place in the world’ plot like a broken record since 2005, when I was a mere

three-year-old, unable to uproot this man from the literary landscape like a newly formed weed.

“If this man was able to cease his habits of speaking one hundred miles an hour, making irrelevantly tacky jokes, and inserting niche aspects of his life into these videos, maybe the quality would improve.”

I have cleansed my YouTube history and recommended feed of his incessant ‘Crash Course’ series which provides viewers, quite literally, with a crash course on different subjects like biology, world history, and even literature. This sounds all well and good, right? Especially since the channel is targeted at students who need a quick introductory snippet to a certain field. Wrong. The channel’s description states, “we believe that high quality educational videos should be available to everyone for free!”. They’re educational, and they’re

definitely free, but they sure aren’t high quality. If this man was able to cease his habits of speaking one hundred miles an hour, making irrelevantly tacky jokes, and inserting niche aspects of his life into these videos, maybe the quality would improve. But nevertheless, I have blocked him from my YouTube. No regrets.

Let it be said here, Dear Reader, that I have only used this godforsaken man’s name twice in this piece: once in the title, and once in my opening paragraph. That is all. And, I have refused to address him as “the author”. No. For names and titles carrying the responsibility of empowering youth through the written word should be left unsaid if it is clichéd and uninspiring writing that fuels their career and drives devoted, open-minded readers like myself over the edge.

Despite my personal efforts to end this man - without taking his life of course, only his literary license – being an ambition of mine, I have felt this way ever since I first picked up a copy of one of his wretched publications. More importantly, through writing this very article, through angry Facebook posts, and through conversation, I am fighting to eradicate any traces of his cult-like following. We know that ‘cult-classics’ often form out of a book, movie or band being labelled as bad at first, only later to be revered and revived with attention. But this ends here. The perpetrator of Young Adult Fiction as a sloppy, lacklustre genre must end here and now. This is an intervention for my generation.

To support my case, I have drawn on some little passages from this man’s most tolerable work, *Paper Towns*. I say this with a grain of salt, and I hope you take it with one too. He writes:

“Tonight, darling, we are going to right a lot of wrongs. And we are going to wrong some rights. The first shall be last; the last shall be first; the meek shall do some earth-inheriting. But before we can radically reshape the world, we need to shop.”

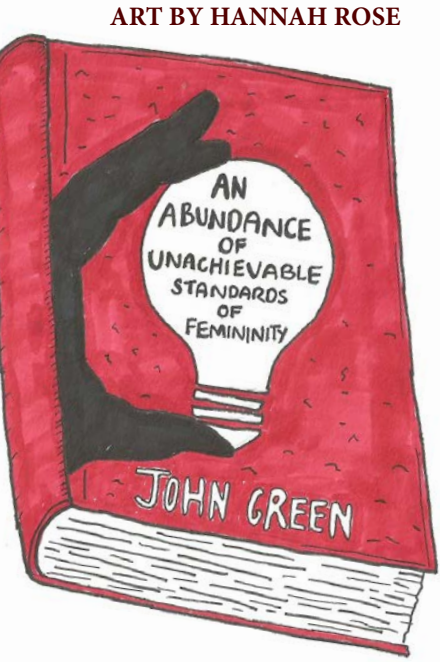
Thank you, sir, for your confusing use of opposites which have no apparent meaning. Thank you for ripping off one of the greatest musicals of all time, *The Little Shop of Horrors* (and the Bible too, I guess). Thank you so very much for reducing social justice and advocacy as second-rate to retail therapy.

“The perpetrator of Young Adult Fiction as a sloppy, lacklustre genre must end here and now.”

Perhaps one of the most quoted lines from *Paper Towns*:

“The way I figure it, everyone gets a miracle ... I ended up living next door to Margo Roth Spiegelman.”

Again, thank you for being creepy. For placing a young girl at the centre of a young boy’s fantasies. A young boy who is too emotionally and socially stunted to approach her and strike up a conversation



like a normal person. Thank you also for failing to mention themes like family and courage and passion that are critical to a person’s life. To readership.

You may be thinking at this point, Dear Reader, that I have a lot of gall to challenge a man whose work has ended up in first place on *The New York Times* Bestseller List. But you have to remember that everyone makes it onto there. It’s a joke! This same man has won the Edgar Allan Poe Award. Edgar-fucking-Allan-fucking-Poe. Is there even a comparison to be made? I must be calm, Dear Reader, and leave you with a few words from other people I questioned about this man’s literary integrity. Perhaps then you will believe me when I say that there is serious fault in John Green’s writing and presence as a YA author.

In two sentences or less, what are your thoughts on John Green?

“Cunt.”

“I think he has perpetuated insufferable teenage self-importance...for those growing up in the late 2000s and 2010s. He has the biggest fucking ego, is for-profit, anti-art, but his brother’s cool.”

“I don’t particularly like John Green, but I think he is particularly over hated by a certain Danny Yazdani. But Hank Green is my literal saviour, I love him with my entire soul and body.”

“I don’t have any opinions on John Green which shows how little I care about that man, but from an educational stance he definitely narrowed down the range of books kids from my generation read... he seemed like the definitive YA genre that we all had to read.”

“He has the power to show young adults how formative and engaging literature can be, in a world where emerging generations are seldom interested in stories told through ink and paper. That being said, his style is repetitive, and his form is predictable.”

Shall we go on with him?

Showdown: which party is best for students?

Four campus factional bigwigs go head-to-head.

Labor: Grace Hu
Grace Hu is Vice President of Sydney University ALP Club and is a member of the Australian Labor Party.

The university funding system has been in crisis for years. The old block-grant funding model, a type of capped funding, meant that the government allocated Commonwealth Supported Places to universities regardless of student demand. As such, there were always students who missed out.

The Labor demand-based model, introduced in 2008 shortly after Kevin Rudd won the election and implemented in 2012, allowed universities to enrol students and then get funding based on student demand. This led to a dramatic increase in students enrolling in university.

Around 2018, the Turnbull Coalition government scrapped this model because they considered it too expensive.

Base funding — being the combination of Commonwealth contribution and student contribution per place — covers essential university functions such as research, admin and community engagement. This means when there is not enough funding per place, as has been the case, direct funding for teaching goes down. The proportion of funding per university place spent on teaching has fallen from 94% to 85%. If you feel like your education quality hasn't been that great recently, this is why.

The Liberals have announced little for education this election. They've already implemented their 2019 election promise of the Job Ready Graduates package (JRG). Besides the fact that this hasn't fixed the crisis, and the sector has made it clear that this funding is insufficient, this was politically perfect for the Liberals. The problem every government faces is that the Commonwealth contribution is incredibly expensive to maintain, students always want more university places, and degrees are also oversaturating the market — meaning return on investment is increasingly dubious.

JRG presents the neoliberal fallacy: more for less. The government gets to cap funding to prevent cost blowout, but say they've created more student places because higher demand courses receive less Commonwealth contribution. This means the university can offer more places with their fixed total Commonwealth contribution. This was all achieved without increasing funding and saves the government a billion dollars per year. The underlying rhetoric of JRG and the Liberal government is: yes, more students can go to university — if they pay for it themselves.

It is mind-blowing that after a decade of crisis caused by insufficient base funding and numerous attempts to curb the expense of Commonwealth contributions, the Greens can look past this and consider reimbursing past student contributions as an important policy for this election. Current students should not rally around this issue first because, unlike the graduated, our education quality and Commonwealth contribution are still being determined.

While Labor has yet to propose an alternate funding model, its announcement of 20,000 student places costing nearly \$500 million shows a commitment to increasing funding for the sector. While there is obviously room to give more people the opportunity to go to uni, this 2.6% increase on the current 746,000 places is sizeable

considering existing participation in education or training, with 31% of 20-24-year olds in a Bachelor's degree or higher, and a further 14% in a Certificate or Diploma, as well as Labor's increases for TAFE. You have to remember, when the Coalition told us JRG would create 30,000 university places, they genuinely thought 30,000 would be considered an impressive increase.

Historically, the Labor Gillard government gave us the demand-driven model. This increased total Commonwealth contribution by 50% and student places went up by 146,000 or 34% over Labor's term. That increase is still equivalent to 20% of today's current CSP.

Only a Labor government will deliver the funding model we want to see, which is an equitable increase to Commonwealth contribution per student and more student places. This is important for education quality and access to university. Students should preference Labor first for this reason — we need a strong, confident, progressive government to deliver substantial change to a sector that has been continually wrecked by funding failure.

The Greens: Drew Beacom

Drew Beacom is a member of Grassroots, convener of USyd Greens and is campaigning for the Greens in the Federal Election.

Young people and students are often neglected in federal politics. Under the last decade of Liberal 'leadership', we have seen conditions for students deteriorate. Young people are feeling more and more helpless in the face of rising rent and house prices, a lack of action on climate change, stagnant wage growth, and the erosion of workers' rights. Students bear the brunt of a society that is becoming more and more unequal. The Greens are fighting for students this election and we are bringing policies to the table that will improve the lives of young people.

The past decade of austerity from the LNP Government has seen tertiary education decimated. Tertiary education in Australia has fallen victim to death by a thousand cuts, with 2020's Job-Ready Graduates Package simply the latest attack on the system. The Greens will reverse these cuts, increase funding, abolish all student debt and reintroduce free university and TAFE. This will allow students from all backgrounds to study at our universities, assisting in the tackling of inequality and allowing young people to pursue their interests without having to face crippling debt. These policies are putting students first and ensuring that every Australian has the right to access world-class higher education.

Furthermore, students shouldn't be forced to work 20+ hour weeks in order to make ends meet. Students should not have to sacrifice grades and relationships in order to support themselves while they study. This deepens inequality as those who come from low socio-economic backgrounds have to decide between hitting the books or paying rent, choices those from wealthier backgrounds aren't forced to consider. The Greens are committed to supporting all students financially, removing the current independence test and ensuring that all young people (studying or looking for work) receive a guaranteed income of \$1300 fortnightly.

The Greens are committed to fighting for young people — not only on campuses but

also at home. At present, young people are locked out of the Australian housing market as governments reward investors and push the commodification of housing, driving up prices. The Greens want to make the dream of homeownership a reality once again, building one million new, publicly-owned houses, 125,000 of which will be dedicated to first home buyers. Furthermore, the Greens are fighting for renters by capping rent increases and removing 'no-grounds' evictions, a win for students who should be able to live near their campuses in secure and affordable accommodation

There is no reason that arbitrary barriers should be placed on the types of healthcare you can access. Mental health conditions disproportionately impact younger people and no one should be denied treatment and support due to financial barriers. The last time the Greens held the balance of power, we expanded Medicare to cover dental for children under 12. This time we will be expanding Medicare to cover dental and mental health for Australians of all ages, allowing everyone access to healthcare.

Climate action has been the leading issue for young people for many years now, seen notably in the rise of School Strike 4 Climate and the student environment movement. The Greens are committed to ensuring young Australians can live on a healthy, thriving planet. To make this a reality, the Greens are leading both major parties on climate action, favouring science over donations. We are committed to 100% renewable energy by 2030, investing in the just transition of coal communities and in renewable infrastructures. The Greens will also ban all new fossil fuel projects, phasing out coal mining by 2030, and will end the revolving door between the fossil fuel sector and federal politics, banning fossil fuel donations, and ensuring lobbying is transparent and public.

So in this election vote for students, vote for equity, vote for climate action, vote [1] Greens.

The Liberal Party: Nicholas Comino

USU Board Director and campus Moderate Liberal Nicholas Comino committed to writing this section of the piece 10 days before it was due, engaging with the editorial team throughout. In true Liberal fashion, he did not follow through on his promise and chose not to let us know until the day it was required.

The only other Liberal contacted said they would not write it, in part because they "don't believe" the Liberals are the best party for young people and students.

In lieu, we have summarised the LNP position though: peepee poopoo.

Socialist Alternative: Deaglan Goodwin

Deaglan Godwin is a member of Socialist Alternative, USyd SRC Education Officer and will not be campaigning for any major political party.

The current federal election should be the most important in decades. The climate crisis is much worse today than in 2019. The pandemic has seen more than 4,000 people in Australia die this year alone, yet we are heading towards a situation where testing positive for covid will be a normal, routine part of life. At the same time, rent across Sydney has increased by 21% in the last year,

and general inflation is forecast to reach 4.25%.

The two major parties promise ordinary people the same thing: zilch. Labor and Liberal agree on continuing coal exports past 2050 and increasing funding to Australia's military. Anthony 'I'm not woke' Albanese is at pains to make sure everybody knows he can be just as socially conservative as Morrison, proudly declaring in last week's debate that Labor supported offshore detention and boat turn-backs for refugees. Labor spokespeople have made it clear that they want to govern for the employers. The Liberals deserve to be smashed, but Labor is no alternative.

Some would argue that the Greens are a viable third option. It's true that the Greens put out more progressive policies than Labor — opposing new coal mines, taxing the rich to fund free education, building social housing to end homelessness and putting dental and mental health services on Medicare. But these policies mean very little in practice. The problem is that the strategy of the Greens revolves around becoming a junior partner in a coalition with the ALP.

The last time they were in this position was following the 2010 election. The Greens, despite their policies on paper, were unable to draw a line in the sand to end offshore processing or the expansion of the fossil fuel industry. The pressure of playing the parliamentary game meant that the Greens abandoned policies which would place people or the environment over profit. So while students are right to vote down parties which are open backers of a system which throws ordinary people under the bus, the Greens aren't a real left alternative. This is because parliament is where the bosses are at their most powerful, and where workers and the oppressed are at their weakest.

The key to actually winning what we want is fighting for our demands, not hoping that we'll be able to vote them into reality. We've seen this play out before. For years, the Labor Party refused to legalise marriage equality, and the Greens were unable to make it a reality. Instead, it was mobilisations of tens of thousands of people that forced the Liberals to change the oppressive laws. Every win for ordinary people has been the result of such a battle.

The key task of students and the organisations that represent them should be to build the capacity of the left to win these fights. Doing so means refusing to see elections as the key to creating change in society. Ultimately, capitalist power needs to be destroyed to win a world fit for humanity. For now, to paraphrase Howard Zinn, what matters most is not who is sitting in parliament, but who is 'sitting in' — and who is marching and striking outside parliament.

We have an opportunity to put this perspective into practice over the coming months. Staff at Sydney University are going out on strike in week 11, and again in week 13. If we want to see a better higher education system for both staff and students, we have to take up the fight where we're strongest - standing in solidarity on the picket lines and at protests.

We also need to be ready to protest and march beyond the gates of the university, regardless of who is elected. We can't have a moment of despair if the Liberals are returned, or high expectations from a Labor-Greens majority. The fight against climate change, inequality and cuts to higher education demand this.

Rural LNP candidates are distancing themselves from ScoMo

Aidan Elwig Pollock looks for a sign.

Advertising is an essential part of Any campaign; and in a campaign as vicious as the 2022 federal election — a poll where voters will decide between an ageing, scandal-ridden government and an opposition looking to avoid a repeat of the 2019 upset — Coalition MPs have decided to resort to underhanded branding tricks in an attempt to exhaust every opportunity to gain the upper hand.

Liberal and National party MPs are removing overt references to their party across a range of advertising mediums. Ultimately, out of eight LNP held electorates I visited, only three maintained any kind of clear party affiliation in their branding. Of these three, the only MP who prominently advertised his affiliation to the LNP is defecting in the upcoming election. The two others seemed to make their LNP logos as small as possible.

Branding may not be the first thing that comes to mind when we think of political tactics. But it is one of the key mediums that parties communicate with the public and is essential to any successful campaign. Think Gough Whitlam's iconic orange-and-black "It's Time", "Kevin '07" or even Scott Morrison's death tax scare campaign.

In order to get a message across — to associate a set of values, beliefs and aspirations to a political party — colours and symbols are key. Every party has a colour: Labor is red, the Liberal Party is blue, and the Greens are, well, green. And along with a colour, every party has a logo that is pretty much instantly recognisable. The iconography associated with a party is embedded within our psyche — I for one do not think I will ever be able to break the strong connection between the United Australia Party and that awful, unnecessarily lurid yellow.

So why have the Liberal-National Party started rebranding their electorate offices with new colours and without a logo?

This was a question I first asked on a road trip through Queensland in the sweaty heat of a tropical October 2021. Over the course of a month I journeyed through every one of Queensland's large rural electorates, and a good deal of the seats closer to Brisbane. Almost every single electorate office that held a Member of Parliament, who was not retiring at this election, had deviated from party branding.

Following the 2019 election and outside Brisbane, Queensland is a big blue and green Liberal National Party map. Other than the loose-cannon Katter's Australia Party in Kennedy, every rural electorate is controlled by the LNP.

Only one of these electorate offices had prominent LNP branding: George Christensen's office in Mackay, in the seat of Dawson, had "LNP" plastered in comically massive letters on bright blue and yellow boards. George Christensen, however, infamous for his anti-vaccination stance and adventures in the Philippines that raised the attention of the AFP, is now defecting to One Nation. As such he is no longer contesting the election for the LNP.

Only two other electorates displayed any hint of an LNP logo: Michelle Landry, who sits in Capricornia, had a tiny "LNP" stamped on her Rockhampton office, barely noticeable. The one sign of advertising for Warren Entsch, in the far northern electorate of Leichhardt, was a single old billboard in Cairns that had been in the same position since at least my last journey north in April 2019. A tiny "LNP" was written in the bottom corner of this huge billboard.

“Morrison is not interested in rules-based order. It is his way or the highway. An autocrat, a bully who has no moral compass. [...] Morrison is not fit to be Prime Minister.”

No other electorate offices I visited had any mention of the Liberal or National Party whatsoever. Phillip Thompson's office in Townsville, in the seat of Herbert, at least used the LNP colours. However, the Commonwealth of Australia coat of arms — an officially non-partisan symbol associated with the Australian government and sovereignty, was plastered large a total of four times across the office. Trevor Evans in the seat of Brisbane also employed LNP colours, at least in his bus-stop advertisements. However, these advertisements, nor his office, included the LNP logo. On top of that, Trevor Evans' office in the inner-city suburb of Albion prominently featured the coat of arms on a slick chrome plaque featuring his name and no reference to the LNP whatsoever.

Ken O'Dowd in Flynn and Peter Dutton in Dickson had deviated significantly from the LNP colours: both electorate offices used a darker shade of blue. In Dutton's case, the most prominent colour was white, followed by red — a huge change from the traditional LNP blue. Both electorate offices prominently displayed the coat of arms, a pattern across most of the electorates I visited. To be fair to Dutton, other advertising in his electorate prominently used the LNP colours — along with a large and fairly

unflattering portrait of the MP. But his office looked more like that of a bureaucrat than a party-affiliated elected official.

David Littleproud's office in Maranoa — one of the largest in Queensland — did prominently display National party colours. However, a logo was not visible, other than a large coat of arms positioned beside an immense photograph of his hot bod, complete with Akubra on head.

And this is not a phenomenon restricted to Queensland. Sharma, facing an independent candidate, Allegra Spender, who is surging in popularity, modified his advertising in what can be only described as an attempt to distance himself from the Liberal Party.

Sharma dispatched a campaign newsletter in a shade of teal suspiciously close to that associated with the glut of independents attempting to replace a Liberal Party that is increasingly on the nose for climate inaction and puritanical social conservatism in seats dominated by wealthy, "small-l" liberal types.

The move was ridiculed across social media and has reached the attention of political commentators. Former Independent Kerryn Phelps, for instance, who was replaced by Sharma in a Wentworth byelection, indicated that "you can understand why someone might not want to be too closely associated with this current Liberal Party that has blundered the bushfire response, floundered on the management of the COVID-19 pandemic, and failed the flood-affected communities in the immediate aftermath of widespread devastation." Yet Sharma retains allegiance to that party in everything but branding: a party that has provided him with endorsement, financial support and an organised army of campaign volunteers.

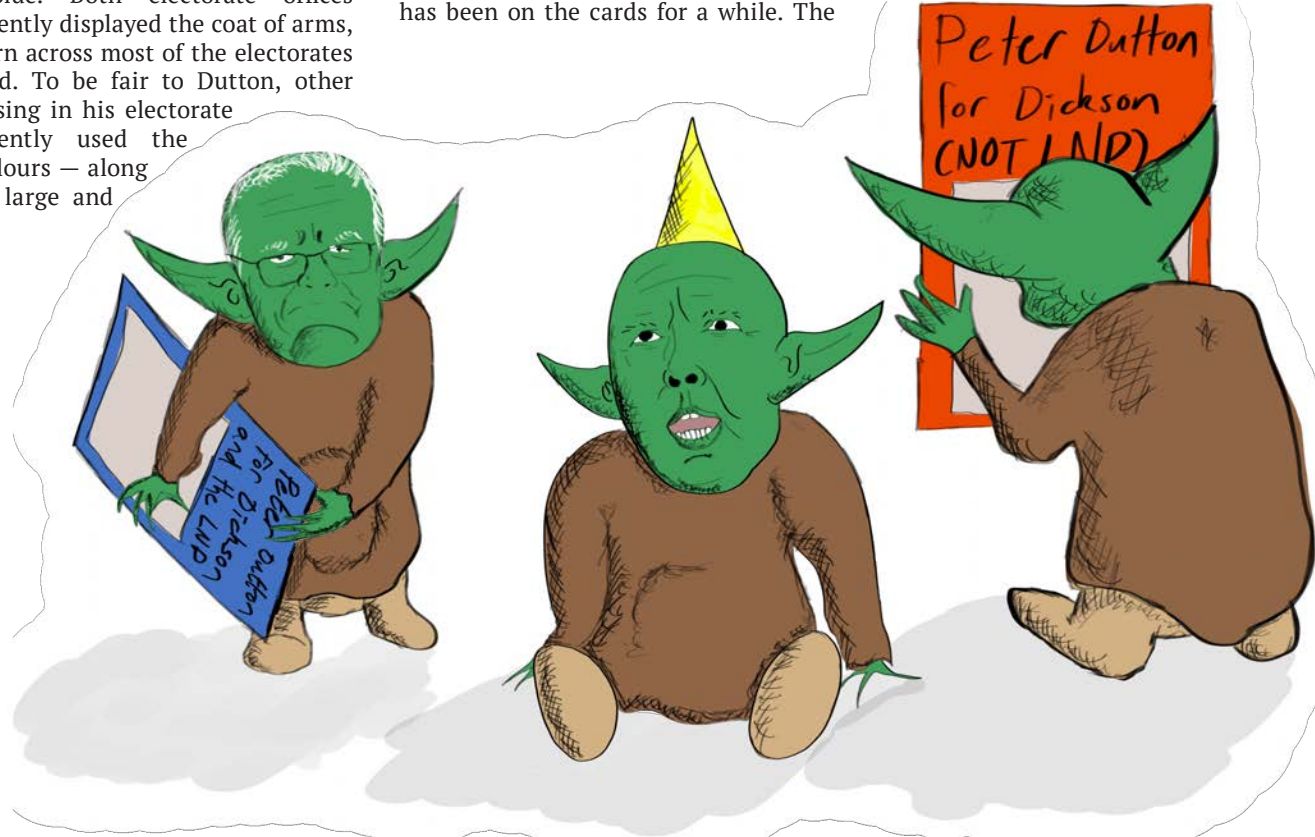
Until the most recent set of polls (true as of the 21 April), a variety of sources were indicating that Morrison had lagged behind Albanese as preferred PM, with the two-party preferred polls from a range of organisations showing a clear lead for the ALP. This change, possibly recently reversed by extensive press coverage of an Albanese "gaffe", has been on the cards for a while. The

repeated failures of Scott Morrison in particular, ranging from leaving the country during the 2019-20 bushfire season for a Hawaii holiday to a sluggish vaccine rollout, appear to have caught up with him; events like these are swinging more traditional Liberal voters towards independent candidates, like those in Wentworth and Warringah.

Regardless of the current situation, the fact that Scott Morrison himself has acquired a personality problem in the eyes of voters across the country has led to infighting in the Liberal Party and attempts by LNP MPs like NSW upper house MP Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, Federal MP Dave Sharma, backbencher Bridget Archer and even senator Eric Abetz to distance themselves from their leader. The scathing assault on Scott Morrison's character, conducted by the traditionally conservative Fierravanti-Wells speaking to the NSW upper house, who claimed that "Morrison is not interested in rules-based order. It is his way or the highway. An autocrat, a bully who has no moral compass. [...] Morrison is not fit to be Prime Minister" is just one example of the increasingly more common attempts of LNP MPs to put space between themselves and Scomo's insipid smirk.

Other LNP MPs, notably Bridget Archer, representing Bass (in Tasmania), have been making overt references to the fact that an Australian election is not, in fact, a poll on the preferred Prime Minister, but an example of a Westminster system. By highlighting the fact that voters do not (technically) choose between Scott Morrison and Anthony Albanese, MPs like Archer are more softly attempting to differentiate themselves from the party leadership.

So where does this leave us with advertising? Well, let me ask you this: if Liberal and National Party MPs are willing to publicly attack Scott Morrison, send nasty text messages in private, and softly nudge voters away from associating their local members with the party leadership, would they not be willing to modify their advertising so as to disassociate themselves from a party that has a severe leadership problem?



ART BY SAM RANDLE



What goalkeeping feels like

James Frederiksen holds the line.

When people find out I play as a goalkeeper at the second highest level of amateur club football in Sydney's Northern Suburbs, they usually ask me “How did you get this number?” and to please never call again.

On the few occasions that the topic has been met with even feigned interest, the consensus is that standing around waiting for something to happen for 90 minutes on a Saturday must be rather boring. I suspect they would judge my weekend decisions even more ill-advised if they knew my team fines players who go out on a Friday night before a game.

There have been a few matches where I wished I could duck off to the toilets at halftime and never return, but those make up a slim minority of my Saturdays. Most of what I do is yell at the other players about where they need to be—unlike the other players, goalkeepers can see the whole pitch, so this is probably the most important part of the job—but once or twice a game, an opposition player will do something that triggers a procession of physiological responses within me that are difficult to describe.

It's 0-0 in the 37th minute of a preseason friendly, and the momentum has undeniably swung in favour of the bad guys. Their collection of middle-aged, Upper North Shore-based Englishmen have begun to dominate our collection of middle-aged, Lower North Shore-based Englishmen. The game is technically a friendly, but if you are within a 2km radius of Cammeray Oval and capable

“ART” BY JAMES FREDERIKSEN

of deciphering a thick Brummie accent, you might beg forgiveness from a higher power for merely overhearing the irredeemable obscenities flooding from the mouth of our right-back Nate. He is 37 years old, married, and runs a reasonably successful plumbing business.

In the midst of his apoplexy, Nate is too busy composing a particularly distasteful character assessment of our 19-year-old referee's mother to notice the opposition winger dissect our defence with a darting run. I try to warn Nate, but it seems his brain cells are already in overdrive conjuring up synonyms for intercourse.

The pass played to the winger is perfectly weighted, and I know that our ageing defence will not catch him. As this realisation sets in, so too does the beginnings of that physiological response I mentioned earlier. At this point, it is a slight buzzing sensation in my extremities, not unlike when you have a shower at someone else's house, and—being unfamiliar with the temperature settings of their taps—you have to put your hand under the stream first. You know the feeling when it is just a little bit too hot but it took a few seconds to realise and now your fingers are tingling? That's how this feels.

Since the winger will undoubtedly be having a shot at the goal, let's have a look at the latest contestant on *Goal or No Goal?*. Before I became a veteran of the Northern Suburbs Football Association Men's All-Age Division 2 circuit, I would have scoffed at this man's inclusion on their team. We are hardly the English Premier League,

but the standard is still high enough to humiliate former schoolboy stars who neglected their fitness after the HSC.

Bearing down upon my goal is a man our opposition calls 'Chaos'. I hope it is his legal name, because I prefer not to think about the unspeakable depravity one must indulge in to garner such a title amongst this set of peers. Chaos is the posterboy of physical mediocrity with a particularly unforgiving form of male-pattern baldness – it looks like his follicles were sprinkled across his scalp by an absent-minded barista. Coupled with a heavyset frame that wouldn't stand taller than 5'9 in heels, this is a man who would look more at home selling used cars than bearing down on a goal. Imagine Leonardo da Vinci had been snatched at birth and raised in seclusion by insurance salesmen. If, under those constraints, he had been asked to draw the *Vitruvian Man*, that is what Chaos looks like.

Given his unassuming appearance, I am terrified. We're playing at a reasonably competitive standard, and for Chaos to be selected whilst apparently devoid of any athletic ability, he must be technically gifted and tactically aware. Indeed, he has just capitalised on Nate's unaddressed aggression, and has also been hitting 40-metre passes for the past half-hour and is yet to make a mistake. When I see a man with a passing resemblance to a Federal MP playing at this level, I panic.

Growing up on the Lower North Shore, I have lived a relatively sheltered life, and as such my only knowledge of the fight-or-flight response comes from PSYC1001 and movies. Still, I wonder if maybe the streaks of electricity shooting from my hands to my shoulders are the result of a fear response.

With each step Chaos takes towards me, I can feel my capillaries expanding, my muscles coiling, ready to fire the instant that ball leaves his foot. The full body ASMR response that set in seconds ago when he split through our defence has now neared its apex. I am only tangentially aware of the crescendo on the field, made up of optimism and despair in equal measures. Shouts are the currency of football's key moments, and while it is a sport sometimes derided for dull draws and time-consuming histrionics, few sporting

moments can generate fervour quite like a goal-scoring chance.

Chaos is now ten metres away and has begun winding up to shoot. I am utterly fixated on two things: his posture and the ball. My heartbeat is no longer metronomic, and perhaps no longer healthy, as adrenaline and anticipation have forced my BPM to levels usually reserved for a law firm's Christmas party. I know he can kick the ball hard, and I know that I don't have much time to react. I can only hope that the stimulants my body just concocted can propel my hands in the direction of the ball.

His standing leg has planted, and his striking foot is swinging towards the ball. The ten metres has dwindled to about five. Chaos looks at me quickly, presumably to assess which side of me to place his shot. His right foot is his dominant foot, so chances are he will be shooting with that one. Based on his open stance, I think he will place it to my lower left, because you look like a real idiot if you kick it over the goal.

He shoots. The buzz within my body is at its climax, an intoxicating blend of chemical uptakes and engaged nerve endings. My weight shifts and my hands move before my eyes have registered where the ball is. When saving a one-on-one, I often feel as though some evolutionary predisposition enables me to move preternaturally. Football is the only avenue for me to flex the instincts that have enabled humans to compete with beasts for thousands of years. The evolutionary path of my ancestors has given me this chance to ruin Chaos' afternoon with a single unthinking movement made in an instant, and I can suddenly feel the collision of inflated plastic and synthetic glove. *There is no greater feeling than this.*

Except I didn't get enough on it, and the ball rolls unceremoniously across the goal line behind me, before carrying on through a hole in the patchy net that I helped attach to the posts ten minutes before kickoff. 1-0. Chaos celebrates like a twat, and Nate gets sent off for reciting the referee's actual current home address, which is objectively the scariest thing I have ever heard another person say.

Oh well, it's just a stupid pre-season friendly anyway.

and silver jumpsuits. But as current fashion trends continue to lean heavily on nineties and noughties nostalgia, forecasting the increasing relevance of cyber-fashion seems gratuitous.

In reference to digital art such as NFTs, Špetić quips: “I'm too old school for that... I need something tangible that I can pass down to my kids.”

So, why is Karla Špetić here? Her brand clearly has no sustainability agenda, and she briefly mentions failed onshore production. If Akbar has made anything clear, it's the enormous effort which goes into creating a sustainable brand is hard work and full of challenges. Perhaps some thrive on problem solving more than others, but it's clear that Špetić represents a future of fashion which will not prevail through the climate crisis or beyond it.

The Future Fashion exhibition is a call to the helm for what we need from our future fashion leaders; Those who can look beyond self-serving vanity projects and foster planet positive fashion. While highlighting how elusive sustainability is, it made it all the more apparent how vitally we need it.

International Booker Prize spotlight: Heaven & Elena Knows

Thomas Fotiou turns the page.

Recently, I have had the pleasure of reading two novels that were selected for the International Booker Prize shortlist: *Heaven* by Mieko Kawakami and *Elena Knows* by Claudia Piñeiro. Established in 2005, the International Booker Prize selects novels that have been translated into English to showcase some of the most engaging original literature emerging outside of the English-speaking world. Amidst an intriguing shortlist — *The Books of Jacob* by Olga Tokarczuk, *Tomb of Sand* by Geetanjali Shree, *A New Name: Septology VI-VII* by Jon Fosse, and *Cursed Bunny* by Bora Chung — I have relished reading Kawakami and Piñeiro's pieces. The prize seeks to exemplify the power of translation as a literary form and a practice.

Heaven centres on two characters — a narrator who is only referred to as 'Eyes' because of his lazy eye, and Kojima. Both are students at the same school in Japan in the early 1990s, and Kawakami explores how their experiences of violent bullying simultaneously unite them together and draw them apart. The novel blends philosophical conversations — particularly those drawing on existential nihilism and Friedrich

Nietzsche's *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* — to ground its representation of bullying as a discursive site where ethics, identity, friendship, and existence can be discussed. Initially, Eyes and Kojima begin to forge a friendship over their shared experience of bullying. However, as the novel progresses and they become more aware of their own objectification, they grow apart, finding it difficult to understand each other's sense of why they are bullied. Kawakami delivers the story in a clear, nonchalant, and graphic style — her language can be seen oscillating between the violence that Eyes is subjected to by classmates Ninomiya and Momose, to expressionistic observations of Japanese landscape, art, and suburban life. *Heaven* is emotionally challenging but occasionally loses its nuance because of the sometimes straightforward ways it engages with universal and much-asked philosophical questions.

These problems — though somewhat minor — that I had with *Heaven* also appeared in Piñeiro's novel but, fortunately, these were its strengths. Like *Heaven*, *Elena Knows* is a highly emotional, complex, and rich story that centres on Elena, a woman diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, who attempts to uncover why her daughter Rita was found hanging off the church belfry on

one stormy day in Argentina.

Whilst the novel is short, it packs a punch: referring to Parkinson's in an anthropomorphic mode as 'Herself', referring to the new version of Elena that has taken over and consumed her body, Piñeiro's language echoes the ways that Parkinson's manifests in her body. Elena's sentences are methodical, sharp, and her diction equally so. She is convinced that Rita did not commit

“Piñeiro manages to engage in complex discussions around the microaggressions that disabled people face, and how institutions like the Catholic Church can complicate how one reconciles life, death, belief in God, and faith.”

suicide: the novel reveals Rita's fear of thunderstorms as being a fundamental aspect of her character. However, Elena's sense of certainty is flawed, and curbs her ability to accept that knowledge is a porous, ever-changing and adaptable phenomena that she cannot fully grasp. Following a shifting timeline straddling the day of Rita's death and Elena's present, Piñeiro manages to engage in complex discussions around the microaggressions that disabled people face, and how institutions like the Catholic Church can complicate how one reconciles life, death, belief in God, and faith.

If I had to pick a winner between these two, *Elena Knows* comes out on top. It left me sad, emotional, but hopeful that the novel form can still be tested, challenged, and meaningfully contribute to important, and at times controversial, conversations. But, I will be reading more of Kawakami's work — *Breasts and Eggs*, and the forthcoming, *All the Lovers in the Night*. on top. left me sad, emotional, but hopeful that the novel form can still be tested, challenged, and meaningfully contribute to important, and at times controversial, conversations. But, I will be reading more of Kawakami's work— *Breasts and Eggs*, and the forthcoming, *All the Lovers in the Night*.

Chemtrails, La Niña and conspiracy theorists

Mae Milne wants you to wake up, sheeple!

In the nebulous depths of the internet, there exists a plethora of absurd theories. Ranging from the more conventional “flat earth” thesis, to the more occult postulates of the lost kingdom of Tartaria, digital fringe groups never fail to spark curiosity. In this nimbus of information, the social media algorithm has blessed me with another of these preposterous beliefs - the chemtrails conspiracy theory.

Although varied in claims, the core belief of chemtrails conspiracy theorists is that the government is engaged in a large-scale geoengineering program (a manipulation of natural climate systems). Planes and other aircraft are

theory finds its genesis in the mid-1990s, when a group of military researchers published the paper “Weather force as a Multiplier”. The paper was purely speculative, and hypothesised about the use of geoengineering as a military tactic. Nonetheless, it was adequately sufficient to raise suspicions in the minds of fringe journalists and the general population. From this moment, and further scientific developments in the realm of geoengineering, the theory gained traction. Online communities such as geoengineeringwatch.org acted as echo chambers for these fringe views, which (thanks to social media) are now being spread across Instagram and Facebook.

The reasons for this sinister meteorological modification are varied. Some believe that these particles are dispersed in order to reflect sunlight and therefore reduce global warming. Others believe the chemicals are there to make us compliant and controllable, and that we are secretly being poisoned. Others believe that these particles artificially increase rainfall, by providing a base for raindrops to form, in a process called “cloud seeding”.

It is this third and final belief which contributes to the conspiracy's recent popularity in Australian fringe groups. Following the torrent of rain faced in Queensland and New South Wales in the early months of 2022, conspiracy theorists claimed that this downpour was a result of a large-scale governmental “cloud seeding” operation. Conspiracy theorist Robert Deutsch, from the Youtube channel *Messages from the Underground*, went so far as to call this an act of “weather warfare on the peaceful people of Australia”.

Unsurprisingly, these claims are unfounded. Although cloud seeding is a real meteorological tool that has been used to increase winter snowfalls since the 1940s, there is no

evidence it could be used on such a large scale. Furthermore, there is little evidence that even if employed, it could affect atmospheric conditions so significantly. Michael Manton, emeritus professor at Monash's School of Earth Atmosphere and Environment said to AAP FactCheck that “these storms are acting on much larger scales than any cloud seeding activity”. Instead, the Bureau of Meteorology attributes these extreme weather events to the La Niña weather system. This weather pattern pushes warm water westward, increasing the likelihood of rainfall and cyclones in Australia.

Other claims by chemtrails conspiracy theorists are similarly without basis. The “chemtrails”, which they allege to come from planes, is in reality just water vapour. A 2016 study by the University of California Irvine and the Carnegie Institute for Science surveyed 77 leading atmospheric scientists, whereby 76 reported no evidence of secret large-scale

geoengineering. The one scientist in dissent did so on the basis of finding unusually high levels of atmospheric barium in an area with low barium

“Some believe the chemicals are there to make us compliant and controllable, and that we are secretly being poisoned.”

levels in the soil. Although an unusual result, it remains insufficient to prove the existence of large scale weather modification. The conspiracy theorists of the internet may not agree, but it seems the whole concept is nothing more than that: a conspiracy.



Confronting Sustainability at the Future Fashion Exhibition

Valentina Carrizo walks the runway.

“Fashion is not important,” says designer Fousef Akbar — the audience of fashion industry professionals laughs nervously. We are gathered in the dimly lit lecture theatre of Sydney's Powerhouse Museum for the Future Fashion exhibition. It's been touted online as showcasing work by the best and brightest fashion design students. Drawn by the undertones of sustainability within the program's schedule, I'm here to learn about how one of the most polluting industries will evolve in the coming years as we orbit closer to climate annihilation.

Despite my hopes, by the time the evening was drawing to a close it became clear that this showcase has done a better job at highlighting a reluctance towards sustainability in fashion.

Comprising of a measly eight outfits by four students, none with a focus on sustainability, and one made from voluminous 'ripstop' (read: plastic) was representing 'future fashion' — eliciting an audible groan from me and barely

suppressed yawns from others. Sufficiently bamboozled, I move on to the digital fashion showcase of garments for video game avatars. While futuristic, it isn't sustainable in any obvious way. In fact, the entire exhibition's distinct lack of citations, much like the industry's penchant for opacity and mystery fabric sourcing, keeps you guessing.

Hoping that sustainability is to be found at the panel discussion by Yusef Akbar and Karla Špetić, we enter the lecture theatre where the designers sit peering into the audience. Thanks to the museum's inexplicable insistence on romantic mood lighting, all they can probably see is a dark mass. It's all very ominous considering they are literally staring at the fashion-forward young audience; the future of fashion.

When asked about sustainability, Špetić gives an honest yet noncommittal answer, admitting that her business is not sustainable and that it would be a great effort to make it so. Akbar stares directly into the darkened blotch of the audience; “Sustainability is so important, but I don't believe any fashion business can be fully sustainable because there is just no such

thing.”

He continues stating that, “If I'm going to do something, I'm going to try and do it in the most sustainable way possible to me.”

It's an honourable sentiment and one that he seems to follow through on in some concrete ways: mentioning patternmaking techniques which minimise waste, and using Global Recycle Standard-approved and deadstock fabric.

Next up in Akbar's sustainability journey as a designer is DressX, a marketplace for futuristic, digital garments that can be worn using Instagram filters. Considered a better alternative for influencers who purchase fast fashion for a single photo before discarding it — “They can also be sold as NFTs,” Akbar adds. Though the sustainability of NFTs is still widely disputed, as blockchain systems such as Bitcoin and Ethereum are known to consume more energy than entire countries.

This exhibition plays on the retrofuturism of the 1950s, which envisioned the year 2000 with flying cars

President

Lauren Lancaster.

Happy Midsem everyone, and Easter, Ramadan and Passover (if you celebrate!). I hope you had a chance to rest and gather yourselves for the remainder of the semester. I managed to get down to Melbourne for a few days which was a needed break, and I'm keen to wrap up/continue on with a couple big projects in the coming weeks.

The first is the NTEU's upcoming strike. This is incredibly major. May 11 and 12 will be the first 48hr strike. We had a brilliant day of action on April 13th that featured a number of staff speakers outside Fisher Library, then F23. The demands of staff for all work paid, stable employment (stop casualisation!), 40/40/20 research, teaching, admin academic jobs and more will improve

Vice-Presidents

Mikaela Pappou and Emily Storey.

The last couple weeks have been an interesting time for your Vice Presidents. We have again met with faculty society presidents to keep in touch with updates across university faculties. We also attended the monthly SRC council meeting where your President Lauren announced our interest in hosting

General Secretaries

Alana Ramshaw and Grace Lagan.

Hello freaks, it's been too long.

We've spent the past month trauma dumping on each other in the DMs, unsuccessfully attempting to break into F23 to compel student life to reimburse our Welcome Party artists, and doing lots of other activism.

Welfare

Eamonn Murphy, Jason Zhang, Yasmine Johnson and Grace Wallman did not submit a report.

International Students

Ashrika Paruthi, Alice (BoAo) Guo, Jenna (Xujie) Wu, Cony (MeiLin) Jin did not submit a report.

Indigenous

The SRC has not filled this position.

the teaching and learning conditions of our uni. It's also important to note as speakers did that most faculties at the university do not have First Nations quotas or robust and inclusive strategies for making the workplace a cultural safe space. Class, anti-racist and feminist justice are all tied up in this EBA fightback. After something like 19 rounds of negotiation with management going nowhere, it is clear that academic and professional staff have no option but to withdraw their labour and grind the university to a halt. We as students must support staff on the picket lines - you can come in person, or ditch your zooms (and tell your mates to join). If you try to go to class, digitally or in real life, you are strike-breaking and being a scab. No one likes a scab.

the National Union of Students (NUS) Education Conference (EdCon) at the university this year. Your Vice Presidents have been working on the application for tender in our bid to host the event.

As you may have heard the NTEU USyd branch has met and voted in

I spoke to this sentiment at the NTEU's members meeting in Week 8, a Zoom call of over 200 staff and some EAG student members attending with me in solidarity. Thanks to Nick Reimer, branch President, for having me along and I want to reiterate that students stand alongside staff in this fight. It is one that recognises we can easily realise a more democratic, student and worker-led workplace and institution here, and that the hypercorporatised focus of recent austerity both at a university level and in government is not just a given. We can and will push back against it. You can find the student contingent event on our socials.

The next is the website - we've had to jump through some hoops in terms

favour of industrial action, via strike, to occur in week 11 and week 13. We highly encourage all students to attend these strikes in solidarity with university staff. It is important now more than ever to remember that staff working conditions are student learning conditions. So make sure you're not a scab and don't cross the

of election information and the Uni's weird privacy policy but are starting development of the new situation presently!

I've also been doing internal administration, auditing and all that - not particularly interesting to speak about here but essential for the SRC to continue providing our Caseworker and Legal Services and more to students.

We've also got a number of reading groups and collective events coming up and I will be attending the first of the planning committee meetings for Semester 2 orientation / Welcome Week this week! See you all back on campus this week and as always, my door is open!

picket line. We'll see you there.

Otherwise hoping you all have had a relaxing mid sem break!!

the National Day of Action for free education held by the NUS on the 13th of April. We made attempts at regular OB meetings that were poorly attended, but nevertheless, we persist.

That's all from us, stay safe out there.

Academic Honesty Principles:
How to Avoid Plagiarism

By now you should be aware that the university takes academic honesty very seriously. When you began your degree you were required to complete the Academic Honesty Education Module (AHM) on Canvas. By completing the module the uni believes that you have a fair understanding of what's expected of you.

Academic dishonesty includes incorrect referencing, plagiarism, recycling your own work, buying an essay or getting someone (whether you paid them or not) to write all or part of your assignment (contract cheating), cheating in an exam or referring to prohibited material during an exam. More examples can be found on the uni's website: sydney.edu.au/students/academic-dishonesty.html

Plagiarism can arise if you:

- use someone else's words from a source without including quotation marks around those words. (e.g. through a cut and paste from the internet)
- use someone else's words, or ideas, or facts without a reference or citation at the end of the sentence indicating where you found the words, ideas or facts.
- use someone else's words, ideas or facts without also writing the source you used in the reference list (or bibliography) so the source can be found.

- use or copy another student's work, or reuse work that you have previously submitted for assessment without prior approval from your Unit Coordinator.

If you are an undergraduate you are not likely to be writing something purely original. Referencing is important because the marker wants to know what you have learnt from the material you have read. If you don't use quotation marks and references for someone else's words or ideas then the marker will assume it's all your work. If the marker finds words from a source that you have not told them about then they will think you are being dishonest.

Referencing styles (such as footnotes, Harvard etc) vary across the University but the main test is whether you have made it clear where each separate word, idea or fact can be found. You might need several references in any given paragraph.

They care about this because:

- it is a clear rule you could be breaking
- you get an unfair advantage if you pass off someone else's work as your own work.
- it is an important part of the academic practice they are teaching you.
- they are marking you on what you know – not what the source knows.



The University uses similarity detection software and other methods to identify and highlight any similarities in written work. This includes assignments such as math based problems and coding. If you copy any of a classmate's current or past work, the software will identify this similarity. If it is a new assessment you need to do new work and use new words; you cannot reuse work you previously submitted, unless you have approval from your unit coordinator/examiner.

Many cases of academic dishonesty occur when students are under pressure and make poor decisions or are focused on getting something in on time, without

paying attention to referencing correctly.

If you are stressed or struggling to complete an assignment, we encourage you to talk to your Unit Coordinator, they may be able to give you some helpful advice, or give you a simple extension of up to 2 days.

If you are struggling to meet the deadline because you've been unwell or are being impacted by personal circumstances, consider applying for special consideration.

If in doubt, you can talk to a SRC Caseworker. Email us at help@src.usyd.edu.au

For more information and links see: srcusyd.net.au/academic-honesty-principles-how-to-avoid-plagiarism



Ask Abe

SRC caseworker help Q&A

Disability Support Unit
& Exam Adjustment



Dear Abe,

I have difficulty in reading some words and numbers – they kind of jump around the page a bit. My friend thinks I am dyslexic, and I was wanting to know if there is anything I can do about it.

Thanks
Alphabet

Dear Alphabet,

The first thing to do is to speak to your GP about your options for getting a diagnosis. This will enable you to then investigate what accommodations you might need from the University. This might include a coloured lens to place

over your written word, access to assistive technology, or just some extra time to do assessments. You can also explain your situation to your lecturers and ask them what they are able to do to help you. Most of them will only do what they are instructed to do by the Disability Support Unit (sydney.edu.au/students/disability-support.html), but there is no harm in trying. Finally, be aware of your study load and deadlines. Often doing fewer subjects will help to spend less time on those tasks, and knowing when you need to withdraw from a subject you are struggling with, will stop you from getting a fail. Please note there is a four week deadline for exam adjustments, so register as soon as you can.

Thanks
Abe

Fail

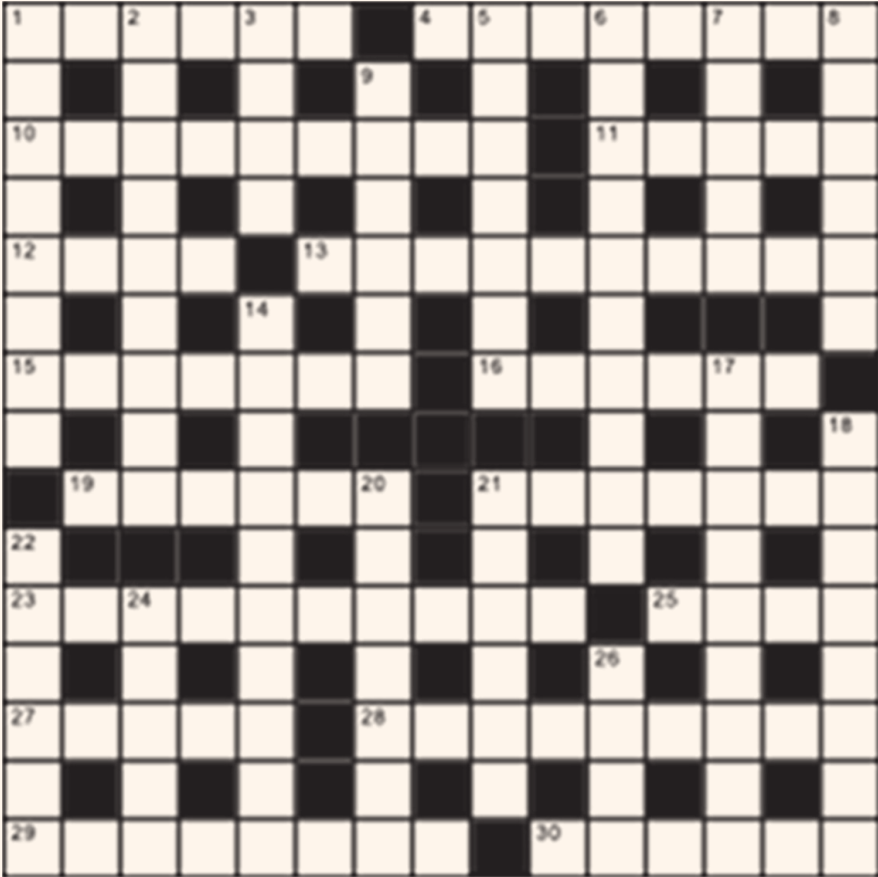
Pass

APPEAL
a GRADE or an ACADEMIC
DECISION?

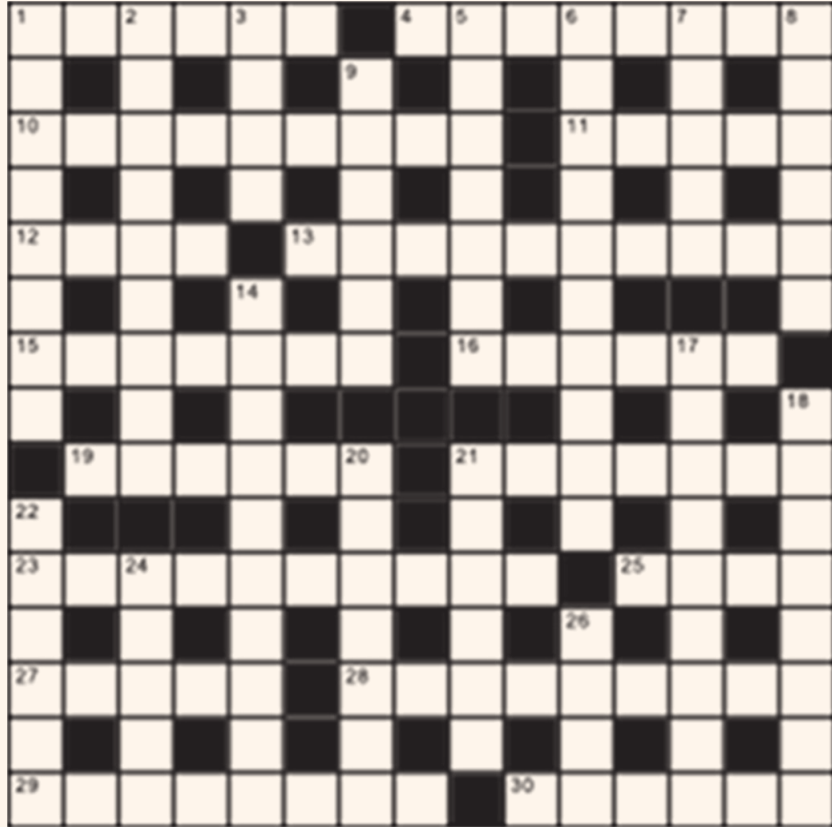
Ask the SRC!

SRC
CASEWORKER
PHONE OR ZOOM
APPOINTMENTS ARE
NOW AVAILABLE

Cryptic Crossword



Quick Crossword



Across

- 1. Become agreeable to strip off for minute (6)
- 4. Costs of going to Buenos Aires to swap leaders (8)
- 10. Bathe with family and New York Democrat in the drink (6-3)
- 11. 1 am: dribble on feet (5)
- 13. A nice place for a trip, namely Rome in ruins (6,4)
- 15. Connubial frenzy without an offspring (4,3)
- 16. Feels sorry about decapitating birds (6)
- 19. Dakota money declared fake (6)
- 21. Prompted fight with cocktail and wood (7)
- 23. Jane chooses TV shows (10)
- 25. They gauge resistance under order of the government (4)
- 27. Scandinavian married in the south-east (5)
- 28. Without the Mrs, mega-nerd logs return to heyday (6,3)
- 29. Re-evaluate scripture as session is uncovered (8)
- 30. Right now we object to authority (6)

Across

- 1. Forbidden entry (6)
- 4. Gelato, perhaps (3,5)
- 10. Primary nemesis (9)
- 11. Speedy (5)
- 12. Iconic couples (4)
- 13. One who sells grog on the sly (10)
- 15. Gets angry (4,5)
- 16. 30 Across string material (6)
- 19. Unit of astronomical distance (6)
- 21. Authoritarian nationalism (7)
- 23. Pulled the wool over someone's eyes (10)
- 25. Fruit (4)
- 27. Blaspheme (5)
- 28. Coming from within (9)
- 29. Ancient poem for recitation (8)
- 30. Fiddle (6)

Down

- 1. Tools named after Greek character in theatrical performances (8)
- 2. They bring people to life by stamina or derangement (9)
- 3. Nasty row (4)
- 5. Pray to demon culture (7)
- 6. Sissy reportedly had kids with Aussie icon (5,5)
- 7. Burma foiled by Cuban caper (5)
- 8. Tsetse flies around thirty 11 -Across (6)
- 9. Confidently say Germans were speaking primarily Bavarian after the birth of Christ (6)
- 14. Hundred content learners follow endless company swindlers (10)
- 17. Cheer up with Reverend's fish cake (4,5)
- 18. Travels oddly, without even hearing seas (8)
- 20. Love varieties of fruits (7)
- 21. Colonise badgers' home with the French (6)
- 22. Villain takes a carriage with the queen (6)
- 24. Love for a work of art (5)
- 26. Middle-aged Northern Territorian fellow (4)

Down

- 1. Wave (something) about (8)
- 2. The Wall or Jesus Christ Superstar, say (4,5)
- 3. Governing body of a club or society (4)
- 5. Mysterious (7)
- 6. Flirty (10)
- 7. Looking at with interest (5)
- 8. Bourbon brand: ... Mark (6)
- 9. Ruled out (6)
- 14. 1 Across, 11 Across, 5 Down, 18 Down, 24 Down (10)
- 17. Oldest surviving Hollywood studio (9)
- 18. From the U.S. (8)
- 20. Coated in syrup (7)
- 21. ¡Party! (6)
- 22. Salt and lime for a tequila shot, say (6)
- 24. Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 26. Bird (4)

Find-a-word

Can you find 25 Sydney suburbs in the grid? There's one for each letter of the alphabet excepting X.



Quiz

- 1. Which 1937 animated feature film was the first to have an official soundtrack released?
- 2. How many monarchs led England in the 1930s?
- 3. What was the first colour film to win the Best Picture Academy Award?
- 4. Officially founded in 1935, Norilsk is the Northernmost city in the world (and one of the most polluted) - in which country is it?
- 5. Although its current use would not be discovered for five years, which well-known chemical was first synthesised in 1938?
- 6. First awarded in 1936, the Fields Medal has been described as the "Nobel Prize" of which area of study?

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USYD RANTS ADMIN TAKEN INTO WITNESS PROTECTION

The administrator of popular student gossip page USyd Rants, formerly known as Mark Etplasisvaidias, now known as Witness N, has been placed into witness protection after receiving a slew of threatening messages from unmentionable campus notaries.

Witness N, by virtue of their admin role, was implicated in the publication of a number of posts which they were told by senior members of a mysterious campus grouping were 'slandorous'.

One such BNOC deigned to provide comment to *The End Times* under the condition that they were allowed to call us from a masked number and using a voice modifier.

"USyd Rants is responsible for the publication of scandalous falsehoods which may seriously mislead students," their robot voice complained.



the University of Sydney into a darkness not seen since the moments after campaigning ended on Eastern Avenue in the 2019 SRC Election."

"I am not reciting these facts for the purpose of recrimination. That I judge to be utterly futile and even harmful. We cannot afford it. I recite them in order to explain why it was we intervened on the side of truth. Now I put all this aside. I put it on the shelf, from which the historians, when they have time, will select their documents to tell their stories. We have to think of the future and not of the past."

The unnamed voice was launching into an explanation of the phrase 'the ends justify the means' but had to cut our interview short to urgently design a corflute.

NEW RESEARCH FINDS POST-ROOT GLOW IS NATURE'S DEXY, LOCAL STUDENT YASSPILLED

FIRST YEAR DEBATER REACHES OUT TO USU EQUITY AFTER BEING SOLD FAKE KETAMINE

MICHAEL KIRBY INTERN ARRESTED FOR ELDER ABUSE FOR MAKING HIM TALK IN PUBLIC

MURDER! AT THE ASCHAM FIVE-YEAR REUNION

Scandal has befallen one of Sydney's most prestigious girls schools after Ascham, in Sydney's East, saw a brutal murder on the dance floor of their 5 year reunion at Hotel Bondi this week.

School alumni Frankine Kredt was found, bloodied on the dancefloor, with a Dave Sharma flyer discarded on her mangled body.

Ascham Old Girls Union President Moll Timilion told *The End Times* that the incident represented a departure from "the beautiful diversity that characterises the Ascham alumna community — covering every hue on the blue spectrum".

from Sydney Grammar School, Scots College, and Cranbrook. We understand that people are eager for some Ascham representation in the halls of power."

The End Times understands that Kredt was murdered in a cocaine-fuelled brawl over tensions between Wentworth candidates Dave Sharma and Allegra Spender. Prior to the murders, Old Girls were heard screaming about whether 99.95 ATARs were equivalent to 100 TERs.

Dave Sharma refused to comment on the death, while Spender staffer Camilla Zimmerman told the paper "we are extremely sorry to hear of the death of valuable Spender campaigner Frankine Kredt. We will miss her sunny presence of a morning at Edgecliff station. Rest easy xx"

Doomed	Destined
Melbourne	Road trips
Eldest daughters	Dark beer
Hagiography	Flash photos
Enunciation	"Duck" pancakes
Veneers	Light rail
Gig economy	Agatha Christie
Coachella	Tennis balls
Comedowns	Choosing joy

IN THIS ISSUE:

Local lesbian overwhelmed by enemy's Twitter notifications
- Norma Lyze

Holy fuck my sleep cycle is going to give me Alzheimer's
- Moe De Fennelle

My story: I got seated on the BNOC flight to Melbourne
- Gigi Fitzroy

We need to do something about the New Law stimulant shits
- Diane Aria

Study: HS yearbook editors perfectly correlated with homosexuality
- Thea Tikid

PRESENT THIS COUPON TO HONI SOIT OFFICE FOR A SHEET OF MODAFINIL

LNP CANDIDATE CAN'T DECIDE IF HARRY POTTER SATANIC OR NOT?

An embattled aspiring Liberal MP Lucy Ferite has been caught in the crossfire of rabid transphobia and evangelical Christianity as a seven-year-old campaign to remove the *Harry Potter* from St Luke's college library shelves was uncovered by her constituents.

As a devoted member of St Luke's Parents and Friends Committee, Ferite had demanded that the young adult series be removed from bookshelves lest the student body be converted to witchcraft. "Its just not OK for Jesuses' [sic] children to be learning about ungodly black magic" Ferite posted on the Committee

Facebook group at the time. The Anglican mother-of-four has been forced to walk back her earlier opposition to the series after discover that her voter base now believes more strongly in the transphobic excesses of series author J.K.Rowling than they do the evils of witchcraft.

She posted a contrite statement to her campaign Facebook page, writing "Although I have previously expressed reservations about the religious sensibilities of popular series Harry Potter, I now realise that We Must Stand With J.K.Rowling In Her Fight For Our Children.

YOUNG LIBERALS HOLD JOHN HOWARD CORPSE ANIMATION VIGIL

Members of the Sydney University Liberal Society met on Eastern Ave early last Sunday morning to conduct a mysterious ritual designed to animate the corporeal form of ex-Australian PM John Howard.

Wearing a strict tracksuit uniform, the men formed a tight circle chanting

resuscitatum dominum nostrum confitemini and casting 10% of their income into a red velvet bag. The group awoke on Monday morning with relief to see their idol continuing to provide biting commentary on the front page of *The Australian*. 'He is risen. He is risen, indeed,' SULS President William Wyatt II told *Honi*.

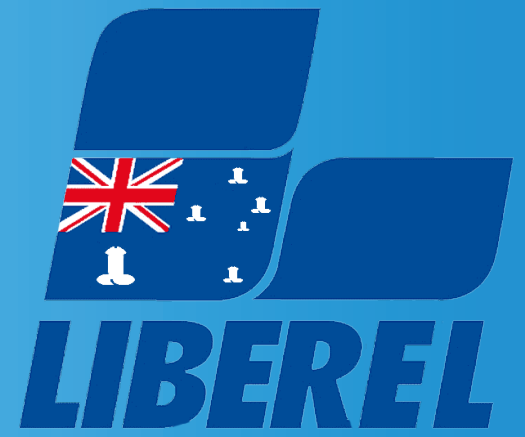
Puzzles by
Tournesol.
Quiz by
Miss Eel
Kink.

Answers



Answers available at honisoit.com/puzzle-answers

VOTE [1] LIBEREL.
Because your parents do.



Actually, though, here are some big reasons not to vote for these slimy pricks after after **nine** years in power: doubling the price of arts degrees, ranking last in the world in climate policy, botching the vaccine rollout, ballooning housing market, JobKeeper charity to profiteering corporations, wasting \$5 billion in submarine deal, PM lying about an Integrity Commission and electric vehicles, PM being best mates with Brian Houston, PM fucking off to Hawaii during the bushfires, PM defending Christian Porter, PM designing RoboDebt, people starving in Aged Care, pork barrelling, multiple allegations of racism against the PM, and PM's inhumane treatment of asylum seekers as Minister for Immigration.

