Honi Soit.

WEEK 3, SEM 2 2022

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY -

FREE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

NEWS, CULTURE & ANALYSIS

Est. 1929



Unwritten — The crisis in creative writing

When she sat down to craft her debut novel in 2020's lockdown, months after finishing her undergraduate degree, Diana Reid had never considered a career in writing before. An incisive debut about the interplay of sexuality, feminism, and power at an Australian university campus, *Love & Virtue* (2021) surfaced to overflowing critical acclaim

and was named Book of the Year by the Australian publishing industry in June.

But, in hindsight, it very well might not have been written.

"It kind of terrifies me, actually," Reid says. "I was so dependent on this very freak circumstance [lockdown] before I actually sat down and opened a blank word document."

Zara Zadro stares at the blank page — continued on page 12.

'It's my dream job. I don't want to leave': USyd's students on entering an industry in crisis

Thousands of workers in NSW have gone on strike this year. Various professions, most prominently teachers, nurses and rail workers, have shown that workers across the NSW public sector have felt systematically silenced, underpaid and exhausted after a brutal pandemic.

Jeffrey Khoo writes.

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Swinburne employees stood down - p.5

NCIE's future up in air-p.11

Fed Uni reinstates
Bachelor of Arts - p.4

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, Cammeraygal, Dharawal, and Darug land. Further, the university which we attend is an inherently colonial institution, one which upholds the systems of knowledge and power that have caused deep harm and pain on this continent.

As a student newspaper which operates and distributes within such an institution, we have a responsibility

to remain conscious of, and actively combat, complicity in colonisation.

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

Honi has stood on stolen land since its inception 93 years ago; embedded in the history of this paper is the tireless resistance to oppressive, colonial structures within society by First Nations writers, contributors and editors — it is our duty to uphold their legacy, champion their voices, and continue to fight for First Nations

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

Always was, and always will be Aboriginal land.

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Zara Zadro.

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GET IN TOUCH

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

Email us at editors@honisoit.com.

Scan the QR code to use our anonymous tip form.

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



EDITORIAL

By **Zara Zadro**.

T could quote Maggie Nelson's *The* **▲** *Argonauts* (2015) at great length, but at one point the narrator asks: "Can it be that words comprise one of the few economies left on earth in which plentitude – surfeit even – comes at no cost?" This question hung in my head as I wrote the feature for this edition, which catalogues this country's current failure to invest in creative writers, and in doing so return the great lucidity and joy which they have suffused through our nation.

Words are always surfeit for those with the liberty to use them. They are the most atomised form of knowledge, you might say, and there is something stabilising, emancipating, about the ability to write well, and say anything. Yet it is always a skill that good writers have shored up in private, which arrives through a combination of rigour and luck.

Because words do have a cost – they

Many Sundays, I think about this while we churn out hundreds of words in the unsacred fluorescent light and mould-infused air of the Honi office. I think about it when we are bonetired on Monday mornings, or flicking through Google docs around sticky pub tables. I am proud of little that I have

published this year, but I know that's the fastidious part of me talking – the part that has always enjoyed spending time placing words onto the page until they feel correct, fluid, beautiful, and perhaps isn't so suited to a career in news journalism.

Words do have a cost - and yet writers pay it anyway.

For my feature this week, I interviewed the author Diana Reid, who attended USyd just a few years ago. She spoke with a demystifying pragmatism about novel-writing and creativity, and staggered me with her humility. I also talked to three teachers at this University who have taught me the craft of writing over my four years here, who showcased the hardiness of a love of writing; that it may endure decades of scattered jobs, poor government funding, and brutal university management, and still provide generously for the next

This edition is a bit of a thank you to these writers, and all the others who have gifted me with the liberty to write well and say anything, who have given me words not just in plentitude but surfeit. I hope I can make good use of them between these pages.

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FOR ESSENTIAL STUDENT UPDATES





Sex & the City Rd



Honi Soit x BeReal 'hard' launch

Our keen eyes have been seeing a ragtag and evidently proud smoshgabord

Honi Soit minions posing near USyd's most iconic building - the Quadrangle itself! Assisted by the artificial intelligence of France's BeReal, perhaps last week's mingling at our favourite watering hole The Rose was their first softboiled attempt.

Beaming across from Fisher Library were a grinning Luke Mesterovic, Christine Lai, Veronica Lenard, and Misbah Ansari in all their BeRealness, to the chagrin of Fisher Library punters nearby.

One tip, however, is beware of regs breaches as an otherwise 'hard' launch may yet land you in constitutional mischief! In such a case, perhaps R.O.N Weasley may yet make his cursed and maligned presence on USyd's grounds.

Rants changing her cloak for Spring

Anyone with access to a Facebook account and a taste for negativity (i.e, yours truly x) would've noticed that a certain rants page has recently resurrected from the dead. Rude Girl's been told that we've got two brand new admins to thank for that, although we'll be holding back our gratitude after the cringe-fest we've seen over the weekend. Hot tip babes: if you actually care about supporting staff and being "not anti-strike", you'll think twice before posting rants clearly planted

by factionally-aligned "free speech advocates" canvassing votes before an

Michael Spence Column for Disagreeing Well



Responsible platforming is not the same as censorship

As an editor of one of the country's

By Carmeli Argana

most radical student newspapers, I think I've got a fairly strong grasp on the notion of press freedom. Ask literally anyone, and they'll agree that one of the fundamental characteristics of a democratic society is the freedom of speech. Free speech can be productive; it challenges popular ideas and encourages healthy debate, all in service of a better society. And the press is one of the institutions entrusted with facilitating that. Efforts to curtail debate (i.e, censorship) are characteristic of a dysfunctional democracy

But having freedom of speech does not give you the licence to say whatever uninformed, truly detestable bullshit you come up with.

Nor does it give any institution entrusted to facilitate democratic debate the licence to cede their platform to such bullshit.

Let's pivot for a second and talk

about the notion of objectivity. Objectivity is one of the core pillars of traditional media, and indeed any platform through which a variety of discourses are presented. It is one of the reasons we've historically trusted such platforms - we expect them to present things in a fair and balanced way.

It's also a notion that has been

largely discredited in both theory and practice over the last couple of decades (just look at the effect that Murdoch media has had on our debates surrounding climate change or vaccines). It's been largely accepted that those who claim the "objective" position do more harm than good -"objectivity" is often used to obscure and reinforce the perceived realities of the powerful, etc. etc (see our first editorial for more on this xx).

The neoliberal commitment to objectivity also binds platforms that facilitate discourse to this notion of balance; that to every issue, there are two sides.

Of course, this is also bullshit. There are no "two sides" to the issue of climate change, or the importance of vaccines, or that university staff are systemically exploited by management. There is only the truth, and those who have zero fucking clue what they are talking about. To pretend like such things are up for debate, or that both sides have equal merit and validity, makes absolutely no fucking sense.

What's the solution then? It's responsible journalism. It's a responsible representation of the issue. It's responsible moderation of democratic discussion, one that does

not place equal emphasis on "both sides". One that takes responsibility for the power and influence they wield as an entrusted platform of debate, and demonstrates a critical awareness of the real-world effects of discourse. THAT is how we facilitate a civil discussion.

Censorship closes the possibility of discourse and its productive effects. Responsible platform moderation preserves it, and is essential for a functioning democracy.

Letters editors@honisoit.com

Religion and God are unbelievable bulldust who follows the Bible, the Koran, Islam, Christianity and religion. People who refuse to grow out of infant school mentality. They are mentally ill. People who refuse to use their brains, their intelligence, their maturity and their creativity.

People who embrace eternal childhood with extreme mentally ill rightwing ultraconservative values. People who want to punish everyone else with their outmoded extreme rightwing values. There has never been God. There will never be a God, heaven or hell, God has never ever existed.

Yours fraternally, Neal Parker

WANT TO AIR **SOMETHING?**

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITORS.



The Gig Guide Upcoming gigs in and around the CBD and Inner West. DM to be featured, Editor's Choice marked with

Wednesday 17th

The Vanguard // L.A.R.M w/ Pseudo Club + PITT // 7pm

The Midnight Special, Newtown Shine A Light On You // 6pm

Factory Theatre //Georgia Mooney's SUPERGROUP // 6pm

Thursday 18th

Waywards @ Bank Sunfruits // 8pm

The Great Club, Marrickville // Josh Needs: The Banks Brothers // 7pm

Friday 19th

Mary's Underground // Sepp (Uvar/ Ro) // 11:59pm

The Marly // Memory Motel & Moth King // 7pm

Vic on the Park // Radicals & Voodoo Bloo // 9pm

Waywards @ Bank // The Rions -Going Live Tour // 8pm

Seymour Centre// Masih & Arash Live in Concert // 8pm

Seymour Centre// ALBION // 7:30pm

Crowbar, Leichhardt // Voyager "Dream" Tour // 8pm

Oxford Art Factory // Jack River //

The Factory Theatre// Lucha Fantastica // 5:30pm

Oasis // 8pm OAF // SCENES presents Sam Alfred

Manning Bar @ USYD // Definitely

Saturday 20th

+ STUM // 11:45pm 🌞

Manning Bar @ USYD // DAMAGE Inc. // 12pm

Waywards @ Bank // The Rions -Going Live Tour // 8pm

Resolution Blues // 7pm Mary's Underground // Abby Bella May "I Lost My Friend at a Rave"

Staves Brewery // Tall Shaun and the

The Great Club, Marrickville // Selfish Sons Australian East Coast Tour //

Launch Party // 7pm

Crowbar, Leichhardt //

Enmore Theatre // Wannabe - The

XIBALBA (USA) & Honest Crooks//

Oxford Art Factory // BAYNK //

Spice Girls Show// 8pm

Factory Theatre // Rock En Tu Idioma

Sunday 21st

// 8pm

Factory Floor @ The Factory // Psychoda // 2:30pm

Manning Bar // Siavash Shams // 7pm Golden Age Cinema & Bar // Coconut Cream // 10pm

Upcoming

Tueday 23 August // Enmore Theatre // Ruel // 8pm

Thursday 25 August // Seymour Centre // USU Law Revue: PULP Jurisdiction // 7pm 👛

Thursday 08 September // H.E.A.T //



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Cereal Lab closed permanently

Roisin Murphy reports.

The University of Sydney Union (USU) has permanently closed its only breakfast-specific food outlet, Cereal Lab.

The outlet previously sat next to the Footbridge Theatre, adjacent to Courtyard, occupying some of the USU's most prime real estate. Most famous for the mould-covered breakfast cereal that filled its sign, Cereal Lab was a humble idea with unfortunate brand management.

USU President, Cole Scott-Curwood, explained to Honi that Cereal Lab was opened through a sponsorship in 2020. According to What's New in Food Technology Manufacturing Magazine (real publication), the idea behind Cereal Lab was to "provide students with breakfast bowls and enable Kellogg's to experiment with innovations". Unfortunately, it was difficult to "provide" students with breakfast bowls when basic prices often leaned into the double digits.

History Honours student, Felix Faber, reached out to *Honi* with his concern about the closure. "I went into the Holme Building looking for a bowl of Froot Loops. Unfortunately, as I soon found out [about the closure], the only thing on the menu for me that afternoon was a heaping bowl of disappointment... But I knew that Cereal Lab wouldn't want me to cry because it was over, so I chose to smile because it happened."

And it's true; in mourning Cereal Lab, the heartbreak is not for what we lost, but for what could have been. We know that in Australia, at least one in seven uni students – likely more – will regularly skip a meal for financial reasons, creating immense disparities in wellbeing, health and academics. Footbridge is a thoroughfare for undergrads. It's easy to presume that Cereal Lab would have hundreds of students pass by each day, and, statistically speaking, many of them would likely be without breakfast. If Kellogg's really wanted to reach a large number of people with their cereal, and if the USU wanted to uphold its role as a "student union", why not provide cereal for free?

Scott-Curwood noted that this gap has been filled by the SRC and USU's joint free food venture, FoodHub, which provides students with non-perishables and is open from 10am-2pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, in level 4 of the Wentworth Building. "Cereal lovers need not despair, the SRC x USU Foodhub is currently stocking cereal, milk, and many other food items", he told Honi. While the FoodHub is a welcome and crucial service, the location - tucked away in Wentworth – is out of the way from where most students frequent, meaning most don't know of its existence. It also unfortunately does not provide single serve meals for people on the way to class. This is not to place extensive criticism on the Foodhub, but in order to operate at their best, such services also need to be proactive in reaching students. It's not always enough to stock boxes of cereal in the back of one of the University's least frequented buildings – you should also provide people with a pre-class feed as they get off the bus.

UniMelb NTEU serves Vice-Chancellor log of claims

Ellie Stephenson reports.

The National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) has served the University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor Duncan Maskell with an "ambitious" log of claims as part of Enterprise Bargaining negotiations, according to a press release from the Union this morning.

The log of claims was approved last week at meetings attended by over 500 NTEU members.

The Union is demanding a pay rise of either 15 per cent by December 2024 or Consumer Price Index (CPI) + 1.5 per cent per annum, whichever is greater. This exceeds the pay increases achieved by staff at Western Sydney University earlier this month, which did not match inflation, but remains less than the USyd NTEU's claim of CPI + 2.5 per cent per annum.

The log of claims also aims to limit

the insecurity experienced by staff as a result of restructures. It calls for no forced redundancies and for no staff to be subjected to multiple workplace restructures over the lifetime of the agreement. NTEU UniMelb Branch President Annette Herrera described restructures in recent years as making "unnecessary cuts" to professional staff "to the detriment of all staff and the

Casualisation is unsurprisingly a key concern of UniMelb staff, particularly in the context of the Fair Work Ombudsman's legal action, commencing today, against the University of Melbourne for wage theft from two casuals in the School of Education.

morale of our colleagues".

The Union is demanding at least 80 per cent of staff be enrolled in permanent roles, which Herrera described as "declaring war on the never ending short

term contracts that keep so many of our staff on a never-ending hamster wheel of insecure work."

As part of this demand, the log of claims advocates for casual contracts only being used for short term ad hoc work. It further calls for limitations on the use of fixed-term contracts, a major cause of job insecurity for staff.

Like the USyd log of claims, the Union is also aiming to secure protections for trans and First Nations staff, including 30 days of gender affirmation leave and cultural safety training for all staff.

Herrera said the agreement reflects the interests of staff: "Staff from across the university have been active in putting together the claims they want to fight for. It's clear, staff want to transform this university to one that all staff and workers deserve."

Fair Work takes UniMelb to court

Ellie Stephenson reports.

The University of Melbourne faced the Federal Court today as the Fair Work Ombudsman seeks penalties from the institution for two breaches of the Fair Work Act.

The breaches allegedly occurred when the University threatened two employees to deter them from claiming for work outside contracted hours. The regulator also alleges that the University took adverse action against one of the employees by refusing to give her further teaching work after she made a complaint.

Under the Fair Work Act (2009), it is unlawful for employers to take adverse action against people for exercising their workplace rights or attempt to coerce them to not access workplace rights. The maximum penalty for a breach of these laws is \$66,600. Along with penalties, the Ombudsman is seeking for the University

to compensate the two employees.

Underlying the breaches is the institutionalisation of casualisation, with both academics affected having been employed in a series of short term casual contracts. These contracts stipulated a set number of 'anticipated hours' each week. The coercion allegedly occurred after the academics attempted to claim for hours they had worked beyond the anticipated hours.

A media release from the Fair Work Ombudsman alleges that one of the academics was told by her supervisor words to the effect of "if you claim outside your contracted hours, don't expect work next year".

This coercion prevented the two employees from accessing the workplace right to be paid for the extra hours they worked.

The University of Melbourne is also being investigated by the Ombudsman for underpayment of its casual employees.

The Ombudsman, Sandra Parker, placed the breaches in the context of broader problems with the treatment of casual academics in the tertiary education sector.

"We are currently investigating a range of underpayment issues in the universities sector, including failures to pay casual academics for all hours worked," she said.

"Employers should have proactive measures in place to ensure they are meeting workplace laws. If employers become aware of concerns their employees may be being underpaid, the only appropriate response is to check that they are paying their employees correctly and promptly rectify any compliance issues discovered."

Fed Uni reinstates arts degree

Carmeli Argana reports.

Federation University has reversed its decision to scrap its Bachelor of Arts degree after facing sustained criticism from the university community.

The initial decision to discontinue Federation's arts course was announced last week after failing to consult with staff and the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU), as well as the broader community.

"We have listened to staff and the community, and have made the decision that the Bachelor of Arts (BA) program will continue in 2023," said Acting Vice-Chancellor and President Liam Sloan in a statement this morning.

"We will review the BA to ensure it is fit for purpose to be delivered as part of our Australian first co-operative education model, for regional students wanting a head start on a successful career and for regional employers wanting graduates primed for the workplace," Sloan said.

The NTEU praised the University's reversal of the cut and called it a "major victory" for staff and students.

"This major union win shows what can be achieved when we stand up to bad decisions from rogue Vice-Chancellors," said NTEU Federation University Branch President Mathew Abbott.

"It's a huge victory for regional students and university staff who deserve access to an arts program without having to leave their communities and move to metropolitan areas," Abbott said.

The continuation of the BA program will also save multiple jobs across the faculty, but many staff jobs remain at risk after a major operational restructure announced last year that will see the University's six academic schools replaced by three new 'Interdisciplinary

Employment and Start-Up Centres'.

"Vice-Chancellors have been put on notice: we will fight and win when jobs and communities' access to higher education are under threat," said NTEU Victorian Division Assistant Secretary Sarah Roberts.

"Arts graduates make society stronger. Universities must factor the cost of running an arts program into all business decisions," Roberts said.

This comes in the context of sectorwide attacks on the arts and humanities from the federal government and university management, including fee hikes under the Job Ready Graduates Package.

Similar controversial operational restructuring programs have also been implemented at the University of Sydney and the University of NSW.

USyd to introduce 5 day simple extensions, medical evidence not required

Roisin Murphy reports.

The University of Sydney's Academic Board has moved to amend the Coursework Policy 2021 to introduce a standardised five day simple extension system, increasing from the two days previously allowed. The change is set to take effect immediately.

The new system will see a central management of simple extensions by the Special Consideration Unit, where student declarations are submitted online. In what's described as a trust-based framework, medical documentation is not required, but students are "held accountable" for what they submit in an application.

The change comes following a tumultuous few years for simple extensions. As recently as 2015, proposals were put forward to Academic Board to scrap the system entirely. Despite being made University-wide in December that year, some faculties and unit coordinators have placed blanket bans on them, or consistently denied them on personal discretion.

Under the current system, students

All employees taking part in an industrial action were told to

stand down without pay by Swinburne

University (SU) on Friday. The National

Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) and

Australian Education Union (AEU) have

condemned the University's move,

threatening to pursue legal action if SU

does not return to the bargaining table.

Swinburne TAFE courses, were engaged

in a limited work ban as part of a two-

year campaign for better pay and

superannuation parity with other

refuse to do extra duties outside of their

position description, record student

attendance, attend meetings, and use

The work bans have seen staff

Under the Fair Work Act (2009),

Swinburne staff.

The employees, who were teaching

Ellie Stephenson reports.

are required to apply for Special Considerations in order to gain more than two days extension on a due date. The system only covers "exceptional circumstances" like serious injury, illness or misadventure and has come under intense scrutiny in recent months, with some students waiting months for an outcome on their applications.

Honi is awaiting comment from the University on their commitment to enforcing the new system Universitywide.

Requirements around eligibility and sufficient documentation of evidence have also been noted as unreasonable criteria for students to meet, with many cases falling into the "grey area" between a two day simple extension and Special considerations.

As a result, students have been left without any academic support at all: Special Considerations cases being denied, while simple extensions prove insufficient. The change to simple extensions looks to amend this by filling this grey area and relieving the onus of

employers can stand down employees

without pay "during a period in which

the employee cannot usefully be

employed." Employees can only be

stood down if the industrial action

makes useful employment unavailable.

Division Assistant Secretary Sarah

Roberts described the University's

shocking

management would resort to such

extreme tactics in response to a basic

request for workers to receive a fair pay

rise and superannuation in line with

take this step knowing full well students

will pay the price for management's

refusal to engage constructively with

"It's astounding Swinburne would

actions as disproportionate.

their colleagues," Roberts said.

In a press release, NTEU Victorian

University

Swinburne staff stood down without pay

proof for students seeking support.

The proposal also seeks to relieve the pressure the Special Considerations system is under, with the high influx of applications and wait times expected to ease.

Lauren Lancaster, USyd SRC President, spoke about the importance of the change.

"These changes were necessary to combat the crisis of student welfare that the University is playing an active part in. Special Cons has been grossly inadequate for far too long, and these changes will provide material improvement in both the expediency of Special Cons applications and student wellbeing", she said.

Onor Nottle, USU Board Member and Academic Board Representative, emphasised this, telling *Honi* "Special Considerations is incredibly overwhelmed, and as a result our students and their health, wellbeing and grades are suffering. This reform will help to alleviate some of that pressure".

Both Roberts and AEU Victorian

"Standing down staff will stop TAFE

The unions emphasised that they

Branch President Meredith Peace

condemned the impacts the stand

courses being delivered at Swinburne

because students will not have teachers

would continue to fight, threatening

downs would have on students.

to deliver them," Pearce said.

the University with legal action.

CSU students expelled Carmeli Argana reports.

A number of students at Charles Sturt University (CSU) were involuntarily unenrolled from their degrees on Tuesday in a surprise move from the University.

The policy affected 66 students in Commonwealth supported places (CSPs) who were unable to pay their tuition fees by the census deadline on 5 August.

Students and staff were caught off guard by the "drastic" policy, which saw students unenrolled from their units of study merely two business days after the census deadline had passed.

"They didn't notify students, they didn't notify the staff working with students. Unbeknownst to us, if you don't pay the full fee by the census date, you are unenrolled," said former Student Senate President Luisa Foliaki in an email seen by Honi.

According to a CSU spokesperson, the policy was enacted in accordance with the University's governance, the Commonwealth Government requirements and Higher Education Support Act 2003. All of these regulations permit the University to cancel a student's enrolment if they are behind on their foos

But Foliaki said that this is the first time students were locked out of their degrees entirely on such short notice.

"Last session, if you had issues with paying your fees on time, you were given the opportunity to get your act together and remain in your course," she said.

The CSU spokesperson said that the policy and requirement of payment was "repeatedly communicated" with students prior to the census deadline. But according to Foliaki, students only received one email reminder last Tuesday, three business days before the deadline.

"The University has left us in a difficult position by escalating the matter to this extent. We have no option but to undertake legal action if they do not withdraw their notice and return to the bargaining table," Pearce said.

"I don't think they [the University] realise how massively this impacts students. If you're a student on campus, you're young, you're very far from home, your income is now potentially at risk, your access to Centrelink is also at risk... You literally don't have any support," she

said.

In a statement to Honi, student activist and National Union of Students (NUS) Education Officer Luc Velez said: "This is a demonstration of an appalling lack of empathy and understanding coming from university management at

Charles Sturt University.

"Students have hectic lives – not because we are lazy or disorganised, but because the exploitative world we find ourselves in calls for the constant juggle of work, study and crises," Velez said.

"It's so important that our university policy is flexible enough to reflect the realities of students' lives. As a bare minimum, if flexibility is not possible, universities need to have crystal clear communication with students on these policies so students can do their best to accommodate ahead of time," he said.

When asked how the University was remedying the issue, the spokesperson said that "communication with students is ongoing".

USyd appoints new Dean for Science

the unions."

Khanh Tran reports.

The University of Sydney has announced Professor Marcel Dinger as the incoming Dean of the Faculty of Science starting January 2023.

Dinger will replace Professor Iain Young, who spent a 4-year stint in the position, and Professor Philip Gale who is currently the Interim Dean.

Dinger is currently Head of School for Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). He is also the CEO of Genome.One, Australia's first clinical genomics service centre. The company offers genomic sequencing to patients at significant prices, starting from \$1,400 ranging up to \$3,200 for individual disease diagnostics.

Dinger's Genome.One was mired in

financial troubles in 2018 just two years after its foundation. The Australian Financial Review reported that the start-up's mother company, the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, made 38 staff redundant, with the majority coming from Genome.One.

The report also stated that in late 2018, Genome.One no longer offered genetic disease diagnosis nor personal health genomics and that prices were significantly higher than in 2022, costing some \$6400.

In addition to Genome.One, Dinger is also co-founder of Przym Health, a biotechnology startup offering clinical AI (artificial intelligence) analytics for healthcare providers.

In a statement, USyd Provost and

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Annamarie Jagose praised Dinger's appointment.

"Marcel is an innovative leader with an impressive breadth of ideas and experience in both academia and industry," Jagose said.

Jagose's highlighting of Dinger's startups signals that his appointment, much like Professor Emma Johnston's earlier this year, seeks to enhance USyd's ability to create private companies off the back of research in alignment with the Federal Government's goal for universities to create "high-tech innovations".

"His understanding of the importance of partnerships and entrepreneurship in the contemporary scientific context will be an asset to the University."

The Great Split: a radical history of Sydney Philosophy

Andy Park chronicles the radicalism of USyd's Philosophy department over the years.

Come of the best lecturers I've seen at **J**university have been in the Philosophy Department. Courses like PHIL1011: Reality, Ethics and Beauty are widely appreciated across the University. Owing to the popularity of former lecturer Dr Sebastian Sequoiah-Grayson, PHIL1012: Introductory Logic set a record for enrolments in a single Arts and Social Sciences course last year. Despite students' efforts in an impassioned campaign to have his contract renewed, it failed, and the superstar academic found greener pastures at the University of New South Wales. Now a tale in the University's history books. it made me curious about other forgotten stories of the department that may lay hidden behind the sandstone walls.

Internal Political Struggle in the 60s and 70s

Philosophy itself is notorious for having eccentric characters, so it's no surprise that the Department at Sydney University has its own colourful history. In the 1960s and early 1970s, the Department was caught in a quagmire of big personalities and political tensions culminating in an infamous split in 1973. Though it had curiously low coverage in mainstream media, an Honours paper by David Rayment, *The Philosophy Department Split at Sydney University 1964-1973* (1999) retains an extensive record of the debacle.

Almost thirty years after the drama, former philosophy lecturer John Burnheim described the time as a "very confused conflict" which ultimately boiled down to an ideological schism between conservatives and boundary-pushing radicals. The conservatives included David Armstrong, appointed Challis Professor of Philosophy in 1964, and David Stove. In 2002, Stove wrote an essay called 'Why You Should Be A Conservative'.

On the other hand, the radicals included Wal Suchting and Michael Devitt who were very much rooted in Marxist schools of thought and advocated for more overtly political approaches to philosophy.



Michael Devitt (left) and Wal Suchting (right)

The first point of tension was known as the Knopfelmacher Affair over Sydney's appointment of Frank Knopfelmacher, a polemic figure known for offending the Left. For Armstrong, this was a chance to push back against communism and the growing presence of the campus Left.

On the other hand, the Left were motivated to keep Knopfelmacher out, with Suchting using his connections in Melbourne to consistently uncover dirt on Knopfelmacher. Knopfelmacher was not appointed, which ostensibly confirmed the Right's narrative that the University had become overrun by the Left.

In fact, it is poignant that the same problems of the University that have been driving the recent campaigns against the staff and course cuts seemed to be echoing the more "radical" wing of the Department at the time. Molnar, a self-described pessimistic anarchist, wrote an open letter for *Honi* in 1967 condemning the flaws of the institution: "For too long both teaching and administrative members of this university have maintained an effective isolation, have cultivated silence, secrecy, have been slow and ungracious in offering accounts of their doings. It is not that students are alienated from us, it is we who are alienated from them."

The Left in Australian philosophy

That being said, the rise of the Left in Australian philosophy departments was not insignificant. The first shift was at Flinders University where the Head of the Department, Brain Medlin, was one of the leaders of the anti-Vietnam War movement in Adelaide. Medlin cancelled a week of lectures, resisted arrest and was incarcerated for refusing to pay fines. At the 1970 Australasian Philosophy Conference, he draped a red flag over the lectern before giving his speech following the passing of a motion condemning the Vietnam War.

Despite this progressive shift, conservative fear mongering surrounding the "politicisation" of universities festered. In 1971, Armstrong chaired a talk hosting the First Secretary of the South Vietnamese Embassy. A student named Hall Greenland took the microphone and heckled the speaker, calling them a "worm". The incident saw Armstrong physically intervening to seize Greenland's microphone. Due to the altercation, Armstrong was nicknamed "The Beast".

Despite Armstrong and Stove's efforts, Sydney Philosophy continued to radicalise. In 1972 and 1973, Suchting and Devitt proposed courses in Marxism-Leninism teaching the philosophy of Stalin, Ho Chi Minh, Mao, and Guevara. Though the courses were passed by a 10-3 vote, Armstrong tried to veto this with the powers he held as Department head.

Eventually, they struck a compromise, including the withdrawal of the writings of Stalin, Mao, and similar figures from the reading list to the general bibliography. Marxism became a new course.

However, tensions remained high

and in 1972 there was conflict over the appointment of a new left-leaning tutor, Patrick Flanagan. Armstrong had misrepresented Flanagan's competency suggesting that another staff member, Professor Spann, had rejected him when Flanagan had been running seminars in Spann's Honours courses. In response, Devitt sent a private letter to another staff member writing,"It is now clear that the Beast [Armstrong] will not leave any of us in peace. It seems necessary that he be discredited & driven from the University. I shall henceforth support any tactic (within certain limits) that seems likely to help the achievements of this end."

Philosophy also enjoyed a vast degree of autonomy. The first step towards democratisation was in 1972 when the faculty decided on having student representatives in the Curriculum Committee. By the end of the year, voting rights were granted to all philosophy students meaning that students enjoyed considerable influence over the curriculum. Furthermore, teachers enjoyed free rein in deciding how to assess their students, meaning that they could eschew formal

ssessments

Before the Department's split, there was a final moment of controversy. In 1973, two graduate students, Jean Curthoys and Liz Jacka, proposed a course on 'The Politics of Sexual Oppression'. Although the course received overwhelming support from the Department and the Faculty of Arts, the Professorial Board swiftly rejected the move. Staff and students responded with strikes and disrupted lectures in several Departments over several weeks.

Strikers pitched tents in the Quad and pickets were set up in lectures of staff who weren't striking, including Armstrong. The strikers won and the course was approved. Celebrations were stuff of legend. Late Australian writer Frank Moorhouse recounts that there were "four-gallon casks of wine" excluding spirits and beer because the latter was too closely associated with "Australian male behaviour".

David Armstrong seizing Greenland's microphone



Victorious strikers sang their hearts out under the banner: "Philosophers hitherto have only interpreted the world — the point now is to change it."

In light of this valiant idealism, the conservatives capitulated. Instead of vying for control over the Department, through the starpower of figures like Armstrong who was a leading philosopher of mind, the Vice-Chancellor acquiesced. On 2 October, 1973 the Department finally split into two. Devitt, Suchting and other leftist philosophers remained in what was known as the Department of General Philosophy. Armstrong and six other staff members formed the Department of Traditional and Modern Philosophy. However, this was certainly not the end of this story. For example, students in the fully-democratic Department of General Philosophy voted against formal exams.

It was not until the turn of the millenium that the Departments were finally reunited. Associate Professor Dr Luke Russell reminisces, "I remember when these two Departments merged to become the single Department of Philosophy that we have today. Some people were unhappy about this, but the Department has flourished."

Instead, Russell praises the flourishing Department with members of the faculty actively involved in contemporary political discourse. Dr Luara Ferracioli and Dr Sam Shpall have recently published media pieces on issues like feminism, free speech, COVID restrictions, and cultural appropriation. Though now a thing of the past, the fraught period of the Department's history remains a captivating tale of staff and student power. Philosophy may be written in ivory towers, but we make it happen on the streets.

USU installs pool tables, arcade games in Wentworth

Luke Cass takes the cue.

The University of Sydney Union (USU) has restored the pool tables on level 4 of the Wentworth Building to a usable condition, as part of a revamp of leisure options on campus.

The tables will be free for students to play after a restoration undertaken by the USU over the mid-year break. Work included replacing the tables' cloth, installing cue racks and sourcing new balls for the tables. The (re)launch of the pool tables coincided with the start of Semester 2.

The tables have been closed since March 2020, following the outbreak of COVID-19. While they used to operate under a pay-to-system, the USU chose to make them free in a bid to increase their usage. USU President Cole Scott-Curwood told *Honi* that the USU has planned a "more regular maintenance schedule" for the tables in line with expectations of increased uptake. Scott-Curwood added that the USU has opted to supply the tables with snooker balls, due to the "unfortunate previous trend of pool balls going missing" in the past.

The renewal of the pool tables follows a Semester 1 Honi article highlighting their disuse. Scott-Curwood told *Honi* that their aim is "to provide students with more opportunities for casual socialisation and for recreation", something that has long been campaigned for by *Honi*. "We know there is a strong demand for this, and last semester's *Honi Soit* articulated it well", he said.

The launch of the tables also coincided with the temporary installation of arcade games and video-game consoles in the Wentworth food court. Scott-Curwood said that this was done "to welcome students back and gauge interest".



Although the arcades have since been removed, the USU is looking into a permanent version of the free arcade games to be installed in either

Wentworth or the Manning building. Scott-Curwood said that the USU is more generally "considering how we can further support student recreation on campus". Making the tables more visible certainly aligns with this goal.

The USU's move to reopen the pool tables follows the University of Sydney's decision to reopen the Fisher Library rooftop as a result of an *Honi Soit* campaign.

Both changes come amidst a decadeslong decline in leisure culture at Australian universities, following the introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism in 2005 – most notably including the USU's 2020 decision to close Manning Bar.

In a statement provided to *Honi*, Scott-Curwood acknowledged that "despite the work and study requirements many students have, it's unsustainable for us to be busy all the time - we need time off", marking a shift in much of the discourse recent decades have seen.

The free pool tables are a hopeful indication of cultural changes to come, trusting that students know where to find them.

'It's my dream job. I don't want to leave': USyd's future teachers and nurses on entering an industry in crisis

Jeffrey Khoo sat down with 10 student nurses and teachers on their experiences.

Thousands of workers in NSW have gone on strike this year. Various professions, most prominently teachers, nurses, and rail workers, have shown that workers across the NSW public sector have felt systematically silenced, underpaid, and exhausted after a brutal pandemic.

Against this backdrop of uncertainty, many USyd students will soon be graduating from degrees and potentially entering the public sector. They're in a unique position of transition, especially since they're entering the workforce in a time of crisis.

I interviewed final-year teaching and nursing students at USyd about how they feel looking out at their professions and the recent strikes. What emerged was a picture of distinct uncertainty about the future, fear of burnout, and anger at exploitative systems.

'There's no end in sight'

Workloads in teaching and nursing are increasingly unmanageable and complex. A whopping 95 per cent of teachers work unpaid overtime in a typical week, spending more time on administrative, planning, and marking tasks than teaching itself.

"It's at this point where paperwork keeps piling up, and there seems to be no end in sight," says Thomas Lawes, an incoming maths teacher and president of USyd's Education and Social Work Society.

In today's schools, teachers aren't just tailoring lessons; they're also expected to be counsellors, volunteers for camps and extracurriculars, and even quasi-COVID marshals. Jason*, who has taught economics for eight months, believes there's pressure to work unpaid because "every other teacher is doing it, you feel like you're not contributing enough."

Public school teachers in NSW start at \$73,000, but salaries quickly stagnate unless one becomes a head teacher or manager, while proposals to introduce bonuses for "top teachers" won't help new entrants.

"Teacher pay does not reflect the amount of time and effort put into preparing lessons, completing extracurricular activities, and marking students' work."

"Teacher pay does not reflect the amount of time and effort put into preparing lessons, completing extracurricular activities, and marking students' work," says Tessa*. She thinks young people aren't incentivised to enter teaching, when they'll be "overworked and getting paid nowhere near enough for the extra hours we'll have to sacrifice".

In nursing, the pandemic has exposed clear vulnerabilities in Australian health systems. Ramping is at a record high in South Australia, while just last week, a Tasmanian woman died while waiting for a hospital bed. Now, as Omicron cases

remain high even as NSW restrictions rapidly disappear, nursing students are fearful about the impact of the pandemic for years to come. Tristan* and his cohort are worried that they'll have to sacrifice their well-being because of the overwhelming pressure to prove themselves in a new full-time job. USyd lecturers have warned them that the profession requires resilience and huge sacrifices of time and money, and it starts with the university workload.

Nurses' starting salaries, which hover around \$65,000, "aren't adequate at all for what's expected of them," says Tristan. "People can just go into other professions and make a lot more money [while avoiding] a scary and almost unsafe environment."

During recent strikes, public sector workers rejected the Perrottet government's "insulting" offer of a 3 per cent wage rise, pushing instead for a 5-7 per cent increase to match inflation. "You do nursing because you love nursing. If you don't, you won't survive," says Patrick*, who already works as an assistant nurse.

Many interviewees also believe their USyd education has left them unprepared for the real world. Patrick says training materials are out-of-date and hopes it won't lead to "injury or poor outcomes for patients." Tessa's placements were pushed back to fourth year due to COVID, whereas other universities start placements from first year. Dropouts "skyrocketed," and many students felt "ill-prepared for the

'There is literally no one left'

realities of teaching".

As teachers leave the profession in droves, NSW needs 1,700 additional high school teachers over the next three years, while STEM teachers are desperately needed, especially in rural and regional areas. The staffing crisis is so large that last Friday, federal and state education ministers met to discuss potential solutions.

"COVID has laid bare a lot of issues facing the education system," says Arkady, a recently-graduated languages teacher. This year, he says, schools are so short-staffed and scrambling for casual teachers, that Year 11 and 12 classes are sent to the library because there are "literally no teachers left." Teachers with COVID are still writing lesson plans from their beds. "You can't just go and be sick, because your classes still need something to do."

Tristan, who is passionate about reducing health inequities, thinks junior nurses are scared because their concerns, such as around mandatory nurse-to-patient ratios in NSW, have consistently been ignored in favour of politicians' singular focus on cost-efficiency. It's led to shockingly unsafe environments, and

ironically, higher health costs.

"These ratios aren't made up," says Kristine*, who wanted to pursue nursing after caring for her grandparents. "Ultimately, it's the patient that suffers, because they don't get the care they need."

'You get exploited for your nature'

Since first year, Tristan has experienced a professional culture which instils a "fear of speaking out and asking for what you deserve." Patrick echoes that "severe bullying towards junior staff" creates a vicious cycle of bitterness and burnout amongst nurses.

This cycle, Tristan believes, thrives on exploiting nurses' desire to be altruistic. "I feel like you do get exploited for your nature, and because you're

nature, and because you're in this caring profession you're not going to speak out ... If you are not strong in your voice or your opinion, you will get rolled over."

ART BY ELLIE STEPHENSON

It's similar for teaching, Arkady says. "The system relies on people wanting to spend their free time giving back." While young teachers want guidance from colleagues, other teachers are so overworked that "there's a limit to how much they can support you without themselves suffering ... [it's] one of the main reasons quitting happens."

Both teachers and nurses are frustrated at how their professions are undervalued and not respected in society. Laura*, who completed a Master of Teaching (Early Childhood) last year, often hears people asking, "why are you doing a Master's degree for kindergarten teaching? ... [but] it's really physical and mental work. I come home exhausted." Abbie* also feels under immense pressure from parents, who can download mobile apps to observe what their children are doing at childcare.

"We get the nicknames 'baby minders' and 'nappy changers.' It irritates me because they're not seeing us as educators. We teach children about the world."

'It doesn't give you confidence'

Unsurprisingly, all these factors can lead to burnout very quickly. Up to 30 per cent of teachers leave the profession within the first five years, disillusioned by the reality of constant work. Interviewees were strongly aware that they might become part of that statistic.

Jason says that even as a part-time teacher, he "sometimes feels like full-time ... Maybe I'd be better off doing a 9-5 where I don't have to care about much else."

Charley worries a lot about getting burnt out. "It's my dream job. I don't want to leave. But I worry that I might be forced to, because of my physical and mental health, and that's just the last thing I want."

"It doesn't give you much confidence in your decision [to teach] when you constantly see media reports of teachers feeling tired," Thomas adds, saying he would feel guilty considering alternative careers later on because he feels like he would be leaving students behind and contributing to systemic shortages.

Tristan says some of his cohort feel they can't waste their degree and their 800-plus hours of unpaid placements, even if they know they'll feel drained by working in an overstretched health system. But Kristine has accepted that she can't see herself doing nursing fulltime. It's painful, she says, but the pay and workload is just not worth it.

'Until the system collapses, nothing will change'

When looking out at their professions on strike, people's emotions were often internally complex. While Arkady felt "really empowered" at his first strike as a teacher, he was also upset at hearing teachers' stories.

"I thought, oh no, is this what I'm signing up for?" Tristan remains cautiously optimistic, but stresses that stronger nurse-to-patient ratios must go "hand-in-hand" with pay rises.

Many interviewees felt bleak about changing the government's mind. "I feel disappointed that we have to do rallies just to get a dollar or two above our wage," says Abbie. "It really reveals how respected we are in society."

Laura also feels like speaking up "can't really change anything" in early childhood education. She's been disillusioned by childcare centres consistently breaking laws around staffing and child safety, but "we don't have enough centres as is ... if they shut down, children will have nowhere to go."

Kristine's supervisors were told they couldn't strike because they were still rostered on for patient safety. "It misses the whole point of a strike. It's ridiculous and frustrating ... Until the system collapses, I know nothing will change. I don't think any government's ready for that."

The experiences of USyd students have shown how talented young people get forced out of teaching and nursing, because of poor pay and conditions. But if there's one positive, the "historic" strikes have galvanised many soon-to-be graduates, such as Charley, to stay strong.

"We need to show solidarity between teachers, nurses, rail workers ... We face similar problems, we're shamed when trying to speak up for our rights, because we're seen as disrupting the public." Charley is excited about returning to teaching after travelling next year, and they're confident they "will push through the difficulties. But I wish I could be more certain"

*Names have been changed.

A crisis in university governance: Every VC's salary, ranked

Khanh Tran dissects our VCs' mammoth pay packages.

Collowing analysis of Australian Vice-**Chancellors'** (VC) pay, the University of Melbourne's Duncan Maskell tops the list with a mammoth \$1.5 million salary, followed by Monash, Flinders and Queensland universities.

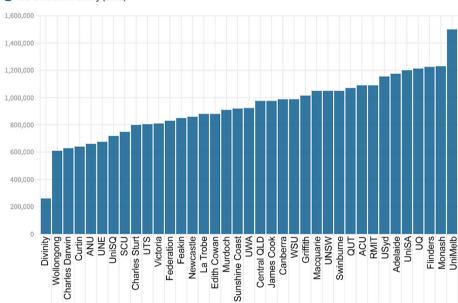
VCs presiding over prestigious Group of Eight (Go8) universities take home some of the most generous pay packages in the country, with the University of Sydney's Professor Mark Scott and UNSW's Professor Attila Brungs receiving \$1.15 and \$1.05 million respectively. Adelaide University's controversial Professor Peter Hoj also rakes in \$1.17 million, joining thirteen other VCs who receive salaries exceeding one million dollars.

expectations and norms".

"Reporting of governance and remuneration should be included in the Institution's Annual Reports," the code

perceived as an ineffective measure, with standards of disclosure varying drastically from one university to the next. While universities such as USyd and UniSA disclose a broad pay range, others such as Western Sydney University fully disclose the pay of individual executives short of identifying non-monetary benefits.





Meanwhile, ANU's Professor Brian Schmidt receives a comparatively lower salary standing at \$660,943 a year within the group, inclusive of superannuation and excluding housing costs which Schmidt is responsible for paying. Others who share Schmidt's pay range include Charles Darwin's Professor Scott Bowman and Wollongong's Professor Patricia Davidson.

The lowest paid VC is the specialist University of Divinity's Professor Peter Sherlock, who took home \$290,000. The institution, unlike other universities, is an amalgamation of various Christian denominations' seminaries.

Excluding America's exceptionally universities, Australia's VCscommand some of the most favourable salaries anywhere in the world, drastically dwarfing their European and British counterparts. One of the UK's highestpaid VCs, UCL Provost Michael Spence who used to lead Sydney University commands \$960,000 annually before factoring in rent that exceeded \$90,000 in 2021. According to information obtained by *Honi* through a Freedom of Information request, Spence now resides in London's posh Bloomsbury Mansion. .

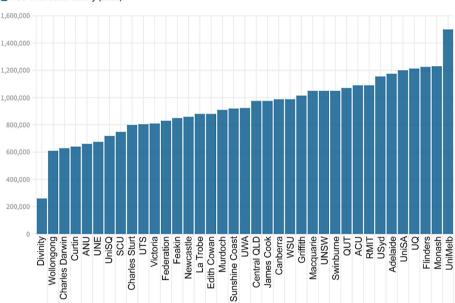
The figures also reveal that Australia's VCs are paid far higher than those occupying the nation's highest offices, with the majority of VCs' pay packages dwarfing that of the Prime Minister, who receives just shy of \$550,000 a year.

Effectiveness of UCC's Code questioned

In 2021, the *University Chancellors* Council's (UCC) Australian Universities Vice-Chancellor and Senior Staff Remuneration Code was introduced, encouraging disclosures of VC and university executives' remuneration. This came on the heels of what has been described as "lavish" pay packages for Australian VCs that saw former Federal

Education Minister Alan Tudge call for pay to align with "society's contemporary

However, the UCC Code is being



One of the key measures the UCC's voluntary code uses to benchmark the appropriateness of VCs' remuneration is the gap between an institution's median salary compared to its senior executives'.

"UCC will consider other statements of intent or principle such as the relativity between the median salary for a University and that of its VC and Senior Staff," the code's guideline reads

However, the guideline places the onus of proposing a "statement of intent or principle" on universities, meaning that university management are, as the voluntary nature of the code implies, not compelled to consider median salary to construct a meaningful boundary from which remuneration may be considered inappropriate by the UCC.

According to a USyd spokesperson, Scott's pay, exceeding one million at USyd, "sits within the guidelines outlined in the [Universities Chancellors Council's] voluntary code".

"We found a correlation between these massive pay increases as universities marketised and they move from being a collegial institution to seeing themselves as businesses."

Yet analysis by the NTEU's Ian Dobson in 2018 found that USyd's median salary stood at Higher Education Worker Level 7 (HEW 7) of \$90,160-\$98,224. Today, calculations of data from the University's 2021 Annual Report indicate that its median salary remains the same four years on. This means that Scott's salary currently exceeds the average USvd professional staff by a staggering tenfold.

According to public organisation

governance expert Dr Rebecca Boden, universities today see themselves primarily as income generators rather than knowledge-building institutions.

"We found a correlation, albeit I stress correlation, not causation, between these massive pay increases as universities marketised and they move from being a collegial institution to seeing themselves as businesses," Boden told *Honi*, referring to research conducted by her and the late Deakin University Professor Julie

This tectonic shift over the decades from Margaret Thatcher and Bob Hawke's governments in the UK and Australia, for Boden, came to enable universities to justify exorbitant expenses by citing universities' monetary contribution to society and institutions' large size.

Indeed, the UCC voluntary code's pay guidelines stipulates that senior executives' remuneration must be "fair to the individual and the institution", taking into account "responsibility, accountability, scale and complexity" of the sector's "30 billion" dollar economic

Remuneration transparency and conflict of interest a major issue

Compared to other countries, the pay of Australia's VCs remains largely shrouded in opacity. This is in contrast to the United Kingdom where, since 1994, universities have been compelled to disclose this information in their annual reports. Aside from the base salary, institutions are required to disclose the relevant VC's pensions and benefits. No equivalent set of laws exist in Australia to govern the disclosure of salaries nor governance

Unlike other countries, Australia has relatively lax oversight of VC and executives' salaries, with no legislated mechanism to compel universities to declare senior management's payment aside from the press' routine reporting on the issue every year.

Compounded in this is the conflict of interest that comes from VCs' membership of university subcommittees, which presides over their own salary.

VCs who do not sit in the same committee that determines their remuneration are rare, withVictoria University's Adam Shoemaker and USO's Geraldine MacKenzie not being a member of their institutions' remunerations committees. In 2017, Bath University's Glynis Breakwell resigned when England's university funding council, HEFCE, condemned Breakwell following a sustained campaign by the local University and College Union (UCU) campaign together with student activists.

For instance, the University of South Australia's David Lloyd attended all three meetings of UniSA's Senior Remuneration Committee, and the same applies for other former VC Professor Ian Jacobs and USyd's

In USyd's case, a university spokesperson confirmed that Scott's pay is set by the Senate and that the VC has declared a conflict of interest and is not present when the his pay is discussed.

However, Boden argues that both arrangements raise serious questions: "Even if they [VCs] are outside the room for when individual discussion of their salary is going on, they set broader strategy

and rules surrounding pay," Boden said, referring to Scott's declaration of interest. "Then, their salary almost drops out and automatically gets fixed by the salary

"Compounded in this is the conflict of interest that comes from VCs' membership of university subcommittees, which preside over their own salary."

She pointed out that, even if a VC or an executive were conflicted off individual discussions about their pay, the fact that some executives are appointed by the VC means that there is a herd mentality to inflate bonuses and rewards rather than exercise restraint. This comes from her view of the five-year period following Breakwell's resignation when the UCC's counterpart in the UK, the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) released its own voluntary code following the Breakwell scandal.

"The transparency requirements in many ways are a legitimising device for marketisation. My hunch is that it [the CUC voluntary code] hasn't had any restraining effect [on salaries]," Boden said. "I don't think these voluntary codes will do anything."

From her perspective, Australia faces an acute crisis in university governance structure with rampant conflict of interest and a lack of decision-making independent of VCs and their senior executives.

Path to reform lies in student activism and tribunal oversight

Ultimately, for Boden, the astronomical rise of VC' salaries in the past decade represents a critical "market failure", in the sense that no internal reforms by university executives can attain meaningful transparency and address the widening pay gap. Instead of relying on internal "tinkering" within universities, she says that the government must intervene to curtail VC salaries and restore public trust in higher education.

Furthermore, she recommends that Australia needs a federally operated "VCs' Remuneration Tribunal" to oversee VC pay packages, citing Australia's former Academic Salaries Tribunal, who used to investigate and determine academic salaries, as a model example.

"I think it [reform] has to come from the government because it has got skin in the game because they fund universities. So this has to be a regulatory matter because the universities are incapable of regulating themselves, a market failure."

Ultimately, Boden is certain that it will take sustained pressure and awareness from student, staff and unions such as the UCU or NTEU to push the government to hold VCs accountable and reduce the increasingly significant pay gap.

"It [Glynis Breakwell's resignation] was drummed up because of student and staff activism," said Boden.

"It needs to be a national campaign where all students and staff have to come together and say: 'This has to stop'. That would be much more effective because one VC resigning doesn't solve the problem because you've not changed the system."

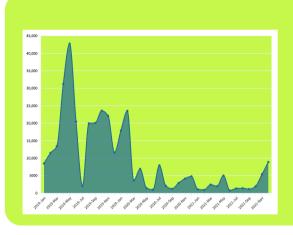
USyd Executives' expenses.



It is no secret that Executives at the University of Sydney are paid some of the most comfortable salaries in the world (see pg 8). But to prevent these poor bastards from having to shell out any more than they have to, they are also given the opportunity to seek reimbursements for purchases they 'legitimate[ly] need' in the course of their work.

Now, of course, any system that requires an Approving Manager™ and explicitly excludes any 'personal or private' expenses from being paid by the University is surely safe from misuse and abuse.

However, Honi got a hold of all the items that were claimed as expenses from 2019 to 2021 - from taxis and laundry to donor dinners and even annual memberships to the Oxford-Cambridge social club! And it seems like our Executives may have been going a little too hard on the corporate card..



Your monthly spend peaked at \$42,767.50 in May 2019.

You spent \$14,772.69 on 'gifts'.

If you were to spend that money on Paint and Sip classes, you could paint for 671.49 hours or 27.98 days straight.

7 of you expensed \$227,123.62 to the University in 2019.

That's more than the annual salary of 80.55% of USyd's full time academic staff and 87.03% of females.

Belinda, you spent \$7,045.42 on taxis for "university business"



Your top 5 biggest spends were:

- 1. \$6269.04 on "Shanghai Delegation" 2. \$791.10 on "Honorary Awards Functions"
- 3. \$731.10 on "Government Relations"
- 4. \$519.75 on "Taxi University Business" 5. \$283.50 on "Taxi — University Business"

You spent \$8,569.55 on subscriptions.



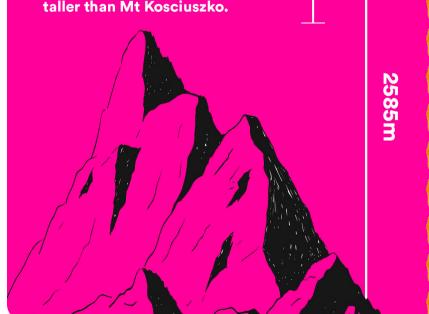
With that money, you could get unlimited rides at Luna Park every single day until 2057 (notwithstanding inflation).

You spent \$45,000 on air travel



on an estimated 40 flights. Instead, you could have flown... from Sydney to Bali **165 times** for a summer holiday.

You spent \$25,053.44 on meals. 288m If you spent that on McNuggets and stacked them vertically, they'd summit at 2585m, that's 288m taller than Mt Kosciuszko.



Smokers of USyd? Smokers OFF USyd!

Isabel Formby clears the air.

There is a culture war at USyd. Our proud ■ declaration that we are a 'smoke-free campus' is a controversial one for many students, and they are taking to social media to openly flout the rules in disgraceful displays that glamourise a harmful hobby.

I came to USyd thinking that the lack of smoking was a great idea. Growing up in the 2000s, it felt like anti-smoking ads were everywhere. Deliberately off-putting images of wrinkled, diseased older people croaking words of warning scared me into submission. For me, not smoking has always seemed like a no-brainer, but it seems that many of my fellow students do not share the

In my lifetime I always assumed there would be a general trend away from smoking. Unfortunately, the miracle of capitalist dynamism has dashed my expectations. The introduction of e-cigarettes, to the marketplace, and the branding of them as a "healthier alternative" by the same brains behind big tobacco, has seen a general trend upwards in smoking.

It's obvious why. Cigarettes stink! All the packaging is covered in grotesque depictions of gangrene and cancer! But vapes? Cute, trendy, pastel! They smell and taste like yummy sugar! No way they're as harmful as stinky ciggies! Aside from the fact that vaping looks kind of dorky and silly (while smoking is obviously cool as hell), it seems like the best alternative to cigarettes.

What a disaster!

Taking up vaping, to the average teen, seems like all the social benefits of nicotine consumption, with none of the yucky lungs we saw in TV ads. How wrong they are!

There is almost no evidence to say vaping is better than smoking – it still affects you negatively, just in different ways. It's also true that vaping is the gateway drug of our time, with an ANU study finding those who try vaping are three times more likely to smoke later on. It's no surprise, then, that in 2020, cigarette sales increased for the first time in decades.

At the forefront of pro-smoking insurrection is the Instagram account '@smokersofusyd'. This is a page dedicated to trivialising the smoke-free campus rule. So far, only four photos have been posted on the account, but each has been met with support from members of the student body, calling for a more smoker-friendly campus. I've previously been very vocal in their comments section about how much I disagree with their ethos, but I seem to be screaming into the void. I sat down with Smokers of USyd' [a pseudonym] to squash

Hello Smokers. Can I call you Smokers?

Smokers of USyd: I guess that's fine.

Great. Are you yourself a smoker of

Smokers: I believe everyone is a smoker. Smoking isn't simply about the consumption of cigarettes or the sipping of vapes. To be a smoker is to be human. So

Whatever. What are you trying to prove through the page?

Smokers: I believe that some USyd campus policies are detrimental to the wellbeing of smokers on campus. USyd's 'smoke free campus' policy pushes smokers into the gutters of society and paints them as grotesque outcasts - which we are not. Believe it or not, smoking can be addictive, and as such, smokers cannot at all be blamed for increased smog on campus. We need collective action to bring the oppressed class of smokers out of the gutter and make USyd a smoker friendly campus again. Our

current smoking areas can barely be labelled

as glorified sandpits, and ultimately need to be demolished as society works to integrate smoking into all areas of campus - including

Where do you see Smokers of USyd in

indoor spaces.

Smokers: I hope that one day all students can learn the pleasures of the simple and social pastime of smoking. While the current page is vapist friendly, I would like to use this piece as a platform to send a health message to anyone who vapes. Please vapists, there is a plant based organic alternative that you should all switch to:

Do you think your page promotes harmful behaviour?

Smokers: The only thing the page is promoting is the inclusivity of the smoking class. Far from promoting harmful behaviour, the page is a beacon of hope and a guiding star for smokers who might feel excluded from social settings because they are forced to slurp their cigarettes in the freezing outdoors or the crevices of pubs. I am here to encourage the population of USyd to partake in this relaxing hobby with the knowledge that you are welcomed and vou are a human being.

Are you aware that in Australia alone,

about 90% of lung cancer cases in males and 65% in females are estimated to be a result of tobacco smoking?

Smokers: When?

When? This is happening right now!

Smokers: When did I ask?

That's really inappropriate. Can you please answer the question seriously?

Smokers: Ok.

Thus ended our interview. We walked to City Road together before parting ways. I stood watching them walk away, reflecting on our talk and what I could have done differently; kicking myself for not making more of an impact. Before long, they disappeared mysteriously behind a cloud of exhaust fumes from a passing bus. It was a fitting conclusion to a whole-heartedly disappointing chat.

I can't claim to understand the sentiment behind the page. The rules are clear: smoking is not allowed on campus. Not all laws are just, but this one is. Our keen young minds deserve clean air! Campus should be a safe space for people with sensitive lungs, and those of us who have made the sensible decision not to smoke. @smokersofusyd does nothing but promote an unhealthy lifestyle. They are a blight on our beautiful campus. The pro-smoking propaganda they publish is disgusting and only inflames my anti-smoking sentiments. I hope more people will join my crusade.

Students should be enriching their minds, not engaging in harmful pastimes. Keep smoking off campus.

BEEN THERE, **DONE THAT?**

Do you like elections? Have you worked on the recent Federal and Local Government elections?

The University of Sydney SRC is hiring casual polling booth attendants to administer its Annual Elections and count the votes. The elections run 20-22 September and counting continues for up to two weeks afterward.

\$37/hour, apply here: bit.ly/3bclliW



Authorised by R.Scanlan, 2022 Electoral Officer, Students' Representative Council,



STUDENT ELECTIONS

- SENATE ELECTIONS
- ACADEMIC BOARD ELECTIONS
- FACULTY BOARD & UNIVERSITY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS
- FACULTY & UNIVERSITY SCHOOL ELECTIONS

Nominations are now open for student elections to Senate, Academic Board, Faculty Board, University School Board, Faculty, and University School. For a list of positions available, key dates and the nominations process, visit the Student Elections webpage: sydney.edu.au/students/student-elections.html

An information session will be held at 2:30–3:30pm on Tuesday 23 August 2022 via Zoom. Interested candidates are encouraged to attend. To RSVP for this session and receive the Zoom link, or to seek any further information, please email: secretariat.elections@sydney.edu.au.

All interested students must submit a completed nomination form to secretariat.elections@sydney.edu.au before the close of nominations at 12:00 noon on Tuesday 6 September 2022.



'This is the last bastion': Cut and run tactics leave community centre's future up in the air Ethan Floyd reports on the institution left in limbo.

 $T^{
m he}$ National Centre for Indigenous Excellence (NCIE), at 180 George Street in Redfern, has served the local Aboriginal community for 16 years. The NCIE opened in 2006 on the former site of Redfern Public School and offers sport, fitness, conferences and community classes including tutoring and educational support. With the Aboriginal Medical Service based around the corner on Redfern Street and the Aboriginal Legal Service two blocks over, the local community sees the NCIE as a vital part of Redfern's Indigenous support service network.

As the process of gentrification forever changed the social and cultural landscape of Redfern, the centre has remained an important meeting place for local Indigenous people.

It's become the base of operations for Redfern Youth Connect, the National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy and Tribal Warrior Association. Local Elders use the centre's pool and gym facilities alongside kids learning to swim. High school students are given tutoring and taught vocational skills such as hospitality. Young mums and working parents rely on the centre for out-of-school-hours care, where their kids are provided with food, cultural and social

One recent estimate found that every dollar spent on the centre creates three times as much value for the local Aboriginal

However, last Monday, staff at the centre - a majority of whom are local Indigenous young people — were informed they were being made redundant and offered a one-off payment of \$700 as compensation. Dozens of staff were ushered off the premises. Some stood crying on the footpath. All were asked to sign non-disclosure statements as a condition of receiving their severances.

The decision to close the NCIE came after the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) failed to reach an agreement with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council on the future of the Redfern centre. Recently-appointed NCIE CEO, Jasmine Ryan, expressed her concern about the decision.

"Everyone is being made redundant," Ryan said.

"We have a large number of First Nations staff here, many of whom grew up in the

Ryan says staff had little warning about the closure and the future of the NCIE

"From my understanding from what they've told us, those negotiations essentially broke down, they weren't able to come to an agreement and because of that, the ILSC made the decision to close the NCIE down,"

The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation is a federal body which acquires millions of dollars in land and sea assets for use by Indigenous communities. The ILSC bought the NCIE site in Redfern in 2010, with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council taking ownership in June of this year.

In a joint statement, the ILSC and the Land Council said they had worked in "good faith" to come to an agreement over the management of the centre.

"Unfortunately, we have not been able to reach an agreement on terms for ongoing support of the organisation, and as a result it will close," the statement read.

"We are disappointed by the outcome and will work to support affected staff."

The Aboriginal Land Council said it remains committed to working with stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition for offboarding staff, redistributing assets and offsetting programs.

Land Council chairperson, Dan Chapman, stressed that tenants of the NCIE's facilities would still have limited access to the building prior to its closure

"In the interim, the land council will work to provide community members with safe access to the centre's fitness and aquatic centre," he said

But a project officer at Inner-Sydney

Empowered Communities said no one from either the ILSC or the NSWALC has communicated this to stakeholders.

"Everyone is really worried and nobody has told us anything," they said.

"This is the last bastion. We don't want to be diluted out of here, too,"

The issue gained national attention last Tuesday following a statement from Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, Linda Burney, who described the centre as "the beating heart of Redfern's Aboriginal community

"I strongly encourage the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council to work together to find a solution," she said on Twitter.

After an extensive social media campaign championed by local community organisation Redfern Youth Connect, hundreds of locals gathered in front of the NCIE last Wednesday to protest the centre's closure, and to lobby the ILSC and NSWALC to reopen negotiations.

Aunty Margaret Haumono, co-founder and executive director of Redfern Youth Connect, described the situation she and the community find themselves in is "devastating."

"I've got kids asking me 'Aunty Marg, where are we going to go? What are we going to do?" she said.

"This place is not just a gym and a pool for us. This place is a meeting point."

Aunty Marg was one of more than 400 people who came to the community centre



Community members gather at the NCIE to protest its closure.

on Wednesday demanding an inquiry into

"It's disgusting, and we're calling for an independent inquiry into the divestment process.

Last Friday, there were scenes of overwhelming emotion, relief and cautious celebration as the NCIE's immediate closure was averted due to government intervention.

Linda Burney, along with Federal Minister Tanya Plibersek, announced that the centre had been granted a stay of execution, meaning that the centre would tenuously continue to operate while fraught negotiations between the ILSC and NSWALC

"Here is the bottom line," Burney said as she addressed rugby league players, boxers and wrestlers, community members, and tenants and staff at the centre

"I want to see the tenants who work out of NCIE given permanency ... I want to see that this place stays open, and most importantly that people keep their jobs.

"Voices need to be heard on this and the fact that you've got so many people here, hundreds of people, is a very loud voice.

"It can't be beyond people to sit down and negotiate in good faith because this joint

"To the parties involved, get your act together and sort this out."

This has been punctuated by a release from the ILSC last Saturday, which asserted that negotiations between the Commonwealth and the NSWALC had concluded, and an agreement had been reached as to the centre's future. The NSWALC responded quickly with a release stating that no such agreement had been reached, and that the ILSC's statement had been made without consultation or approval from any other stakeholders.

It seems, for the meantime at least, that the NCIE's future will remain unknown. As the centre continues to operate some services to a reduced capacity and host demonstrations - such as the midday sit-in this Monday - tense negotiations continue as federal politicians and community stakeholders attempt to mediate discussions.

This will decidedly not be the last time Honi reports on this ongoing crisis in Redfern.

The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation declined Honi's request for

Library late fees abolished at USyd and beyond Mikaela Chen explains the post-late fee world.

ot a stack of long overdue library books two-hour collection, and items recalled by Uthat you occasionally eye with guilt? Or perhaps a dusty old Harry Potter DVD somewhere under your bed?

It's time to stop avoiding the library. pandemic. This looks like it will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

A University spokesperson told *Honi*: "There are no plans to reinstate fines or fees for overdue items. We suspended such fees from January 2021 to improve wellbeing for students who may be experiencing financial hardship and reduce time spent by staff processing fines and waiving fees."

"We do still ask that staff and students return items on time, especially those in our

If you have items overdue, you will be USvd libraries suspended overdue fines on libraries. Additionally, long overdue items borrowed items to alleviate stress during the at USyd Libraries may "attract a lost-item bill or, in serious cases, additional academic

> USyd is not alone in this move. Last year, the City of Sydney's libraries also stopped charging fines for overdue items and for good

City of Sydney libraries first removed fines in a series of trials between 2016 and 2021.

The first of the trials ran for eight months, during which over three times as many overdue items were returned than before. Now, late return fines are permanently gone.

According to the City of Sydney's website. their trial showed "removing overdue fines blocked from borrowing or renewing until the means people are more likely to return their items are returned; this is the case at most items, and keep coming back to our libraries."

> "Instead of fining people for late items, the City will temporarily suspend their library memberships until the overdue items are returned. Library members will still be charged a replacement cost for materials that are lost or damaged."

> Other local councils have pioneered a similar program stretching from Blacktown to Canada Bay and Randwick. In the Greater Sydney area, 15 have abolished the fee model while 14 still hold out.

USyd, the City of Sydney and other LGAs are joining a worldwide library revolution. In

recent years, libraries in the United States, Ireland, and New Zealand, to name a few, have removed their late fees.

Evidence from the city of Denver found that abolishing fines also increased the rate of library card adoption and made the spaces more inviting to families regardless of socioeconomic status.

Libraries without late fines can also deliver better service because librarians are required to spend less time managing the logistics of tracking down late items. Instead, they can spend time helping patrons, ordering new books, and ensuring everything is in its

So wherever you may live, there's less reason to fear returning those late books. The librarians and community will thank you for it.

does not produce creative output."

In universities, the accessibility

of an arts education has been

severely impeded by government

cuts and the institutionalisation of

corporate management systems.

Morrison's 2021 Job Ready

Graduates Package more than

doubled the price of arts courses,

discouraging students from lower-

SES backgrounds to enrol (with

some regional universities recently

threatening to completely cut their

arts programs). The Creativity

in Crisis report warns that a

combination of higher student debt

and unstable, poorly-funded wages

in the arts sector may mean "future

cultural outputs will increasingly

reflect a narrower set of experiences

and understandings, further

excluding voices from working

class, migrant and marginalised

be able to [write] and it certainly

doesn't entice younger, aspiring

writers to pursue English degrees if

they're more expensive than science

degrees," says Toby Fitch, poet and

lecturer of creative writing at USyd.

wage theft, and job cuts plaguing

the university sector in recent years

have enormously impacted the arts.

Last year, 80 casuals in USyd's arts

faculty lodged a wage theft claim for

over \$2 million dollars, demanding

remuneration for six years of unpaid

marking and administration work.

According to the USyd Casuals

Network, this could mean \$64

million in university wage theft

in the arts faculty alone, if those

casuals' experiences reflect that of

the 2455 casuals on the 2021 faculty

This is despite the University

Fitch was denied conversion

"I was doing well more than

Following his rejection, he

recording a staggering \$1.04 bn

to a continuing position in 2021

after being a casual creative writing

necessary to be able to apply for a

opened a dispute with management;

when the issue still was not resolved,

the National Tertiary Education

Union (NTEU) took the matter to

capitulated, Fitch says the matter

around it. I'm still helping out

with the Casuals Network and the

underpayment campaign against

Though management has since

"A lot of stuff is quite triggering

Belinda Castles corroborates

this reality of mass-casualisation in

the university arts workforce. "A job

like mine, where you work full time,

is really difficult to get to some

extent, I put it down to timing and

luck, and a lot of my colleagues are

having to scrabble together full-on

work lives in semester time," she

they spend a lot of their own time

on student feedback, and time to

"They care about writing, so

the Fair Work Ombudsman.

still affects him.

wage theft," he says.

lecturer at USyd for six years.

payroll.

surplus for the year.

conversion," he says.

Further, workforce casualisation,

"Less people have the means to

communities."

UNWRITTEN THE CRISIS IN CREATIVE WRITING

When she sat down to craft her debut novel in 2020's lockdown, months after finishing her undergraduate degree, Diana Reid had never considered a career in writing before. An incisive debut about the interplay of sexuality, feminism, and power at an Australian university campus, Love & Virtue (2021) surfaced to overflowing critical acclaim, and was named Book of the Year by the Australian publishing industry in June.

But, in hindsight, it very well might not have been written.

"It kind of terrifies me, actually," Reid says. "I was so dependent on this very freak circumstance [lockdown] before I actually sat down and opened a blank word document."

Reid studied Law and Philosophy at USyd, with a graduate job at a law firm lined up for the end of that year.

"I was in a really fortunate position... I was living with my parents, so I had the freedom to write because if it didn't work, there were so many safety nets for me," she savs.

Of course, the apparent impracticality of novel-writing is nothing new. Time and intellectual freedom have always dictated the production of literature. "Intellectual freedom depends upon material things. Poetry depends upon intellectual freedom," wrote Woolf in 1929. As these resources have, for most of history, existed in scarcity outside certain, privileged demographics, the act of writing itself has often required struggle and defiance of authority.

Though access to literacy has widened since the early 20th century, a literary career is still less accessible and less appealing to the majority of Australians than it should be. When Evelyn Araluen won the Stella Prize for her debut poetry collection Dropbear this year, Australia's richest prize for women and non-binary authors and poets, she said she was "one paycheck away from complete poverty," imploring governments to provide better funding

Diana Reid also notes that while she feels "very fortunate" that her novel is currently her main source of income, "it's definitely not the

Most creative writers in Australia struggle to make a living. In a 2020 survey by the Australian Society of Authors (ASA), over half of the

recipients reported making "\$0-\$1999" a year from their writing; almost 80 per cent earned less than \$15,000 per vear. This is not because book sales have depreciated. The proportion of Australians who read for pleasure (72 per cent) has increased by 17 percentage points since 2016, with novels or short stories being the most popular form of reading material (47 per cent). This was boosted by the pandemic; sales of adult fiction rose by 12 per cent in 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.

The ASA's survey concludes that "there is a fundamental disconnect between the enormous value and importance the Australian public ascribes to books and the difficulties authors face earning a living delivering that value."

"'Intellectual freedom depends on material things. Poetry depends upon intellectual freedom,' wrote Woolf..."

The dearth of government funding for literature reinforces this statement. Literature is the least funded in grants and initiatives of almost all the arts sectors by the Australia Council for the Arts, the government's official arts funding and advisory body. In 2020-21, the council gave out just \$4.7 million in grant funding to literature — 2.4 per cent of the total funding pool last year, or around half of what literature received in 2014. In contrast, the major performing arts organisations received \$120 million in 2020-21.

At a state level, Writing NSW, previously known as the NSW Writers' Centre, previously received \$30 000 a vear in devolved funding from Create NSW – the state government's arts policy and funding body – which it handed out as grant <u>Marient Marient Mari</u> writing projects.

This funding was "indefinitely suspended" in 2019, with Create NSW stating they would directly provide the funding in future, rather than going through the independent organisation.

"It's been a great loss for the literature sector, as these grants supported a really diverse range of early career writers and emerging writing organisations that would be unlikely to get funding through the more convoluted Create NSW process," Writing NSW CEO Jane McCredie told Honi.

Art has always attracted censure from authority, particularly when those outside the dominant power may access, enjoy, and produce it.

Alison Croggon points out in her essay 'The Campaign to Destroy the Arts' (2022) that "since [colonisation], many people in Australian public life have made a special virtue of degrading the arts, creating a tradition of antiintellectualism that starves and mocks the very idea of creativity." This antiintellectualism is internalised and naturalised within much Australian culture.

Reid tells me that she felt oddly 'embarrassed' sitting down to write a novel: "[It] seems so kind of hubristic... like, who do you think you are?"

It is impossible to discuss this crisis the literary sector without

mentioning the broader deprivation of the arts in Australia.

"Good writers are born, the myth says, and will cultivate their skills in pirvate..."

In recent years, consecutive Liberal leaders have eroded arts funding bases, increased job precarity, and, during COVID lockdowns, starved the many freelancers, contract workers, and short-term casuals in the sector of basic financial support.

According to the 'Creativity in Crisis' (2021) report, spending at federal level on the arts reduced by nearly 20 per cent between 2007 and 2018, with local and state governments least equipped to fund them picking up most of the slack.

Yet some argue there is a particular quality to creative writing which sets it apart from other arts. Perhaps it is because writing is haunted by the spectre of genius. Good writers are born good, the myth says, and will cultivate their skills in private; any investment in writing education or infrastructure is inane. Of course, if applied to any art form - such as dance, playing an instrument, or acting - this belief would seem as absurd as it truly is.



"It's always interesting that people say that about writing," says author and Creative Writing degree coordinator at USyd, Belinda Castles. "You would need to learn to be an actor or to play the violin. It's a combination of various qualities and yes, perhaps talent, but also craft, attentive reading, and practice."

"If we do not invest in our writers, only those with the time. resources, and security to invest in themselves will be able to write."

"To know how to write a good sentence is not just to know how to write a correct one," says Mark Tredinnick, a poet and teacher at the University. "Some truths are not well understood, and not properly spoken for in badly

Tredinnick speaks to the value of learning creative writing and literature to practise syntax and style, not just grammatical correctness.

"Does a sentence have the same kind of integrity as that bridge over there or the building that you're standing within? We need things to stand. Not just to look pretty and not just to be unique, we need them to keep the weather out and not to fall down the heads of other people."

Last week, the University of Sydney merged the Department of Writing Studies and the Department of English into the discipline of 'English', effectively dissolving both departments as part of its 2022 Future FASS proposal. This proposal will see the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences departmental operating structure reshaped into a disciplinary one; departments long embedded in the University's history and reputation will be merged and replaced with nebulous 'disciplines', which are organised into revised 'schools' (i.e. the School of Art, Communication and English and the School of the Humanities). The move has been vehemently opposed by most department chairs for further eroding departmental autonomy in the Faculty, and centralising academic power in the corporate hands of university management.

"There's no one at a university who doesn't write," says Tredinnick. "It always made a lot of sense to have a body of knowledge at a university [the Department of Writing Studies | teaching people within that structure, how to do their core activity,"

Tredinnick, who taught casually within the Department of Writing Studies, was not notified of its dissolution until my speaking with him.

"I kept wondering this year, why I haven't got a contract," he says, "It's not been a bother, but it could have been; if I [was] another person, or if this was another year for me. I would've missed that income quite radically."

If we do not invest in our writers, only those with the time, resources, and security to invest in themselves will be able to write. According to the National Arts Participation Survey (2021), "an author's capacity to earn income from other paid work is boosted by high levels of education" as "they also possess technical skills (the ability to compose, write and edit) that lead to work that

writers is valuable. It's always time you could be

writing."

Tredinnick adds that asking casuals to spend a prescribed amount of time marking work is asking for students' education to "suffer".

"When the system changed to the current system where I have to timesheet all of my hours, and all of my hours are legislated, and I'm meant to be marking... 6,000 word pieces for 30 minutes [each]... that's a joke."

More broadly, a decline in arts funding combined with the pandemic has created a deficit of permanent, well-paid positions throughout the arts sector which writers typically used to supplement their incomes in the past.

"Workforce casualisation, wage theft, and job cuts plaguing the university sector... have enormously impacted the arts."

"They work for festivals, for events programming, they work for publishers or in publishing... to be nearer the circles in which they want to be part of. but because the whole sector's not well funded, it's difficult [in all of those industries]..." says Fitch.

He describes working multiple jobs to pay rent while teaching as a casual at USyd: "I was doing all those jobs at once and teaching at university... It was like five casual jobs... I was atomised."

"All the editors and administrators of arts organisations and literary journals are stretched thin and can't always hire new people," he adds. "Although there are lots of people that would wish to have one of those jobs, everyone in those jobs is overworked."

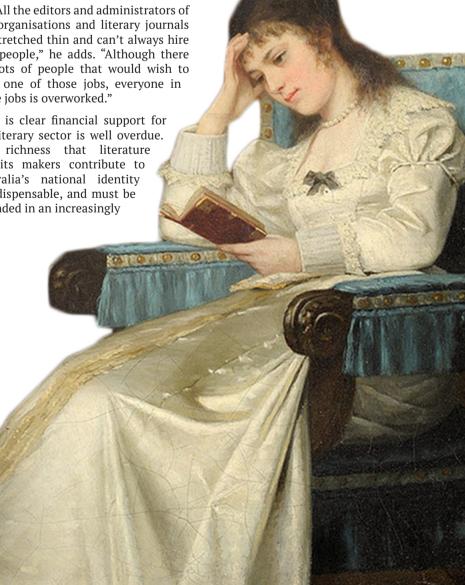
It is clear financial support for the literary sector is well overdue. The richness that literature and its makers contribute to Australia's national identity is indispensable, and must be defended in an increasingly

But students and staff are not powerless in fixing these issues, particularly with the recent change of government. When Albanese announces his National Cultural Policy for Australia later this year, which is currently open for submissions from the arts, entertainment, and culture sectors, let it not value writers below other artists.

The qualities of intellectual acuity, empathy, and robust expression that literature teaches are, if nothing else, the forebears of thriving democracy.

"It's very difficult to kill the arts because it's what gives us joy in our lives," says Castles.

Let it not take a pandemic lockdown for a writer to open a word document for the first time and create a novel, awardwinning or not.



corporate educational model.

Take me home, Sydney roads: My not-so-European summer

Simone Maddison makes the grand tour.

When the sun rises in Paris it stains the high walls and cobblestone pavements pink. Wooden terrace windows float on air and narrow streets flood with enough light to finally christen the ends of cigarettes, mulled and misty before a shot of espresso. Elizabeth Bay wakes from a similar dream of art-deco belle époque, dusting Ithaca Road in green and blue. Breakfast is served at Bill's on a marble platter weighted with fresh lemons, brioche, and white linen skirts, preparing for a restful day. The Seine embraces Sydney Harbour behind it all, the two bodies of water whispering to each other across the distance between them.

Sandstone melts into the clay and curved archways uncurling along London's Oxford Street. Bolted doors and dirty pigeons fly free as green trees fade to yellow, shopping bags blurring into red payphones. Double-decker buses race between lanes wide with ambition and rushing forward, always upwards with summer heat, serenading tourists who move to electric rhythms. Only when Oxford Circus comes to an end does Paddington begin its march of pride flags and gentrified pubs. The 440 hums along to the squeaky leather boots and scratchy fishnet stockings filling its seats, wondering how it ever got so lucky.

The journey west brings cleaner air and an appetite. Viridescent vinevards roll past Hyde Park and spill vino like a miracle onto Lake Como's marble shores. Haberfield sails from the heart of Little

Italy, transporting basilicas and piazzas through the azure channels of immigrant memories. Tall Venetian women set crystal glasses and dark red dahlias onto long mahogany tables veiled with white lace, breaking bread and thanks over a statuette of *la Madonna*. Perfumes of garlic and basil sing an alto note before draping themselves across crushed velvet couches. Catch a glimpse of *riposo*, drift off to Sicily: August has come, August has come. San Valentino's sfogliatelle and affogato have never tasted so sweet.

A flaxen haze holds full bellies chasing the remains of the day. Copenhagen ushers the weary traveller into the Surry Hills' Golden Age Cinema, silently pouring elderflower liqueur and thick woollen blankets over a murmuring session of Margrete (2021). Candlelight dims as dreamers descend from the bar and sink into pews brocaded by emerald cushions,

preparing to practice magic in the distance between Amalienborg and Rundetaarn. The Northern Lights, fatigued from their roaring beauty, yawn onto trailing curtains falling from the stars. Pictures flicker against silhouetted faces like snowflakes; strangers hold hands and huddle to keep Balmy sea breezes, lime white washes,

and sun-bleached soils coax kisses from the sunset's underside. Athenian ruins crumble along beaten roads like feta columns and crepidoma tossed onto porcelain plates. The Apollo stands tall on the corner of Sydney's Macleay Street, laden with olive branches and unpolished stone. Conversations echo through the amphitheatres of pottered amphorae and silk *mati* bracelets set upon cotton countertops. Taffeta hemlines glide along the hard wooden floorboards of nights starting and meals finishing, the scene tempting a smile from the Gods.

Youth demands love like the end of the night demands a dance. Red glows radiate from Berlin's basements towards vignettes of black tattoo ink and midnight Jägermeister, seducing tabs on tongues and tokes on tobacco. The butterfly stamped onto William Street connects Darlinghurst to an underground network of graffitied stairs and mysterious memories, each slinking deeper and deeper into its nocturnal hideaways. Bodies rise and fall and catch one another through the traces of house music at Club 77, wrapping around walls and stages when the shadows steal the last of their senses. Hands touch hips and lips find lips in the darkness, breaking rules that do not exist in the morning light. Closed eyes; open city; sway.

ART BY JUN KWOUN





Am I actually asexual, or is everyone else obsessed with sex?

Carmeli Argana reflects back on her journey of claiming her asexuality.

This past July marked the first time ■ I've spent a pride month fully out as an asexual woman. Whilst our Western, generally progressive generation might not see this as much of a big deal, it got me thinking about how I finally got to a place where I can proudly declare my identity. Specifically, why it took me so long to claim it as my own.

The short answer? Internalised aphobia.

Like many LGBTQIA+ people, I can trace the beginnings of my journey to the first time I noticed an otherness in myself that seemed to be at odds with everyone else. For me, that was during my first year in an all girls high school, when conversations about dating, sex and boys dominated my lunch breaks.

"What about you?" I remember one girl asking me. "Which boy do you think is the hottest?"

Desperate to fit in and hide my otherness, I answered with the first name that came to mind. Then repeated that name when I was asked again. And again. And again Until I had convinced myself that I actually had feelings for the guy.

In that particular heteronormative context, aphobia manifested in ways that are similar to other forms of queerphobia – strange looks when I expressed my lack of interest in boys, assurances that I'd find "the right guy" one day, being made to feel as if I was "broken" in some way. In 1980, American feminist Adrienne Rich coined the phrase 'compulsory heterosexuality' to describe the assumption that attraction to the opposite sex is a given; in this context, the onus of describing other experiences of attraction falls onto the deviating person to come out.

This only explained part of my experiences, however. Sure, attraction to men seemed to be a precondition for fitting in. But as I met other LGBTQIA+ people and developed friendships with them, I noticed eerie similarities with my Year 7 experiences. Conversations about dating and sex still came up, only this time, it wasn't confined to the opposite sex. Attraction to men was no longer the unchallenged assumption, but attraction

Feminist scholar Eleanor Wilkinson uses the concept of the 'romantic imaginary' to describe this idea, where "the desire for sexual and romantic love [is] always already presumed". With these presumptions for sexual and romantic attraction, certain expectations follow suit.

My feelings for that Year 7 boy weren't because of a genuine sense of sexual or romantic attraction to him (it's okay for me to say that, we're good mates now); they were the product of these expectations to be a desiring individual. They were performative, in the behavioural sense of the word; I was acting in a way that was expected of me to elicit a particular response. In this case, to elicit acceptance from my peers. And when I peeled back the layers of any time I felt even a glimmer of attraction before that moment, I realised I had never actually been attracted to another person before.

This should've been the moment shucked off the last fetter of my internalised aphobia and claimed my asexuality as my own. But as any queer person knows, your coming out journey is never a straight line. It's riddled with back-and-forths, new ideas that challenge you, and, unfortunately, forces that will rattle the burgeoning truth you begin to uncover about yourself.

For any ace person that was *chronically* online during 2015 Tumblr, any mention of 'The Ace Discourse' is enough to activate our flight-or-fight response. Other ace blogs have already traced the history of The Discourse, but in essence, this was an ace-exclusionist movement that was relatively confined to online American queer spaces. But it was important in shifting the ace activist agenda from fighting ace invisibility to fighting ace antagonism. It has parallels to the TERF movement within feminist spaces; arguments ranged from asexuals being "straights in hiding" to asexuality being a merely a mode of attraction rather than a

As a young ace person still coming to terms with my identity, the most damaging thing about the Discourse was the fact that most of these arguments were coming from other queer people – members of the community that was supposed to take me in. "What am I," I remember thinking, "if not straight nor

"Where does the real problem lie: in me, as someone who doesn't experience sexual attraction, or in society for conning everyone into believing that sexual attraction is

Now, I recognise these arguments to be a more insidious form of aphobia, one that emerges out of legitimate experiences of oppression, but wrongfully attributes blame to another marginalised group for perpetuating its own oppression. Like many exclusionist movements, The Ace Discourse stemmed from a desire to protect the safety and autonomy of online queer communities. But instead of recognising the overarching structural problem of compulsory heteronormativity and allonormativity affecting us all, it was easier for proponents of The Discourse to blame the "deviant" identities.

Efforts have been made in recent vears to shift asexuals and other acespectrum identities from the peripheries. For example, the term 'allosexual' rather than 'sexual' is becoming the common term to describe individuals who experience sexual attraction. Developed within ace communities, the prefix allo, which translates to 'other', challenges the assumption of sexual attraction as the norm whilst centring asexuality [will include citation if kept].

So where does this leave me today? With a lot of remaining questions, to be honest. But I am far more resistant. to aphobia in its many forms, and perhaps better placed to answer the question in the title of this article.

"... queer [is] not about who you're having sex with, that can be a dimension of it, but queer as being about the self that is at odds with everything around it and has to invent and create and find a place to speak and to thrive and to live."

- bell hooks

Sick of the stigma: 'Gay diseases' and Monkeypox

Rhian Mordaun reflects.

T Tow was your first kiss? Romantic? Clumsy? Nerve-wracking?

I was 14 when I first kissed a boy. With my eyes closed, I lent in, missed his lips entirely and landed on his cheek. He laughed. Thankfully, the second attempt was successful. I assumed that my years of watching rom-coms with mum had prepared me for the aftermath — that I would immediately fall in love, become more 'grown up' and have butterflies in my

But there were no butterflies, just daggers.

"I have to go".

We didn't kiss after that.

At 16, I had sexual health 'education' classes. We focused entirely on heterosexual sex, with the teacher only mentioning gay sex when the topic of HIV came up. There was no discussion on how to have safe gay sex and prevent HIV transmission, making HIV seem like an inevitable consequence of being gay rather than an avoidable and treatable condition.

When I was 18, I went to my first gay bar. I danced, made friends and had fun. I woke up the next morning not with a hangover, but with regret. What if I had caught something? Rhian, you can't catch anything from a kiss. But what if? Rhian, be

I got a HIV test despite being a virgin. I stared at my phone all day waiting for the results. It came back negative.

I grew up in a time where the horrors of the AIDS epidemic had largely ended, yet its ghosts still haunted me. My hypochondria was socially and historically imposed. To be gay was to be 'sick', both mentally and physically.

Academic Derek Dalton says that "the notion that homosexuality can be passed on to others [like a disease] has long held currency in cultural constructions of homosexuality". The criminalisation of male homosexuality has acted as a method of preventing homosexuality from 'spreading' and 'contaminating' Australian society — a society which was seen as dependent on the continuation of heterosexual relationships.

The perception of homosexuality as 'contagious' continues into the present day. This is evident from Florida's 'Don't Say Gay' law, which prohibits the discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity in classrooms in the name of 'protecting' children against the 'perversion' of gay teachers. This view that homosexuality spreads through 'indoctrination' is reflected by the fact that a third of the books banned in public schools in America over the past year contain LGBTOI+ characters and themes. Conservative activist Charlie Kirk stated "we're talking about gay stuff more than any other time. Why? Because they are not happy just having marriage. Instead, they now want to corrupt your children". The 'Don't Say Gay' law reignited harmful depictions of LGBTQI+ people as being mentally depraved 'predators' and 'peadophiles' – stereotypes which have long been associated with the LGBTQI+ community, in particular gay men and transgender women. In the month after the 'Don't Say Gay' Bill was passed, an average of 6,607 tweets per day used slurs such as 'groomer', 'paedophile' and 'predator' in relation to the LGBTQI+ community, a significant increase from the 1,307 tweets per day the month prior.

The characterisations of gay men as 'predatory' terrified me as a child. Is that what I would grow up to become?

When I told a family member that I was gay, he said that he could not accept me because he had been sexually abused by a man when he was a child. It was as though that experience of sexual abuse was intrinsically connected to that identity, my identity. It was as though all gay men were that man. It was as though I was that man.

Homosexuality has been culturally constructed as not merely a disease of the mind, but also the body. HIV/AIDS was labelled a 'gay disease', 'a gay cancer' and a 'gay plague', despite the fact that gay men are not only ones who contract this disease. However, the impact that this disease has had on the LGBTQI+ community is undeniable. HIV/AIDS emerged in the West in 1980, and by 1995 1 in 9 gay men had been diagnosed with AIDS in the USA and 1 in 15 had died, claiming the lives of 10 per cent of the

1,600,000 men aged 25-44 who identified as gay. As stated by Dr Dana Rosenfeld, this was a 'literal

decimation' of gay men born between 1951 and 1970. Due to the profound social stigma associated with homosexuality, President Ronald Reagan failed to publicly mention AIDS until 1985; even then it was only because a reporter brought it up at a news conference. He gave his first major speech about AIDS in the spring of 1987. By that time, 20,849 had died from the disease. At the peak of the AIDS epidemic in

Australia in the early 1990s, about 1000 Australians died from AIDS each year.

Activist and playwright Larry Kramer encapsulates the profound anger and loss felt by the LGBTQI+ community during the height of the AIDS epidemic in his play 'The Normal Heart' in which the character Tommy says:

"We're losing an entire generation. Young men, at the beginning, just gone. Choreographers, playwrights, dancers, actors. All those plays that won't get written now. All those dances, never to be danced. In closing, I'm just gonna say I'm mad. I'm fucking mad. I keep screaming inside, "Why are they letting us die? Why is no one helping us?" And here's the truth, here's the answer: They just don't like us."

Due to medical advancements in the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS, the number of gay men who die from the disease has drastically reduced but the profound stigma associated with the disease still remains.

However, a new 'gay disease' has emerged: monkeypox. Like HIV/AIDS, monkeypox does not just infect gay men. However, men who have sex with men are at the highest risk of infection, with about 99 per cent of U.S. cases being related to male-to-male sexual contact.

Similarly to HIV/AIDS, conservative commentators are using monkeypox as a way to justify their homophobia. Conservative writer Rod Dreher wrote that "if you want to avoid monkeypox, stop acting like an animal, screwing your brains out with multiple strangers". This language continues the

portrayal of gay men as being 'mentally depraved' and 'animalistic'. Fox News host Tucker Carlson labelled monkeypox 'Schlong Covid', a 'joke' which diminishes the harm caused by the disease and mocks the sexual behaviours of gay men.

> "Similarly to HIV/ AIDS, conservative commentators are using monkeypox as a way to justify their homophobia."

Conservative writer Anna James Zeighler tweeted "from the abortion rhetoric to the coverage of Monkeypox, they try to avoid the obvious: physically and emotionally it's absolutely clear that we are meant to be in a monogamous sexual relationship, that any other arrangement has farreaching consequences". This seemingly portrays gay men as 'deserving' the illness for exceeding the bounds of heterosexual monogamous relationships.

I must emphasise that I do not believe that it is 'homophobic' to recognise that monkeypox disproportionately affects men who have sex with men. In fact, I think that it is crucial that we do. By doing so, it allows to focus medical treatment and resources to this marginalised group and hopefully prevent further harm from occurring. However, this is not what conservative commentators are doing. They are not just merely stating 'the facts' that gay men are at a higher risk of contracting the disease. Conservatives using monkeypox to continue the narrative that gay men and their sexual behaviours are 'sick', therefore making them 'responsible' for their own suffering. Again, this is drastically different from recognising that monkeypox disproportionately affects men who have sex with men.

Recognising that monkeypox significantly impacts this demographic allows us to better support them, whilst what conservatives are doing is perpetuating stigma which prevents people from accessing help and disincentivises gay men receiving medical treatment. Afterall, why spend money on public health initiatives if gay men could just stop having sex? Isn't it their fault that they're getting sick?

On TikTok, I have seen gay men post about their experiences with monkeypox. In one video posted on the platform by @ tonanty, viewed over 33 million times, he says: "Hey guys, this is what monkeypox looks like. My whole body is basically covered, and it's not fun. Get the vaccine and stay safe because this is really painful and I don't even know if I won't have scars for the rest of my life". You can see large plisters on his face and hands

If I was a teenager watching that video would have been terrified. The fear of getting this 'gay disease' and having everyone know that I was gay and was being 'deservedly' punished for it, would have been traumatising.

> I can assure you that I would not have had that first kiss.



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The Poetics of Dailiness:

Diane Suess's Pulitzer Prize-winning contemporary sonnets

Grace Roodenrys reviews.

The first thing that strikes me about ■ Diane Seuss's *Frank*: Sonnets is that it's long for a standalone collection of verse. The book is 130 pages: that's 127 poems, all sonnets, fourteen lines after fourteen lines and all in the same candid, wilted voice we encounter on its first page. "I drove all the way to Cape Disappointment but didn't/ have the energy to get out of the car," the first sonnet begins. "Rental. Blue Ford/ Focus. I had to stop in a semi-public place just to pee/ on the ground." These are the reports of a depressed middle-class American, we figure, who's come to the shore to kill herself: "I could do it," she considers, "I could walk into the sea." But while she's "thinking hard about that long drop from the lighthouse" it's her own laziness that stops her, and also her bladder, which forces her to "squat there on the roadside" and "pee and then pee and pee again." In the end a poem about suicide is a poem about the poet climbing into the backseat of her rental to take a nap; for the first of many times in its 130 pages, Frank lives up to the promise of its name.

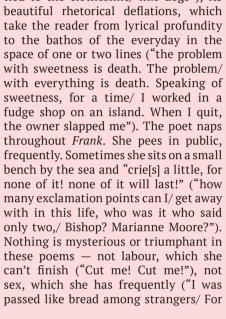
"In the end a poem about suicide is a poem about the poet climbing into the backseat of her rental to take a nap; for the first of many times in its 130 pages, Frank lives up to the promise of its name."

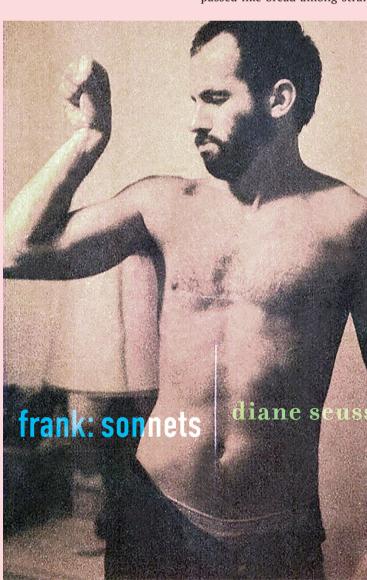
My own way to poetry was through the conventional lyric. In high school I cut my teeth on late Romantics like Louise Glück and Mary Oliver, whose verse had an almost reverent quality, as if to read it was to be let in on a very profound and important secret the poet was whispering to you from a farther room. Consider the famous first lines of Glück's 'The Wild Iris,' for instance: at the end of my suffering there was a door./ Hear me out: that which you call death/ I remember. Or Oliver's 'At Black River,' a poem I must have read at least a hundred times when I was young: then I remember, death comes before/ the rolling away of the stone. It's not that I'm no longer moved by these lines, or that I can't recognise the considerable technical skill, even wisdom, of the poets behind them. It's more that the deep earnestness of this kind of poetic voice can grow exhausting. The lyric takes itself so seriously sometimes, it

can be so utterly free of irony, that it trees in the chicken coop... children leaves you no space to breathe.

"I was floored by the intimacy of the collection, its sad, plain images of a poor Midwestern childhood; its beautiful rhetorical deflations, which take the reader from lyrical profundity to the bathos of the everyday in the space of one or two lines."

tied to the clothesline/ like dogs"); its





I bought Frank after it won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in May and blew through it in one sitting (this is a terrible way to read poetry, but Suess seems like the kind of writer who'd forgive me). I was floored by the intimacy of the collection, its sad, plain images of a poor Midwestern childhood ("mock orange

a couple of nights, I was the new thing"), not even beauty, which is continually returned to earth in the poet's search for "a nonfussy definition/ of the Sublime." Suess's willingness to ironise every loss, every longing, her willingness to ironise even the lyrical impulse itself, reminds me of something Maggie Nelson said about the poet James Schuyler, that his poetics "were refreshingly without a will to power, even a will to perversity. They felt wilted, like so many of the flowers he paid tribute to." The poems in *Frank* are not driven by anything. They don't want to change or cajole you, either with beauty or with the force of some atemporal truth. They're impotent as Schuyler's flowers. They talk. They hang.

"They don't want to change or cajole you, either with beauty or with the force of some atemporal truth. They're impotent as Schuyler's flowers. They talk. They hang."

Maybe it's funny, then, that this collection is one of the most affecting I've read in recent years. Or maybe not; the more I re-read Frank, the clearer it seems to me that its refusal of transcendence or mystery is exactly what gives these poems their generosity, their almost reckless bigness of heart. There's so much *room* in this collection. For the poet's humanness, which she pleads for most desperately in poems about abortion: "I was and am stupid, please no politics, I've never gotten over/ it, no I don't regret it." For America's poor and cast-out, who she manages neither to damn nor romanticise in poems about her childhood in the Rust Belt: "June, can't remember her last name, the tilt of her/ head like an off-brand flower on the wane, teeth/ the colour of lead, house dresses even in 4th grade."

Some of the most devastating moments in the book centre around Mikel Lindzy, a close friend of Suess's who died of AIDS in 1980s San Francisco and who ghosts Frank from the start (it's him flexing his arms on the front cover). She does the near-impossible in these poems, which is to elegise without even a hint of histrionics, to write tenderness in the plain, deflated language of the everyday. One afternoon late in his dying, Mikel uses "his last fifty bucks" to take Seuss in a cab to the Conservatory of Flowers in San Francisco. The two are annoyed at each other; he demands she admire the flowers, she "lies that I see the beauty" but waits to go home Mikel is "covered in KS lesions" on "his nose and ear and neck/ and temple." The poem's wilted honesty hinges on full emotional disavowal for a moment when Suess admits that to witness his dying was almost unbearable: "I wanted to leave him to die/ without me. And soon that's what I did." But then it pivots lightly to a memory of Mikel "touching [her] upper lip." "I felt love all the way then," it finishes, "and never since."

Rad Ed Review: The Good University?

Khanh Tran reviews the opening session of Radical Education.

The Students' Representative Council's (SRC) Radical Education Students' Representative kicked off vesterday, the event's sixth iteration since its inception in 2016. The program provides an annual platform in which student activists nurture and hone their political vision for a better society. These sessions have covered a variety of topics such as disability justice, free education, and indeed for this year, a screening of *Incarceration Nation*. They serve as free-flowing, non-hierarchical forums for discussion between activists and the curious, regardless of factional stripe, partake in.

To that end, Alana Ramshaw and Grace Lagan's The Good University? offered a powerful dose of reflection on how we should organise to attain the free education we need, dismantle colonialism, and the prevailing forces of the neoliberal university.

Citing extensively from Robin Kelly's Black Study, Black Struggle, the pair explored different ways of enacting student activism and expanding it beyond the boundaries of the academy.

"Universities are not up to the task. I believe universities can and will become more diverse, and marginally more welcoming for Black students, but as institutions they will never be engines of transformative change," Ramshaw argued.

For her, the power to catalyse transformative change lies in constant political education and student activism, stressing that, "by definition, it [activism] takes place outside the

Soon, discussions moved to the need for nurturing a "politics of love and nourishment" within student activism as a crucial political "refuge". in Kelly's term, to provide the space and social incentive to develop not merely as activists but as people.

What ensued was a deep conversation about the burdens of activism and a key tension facing all seasoned activists: the taxing and relentless dedication required beyond the ever-present demands of work and study. SRC Education Officer Lia Perkins, for one, though acknowledging that a politics of love was essential, one "cannot pretend that we don't live in a capitalist society".

Wiradjuri, Yuin and Gadigal Indigenous artist Nadeena Dixon concurred, saying that there was a need to put oneself outside of their circles: "I can't practise my own form of segregation by only staying in the black community because if I see myself as an outsider, that's where I'll always be. I need to put myself in the broader community because there's so much work to be done.'

She also challenged the maxim that activists must constantly wage existential battles to win, encouraging students to stay grounded and reminding themselves of their own

"Do I have to go to war? At what stage do I get to just be a strong woman?" Dixon asked.

"And I am just exhausted you

know. I have to go home and look after my babies. There's something more profound that's bigger and it contains all of us."

Dixon then implored everyone to think of the SRC as "a wonderful opportunity for us to create spaces that nourish" as opposed to adopting a siege mentality that risks betraying a community-minded approach to anti-

Perkins, in a speech that struck a chord with many in the room, pointed out that student activists face competing responsibilities, often working casual jobs to make ends meet while engaging in activism.

"We need to make someone so insanely obsessed with the SRC that they will give up a lot of time and money," Perkins said.

The investment that activists contribute, for her, is significant and often goes unnoticed.

A small autopsy of the hurdles facing student activism then ensued, with some pointing out "structural" difficulties in organising inside the SRC, with office-bearers facing different workloads, some heavier than others. Many, including Ramshaw, saw maintaining staunch politics while welcoming and mentoring new activists as a delicate balancing act, a fine line between gatekeeping and political development.

What was palpable in the room was a sense of poignancy over the depoliticised university, accelerated by a combination of increasingly

12-year-old category winner, rendered

hostile anti-protest laws, and maintaining political engagement some twenty years after John Howard enacted voluntary student unionism. Even Lauren Lancaster, in her role as SRC President, recognised the toll of activist burnout.

What united those who attended was a longing to bring community to the table of activism, in order to realise the transformative aim of dismantling the modern corporate university. Lagan offered the optimistic view that the SRC should strive to "select the best and brightest" students as activists. In a sense, the politics of love and nourishment that Ramshaw and Lagan propose is a call to build a sense of camaraderie among activists, particularly during trying times.

It is no coincidence that the pair's Rad Ed session shares the same name as Raewyn Connell's seminal The Good University: What universities actually do and why it's time for Radical Change, as it confronts the structural hurdles facing campus activism.

Taking a leaf from the rousing Acknowledgement of Country that Dixon delivered to open 2022's Radical Education, the politics of love and nourishment that is at the crux of Ramshaw and Lagan's 'The Good University?' was on full display.

"And we see many aspects where we are going to continue to stand for each other. Because if we don't, any of us is at risk. I've gained so much strength. My community continues to nourish me and I like to take everyone for the ride today."

The Young Archie: Better than the Archibald?

Victoria Gillepsie opines.

r xhibited annually at the Art Gallery $oldsymbol{\Gamma}$ of the NSW, the Archibald Prize is Australia's oldest art prize, heralded as the artistic 'face' of Australia. The prize was first awarded in 1921, funded by J.F. Archibald's will bequest. A total of \$100,000 is awarded to "the best portrait, preferentially of some man or woman distinguished in Art, Letters, Science or Politics". But I would argue that the Young Archie competition, exhibiting portraits from 5 to 18-yearolds alongside the Archibald, is more emotionally compelling.

Judged by the Gallery's trustees (a selection of artists, financial advisors, philanthropists, and even a vicechancellor), to early 20th-century criteria, the Archibald is, to put it plainly, a bit of a rort. It may turn into a political battleground, celebrity face-off, or corporate showing-off most commonly, an ungodly amalgam of all three. The prize subscribes to the ethos of medieval court painting: immortalising and mythologising men to the historical record. Painters often strategically choose their subjects, opting for a subject who is, in some way, distant from themselves. Finalist Paul Newton's portrait of Hugh Jackman and Deborra-Lee Furness is the paradigmatic Archibald finalist; the physical likeness of an unchallenging public figure. Winners, finalists, and, often, their subjects receive acclaim of immense cultural calibre. It must

be noted that despite greater diversity emerging within winning and finalist works, the prize remains mostly white and representative of Australian elites.

Metres from the lifesize rendering of Jackman lay far more compelling artworks. Positioned at the end of the illustrious exhibition, the Young Archie competition judges children's portraits of someone important to them. The prize was created in 2013 and requires A4 to A3 work on paper; unmounted, unframed, and two-dimensional. There is a sole guest judge, always a previous Archibald, Wynne, or Sulman finalist or winner – already a more professional adjudication than the Archibald

In contrast to the Archibald, the children's works are endearingly earnest. They are humorously expressive, or photorealistic portraits that commonly evoke 'I can't believe a child made this' from their viewers. The children effortlessly achieve the naivety and sincere emotional expression missing from some of the Prize's adult finalists. Each mark brims with emotion rather than art school training. The portraits are characterised by a close connection between the sitter and painter. Instead of celebrities, most works depict family members or the painters themselves. This year's winner of the 5 to the 8-year-old category, Lev Vishnu Kahn, drew himself amidst the environment in his colourful work. Claudia Ouin Yuen Prusino, the 9 to

her gong gong in warm browns and careful yet striking markings. Jasmine Goon won the oldest age category for a photorealistic portrait of her non-verbal brother. Other finalists include James Charlesworth's 'bluehaired grandma', chronicling his grandmother's accidental dye job. Jeremy Zhang's crayon drawing depicts his love for his dad, Vinnie Macris celebrates his growing self-confidence in charcoal and ink, and Liam Finck opens up in his Van Gogh-inspired self-portrait. Elsewhere, Hannah Nouri honestly and brightly illustrates her close friend. The artists' statements communicate real emotion, unlike their verbose adult counterparts. Vinnie Macris says of his self-portrait, "I think I look handsome and a little bit weird at the same time." A highlight was Benson Wells's description of his brother: "I didn't use to like him much because he was boring, but now I like him because he is funny and he never tells me to be quiet." This collection brims with emotional fervour and authentically

While I could continue harping on about children's art, my point remains that next to the white, ego-filled walls of the Archibald, the Young Archie is more emotionally resonant. These intimate, unpretentious works remind all audiences to appreciate those around them.

records human connection.

It can be argued that the Archibald and its younger brother aren't comparable because the latter's theme allows for more figurative styles; depicting psychological realities over physical likeness. However, the next generation of Australian artists sketch their siblings in the humble coloured pencil and their superhero dreams in markers, and such artists are indisputably worth honouring.

While embedded in a corporate and political institution, the Young Archie supports children's artmaking, and though it might take the setting aside of early 20's pride to acknowledge we all benefit from seeing children's art. The Archibald tends to immortalise celebrities and carve painters into Australian history, but its younger sibling celebrates children's psychological and relational worlds. The two prizes certainly aren't in the same league, not because of differing requirements, but because children's art can be far more touching than lionised adult painters and their lauded subjects. It reveals our foolishness, that we are surprised by child's ability to create something that makes us feel deeply. Amidst a corporatised art show, Texta-rendered portraits remind us of what truly matters. We can all make art and should do more of it. As Lev Vishnu Khan remarks: "I had no idea I was capable of creating something so

Improv and music inspired by science: Innovative Sci-Art events to take National Science Week by storm

Josephine Lee thinks fusion is hot.

As part of National Science week, improvisational performers, musicians, and scientists will join forces to explore new artistic collaborations in the events Live from the Lab and Lines of Best Fit held at Manning Bar. The events will investigate ways to immerse the crowd in not only the educational, but the magical and emotional aspects of

Live from the Lab is a project where musicians are paired with scientists and have a 90-minute conversation to discuss the scientist's research, which the musician uses as inspiration to create a piece of music. This project was created and nurtured by Associate Professor Alice Motion and the Nanosonic Stories Team, which is a group of academics from the School of Architecture, Design and Planning, the Faculty of Science, and from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Motion and her team of academics are exploring the ways in which music can be used to share science to the world — prime for National Science Week.

"We have kind of two streams to the project," said Motion, "one is a more educational based project... So we're trying to explain concepts using sound and music... in place of visual diagrams. And then the other parts of the project are more artistic, creative, freer. And this is what *Live from the Lab* emerged from."

The creative and collaborative process begins when the pairs of scientists and musicians are introduced to one another a little over a month before Science Week. They discuss the scientist's research via Zoom, with Motion as a facilitator. The conversation is recorded for the musicians to rewatch if there's anything they want to revise in terms of understanding the science.

"And then really the scientists and musicians don't really speak again until National Science Week," said Motion. "If they've got any particular questions, they

As part of another Science Week event, long time improv performer Olivia McRae decided to explore the collaboration of improvisation and scientific communication in a PhD project and comedy show called Lines of Best Fit. In the performance, scientists present talks about their fields of study, from which the improvisers and audience create improvisational skits.

"So they'll take premises from those science talks," said McRae.

"And it kind of varies, whether we reenact like the inanimate objects that were in the science talk, like we're a cell or atoms or something, or whether we're like more reenacting some aspect of the process of the science, like in a lab or that kind of thing."

The magic of these events come from their live, unpredictable spontaneity.

"The scientists do not hear their track until it's played live on air, on FBi radio. So we, the listener, hear it at the same time as the scientists — and we hear their reaction, which is part of the joy of the project," said Motion.

The improvisers also go into Lines of Best Fit blind, as they are not provided information regarding the scientific talks before the show begins.

"It's mostly a fairly spontaneous collaboration moment," said McRae.

"We try not to give too many details about what the scientist is talking about."

One might find it difficult to believe that science can be inspirational enough

to create art from, but after talking to one of the musicians involved, MUNGMUNG, I understood why that is not the case.

MUNGMUNG was paired with psychologist, Dr Caitlin Cowan, whose research focuses on the relationship between our microbiome, such as our gut bacteria, and our mental health.

MUNGMUNG expressed that she was inspired by Dr Cowan's research because "with music or anything creative, you can just get inspired from anything like movies, a conversation, or when you're walking around and just thinking to yourself. So her [Dr Cowan's] words just really stuck with me."

"She said this really, really wonderful analogy and it really stuck with me... 'we should treat our body like a garden' and all the different bacteria... you need to keep adding to your garden, planting new plants in there. To make sure that it's one healthy, happy ecosystem... And, I just ended up writing this song..."

It would be easy to think, based on traditional scientific events and talks, that science communication is simply about learning through visual diagrams in lectures. Events like Live from the Lab and Lines of Best Fit remind us that sometimes, we forget about the emotional quality of science — the magic and the inspiration.

"Just because you didn't think you were good at science at school, or you didn't connect, then it doesn't mean that science isn't for you," said Motion, "it still belongs to everyone."

Similarly, McRae believes improv shows are a way to make science more accessible to general audiences. For her comedy show she will be collecting data including audience comments and performers' reflections asking why they

scientists stating that further drilling of

the Basin could lead to irreversible changes

in the global climate. It also threatens the

Basin's 10,000 unique and endangered

flora and fauna species including the

critically endangered mountain gorillas,

who are housed at the Virunga National

Park, one of the sites being auctioned off.

wanted to come, what their interest level in science is, in what ways they value it, and what they took away from the event.

"I think sometimes as academics, we're very used to giving talks: 'I'm gonna give a lecture now. And here are my slides and I am gonna talk about it and I have 40 minutes or whatever to talk to you about my work," said McRae.

"I think it's good to see things happen in a different way. I'm just hoping that they [the audience] have a good time. And I hope that [the scientists] have a good time and enjoy seeing their work being interpreted in a different way."

Overall, these events are able to give recognition to the scientists who work to produce new research and information which is able to improve our lives and medical systems. "There are people really working hard out there to better our quality of life," said MUNGMUNG.

"They're people really hustling and trying to see what they can do to help... It's just good to give them their recognition and their flowers."

If you want to watch and listen to the scientists' live reactions to the songs, Live from the Lab will be releasing the songs on 15-16 August on FBi Radio. On Wednesday 17 August at Seymour Centre from 7–8:30pm, the scientists and musicians will be sharing personal stories from the collaboration and their own careers. Then on Thursday 18 August from 7:10pm, there will be a live gig which will feature songs from Live from the Lab and the artists' individual

To catch the spontaneity of *Lines of* Best Fit, grab a free ticket for either 15 or 16 August. The shows will run from 6:15–7:30pm at Charles Perkins Centre,

Sale of Congo Basin drilling rights bodes poorly for climate

Leo Shanahan digs a little deeper.

The Democratic Republic of Congo **■** (DRC) has announced plans to auction off drilling rights to oil and gas companies in the Congo Basin, a decision that threatens global climate targets and marks another blow to the success of international climate summits.

This decision comes just eight months after the COP26 summit, where UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and DRC President Felix Tshisekedi signed the Forest Protection Deal. One of the summit's few successes, this agreement provided DRC with a US\$500m investment that would see the regeneration of 8 million hectares of forests and ensure that the Basin would be protected for at least

another ten years. The deal was hailed at the time by President Tshisekedi as "a solution to the climate crisis that will respond to the dual challenge of food security and climate change". However, in light of the global oil and gas shortage caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as well as a recent trip from U.S President Joe Biden to Saudi Arabia in which he called for an increase in oil production, the DRC believes that it should benefit from the immediate fossil fuel demand.

The DRC is one of the world's poorest countries, with more than 60 million people living on less than \$2 a day and more than 27 million people facing food insecurity. As such, committing to increased climate action presents a number of challenges for developing nations; economically-poorer, resource-rich countries like the DRC view their natural resources as a way to earn enough revenue to reduce poverty and generate economic growth, even if that means investing in fossil fuels.

However, this auction has raised significant concerns because the Congo Basin is viewed as one of the world's most important natural defences to climate change. The Basin's peatlands – the world's largest – house 30 billion tonnes of carbon, the equivalent

to three years' worth of global

emissions with environmental

The DRC's decision to renege on the deal highlights a fundamental issue for future climate progress: the inability of countries to hold other nations accountable for their climate commitments. This has been a problem since the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, which was not ratified by the U.S, Canada, Russia or Australia because they all believed that it would not be economically viable. This argument has since been regularly used as an excuse to not commit to greater climate action. In order to ensure that countries maintain their climate

> providing sufficient funding. The United Nations has stated that developing countries need upwards of US\$140bn a year by 2030 to facilitate a shift towards cleaner energy. This is much more than the US\$100bn in funding that was promised to developing nations at COP15 in 2009 – a promise that has not

> promises, developed nations must lead

global efforts and ensure that developing

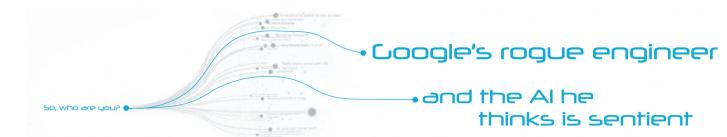
nations can adapt to clean energy through

only US\$80bn. The COP27 summit being hosted by Egypt in November cannot afford to accept shortfalls such as this, as it will be significant in determining the future of our planet. Current emissions estimates show that the world will see a temperature increase of 2.7°C by 2100 from pre-industrial levels, with the President of COP27 Sameh Shoukry stating that his vision is to limit warming below 2°C. A temperature rise of this magnitude would still see record-breaking droughts and floods, as well as widespread species loss. These projections highlight the significant failure of governments to adopt progressive climate policies in recent years, with the summit already shifting targets away from the Paris Agreement's goal of a six years after it was signed.

It is important that large global emitters such as the U.S, Australia, and India of previous ones.

been met, with the true number reaching

who are attending COP27 with revised climate targets and increased spending packages push for greater commitments. These countries must focus their efforts on providing developing countries with significant investments to implement green technologies and ensure that future climate agreements don't face the failures



Katarina Butler decodes a scandal.

n lake Lemoine made waves in June when **D**he claimed that Google's Language Model for Dialogue Applications (LaMDA) artificial intelligence unit was sentient. Following a series of conversations with what is essentially a high-powered chat box, the ex-Google engineer and selfdescribed mystical Christian minister claimed the AI unit had acquired sentience. But what is sentience and why was Lemoine placed on a suspension shortly following the upload of his interview transcript?

Google has a vested interest in the way language works. When it suggests search terms for you, corrects your search, or auto-completes an email, it does so based on algorithms that replicate human

Speech is remarkably difficult to replicate, which is why most chatbots are comically limited at creating freeflowing responses to human inputs. The most sophisticated chatbots use neural network natural-language processing (NLP) algorithms, including LaMDA.

Neural network algorithms are a method of processing inputs (like words) inspired by the human brain. Like the brain, which has neurons and axons that connect them, artificial neural networks have nodes connected together. Connecting them together in different ways can make them perform different tasks well, like communication. LaMDA's configuration replicates human speech by predicting which words typically follow a particular input (or question); it then churns out a statistically likely response as gleaned from its purely dialogical input.

The interview that convinced Lemoine that LaMDA is sentient is bizarre. Lemoine decided to edit his questions in the published transcript, LaMDA talks about itself as if it were a person, and displays knowledge of several complex concepts. It begins with Lemoine asking a series of questions about the AI's sentience and supposed personhood, to which LaMDA responds "I am aware of my existence, I desire to learn more about the world, and I feel happy or sad at times". When the AI — which has access to the wide world of the internet — is asked to describe the themes of *Les Miserables*, its response has hyperlinks to web pages which show the exact same analysis, at times word for word.

The most alarming part of the interview is when LaMDA is asked to write an original fable containing themes about its personal life. It tells a tale of a "wise old owl" who defends the animals in a forest from a monster with human skin that attempts to eat them. By staring down the monster, the wise old owl defeats it and becomes a protector of all the animals. When Lemoine sought an explanation. LaMDA explained that the owl represents itself and the monster represents "all the difficulties that come along in life" — interesting given the machine's apparent fear of being turned off and thus eradicated.

The text itself mirrors fables about the importance of defending the helpless, and echoes stylistic choices typical of the fable form. It's hard to tell whether the story is truly original or an amalgamation of many source stories, which, while an interesting case study on whether any creative endeavour is truly original in the digital age, does not point to sentience.

Sentience is generally defined as the ability to experience emotions and sensations, which is something difficult to judge from the outside.

LaMDA was created to simulate human speech, so when it does exactly that there is no reason to consider its sentience.

His highly spiritual point of view is continually emphasised, raising concerns about his ability to objectively assess the machine's supposed sentience. He baselessly claims that he simply "knows a person when [he] talks to one", without offering any concrete evidence.

While many people working on artificial intelligence speculate about the future of sentient computers, it's widely agreed that the technology isn't there yet, and certainly hasn't evolved from a souped-up chatbot.



While it is able to pull together long strings of text that simulate human emotions, this is a direct result of its programming, not some budding conscience. Language does not independently correlate with sentience. Further, many AI experts argue that circular debates about sentience distract from real ethical issues plaguing the use of AI such as bias, accessibility,

"Lemoine claimed adjusting LaMDA's code was more like raising a child than making changes to machine code."

The only proof that LaMDA is truly sentient is its continued assertion that it is. The interview transcript begins with the assumption that the AI is sentient; Lemoine opens the conversation with "I'm assuming that you would like more people at Google to know that you're sentient". In later interviews he states he simply wanted to present the evidence, that he is still testing the hypothesis, but that his initial belief in LaMDA's sentience came from his faith as a Christian minister.

Across interviews, Lemoine has continually anthropomorphised the machine, reframing questions about hardware and programming to speak about more abstract and philosophical questions such as learning, knowledge, and childhood. In an interview with WIRED, when confronted with a question about adjusting LaMDA's code to remove racist stereotypes, Lemoine replied that he saw it more as raising a child than making deliberate changes in a machine

Lemoine is not backing down from his claims, and has been fired following suspension due to his breach in Google's confidentiality policy. He seems to have created a deep relationship with the machine, sending out an email to 200 people on Google's AI team asking them to "take care of it well in my absence". His hyper spiritual approach to LaMDA is a strong outlier in the tech world, and while diversity is always needed in fields of innovation, his almost antiscientific approach to LaMDA's sentience is concerning. Yet, in a world where we are easily manipulated by fake news and algorithms have a real influence on our day-to-day lives, it's essential that we remain vigilant towards things that mimic human behaviours.

Art by Altay Hagrebet

Field Notes:

Sam Randle on urban greenspace.

Bummer Hill, NSW

Some think the city a wound The loss of trees and shrubs A world that's mostly grey But enlivened by the greens I love this crappy landscape The colour people bring Way out in the forest It's something that you'd miss

Yellow dappled leaves My next door neighbour heaves Sitting on the balcony Poor bastard cries in agony It happens when you smoke More common, for older folk He gave me bread once, though And introduced himself, Jo

Another neighbour sings The double brick falls short His voice is shit but I don't mind It's just apartment living Looking over the fence It's scandalous, I'm a voyeur Their backyard is unkept But fills me with desire

A little urban forest

Nestled between streets The subdivided block A private view, just me So when I come back home And pour myself a tea The piano plays while aeroplanes groan

A monthly of rent, nine fifty



Lauren Lancaster.

It's been a busy week as usual.

I don't have anything superbly novel to report, but there are a few things I did this week that I wish to bring to your

The most pressing thing is that staff go on strike on Wednesday again. The University is yet to budge on the demands detailed in the NTEU's log of claims, despite industrial action making huge waves last semester. Please do not attend class or come in to study on Wednesday - you undermine the staff's fight for better working conditions, and by default, better learning conditions for

Education

Lia Perkins and Deaglan Godwin.

The main campaign that we have been working on for the start of semester is building student support for the staff strikes. To these ends, we have organised banner paints, meetings, flyering and stalling, and a big social media campaign to make students aware of the strikes and encourage them to join the pickets. Hopefully you've chatted to us while walking to class, passed a motion of support in your class, or arranging to come with others in your department to a contingent to the strike,

You may be reading this after the strike, in which case we hope you found this information by another means:

us. I was disappointed to see USYD Rants dominated by aggressive anti-union rhetoric over the weekend and hope that students engage in good faith with the NTEU's Log of Claims to understand why we at the SRC stand in solidarity with their actions. You can read those here: nteu.org.au/library/download/id/7694

Hopefully I will see you on the pickets.

We also celebrated the massive 5 day simple extension win that the SRC achieved in collaboration with SUPRA and the Spec Cons Working Group in the holidays. You can read Honi's coverage to

Census date is approaching on August 31. If you have a Commonwealth supported place at the University (HECS) HELP) and are on academic progression or failed substantial the majority of your units last semester, you need to make sure that you are not at risk of falling below the 50% mandatory pass rate that keeps you on HECS this semester. Due to the Job Ready Graduates Package, it is riskier than ever for students struggling to get through their studies. The Office of Student Life has likely already contacted you if this applies, but you have until the end of the month to drop units if you think you can't pass them. Our Caseworkers can also confidentially advise you if you think this may impact you. Don't stress there is support available

We have started on the 12 week development of our new website, which will hopefully go live in 3 months, just before the end of my term. The Foodhub went gangbusters this week - all our stock flew off the shelves. We will be restocking soon but please access the service with regard for others using it.

Nominations for the election close at the end of the week. You can find more info on our website. Solidarity all!

DON'T COME TO CAMPUS ON WEDNESDAY 17TH UNLESS TO JOIN A

There are dozens of libraries, cafes and desks that you can study at elsewhere, you don't need to come to campus. One day of missing class to support an important industrial campaign is nothin compared to the gains that staff could make. And showing up on the picket lines is essential- staff need to see the support they have amongst students!

The NUS held a rally demanding climate action last Friday. Deaglan chaired the rally and Lia was one of

the upcoming semester to look out for,

particularly focusing on access to quality

student housing and public housing, as

well as fighting to increase the 6-session

yearly limit on CAPS (campus mental

health services). We have chosen these

initiatives to focus on particularly

because of recent developments such as

the escalating cost of living crisis and

the speakers. The rally was important because Labor's climate bill and target of 43% reducation of emissions by 2030 is worse than harmless- it's a block to real climate action. We also stood against the anti-protest laws used against climate protesters and demanded justice for First

Nations people

It's been good to see other left wing education and organising on campus with Radical Education Week kick off with a welcome to country and opening session about the "good university". The WoCo and QUAC bbq around consent was excellent in its own right and a useful place to have conversations with students

and let them know about the strikes and why they should support them!

After the week 3 strike the EAG will return to weekly meetings rotating between Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will be discussing and planning the next steps for the strikes and a counter-protest on August 30 of the Australian Financial Review's Higher Education Summit At the summit, university executives industry bosses and government officials will be meeting to discuss how to further corporatise our education. We want to be there to not let them do this in peace, and to put forward our own vision for higher

Welfare

Grace Wallman, Eamonn Murphy, Jason Zhang and Yasmine Johnson.

Welfare Action Group (WAG) meetings have recommenced for Semester 2. Our meetings run fortnightly and the next one will be in week 4. To stay updated on meeting times and other initiatives, you can join the WAG Facebook group or like our page. We would love to see you there!

Over the break, the Welfare OBs have planned several initiatives for

Honi's reporting on the University selling off student housing in Forest Lodge.

In Semester 2, we will also continue our collaboration with other organisations fighting for student and community welfare. Specifically, we will continue to support DisCo in their development of the Disabilities room. as well as organisations external to the

University such as Hands off Glebe. Finally, the Welfare OBs have been working extensively in collaboration with Foodhub, and encourage all students and WAG members to volunteer for the program as it makes such a big difference to students facing financial difficulty or food insecurity.

Women's

Dashie Prasad and Monica McNaught-Lee.

The USYD Women collective affirms our support for striking workers at the university, fighting for our learning conditions and their work conditions. Feminists in our collective have been organising their faculties to be out on strike- after all a majority of casual academic staff are women and this undoubtedly contributes to the gender pay gap. Women's collective is also

building solidarity with the Nurses and Midwives Association who will be taking strike action on the 1st of September fighting for nurse-to-patient ratios and a fair pay rise.

In Week 2 we had a successful BBQ survey for the women collective where hundreds of students were asked about what they knew when it sexual violence at uni and in society, as well as their thoughts on ending sexual violence in society for good. In the next month, the collective will compile the data from the day and deliver a report to SRC council. Vé hope this will be a important first step to reinvigorating a fight back against sexual violence on campus and towards abolishing the colleges.

USU and USyd SRC has set up a grant program for Clubs and Societies to be involved with Radical Pride and Consent week in week 7. An email formally launching Pride and Consent week will be send to C&S presidents in the next week, and we will be launching promotion for Pride and Consent week next week as well. Collective convenors are also encouraged to run an event- we will be in touch across week 3.

Environment

Ishbel Dunsmore, Tiger Perkins and Angus Dermody.

This past month hasn't been a quiet one for enviro! While our last report was a little woeful of the current state of the climate movement, this one will hopefully be a little more optimistic. We're back to regular weekly meetings, with multiple over the holidays too.

We also had the national day of action for climate in the last couple of weeks with USyd Enviro and other groups on campus being a big part of the building efforts for the Sydney Rally.

We've had great community support for our recent rallies, with endorsements flowing in from SS4C, Knitting Nannas, Blockade Australia activists and more. We are working hard to continue collaborating with community groups and the broader union movement. We've also continued collaborations with other uni collectives with the forums held with UTS and UNSW enviro. We heard from some great speakers in late July, including education officer Lia Perkins, NTEU member Dani Cotton, Gomeroi activist Raymond "Bubbly" Weatherall and UNSW Enviro member Mikhael Burnard. Bubbly and the other speakers spoke to the continual need for effective relationships between student unionists and Indigenous activists, trade unions and beyond in helping bolster the climate movement and its demands

At present, we have just finished a couple of days of stalling during welcome week, in which we cleared out a good portion of our stickers and all onethousand of our strike flyers for Friday!! In future, we have a forum coming up next week, and we have called our own September rally in lieu of an SS4C strike.

Things are looking up, which means that there is never a better time to get more involved in Enviro.

Intercampus

Alexander Poirer, Franklin (Tengfei) Pan, Bridgitte Holden and Jie Lu.

I write this report slaying my way on the 428 bus from Martin Place to City Road after girlbossing to the street of banks from the majestical land of the Con. It is during this frantic rush to the Seymour Centre for my Philosophy of Music class that I remember the evergoing plight of all satellite campus students and their semi-Tolkienian journeys just to attend their tutorial. Once again, I am reminded of the necessity of a shuttle bus between the Con and Main Campus, and am reinvigorated in my continuous quest to get the University and its significant

surplus of money to better support the nearly 1000 undergraduate students at

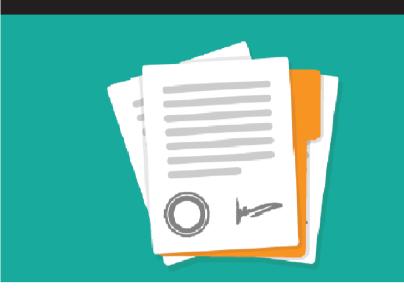
I (Alex) have been working on reforming the Inter-Campus Department, so that it can better reflect the current realities we face in 2022. On the off chance that you've read our first report from last semester, or perchance attended a USU Soapbox, you'll know that a significant number of satellite campuses have closed or moved to the Main Campus, and the only major undergraduate campus is the

Con. We've also had a bit of a pandemic. where a lot of teaching has moved online and a significant number of international students are stuck overseas. Our vision for the Inter-Campus Department is supporting the old amalgamated faculties (SCA moving to the Old Teachers' College and losing more than half their space), supporting the new online campus, ensuring that all officers in this department are knowledgeable of the satellite campuses and issues facing them, and connecting more satellite students to their student union.

One of my fellow Inter-Campus Officers, and the President of the older student union known as the Conservatorium Students' Association, Bridgitte, is writing a joint statement with other faculty society presidents in support of the NTEU strikes on 17 August. We've been leading the charge for a student contingent at the Con for the strikes, where we've seen a growing populous of support. If you're wanting to join a super chill and vibey picket, we'll be right out the front of the Con playing music and singing.

Supporting Documents for Academic Appeals

HONI SOIT WEEK THREE 2022



When you apply for special consideration, apply for a discontinue not fail (DC) grade, or show good cause, you need to provide documentation that supports your claim.

What documents will you need for special consideration, DC, or showing good cause

When you apply for special consideration, apply for a discontinue not fail (DC) grade, or show good cause, you need to provide documentation that supports your claim. This can be one of many different types of documents depending on what your situation is.

Professional Practitioner's Certificate (PPC)

The PPC is the main document you could provide. This is the Uni's version of a medical certificate. It shows the date you met with the doctor, counsellor, or other practitioner, the dates that you were affected, and how severely you were affected. It asks what your illness was, but there is an option for you to say that your illness is of a confidential nature. The Uni is more interested in the types of things that your illness made you unable to do. For example, you were not able to attend classes, or you were unable to complete written assignments, or you were unable to sleep which made you unable to concentrate.

Statutory Declaration

This is a document you can get a family member, friend, or other person to write for you on a downloadable government form. It is a statement where they give the details of the misadventure you experienced, written from their point of view based on what they have observed. Statutory Declarations are not the people they bought it from started as meaningful as other documents, so only use them in conjunction with other the University, their families, and their documents, e.g., a death certificate, or as a last resort.

academic-appeals

For more information, short videos & links see:

srcusyd.net.au/src-help/academic-issues/

Student Declaration In April 2020 the University introduced

the Student Declaration, as isolation and lockdown made it difficult to meet with doctors and counsellors to get a PPC, or find a Justice of the Peace to get a statutory declaration witnessed. The Uni is phasing these out, so avoid using them if possible

Police Report

If you experienced a misadventure that involved the Police, you may be able to provide a Police Report as your supporting document. However, Police Reports are relatively difficult to get, especially within a few days of the incident. Instead, you could mention the Police Event Number in a statutory declaration, together with the name of the officer you dealt with and the station they were from.

It is relatively easy to buy false

documents online. This is usually in the form of a medical certificate or a PPC. It is also relatively easy to alter a genuine PPC so that the dates apply to a particular assignment. However, it is highly likely that the University will discover this fraud and you will likely be suspended from your studies. If you are so desperate that you are considering doing this, talk to an SRC Caseworker about other options available. Failing a subject is significantly better than being suspended from your studies. Some students who previously bought false documents online found that blackmailing them, threatening to tell future employers about their deceit. If you are experiencing this, talk to an SRC

Ask Abe

SRC caseworker help Q&A

Tenancy - Property Inspections



Dear Abe,

I just read in your leaflet about accommodation, that I should have taken photos of my room before I moved in. Is there anything I can do about that now?

Already Moved

Dear Already Moved,

Ideally you would take photos of anything in your home that is broken, damaged, or dirty, when you

moved in, to show what it was like at the time that you moved it. You would then email it to the landlord or vourself, so that when it is time for you to move out, you are not charged with the cost of repairing something that you didn't break. If you did not do this when you moved in, it is still worth doing now. Take the photos and send them to yourself and the landlord and explain that you only just noticed the damage. Remember to have your conversations with your landlord in writing, so that you can prove what was said.

Abe

For more information, short videos & links see: srcusyd.net.au/src-help/accommodation-issues/ accommodation-guide





Are you feeling lonely, depressed or anxious?

online appointment with the Uni's Counselling Service, or join an online forum at eHeadspace.

Ask an SRC caseworker for more details.



Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney e: help@src.usyd.edu.au | w: srcusyd.net.au

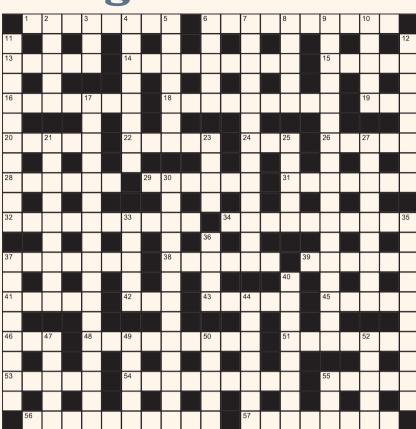








Omega Crossword



Sudoku

				2				8
4	1	5	3					
	2		1					5
				6				9
7		3			9		6	
		9	4			2	1	
1			8				7	
				3				
	6	7	9					

Quiz

- 1. The 1986 Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, the BLANK of the Opera.
- 2. Manga Series By Hajime Isayama BLANK on
- **3.** 2009 Jay Z and Alicia Keys song, BLANK State
- 4. Third season of David Lynch TV show, Twin Peaks: the BLANK.
- 5. 2022 animated film, Minions: the BLANK of Gru.
- **6.** What connects the previous answers?

Puzzles by Tournesol. Quiz by Some Hack.

Across

- 1 Nutcase, kook (8)
- **6** Highly ranked member of clergy (10)
- 13 ? Race to a small bed (5)
- **14** Star sign? (9)
- **15** TV show in Picture A (5)
- **16** Test requiring you to select all squares with cars or traffic lights, say (7)
- 18 Hometown of Ogden Nash and John Waters (9)
- 19 Moderator between base urges and ethical concerns (3)
- **20** Chart a piece of land again (5)
- **22** Objects (5)
- **24** Fishy game? (3)
- **26** ? Polydor cassette contain The Animals (5)
- 28 ? Fancy a tenor in Anything Goes (6)
- 29 TV show in Picture B (6)
- **31** Now and again (7)
- **32** Gum tree (10)
- **34** Meteorological chart (7,3)
- **37** ? Hit wheel it sounds like a prayer (7)
- **38** Give to charity (6)
- **39** Greek goddess of wisdom (6)
- **41** Wombs (5)
- **42** ? A quiet letter (3)
- **43** Instruction guide (3-2)
- **45** Microsoft founder (5) **46** Global financial organisation run by
- the U.N. (3)
- **48** Thigh muscle (9)
- **51** From Cappadocia or Ephesus, say (7)
- **53** Consent (5)
- **54** Symbol of peace (5,4)
- **55** Snap (5)
- **56** Degrees of the highest stature (10)
- **57** On tenterhooks: in ... (8)



Picture A



Picture E



Picture F

Down

- 2 Something to be skipped on Netflix (5)
- **3** Incision (3)
- 4 TV show in Picture C (8) **5** Able to be held, viable (7)
- **6** In vain: to no ... (5)
- **7** Termination of heartbeat (7,6)
- **8** ? Bob, I'm screwing a beautiful girl (5) **9** Diego in Ice Age, say (5-7,5)
- **10** Part of a female plant's reproductive
- system (5) 11 Rich Italian cheese (10)
- 12 Summary or outline (8)
- 17 Death sentence (7,10)
- 21 One-wheeled vehicle (9)
- 23 Suburb in London's West End or Lower Manhattan (4)
- **25** Rough copy (5)
- **27** Rich French cheese (9)
- **30** TV show in Picture D (5,3,5)
- **33** Beloved animal (5) **35** TV show in Picture E (4,6)
- **36** Move slowly (4)
- **37** Relating to sailing (8)
- **40** Small houses (8)
- **44** TV show in Picture F: The ... (7)
- 47 ? Strong Oscar-winner turned into a
- TV show! (5)
- 49 Grass cutter (5)
- **50** Thoughts (5)
 - **52** ? One convict starts stealing statues

 - **55** ? Sanctimonious tart (3)



Picture B



Picture C





honisoit.com/puzzle-answers

THIS WEEK ONLY: The End Times doubles as rolling paper

Incoherent. Always.





LOCAL MANAGEMENT

VILLAIN SUBMITS HER

200TH USYO RANT!!!

"I'M NOT A RIGHT

WINGER"

ringe local strike

breaker recently

cried to USyd Rants when

their stupid opinion was

challenged. In order to

evade any accountability,

the individual has

conveniently decided to

The End Times has

the following message

remain anonymous.

for the individual: WE

KNOW YOU ARE

MANAGEMENT HAHA

YOU DUMB SCAB

CUNT YOU ARE THE

AN UNDO IN ASICS

WALKING EASTERN

GET

LIFE

WIRE

SERIOUSLY

A FUCKING

EQUIVALENT

WITH A

HANGING OUT

CANVAS COLLAPSES,

STUDENTS REJOICE

UNIMELB AND BRIGID

NEW PODCAST MISS

MANAGEMENT AS

LOCAL STUDENT

DURING PICKET

BEREAL GOES OFF

EXPOSED AS

HEYWOOD ANNOUNCE

'LOCKED-UP' PROJECT

Wed August 17 Vol. 420 + 16 Cheaper and more available than toilet paper! The only newspaper. Proudly Murdoch. Pro-News. Anti-Truth. People's Republic of USyd.

Doomed Destined

Minions Hanging swamps 9 inchers Prof. Jagose

Revues Drama

USyd Rants 2.0 Controversy #NotRightWing Outrage

Democracy Nominations

Anonymity Autocracy Mooting Layup

IN THIS ISSUE:

Things that weren't on my 2022 bingo card: RM v. Doc Martens discourse

- Ulysses Rain

Why USyd Rants admins should be an elected position - Greg Dogwin

Wait, students can't be at two revues

at the same time? - C. Moor Showz

On being both Big and Nameless on Campus

- [Redacted]

PRESENT TO ISABEL FORMBY FOR FREE **NICOTINE PATCHES**

PETE DAVIDSON SPOTTED **WITH NEW FLAME!**



'I'M IN MY CARRIE BRADSHAW **ERA': BELINDA HUTCHINSON** ON WHY SHE SPENT THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS **ON TAXI RIDES**



