# Honi Soit

WEEK SEVEN, SEMESTER ONE, 2023

FIRST PRINTED 1929

**Caitlin O'Keeffe-White** 

Perspective, page 22

The Silent Treatment

# The 'END' of era

**Anthony-James Kanaan** Feature, page 14

# The Sounds of Sorority

**Grace Street** Perspective, page 18



How relocation destroys community Josh Clay

**Josh Clay** Analysis, page 20

## Kicking and screaming

**Simone Maddison** Perspective, page 16

## Men who hate porn

Lucy Bailey Analysis, page 11

# Acknowledgement of Country

Honi Soit publishes on the Gadigal land of the Eora nation. Sovereignty was never ceded. All our knowledge is produced on stolen Indigenous lands. The University of Sydney is principally a colonial institution, predicated on the notion that Western ways of thinking and learning are superior to the First Knowledge of Indigenous peoples.

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Are U SUre? Here we go again,

we guess!

Much like Peter Bol, Ben Hines is

running again. The former Board

Director is seeking a second term on

Board, just as his Daddy Malcolm

Turnbull did in the 70s. After a year

off dyeing his hair, buying shrink-

wrapped sneakers and scheming,

Hines apparently wants to be

"backed" again... get ready for some

more Libdependent branding. Of

that he so fumbled last time. Here's

two experienced women of colour

**Reading the jacaranda leaves** 

## Misbah Ansari

At Honi Soit, we rebuke this claim,

and maintain our commitment to

platforming and empowering the

experiences, perspectives and voices

of First Nations students. This basis

informs our practice as a paper.

As a student newspaper, we have a

duty to combat the mechanisms of

**Editor in Chief** 

#### Editors

colonisation.

Katarina Butler, Luke Cass, Bipasha Chakraborty, Ethan Floyd, Veronica Lenard, Luke Mešterović, Eamonn Murphy, Caitlin O'Keeffe-White, Andy Park

#### Contributors

Lucy Bailey, Iggy Boyd, George Campbell, Michele Forti, Serena Izmirlian, Anthony-James Kanaan, Zeina Khochaiche, Elliot Lawry, Zoe Le Marinel, Simone Maddison, Freja Newman, Aidan Elwig Pollock, Evelyn Redfern, Grace Street, Will Thorpe, William Winter, Kate Zhang

#### Artists

Sofia Angelini, coffee bean, Shaheen Boaz, Claire Hwang, Suhaila Mahafza, Evelyn Redfern, Margot Roberts, Ella Thomas, Ely Yu **Front Cover** Long Huỳnh **Back Cover** 

As student journalists, we recognise our responsibility as a radical student newspaper to oppose the inherent racism and exclusivity of mainstream media outlets. We also uphold the struggle of other Indigenous communities worldwide and acknowledge that our resistance is intertwined.

left unfinished and cut through

glory. During the 2020 bushfires, I

had a dream where burning embers

stuck fervently to my body and I was

an emblazoned creature walking

through the woods. All I could

emanate through this pain was a

muffled shriek and that sound was

In a burning world, we all find our

own sounds. Some cacophonous,

others eerily silent. My fellow editors

and I find ourselves expressing this

grief through the ever-impactful

sound of journalism. Anthony

James-Kanaan shares (p.14) our

anger about the corpse-like current

age of art by illustrating how we are

implicit in environmental decay.

Simone Maddison leaves tear marks

on the paper (p.16) by discussing

the many facets of motherhood and

William Winter brings us back to

the joy wrapped in the dynamicity

I come from a community of

weavers who were subjugated to

casteist hate through the fascist

propaganda that overwhelms my

country. For that, I promise to

of queer laughter (p.16).

my only form of communication.

As an editorial team of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage, we are both victims and beneficiaries of colonisation. We are committed to unlearning our colonial premonitions and working to hold current institutions accountable.

We are galvanised by our commitment to Indigenous justice.

# Editorial

The loss of things feels like my destroy every form of structural breath is stuck on the edge of a colonialism I hold and the religious sewing machine; a seam of fabric doctrines that perpetuate this violence. Long Huỳnh helps me abruptly. We are in a stage where weave this dream with his cover art we are perennially grieving and the showcasing Opparis, a community sound of grief is quiescent in all its of professional criers paid to mourn the death of the rich.

> The system wants to commodify our grief and silence our sounds of dissent, so I have made a playlist with songs of revolution to remind us what we are here to achieve. This rag can be a place for the immense sadness that consumes us but as a community, we chase the truth to find ourselves in the raucous happiness of student media.

In love, anger and grief,

#### Misbah Ansari





I couldn't help but notice that in your Cara Donna Adelina, article "Chaoes in the Calzone" you made a rookie mistake by spelling "arancino" using the singular form instead of the plural "arancini" which agrees with the verb and noun in the sentence. As a proud member of the Italian society, I must say your slip-up is quite the pasta-trophe! I'm afraid I must ask you to step away from your parmis and snags to embrace the tastier side of life with some authentic Sicilian cuisine. So, let's raise a cannolo to a future of perfect pasta pronunciation and fewer food faux pas!

#### Adelina Rupolo





# Whorescopes

Aries: Days are getting colder and your



wonder of your hands down there!



Taurus: Like Taylor Swift, karma will be your boyfriend too. It will come back and hug you so hard that all your previous issues will be done, it will buy you some caviar and a glass of buttery champagne. There will be some soft bondage and rough fucking after the delicious meeting, you will keep eating each other out. Gemini: Cheekv flirting in the class is fun,



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#### Too PULPy? It's juicing time!

Bipasha Chakraborty

Applications for PULP's new team have appeared on Seek and Indeed (how very USU). Honi hears that one-time PULP contributor Kate Saap is running for the Senior Editor position, along with another mystery candidate... let us know who it is! In terms of who's going for the Editorial team, there are apparently three they do what we didn't: Get to know groups going around; among them, who you run with before you dive we've heard names such as Lizzy Kwok, Ella Thomas, Miles Huynh, course, notable footballer Hines Alexandra Dent, Ava Broinowski, has a goal in sight: the Presidency Huw Bradshaw, another redhead named Hugo, and Lameah Nayeem. hoping a white man doesn't push May the best team prevail — if only students had a say in which team that is.

#### Honistly, we all know you're running

Speaking of student publications, there's an Honi ticket brewing and it's been brewing for a while (before we even put our first paper out). I'm sure you can guess whose on it. In any case, Honi hopes that into the deep waters!

out of his way!

# letters only

Bongiorno! Quita frankaly, we don'ta knowa whata you are talkinga abouta! We are hundo percento prima italiano, iusta lika Nonna Francesca back ina Campania. Where I coma from, ona da bigga deep bowelsa ofa Mounta Vesuviusa, we only ever saya "arancino" ... you disrespecta where I coma from. Bo! Nowa ifa you excusa me, I gotta go sit alona in da Italiano Forumo, and bringa backa da fuckin arches.

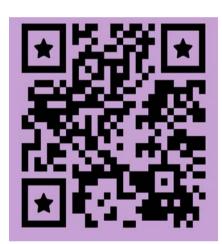
Con tutto il mio amore,

Flavio Fettucine.



editors@honisoit.com

Sound is political — it is living breathing and disturbing all at once. There's music in silence and revolutions brewing in everyday sounds we encounter. Come traverse over lands with us listening to revolutionary music from different struggles around the world. I hope you enjoy listening to this playlist as much as I enjoyed making it!



# The Gig Guide

#### Wednesday 05 April

The Kings // The Vanguard, Newtown // 7.00pm

**Thursday 06 April** 

Dancefloor Demolition // Oxford Art Factory, Darlinghurst // 9.00pm

Steve 'n' Seagulls // Factory Theatre, Enmore // 7.00pm

Udo Dirkschneider // Manning Bar, Camperdown // 7.30pm

#### Saturday 08 April

Swim + Special Guests // Oxford Art Factory, Darlinghurst // 9.00pm

Guy J // Factory Theatre, Enmore // 8.00pm

EXEK // The Lansdowne, Chippendale // 7.30pm

#### Sunday 09 April

Loose Ends Easter Sunday Party // Oxford Art Factory, Darlinghurst // 10.00pm

Counting Crows // Enmore Theatre, Enmore // 7.00pm

#### Monday 10 April

Keb' Mo' // Factory Theatre, Enmore // 7.00pm

Marcus King // Enmore Theatre, Enmore // 8.00pm

**Tuesday 11 April** Counting Crows // Enmore Theatre, Enmore // 7.00pm

#### Sounds of pleasure and yearning are rather hot, a soft moan here and a harder groan there. Enjoy what the season has for you — immense passion and sloppy secrets.

heated blanket is calling for you to curl up. Put your 2015 basic Tumblr ass to the game, sip that pumpkin spice concoction by yourself, and use the

a little holding of hands under benches, and touching their hand to compliment their new shirt. The Quad is smiling at you,

knowing that your burning love will brew a hot and heavy bedroom session.

**Cancer:** Light spanking with consent?



Deeeep moaning. You will find yourself waking up cotton-mouthed in that hottie's bed on random days and there will be

surprise morning sex! Amp yourself up.

Leo: I bet you have a roaring sex playlist!



Ramped up against the edge of your balcony with them doing you from behind is much better with loud jazz beats in the background.

**Virgo:** Print is back baby, pick up that copy



of the Cosmopolitan and cackle looking at their tips for great blowjobs. Probably unrealistic for the bedroom but

sometimes the best

sex action comes from laughing at the state of partner doesn't! mainstream sexual expectation.

Libra: You might find your ex in the butt



plug section of the sex shop and indulge in some toxic fucking. Good for your mental health? No. Pussy happy? For some time, maybe.

**Scorpio:** Making out in the car is so uncomfortable but the adventure is worth it. People giving you gnarly side



Sagittarius: Try out some musk and

looks, panties stuck between the sheets or the door accidentally left

the quick fun! jasmine scents when in the bedroom, you might love the stale pizza smell in the room but your

open? All part of

Capricorn: You will go out on more solo

Misbah Ansari is feeling the brunt of Aries season.



Pisces: Baby, you are such a water lover.



Get into that jacuzzi with your partner and soak in the wonders of warm water with them inside you. your neighbour?

Your season all along.

bit and get off the grid. Pleasure yourself in the scheme of big, tiring things. Get that pussy weeetttt

dates and nibble on

croissants for three

hours reading dirty

manga. It is so hot

because of your

main character

energy, can't take

my eyes off you.

Aquarius: Come

on, wank a little



# 'Those in power don't want it changed': USyd staff strike for eighth day

Veronica Lenard

University of Sydney staff and students went on a 24-hour long strike on Friday, demanding fair pay, First Nations staff parity and less Education Focused roles. Friday's action was the first half of the 48-hour strike, with the next strike taking place next Wednesday.

This is the eighth day of striking during a 21-month long bargaining process. Friday's strike occurred after a branch meeting on Wednesday 29 March confirmed that members were dissatisfied with the most recent proposal from management.

Strikers started congregating at pickets from 7am in the morning, turning people away from entering campus entrances at Redfern, Victoria Park, Abercrombie Business School, Eastern and

Misbah Ansari and Western Avenue, Footbridge Theatre and Ross Street.

> The campus was vacant, replaced with the movements of picketers who were chanting, playing music and delivering speeches.

A key demand was reducing the proposed increases to Education Focussed Roles. Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Anna Sturman, said that these roles are "really intense teaching loads."

Gender and Cultural Studies Scholarly Teaching Fellow, Dr Jessica Kean, said that "70% teaching does not fit inside 37.5 hours in a week during semester, especially during marking time, people are being absolutely steamrolled."

Kean said that staff in EFR roles are likely to encounter issues with career progression in future, "Because at the moment, the university wants you to be on those for five years before you have the possibility of conversion, five years of teaching yourself to the bone. And then they'll say, what research do you have to show for your time if you wanna get off that contract?"

Reflecting on the impact on education, Sturman said that students want "teachers who have the capacity strikers entering replacement Zoom and time to engage in their field, to be classes and explaining the reason experts in their field, to be top of their fields in the world", so the University should be aiming for this instead of Lia Perkins said, "The purpose of the this "really intense, awful, education strike is to stop business as usual at the focussed role."

President of the USyd NTEU, Dr Nick Riemer, said that "the Vice Chancellor, Mark Scott has barely set foot in a university, certainly not as a university worker before he became vice chancellor. The rest of the senior management have manifestly deserted whatever slender commitment they once might have had for scholarship and education."

Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi attended the City Road picket, and spoke to the value of collective power, "Here's the thing about the political system. Those in power don't want it changed. So it is up to us union members, activists, students, staff to join hands and to create an unstoppable mass movement. That is the only way to change power."

A zoom picket in addition to the physical picket was arranged with why staff are striking. USyd Student Representative Council President university. Hundredsw of staff striking do this, but management try and prevent the disruption by pressuring staff to teach online."

Picketers at the Victoria Park steps were met with physical attempts from people trying to cross the picket with brute force. An individual was seen trying to push against picketers despite calm explanations from staff about why they were on strike.

While there were no undercover police officers today, police presence at the pickets was still a common sight.

Unless a suitable agreement is proposed, the NTEU will strike next Wednesday (Week 7), and

> for 72 hours in

Week

10.



# USyd staff vote on Week Six and Seven strikes

Misbah Ansari and Luke Cass

The University of Sydney Branch of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) has voted to proceed with a strikes on Wednesday Week Seven (and Friday Week Six) in a branch members meeting on Wednesday 29 March.

The vote came after the University this week made a marginally improved offer to staff in ongoing enterprise bargaining negotiations.

members passed a motion, proposed pay cut for staff. by the majority of the USyd Branch Committee, stating:

"We reject the latest management package on the grounds of issues with education focused roles, pay, internal advertising of professional staff positions, and First Nations employment parity. In light of this, we ratify the strike action on Friday 31st March and Wednesday 5th of April."

Staff's decision to proceed with the strikes meant that a foreshadowed motion, counterposed by members in the minority of the Branch Committee, to postpone the Week Six and Seven strikes was not put to a vote.

The University's renewed proposal to staff, announced this week, would see staff receive an additional pay increase of 1.5% across the life of the agreement, of 0.5% for each of 2024, 2025 and 2026 compared with the University's last offer. The strikes will proceed after NTEU The renewed offer would still entail a real

> to all USyd staff in an email by Provost Annamarie Jagose.

> The new offer also entails a range of provisions relating to education focused roles (EFRs) — roles where academic staff perform significantly more teaching than they traditionally do, at the expense of time to do research — which have become a key point of contention between the NTEU and University.

USyd management is now proposing to agreement would see, would destabilise impose a cap of 25% on EFRs. This would the nexus between teaching and research mean the University could increase the amount of these roles from 220 to 650.

Management is proposing that staff in EFRs would have a workload consisting of 70% teaching (compared with the 40% for academics in traditional "40:40:20" roles). That level of teaching would be dropped to 60% for two years for academic staff which would see staff receive a pay rise employed at EFRs at levels A, B and some of those employed at level C, before rising again to 70%, as part of the agreement.

The NTEU has widely condemned Table representing staff pay rise, sent they entail impossible workloads for staff and would lead to division in the academic workforce between those with EFR positions and those with 40:40:20 positions. According to the Union, this would occur because of differences in workload and the obstacles teachingheavy workloads pose to staff's career progression.

> The NTEU further argues that the proliferation of EFRs, which the proposed

in academic work. This nexus provides academics time to perform critical research, which also provides academics the knowledge and practical experience required to be quality teachers as well.

The latest offer contains no improvements to the University previous offer regarding Indigenous employment parity, decasualisation, or issues of professional staff's conditions and recruitment.

Negotiations between the NTEU and the introduction of EFRs, saying that University have been ongoing for 20 months.

> The University of Sydney recorded a \$1.04 billion surplus in 2021, the latest year for which financial information is publicly available.



# Protesters gather in Newtown for Trans Rights

gathered at Pride Square, formerly Newtown Hub, on Sunday for the Trans Day of Visibility Rally, standing against transphobia in all its forms. The action followed similar rallies in Melbourne and Brisbane, which attracted 3000 and 1000 people respectively.

The protest was organised by members of Pride in Protest and attended by contingents from Unions NSW, the United Workers Union, Dykes on Bikes, the Maritime Union of Australia, the Australian Services Union, the National Tertiary Education Union, Rail, Tram, and Bus Union, and the USyd Womens' Collective.

and occupied the road for the length of the speeches. Activists donned transgender and other pride flags as well as pride-related clothing and accessories, and the trans flag flew above Newtown Town Hall.

Protest, chaired the event, and Nadeena Dixon, a Wiradjuri, Yuin and Gadigal woman performed the Welcome to Country. "We stand in the wake of the State Election when no major party committed to change or real support for the Queer community," said Burnard.

with School Strike for Climate, noted

The USyd SRC's Autonomous Collective Against Racism (ACAR) held a rally and speak-out on Thursday to stand in solidarity with Palestine and protest against the Israeli occupation. It was the 47th anniversary of Land Day, a commemoration of the Palestinian resistance fighting against the apartheid regime.

1976, when Israeli police shot and killed six Palestinian civilians who were part of a protest against the Israeli government's expropriation of Palestinian land. Since then, March 30th has been commemorated by Palestinians as Land Day

The protest was chaired by Jasmine Al-Rawi, USyd SRC Global Solidarity Officer, and Wiradjuri student activist Ethan Lyons. Attendees rallied outside Fisher Library to call for an end to Israel's settler-colonialism in historic Palestine.

Ethan Floyd, Wiradjuri Wailwan activist, spoke on the solidarity between Indigenous Australians and

Approximately 3000 protesters

Protesters took to the road at 1 pm

Mikhael Burnard, from Pride in

Ethan Lyons, a Wiradjuri activist

**Iggy Boyd** and **Will Thorpe** the presence of gender nonconformity in the history of Indigenous peoples across the world: "anyone who threatens queer or trans people is not welcome here.'

> Lyons also spoke to the struggle of queer youth saying, "queer students aged sixteen...are five times more likely to have attempted suicide in their lifetime than their straight counterparts."

> Jenny Leong, Greens member for Newtown, spoke next saying, "our agenda is one of equality, our agenda is one of Pride...We are united on taking to the streets and saying this is what we demand."

In response to Mark Latham, who called for "reasonable" behaviour, Leong said, "We are done with being reasonable, we are taking to the streets...and we are standing stronger than ever, ever before."

Liz Atkins, a Greens Inner West Councillor, joined her and proclaimed, "I am committed to making sure that our whole local government area is a safe place." Atkins mentioned a "Pride Centre" planned to be established in Newtown Town Hall next year amongst other planned measures.

Leong also denounced religious discrimination laws as "an agenda to undermine the rights of LGBTQIA+ people."

Wei Thai-Haynes, a sex worker and trans activist, said on the issue, "the Labor government has decided to forge occurring at 2pm today leading a on with the religious discrimination bill, they have made no commitment to us but they have committed to advancing the interests of the religious right."

Addressing the crowd, Thai-Haynes said, "It is in the strength of our community in being here today that we can show that trans rights, trans visibility and trans pride is the popular politics.'

Norrie May Welby, who won a 2014 High Court case recognising the right to be identified as being of "nonspecific" sex on one's birth certificate in NSW, urged the need for selfidentification for trans people.

Sophie Cotton, a member of the NTEU USyd Branch Committee, back" in the gave a shout out to the park. Palm Sunday rally

OUT OF THE

AND INTO T

chant, "We're here, we're queer, refugees are welcome here!"

"We are not gonna sit silent and wait for the next idiot TERF to fly over from the UK...We need to fight the state sanctioned bigotry that we are subject to every day. This state sanctioned transphobia has to go and we're gonna keep fighting until it's gone," said Cotton.

Following speeches, protestors marched down King Street to Victoria Park, chanting for trans rights and dispersing shortly after. Despite the rain, the march could be seen stretching across a large swath of the street and energy remained high as protesters chanted

"we'll be

# Students speak out at Fisher Library for Israeli **Apartheid Week**

Land Day began on March 30th

Andy Park Palestinians who were both subject to the brutalities of colonialism.

> "I believe that Indigenous sovereignty is the future. I believe that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander laws and lore can and must provide a pathway forward," said Floyd.

> "Palestinians living within diaspora communities in Australia, — more so than Palestinians in Palestinian — must help envision and support our future of a decolonised Australia, moving beyond the notion of reciprocal solidarity."

> Yasmine Johnson, USvd SRC Education Officer, criticised the Australian government's complicity in the ongoing oppression of Palestinian people. Johnson also noted the University's active role in perpetuating this violence.

> "It's not just politicians, Liberal and Labor I might note, who declare their support for Israel," Johnson said, "Even on this very campus, those who sit on heads of boards with ties to weapons manufacturers directly linked to Israeli violence become spokespeople for the University."

The rally also displayed solidarity from staff, as NTEU member Ella Haber emphasised the distinction between true antisemitism and legitimate criticism of Israel. They noted how — in their upbringing as a Jewish person — they celebrated Israel, later realising that it is "not a project of Jewish liberation. It is in fact a vicious occupation."

Haber was critical of the newly introduced definition of antisemitism by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance is something Israel often violates, (IHRA) which has been adopted by Monash University, the University of Sunshine Coast. The IHRA's working which I've seen with my own eyes," definition has drawn criticism for its designation of "claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour" as antisemitic.

"This is a serious setback for antiracists and supporters of Palestinian rights, and it's also an insult to the genuine threat of anti-semitism," said Haber. They emphasised the need to be able to criticise the Israeli government without being labelled anti-semitic

and, "oppose this definition coming anywhere near Sydney University."

Protestors then marched to the United States Studies Centre (USSC), proceeding down Eastern Avenue amidst chants of "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!" and "Always was, always will be Aboriginal land".

USyd SRC Ethnocultural Officer spoke to their Palestinian heritage and their family's experience of Israeli violence. "International law from preventing medical equipment from the Gaza strip, to preventing Melbourne, and the University of the ambulances pass through checkpoints they said.

> "It's not enough that Palestinians fight this fight, we must all fight this fight together against land theft, against oppression of the Palestinians, and for the liberation of all Indigenous peoples."

> Disclaimer: Ethan Floyd is an Editor of Honi Soit, and as such was not involved in the coverage of this event.

# The University of Sydney's \$1 billion surplus: Where did it go?

Since mid-2022, the University of Sydney's recording of a \$1.04 billion surplus in 2021 has loomed over every attempt by staff or students to improve conditions at the institution. To for general use' — and just over \$100 counter this, University management has concocted a range of accounting tricks and press releases to downplay the extent of that surplus and their ability to spend that money. Honi analysed the University's financial documents in a bit to dispel that spin.

#### What did the University actually make in 2021?

The oft-mentioned \$1.04 billion figure represents the 'parent operating result' of the University in 2021. This is to say, the difference between its total income and its total expenses.

While the University is somewhat justified to claim that to only consider this result is misleading, the sheer size of this number is itself relevant. It paints a picture of a University who has enjoyed an influx of income at the same time it has cut its expenses. Those cuts have most perniciously affected staff at the University, with mass-layoffs in 2020 resulting in a \$58.5 million decline in staff spending. USvd's willingness to cut staff jobs the moment it heard doomsday predictions for the pandemic is one of the clearest manifestations of the increasingly corpor`wate way in which the University is run. The University's cynical and opportunistic sell-off of student housing in 2021 tells the same story. Staff and students can rightfully be angry at the University's \$1.04 billion surplus, given the choices the University made in pursuit of it.

The University has been at pains to say that much of this money cannot be spent and was a result of one-time gains during the pandemic. But even accepting this, the parent operating figure simply means the University has a lot of money lying around. The presence of 'tied funds' (money which the University can only spend on specific things, like a donation for a scholarship) necessarily means the freeing up of other funds which may have been used for that purpose. Similarly, one-off gains are still gains; they can be spent to improve staff and students' lived reality in the same way In 2020, the University had a parent they can be invested or held on to. underlying margin of \$31 million. In Accordingly, the University's claim 2019, it was \$8.9 million, and in 2018 much of its surplus came from one-off it was \$27 million. These figures are gains cloaks the decision it has in fact dwarfed by the University's most recent made not to improve staff and student surplus. Even the parent operating conditions, but to hold onto it instead.

The first figure the University uses in place of the one billion figure is \$600.5 million. This represents the 'parent underlying margin including non-recurring items'. That is to say, the tangible, free to use parts of the surplus.

'philanthropic funds' — which it claims are 'restricted and unavailable million of investment funds. This seems to be fairly standard practice: philanthropic funds — and some investment funds — are indeed tied; just because the value of investments has gone up does not mean that those gains are available for the University's use (yet). That said, the University is made wealthier by these gains. It could sell some investments and use that money to improve conditions for staff and students. The University not doing so is a choice.

Crucially, even after making these arguably appropriate deductions from the \$1.04 billion figure, the University is left with \$600.5 million to spend.

To get to this number, the University Creek, Camperdown and Glebe, and It says after these have been excluded, it had a 'parent underlying margin excluding non-recurring items' of \$453 million.

> The University came out of the pandemic with hundreds of millions of dollars. Staff came out of it without invented a new category to do so. a job — or, if they managed to retain employment, they were handed denser workloads, longer hours and a allowed the University to maintain its significant pay cut.

#### **Financial Trickery**

To even arrive at that reduced figure of \$400 million, the University had to play accounting tricks that it hasn't previously.

To understand these tricks, it is helpful to first look at the University's



That is extraordinary. That is still more than the next-richest university in 2021, The University of Melbourne (this is even before UniMelb makes the same deductions as USyd made to get to this figure). \$600.5 million is even more extraordinary considering the next richest university, The University of Adelaide, had a headline surplus of \$332 million. University surpluses plummet in size from there.

This number is also significantly larger than any other reported surplus in The University of Sydney's history. surpluses (comparable to \$1.04 billion in 2021) hover between \$100 and \$200 million in these years. Nothing else comes close to this.

But the University would claim at this stage that this extraordinary figure is still misleading, because it was gained through one-off endeavours, such as the sale of property in Badgerys

2020 annual report. That report provides insight into the ways in which the University approached its pandemic financial reporting. In the 2020 report, the University included 'borrowing costs' as a way of claiming it had a negative 'parent underlying margin' — that is, to say it was operating at a loss. This is something the University didn't do in 2019, even though it would have yielded the same result: a deficit even larger than what was seen in 2020.

This is how the University went about justifying pandemic austerity on the government at least superficially aware financial threat posed by COVID-19. of the problems facing the University When economic armageddon didn't sector in charge, it seems unlikely arrive, the University then had to curate its financial reporting, introducing new terms and methods to save face and prove that the University was actually suffering.

This pattern was played out again in 2021, when the University introduced a new category — 'parent underlying margin excluding non-recurring items' - to downplay the extent of its pandemic profits, something it

#### Luke Cass does the numbers.

didn't do in 2020. If it did, information deducted almost \$350 million of contributions from the government. revealed in its 2021 report shows the University would not have recorded a deficit in 2020.

> The University invented a new category of surplus when it wanted to play poor in 2020. When it wanted to do the same in 2021, the University The total lack of consistency, and the fact this inconsistency is what pandemic façade of poverty, is highly questionable.

#### Where did the money go?

The best answer discernible from public documents is the differences between the University's Balance Sheets on 31 December 2020 and 31 December 2021. This, as indicative of the University's money on those specific days, does not tell the full story — but rather suggests what that story may be.

The biggest difference in those sheets is the \$550 million increase to the University's cash and cash equivalent assets. The vast majority of that increase is in the size of the University's "future fund" (the money the University has invested) which increased from \$28 million to over \$450 million. This means a huge chunk of the University's surplus went into its investments. Much of that money is still tied up in fossil fuels.

The University also added \$500 million to its "other financial assets." This meant the University had over a billion dollars more in assets in late 2021 than in 2020.

But at the same time, the University also reduced its "liabilities" (money owed by the University to external stakeholders) by almost \$300 million. It has done so by paying back that money in "borrowings."

#### What does the future hold?

The financial University's information for 2022 is yet to be released. But it is unlikely to report such an extraordinary surplus as in 2021. With applications for international student visas recently reaching record levels and a new federal the University will be facing financial hardship anytime soon.

Management should offer staff a real pay rise, end casualisation, and stop holding up enterprise bargaining. As staff go on strike on Wednesday, staff and students should remember: the University is swimming in it.

# The consequences of your hateful rhetoric

of this immense linguistic limitation down the hardest onto disadvantaged and oppressed groups. This very issue is exemplified by the obtuse fear mongering currently utilised by right leaning idealogues against transgender transgender people, becoming the hot new hate to bash your fist and face into. Matt Walsh's incessant U.K. obsession with insulting transgender women and Jordan Peterson's crusade on the intellectual poisoning of the trans community come to mind. Yet, to what extent are these individuals held accountable for their proud transphobic rhetoric when actual tragedies against trans people take place?

Brianna Ghey is the most recent trans victim of this hate that many recall, and I don't mean virtual hate on social media, but physically fatal, literal, and undeniable hate. Carried out by her own peers, a sixteen year old English transgender girl was stabbed

# Transphobia must die

contains mentions of violence, queerphobia, transphobia, police violence (including towards First Nations' people) and mentions of Nazism.

Over the last month, a series of increasingly violent attacks on queer people, and queer rights protests, has unfolded across Australia. Black-clad Christian men first took to the streets of Newtown. Then, Nazis accompanied transphobes on the In recent weeks, Christian figures have steps of the Victorian Parliament. Last Tuesday night, a group of LGBTQIA+ activists holding a speak-out in Belfield against transphobia were met with mob violence. Following this, Federal not care about any of the perpetrators' Independent Senator Lidia Thorpe was tackled by police at British transphobe Kellie-Jay Keen's rally outside parliament.

In the wake of British transphobe Kelly-Jay Keen's tour of Australia, a suite of transphobic attacks have occurred. In Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Hobart and now Canberra, Keen held events aimed at denying trans people the right to exist.

by Christian men — some linked to the Christian Lives Matter group - who were responsible for the violence in Newtown and Belfield respectively.

serious escalation of anti-queer attacks in Australia, and an alarming infringement on the rights and safety of queer people — particularly for members of the transgender community. Honi is

Analysis \_\_\_\_\_

As politics become increasingly binary, and murdered to death on the 11th of in reports surrounding her death talking points and imperative rhetoric February. Currently, whether this act paired with publications such as *The* proves to be more efficient than any was a hate crime is being taken into debate or discussion in regard to account by the authorities due to the uniting crowds. Yet the consequences extreme bullying she had faced in her school life due to her identity. So hurts everyone but the victor, coming one must ask, how much of this can be placed on the middle schoolers who held the knife versus the rampant bigotry toward people the that holds collectively?

> The denial of cultural responsibility is clear by the adult trial of these teenagers in this hate crime. Yet U.K. publications have criticised the U.K.'s recent rejection of Scotland's Gender Bill and Brianna's facing of transphobia following her death as prime examples of the systematic and social outcasting of trans people in their modern society. Lowly and underhanded coverage of Brianna's trans identity

New York Times releasing pursuit against, "the agenda", has left a foul and somewhat questionable taste in the mouths of many. What evident is here is not just the things that I read, but also observe and personally experience. What I can say is true is that my own identity as a trans person is tainted to strangers by those who will never personally know me, speak to me, or

have empathy for me. When myself and many others are dehumanised from a real person to an agenda, whatever middle ground left from the mainstream to the atypical

#### Evelyn Redfern wants you to listen.

experience is lost. How many more innocent people will be affected by this hate, how many experiences have further reports defending since gone unrecorded? How many J.K. Rowling and her more will be ostracised and punished for earnestness? During Mardi Gras, trans trans rights are proudly displayed and fought for on paperboard but it seems as though there is so much further to go in the pursuit of equality.

> Equal rights and equal respect are the least to ask for, yet lately, it seems practically humorous to suggest such a thing. When an issue of respect and human rights is utilised as a political talking point and an ideological weapon, some meaning is lost in the minds of the general public, including the minds of both developing teenagers and fully-fledged adults. Danger and hate lie beneath a bare fist or a sharp blade wielded by a child yet also behind the cruel words and malicious intentions of people encouraging such hate against Trans lives.

When will you take responsibility for your hate?

#### Art by Evelyn Redfern

Editorial

But the events have also been spurred

These events represent an undeniably

CONTENT WARNING: This article disgusted; the queer Editors writing this piece are speaking from a place of anger. The recent spate of violently transphobic events is deserving of the most severe condemnation.

> The immediate cause of these attacks is frighteningly clear: queerphobia and transphobia. Nothing more than a virulent hatred of queer and trans people can explain the conduct of these attackers. claimed that "religious freedom" justifies this conduct behind the defence of "family values, children, society and country". This is an unacceptable argument. Honi does supposed desires to uphold religious values; we are consciously aware that these attacks have come from a place of hate.

Although TERFs like Keen claim that they are fighting for women's rights, there is no tension between trans rights and women's rights. In fact, the two are mutually reinforcing.

Trans women are women. It is antifeminist to oppose the rights and very existence of trans women, as Keen and those like her spend so much energy doing.

But TERFs are not feminists. They have no interest in women's rights. And they know this. Their interest lies in the terrorisation of trans people. This much is clear from their rhetoric and the types of people who associate with them: nazis, racists, and misogynists.

Part of the reason we have seen such extreme displays of violence and hate directed at queer people is the way that queerphobia - particularly that directed towards trans people — has been normalised as a feature of discourse in this country. In recent weeks, academics at Australian Universities — including two at USyd — have made alarming comments about the transgender and gender non-conforming communities. Transphobia is now endemic in academia. It has become so under the guise of academic analysis and under the rights. flawed pretences of TERF logic.

Mainstream politics also should be attributed with some degree of blame. From Victorian Liberal Party MP Moira Deeming — who attended the Melbourne event attended by Nazis to TERF Katherine Deves, the Liberal Party candidate for Warringah in last year's federal election, transphobia has begun to infiltrate mainstream politics.

The Labor Party has not done enough to prevent this normalisation of antitrans hatred. Anthony Albanese is yet to condemn March's events in any meaningful way.

The political response to the spate of transphobia gripping Australia has been meek. The Liberal Party federally introduced a bill to ban Nazi symbols, which was rejected for now by Labor, citing the rushed nature of the Bill. In Victoria, the Andrews Labor

government decided to fly the trans flag outside parliament and has promised to introduce laws to ban the Nazi salute.

The political response to these events ought to also include the removal of barriers to healthcare and selfidentification faced by trans people. Politicians should drop all attempts to restrict queer rights in the name of "Religious Freedom". Mere lip service and symbolic actions in support of queer people will not have the effect of these measures to meaningfully protect queer

The fact that police have targeted queer rights protestors — with a particularly violent response in Melbourne and against Senator Lidia Thorpe in Canberra — is unforgivable as well. Even when a small group of queer rights groups were brutalised in Belfield, police did little to protect queer people. The police do not protect us and should not be trusted to do so.

Queer rights are under attack. Those in power have a moral obligation to publicly say this. If they don't, they are culpable for failing to prevent the pain and violence suffered by the queer community. Honi stands with the queer community in this difficult time. Honi will always stand with the queer community, and recognises that its trans members are facing the brunt of queerphobic violence and hatred. It is profoundly alarming that this position is not universally shared.

# **CAPA in Crisis**

#### Luke Cass and Luke Mesterovic investigate the chaos gripping Australia's peak student union for postgraduate students. Additional reporting by Khanh Tran.

In December 2022, the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) held their Annual Council Meeting (ACM). It was far from the technical, perhaps boring, meeting that many expected. Attendees were muted, legal threats brandished, and many attendees - long term affiliates of CAPA — were denied the right to vote. When female attendees spoke against the removal of their voting rights, they were labelled "unprofessional" by members of the almost all-male group eventually elected. It was by all means calamitous: indicative of a deeply wounded organisation.

The story of CAPA, the peak body for postgraduate students at 27 Australian universities, including the University of Sydney, is highly alarming.

The story of CAPA, the peak body for postgraduate students at 27 Australian universities, including the University of Sydney, is highly alarming. CAPA is ordinarily a place where postgraduate student unions from each Australian university can coordinate activism, research, and lobbying in the interests of postgraduate students. From campaigning to increase PhD and research student stipends to criticising course and university funding cuts, CAPA has the potential to drive positive change for postgraduate and undergraduate students alike.

However, its slow decline reveals the fragility of student unionism and the dangers of factionalism which threaten student advocacy.

What has led to such a crisis at CAPA? How deep do the problems run? What does the future hold for postgraduate student unionism? Honi spoke to multiple long-term CAPA members in an attempt to find out.

#### **VOTING RIGHTS**

CAPA has been afflicted by allegations of improper elections stretching back to 2021. Some affiliates claim that these elections were conducted illegitimately, or in a manner inconsistent with CAPA's purpose.

Nidzam Shah Hussain, a student at Swinburne University, was elected as President in both the 2021 and 2022 ACMs. This means that Shah is officially President of CAPA, and has executed his authority accordingly.

However, Errol Phuah, a previous a President of CAPA, claims to be the 'national caretaker President'. Honi was told that this claim emerged after a group of affiliates asked Phuah to stay on as 'caretaker President'. As caretaker President, Phuah has continued to attend roundtable meetings on behalf of CAPA, has repeatedly emailed affiliates from a similar — but different — domain to the one being used by Shah, and is still performing many of the duties of the CAPA President.

At the ACM in December 2022, there were again significant disputes as to the validity of Shah's re-election. These disputes, again, stemmed from which University unions had voting rights as affiliates of CAPA.

On CAPA's website, 27 University unions are listed as affiliates, who, based on *Honi*'s understanding, should have voting rights.

It is therefore surprising that at the December 2022 ACM, Returning Officer Tully Smith reported that only 12 universities were "accredited delegates" and thus capable of voting.

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It is therefore surprising that at the December 2022 ACM, Returning Officer Tully Smith reported that only 12 universities were "accredited delegates" and thus capable of voting.

However, the validity of the waivers isn't the issue for those affiliates who were prevented from voting. Rather, it is the rationale for such waivers. Smart the solidarity at the heart of effective expressed to *Honi* her frustration about the seemingly "arbitrary" criteria, upon which CAPA's Board waived affiliation fees for some unions, but not others.

> With waivers offered to some universities, but not others, those Honi spoke to considered the results of the 2022 election to be deeply distorted to the extent of being illegitimate.

> In an email to affiliates, Shah said that the waivers were granted to some affiliates, because CAPA was "unable to deliver services [to them] in 2022" and that the waivers were a 'thank you for [their] ongoing support".

> Solely on the basis of that explanation, it is unclear why some university unions were offered waivers and others weren't.

> Presumably, CAPA's inability to deliver for affiliates in 2022 is

problem which would affect all the CAPA Board has been clear affiliates. Alternatively, if Shah were we were unable to deliver services to to emphasise the justification of the our affiliate members who paid a fee waivers as symbols of gratitude, it is in 2022. That's why we waived the unclear based on this argument alone affiliation fee for those members for a why SUPRA and other affiliates weren't further 12 months as a thank you for equally deserving of waivers. SUPRA, for instance, is a long-time CAPA member and, as the representative for one of the largest cohorts of postgraduate students nationally, usually pays substantial affiliation fees to CAPA.

Speaking with Honi, Shah said that "any accusation of deliberate exclusion of individuals or prospective member organisations will undoubtedly suit the political narrative of some but is flatly denied." Honi is not making such an accusation.

But for Smart, the technicalities of affiliation and waivers aren't even of the most concern. For them, the underlying issue is the spirit in which these disputes have arisen. Smart told attendees at the 2022 CAPA ACM that the denial of voting rights to long-term affiliates was the use of "procedures against solidarity, inclusion and representation." After all, those principles ought to be the guiding principle of student unionism.

Despite being asked, Shah gave no clear response to this concern.

#### FINANCES

Historically, CAPA has sourced approximately 98% of its revenue from affiliation fees, paid by university student unions. These affiliation fees are substantial. In 2022, CAPA received \$120,000 in affiliation fees, with this figure typically even higher. With CAPA's operating expenses typically around \$200,000 per annum, these affiliation fees are the lifeblood of CAPA. Other revenue streams such as sponsorships are incapable of replacing this lost revenue.

This makes it incredibly alarming that in 2023, the CAPA Board has chosen not to seek the payment of affiliation fees from its members. In addition to the reality that affiliation fees are necessary to sustain CAPA's activism and organisational capacity, CAPA has outstanding bookkeeping fees and has not renewed its insurance, as Phuah told affiliates in an email. It appears that without this revenue, CAPA will struggle to stay alive.

Smart told Honi that SUPRA has repeatedly contacted CAPA offering to pay affiliation fees, which are typically between twenty and forty thousands dollars. With individual university student unions willing to pay affiliation fees to a well-run national body, CAPA's decision to not accept them seems to be without explanation.

In an email to affiliates on November

structural, organisation-wide, 29, Shah said that "from the outset, your ongoing support."

> This makes it incredibly alarming that in 2023, the **CAPA Board has** chosen not to seek the payment of affiliation fees from its members.

When asked by *Honi* why CAPA could not provide services to its affiliates, he said that "the freeze on our accounts has caused enormous damage to our organisation's ability in advocating and supporting our members in 2022," referring to an ongoing contest over who controls CAPA's bank accounts - Honi cannot report on this for legal reasons.

Shah insisted, in response to concerns CAPA could not survive without affiliation fees, that "notwithstanding the tragic year of 2022, our organisation is in a strong financial position. Less than 1.5% of the total 2022 affiliation fee collected has been spent.

"I do not believe you can, in good conscience, charge members for services they never received in 2022. That's why the CAPA Board proudly resolved to waive the affiliation fee for 2022 members into 2023."

#### **IMPORTANCE OF CAPA AND POSTGRADUATE STUDENT ACTIVISM**

CAPA's collapse would have significant consequences for postgraduate students and student unionism more generally.

Leroy-Dyer and Smart insisted that they opposed any change which would see CAPA being subsumed within the National Union of Students (NUS) — a body currently focussed on undergraduate issues.

"The issues that postgraduates and undergraduates are similar but are sometimes very different, especially when it comes to HDRs (Higher Degrees by Research)," Smart said.

Leroy-Dyer echoed this sentiment, saying that "we've been two distinct organisations for a long time. In most universities there are two separate bodies.

"The way we go about things are very different and the needs of the constituents are very different."

According to the 2022 Review into CAPA's governance, CAPA has historically focussed on lobbying for all Austudy or ABSTUDY payments to be made to all full-time postgraduate students. It has also lobbied for an increase to PhD stipends, which are so small they were described as "unethical" by ANU Vice-Chancellor Btrian Schmidt in September. Without a dedicated body to fight for issues like these, which do not affect undergraduate students, postgraduate students would be short-changed.

Even where undergraduates and postgraduates have a shared interest - in fighting against course cuts, casualisation or in favour of concession opal cards for international students for example — maintaining two distinct national bodies is in the interest of postgraduates and undergraduates alike.

As Smart told Honi, "the strength of [separate undergraduate and postgraduate unions] is that we are nationally.



and their "similar technologies"? Are they why we feel our phones are listening to us, tracking our every move?

recording and listening to us at all times? In short, they can be — but not how you'd think.

We've all sworn at one point in our lives that our phones are spying on our conversations or tracking our everyday moments. From memes about having a personalised FBI agent, to targeted ads that crop up after conversations, digital surveillance is a significant issue. With this conspiracy so prominent, it's important to understand whether cookies, tech giants or our own hyperbolic imaginations are to blame.

Are our phones recording and listening to us at all times?

you'd think.

data to facilitate Google Assistant, Siri and other virtual assistant software. If allowed, voice activated services are listening at all times so they can pick up on the trigger words such as "Hey Siri", "Google Assistant" or "Alexa".

Analysis I

separate organisations that can work in solidarity with each other" where student interests align.

Providing a differentiated, but united, student voice at the upcoming University Accords is an example that both Smart and Leroy-Dyer provided of the importance of separate undergraduate and postgraduate unions

Aside from student interests, the situation at CAPA is important, if only for the fact that they receive government funding as a recognised representative of postgraduates nationally. In 2020, CAPA received \$30,000 in Business Support Grants, \$20,000 in 'Cash Flow Boost' payments and \$40,000 in JobKeeper Payments. It is highly unlikely that such recognised government support would be given to more than one postgraduate student union, meaning CAPA, as it stands, is the body best placed to lead postgraduate student unionism

#### **GOING FORWARD**

With both sides threatening legal action and promising to inform Federal Education Minister Jason Clare of the situation, the crisis at CAPA is unlikely to end soon, or amicably. Fortunately, Smart and Leroy-Dyer told Honi of university postgraduate unions' desire to persevere and create new organisational structures, if CAPA were to collapse, or become defunct.

The strife facing the national postgraduate student union, which represents as many as 400,000 students, should concern all students.

"We will continue to act in solidarity together," Smart said.

The strife facing the national postgraduate student union, which represents as many as 400,000 students, should concern all students. The slow death of CAPA is not entirely unique. It follows after 15 years of student unions being underfunded and undervalued, despite their ability to transform education — and society — for the better. Without the institutional structures to lobby for a better world, it's hard to see a future in which students aren't left poor, overworked, and sent to graduate into a deeply inequitable society.

This is an abridged version of Honi's investigation.

For the full article, the full statement of Nidzam Shah Hussein, and the questions put to him by Honi are available on our website.

# **Cookies: Baked goods or a tech conspiracy?**

may,

# Are our phones

In short, they can be — but not how

Your phone and carrier may use voice

Companies can use your voice data, alongside information like search

Before you access any website, the engine patterns and behavioural infamous pop-up message, "We use data to create a "profile" of sorts. cookies and similar technologies to Companies can then collect, analyse help personalise content, tailor and and respond to this information with measure...", guards the information. exact marketing like targeted ads or But what are these enigmatic cookies search engine shortcuts. This data is stored in files like cookies. So, if you happen to say "Hey, Siri. When's the best time to go to New Zealand?", don't be surprised to see advertisements and travel content about your latest fantasy.

> Consumers understandably, be shocked at the uncharted potential of industries developing from the data derived from our voices,

particularly with analysis like that by Emma Ritter the in Duke Law Journal which identified significant risks arising from the legal landscape when dealing potential with

data leaks and risk analysis. Regardless, this kind of voice data collection has been considered by many as necessary for development, whether it may be nefarious or not.

Do companies develop algorithms that generate an unbreakable echochamber of personally targeted content?

internet users is about the forces behind targeted content. Why are we receiving content, such as product and political ads, based on things that we don't even remember searching and why can they be so spot on?

To understand targeted content, we must first understand algorithms. In short, enabling cookies when you access the internet gives more information for a company to use in their algorithm, enabling them to target you.

> Algorithms have become crucial in marketing models, allowing

corporations to rank and allocate content based on each user's specific input preferences and maximise thus their reach. The process of accessing, computing and translating code to create targeted web responses is a neverending cycle used for

growth. Any change to this cycle stems from us. When we search something up or access a new site, advertisers can alter our personalised content.

In the recent technological evolution, companies of all scales have begun building their digital platforms with algorithms. Think about it like this:

#### Zeina Khochaiche cleans up the crumbs.

One of the biggest queries from algorithms are their boats, the internet is their ocean and we are the fish. They reel us in with targeted ads from our unique profiles that seemingly answer our search for the latest pair of Levi's or the trip that we're looking to book.

> So, yes. They might not be unbreakable but they definitely feel neverending.

Are we forever shackled to the control of cookies?

Yes, we absolutely could be.

Although this answer is framed to incite hysteria, the use of cookies is the cornerstone of digital development and advertising. Albeit, the future has not already been written, with increased demands for more privacy protection from regulatory reviews and consumers, some companies are reconsidering their approaches to privacy, or being required to do so.

With digital safety, there are always many angles to consider. On one hand, there is the knowledge of constant and mass data collection of your digital footprint but on the other hand, a personal and relevant user experience is being assembled just for you.

At the centre of most personal technology evolutions are user experiences. These are curated to enhance your experience and thus draw you back. Cookies and similar codes dedicated to translating data are what support these changes to your experience. They could even get more discreet and more familiar with that vacation you plan on taking (but haven't even searched for yet).

Art by Misbah Ansari

9 =

# The Confusing Politics of Men's Anti-Porn Movements

Did you know that abstinence gives in the majority of studies, over 50% of how abstinence is 'more effective than you superpowers? Well, that's what a growing contingent of young men online would have you believe. Reddit threads, Instagram influencers and 'manosphere' blogs are all jumping on the hottest new way to explain the mass disenfranchisement of young, heterosexual men: watching too much porn. In fact, if you were to listen to these influencers for a few hours, you'd be forgiven for thinking that pornography is the only reason you don't have a great job, a sports car and an incredible sex life. It all sounds great in theory, but it's a classic case of too good to be true. As is the case for so many online echo chambers aimed at young men, men's anti-porn forums and spokespeople only scratch the surface of the issues within the porn industry, and never without a side of some pretty heinous sexism for good measure.

It's no secret that today's young men have come of age in an era where pornography has played an unprecedented role in their sexual development. A 2015 study published in the New Zealand Journal of Public Health found that 100% of men aged 15-29 had viewed pornography, with the median age of first viewing being only 13 years old — several years before the median age for men's first 'irl' sexual experience. Of this group, 39% of men made porn a part of their daily routine, and a further 46% viewed pornography at least once a week. What this data tells us is that porn plays an important role in shaping young men's sexuality and expectations, and begs the question of how exactly men are being impacted by their pornography consumption.

It's no secret that today's young men have come of age in an era where pornography has played an unprecedented role in their sexual development.

The content of popular porn videos, and their potential effects on the young people who regularly view them, are disturbing. A 2016 systematic review into the content of popular pornography analysed over 8000 pornographic scenes and found that,

#### The statistics!

100% of men aged 15-19 have viewed pornography

Median first viewing at 13 years old 39% of men make porn a part of their daily routine

46% of men view porn once a week

videos included female performers being gagged, insulted, spanked, or slapped. Affectionate sexual behaviours, such as kissing, were represented in a far lower proportion of videos, and negative racial stereotypes about women from all backgrounds pervade. But, in addition to shaping attitudes towards women, porn consumption also plays a role in shaping men's attitudes towards themselves. Although to a lesser degree than women, men's porn use has been shown to increase men's body dissatisfactions and can create intense anxieties about their own sexual performance. Gary Brooks coined a term for this phenomenon in the 90's called 'centrefold syndrome': a compulsion to observe and objectify idealised images of women combined with a fear of personal inadequacy that prevents them from actually engaging in sexual relationships.

The message is simple: watching porn is emasculating, and is preventing you from becoming the best version of yourself.

It is this syndrome around which the contemporary men's movement is built. The community is made up of Instagram and Tiktok influencers, Reddit forums such as NoFap and Pornfree, and gets some play on the incel-adjacent blogosphere. Through these channels, millions of (mostly heterosexual) men share their experiences quitting porn and encourage others to do so. Although the language in these forums is a confusing jumble of acronyms, the message is simple: watching porn is emasculating, and is preventing you from becoming the best version of yourself.

Over the decades, the feminist movement has also levelled its fair share of criticisms at the porn industry, and at the men who make up porn's primary consumer base. However, these anti-porn sentiments come, unsurprisingly, from a feminist viewpoint, and tend to focus on how the giants of the porn industry contribute to wider systems of patriarchy: examining the ways in which large porn companies exploit both professional sex workers, victims of sex trafficking, and victims of revenge porn.

This is not the case for the Men's movement, which takes a stand against porn consumption on the primary basis that porn and masturbation decreases an individual's ability to form satisfying sexual relationships. Men within the movement share memes with each other that depict their abstinence as saving them from 'beta-male tendencies', and Instagram influencers spread misinformation about

steroids' and can increase testosterone levels beyond the scope of scientific possibility. One of the most popular posts in the Reddit community details how a user's motivation to quit was a woman in a video calling him a 'little loser'. In fact, these men frequently describe themselves as losers — feeling cuckolded by the men they watch having sex with the women they're attracted to — and there's a clear association for these men between narratives of their own abstinence and their sense of self worth and masculinity. Not only does these narratives sound demoralising, but they centre the conversation completely around individual stories of self discipline. This individualism is at the centre of the problem: eschewing porn is essentially seen as a way to one-up other 'pornsick' men, increase focus and productivity, and reassert sexual selfesteem by rejecting the sex workers they want but can't have.

Individualism is at the centre of the problem: eschewing porn is essentially seen as a way to one-up other 'pornsick' men, increase focus and productivity, and reassert sexual self-esteem.

The movement is therefore completely centred around men's experience of their bodies and sexuality, and de-emphasises the experiences of the women who are commodified for the purpose of their pleasure. Never is this logic clearer than in one of the movement's central commandments: the only acceptable ejaculation has to involve a woman you development and self esteem. At the didn't pay to be there. This may not seem all that bad, but when it becomes a 'rule' for millions of men who haven't actually investigated their attitudes towards women, it can lead to some deeply troubling rhetoric. Users talk about being increasingly preoccupied with women in

their classes their

or



#### Learn the Lingo!

PIED — Porn induced erectile lysfunction

Death grip — A phenomenon where men become conditioned to only respond sexually to their wn hands

Pornsick—Ayoung man whose ocial behaviour is profoundly mpacted by pornography use, usually used to describe men who oversexualise the behaviour of their peers.

Post-nut clarity — Mixed motions of shame and wisdom ollowing ejaculation

workplace, and pursuing women more aggressively for sex-something often cited as a benefit of the movement.

A further danger of the movement is that it doesn't encourage men to have real empathy for sex workers, or argue for any material change to the porn industry. In fact, men who subscribe to pages on OnlyFans, one of the few sites where sex workers remain almost entirely in control of their product, are frequently mocked more harshly because they are seen as 'simps' of the creators they follow. In general, their critique of the industry is tied up in backwards attitudes towards women and incel-adjacent beliefs about how a man's sex life reflects his value as a person, which keeps the movement from contributing meaningfully to porn industry reform.

The men's anti-porn movement raises a range of valid critiques of the porn industry, particularly surrounding its impact on heterosexual men's sexual same time, it's hard not to feel like these men are missing the point, just a little, by failing to critique the underlying sexism of their movement.

The first attempts at blood transfusion stressing how 'gender blind' and HIV date back to the Seventeenth century, a testing-related strategies should be the time when blood circulation attracted research and experimental interest. Since the 1930s, the Australian Red Cross has focussed on a commitment to safely storing donated blood and providing blood transfusions. More current deferral period than ninety years have passed since subtly hints at the these pioneering endeavours, so association of a bear with me while I take you on a hypothetical journey through a (paradoxical) scenario set in today's increased risk world.

M. is a blood donor in their home country and has been invited by a friend — while both of them are in Australia - to donate blood on a Tuesday night. M. happily carries out all the procedures required to register as an Aussie first-time donor. Since donating blood is such a fulfilling experience for them, they have been doing so for years. They answer the basic questions — what countries they have visited in the previous years, the vaccinations they've received, etc. Then, the question is asked: "In the last *3 months have you had male to male sex* (that is, oral or anal sex) with or without condom?"

The ethical issue arises as they ponder the lesser evil: do they lie about their sexual experience and end up donating blood which could save lives, or do they be honest, and deprive someone of those invaluable life-saving 470 millilitres?

Walking into the donation centre wearing their wristband from the WorldPride March, this very question seems to be an anachronism. M. is in utter confusion: is this a sort of moral dilemma? The ethical issue arises as they ponder the lesser evil: do they lie about their sexual experience and end up donating blood which could save lives, or do they be honest, and had anal sex in the three months deprive someone of those invaluable life-saving 470 millilitres?

The bitter aspect of this story is that it is not uncommon. The paradox is that it pushes certain categories to the boundaries of discrimination, in a context where you wouldn't expect it to happen.

fair policies in blood donors' screening must be the 'same for everyone',

# Drained away: When giving is moulded into privilege

way to go so as to avoid discrimination altogether. Drawing upon bans instituted in the 1980s, framed within broader endeavours to halt the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the

specific sexual identity with an of infection.

Discrimination

even stronger towards 'zero monogamous relationships risk' with tested partners. These policies contribute to reinforcing the stigma around HIV being a 'gay disease', when it actually affects all sexualities. Heterosexual people are not facing lower risks of being infected by HIV, and they tend to have lower HIV-testing rates with respect to homosexual people.

We have come a long way — have we *now?* — from the 1980s fatal toll taken on lives by HIV, but these policies seem to base their logic on stereotypes coming from that time. While it is true that anal sex is associated with a higher likelihood of the virus' transmission, are we able to crush the taboo and say that it does not just happen in maleto-male intercourses? Yes, we are and the best preventive policy remains adopting safe sexual behaviours.

However, is there hope on the horizon? A blood donation policy similar to the Australian one has been adopted by the USA. Nonetheless, recent news suggested that a new FDA "proposed policy would eliminate the time-based restrictions on men who have sex with men [...]", screening potential donors' eligibility based on a series of questions to assess their HIV risk, regardless of gender. This possibility has been envisaged by the Australian Red Cross as well: defined as individual risk assessment procedure, "the risk assessment would include questions about anal sex", excluding from the pool of donors those who previous to the donation "with a new [...] or more than one sexual partner."

A report by the organisation Let Us Give has shown how a "policy of assessing every individual donor for the safety of their sexual activity, regardless of their gender or the gender of their sexual partner", would not A study from 2019 pointed out how compromise blood safety. Australia should seize this opportunity to review

their rules — especially those deemed really becomes an unfettering and by many as prejudiced.

In Europe, an increasing number of countries have lifted or are planning on lifting this ban on blood donation, focusing on an individual risk assessment to exclude donors based on risky sexual practices independent of gender. Italy has been doing this since 2001.

> Italian journalist and author Oriana Fallaci once said that "You're not supposed to donate your soul to someone who's not willing to donate theirs." ["Non si regala

> > l'anima chi non è disposto a regalare la sua"].

considering this idea in the context of blood donation, it is clear that we must

When

change the current situation. When you start giving blood, without needing to be conscious of how what you are donating is going to be accepted, it

fulfilling experience.

In a world (allegedly) striving for equality, this whole story represents just another example of a huge setback. Article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states how 'in the exercise of [...] rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations [...] solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights [...] of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general

#### welfare [...]'.

Michele Forti wants you to be able to donate blood.

Building upon one of the founding documents of the realm of formal human rights, much is up for debate: whose rights matter more? Which morality are we talking about? General welfare of whom? I, unfortunately, do not possess any clear solution to these dilemmas, but I surely can lend you some bitterness, disappointment and (sanguinely) information to be used when facing a reality which is clearly not made for everyone to enjoy and which strikingly reinforces boundaries by hiding huge walls behind rainbow flags.

Art by coffee bean



# How do we bid farewell to the places that we know

#### Serena Izmirlian this about the places that we've been, and where we are yet to go.

the shape of the moon, the shade of I be indifferent in return? light hanging from the sky, the dye of the carpet, and most importantly, the people that shape it into being.

When I have less than twenty-four hours with a place, I implore myself to remember its details and fine-tune my feelings, directing them into a poem. Ideally, the poem writes itself. However, when too much time has passed, I settle for the prosaic — it is better than absence.

It seems that few people feel like they owe anything to places... They're off wandering to loftier heights, after all, and the places they leave behind are relegated to formidable eyewitnesses of their revolving character arcs. Their final conversations with these important structures are soon drifting away in the smoke, and they switch so easily between buildings without a spark of shame.

But for me, I feel a sense of duty towards places I have been and the people that lived in it — simply because they took me in. Their service to me seems laudatory, except when I realise it wasn't service, rather, common courtesy. This seems too cynical somehow... I don't want to be cynical.

If I'm being earnest, I'm afraid that I'll remember them wrong. To counter this, it is by describing their unique qualities that I can reveal my love. This is where poetry comes in handy. So,

that I pay close attention to it. I notice and why do I care to do this? Why can't country, whose spatial childhood relics

No one from a past life has called to say the roof hasn't stopped leaking since I left, the walls have assumed a listless form, everything smells like grey gas. I haven't called either because I'm ashamed to say I dream about places that cocooned me ephemerally. That I want to spend a few days in eternity with them. That they have shaped my way of thinking. That they have shaped my life, permanently. I'm moved by places I'm hardly connected with.

No one from a past life has called to say the roof hasn't stopped leaking since I left, the walls have assumed a listless form. everything smells like grey gas.

A gardener should be writing this, a sage of silent vanishings - someone who reaped not her harvest despite starting a garden from scratch. The reaper is unappreciative, sleeping through winter and letting the delightful lilies wilt.

Who else should be writing this? A refugee, someone who can never return home. Someone who left their

My last day at a place is the first time how can I honour places with prose, family behind, who is from a war-torn are cremated in dust and mire. Who is doing their best at learning English and connecting with foreign people.

> Currently I'm on a train. When I depart this train, I won't feel sad, because its purpose is to provide travel. It doesn't mean anything to me that the seats are reversible — though I love that passengers can choose to travel backwards or forwards, it's a neat metaphor. My row of seats by default was aiming forwards, and I didn't bother to reverse it.

So, why am I sad to leave behind other places that take me from one place to another? Places that were never permanent, that were always a stepping stone for something bigger? Why do I feel like they owe me something, and I them?

They forget me, they never cared to know me. And I only properly cared to know them during our last twenty-four hours when I stared at them. I didn't want to look away for even a second, to show my appreciation that they constituted home during an undercut season in my overshadowed existence.

I've been on campus for less than two weeks, and I love it. The majesty of the buildings irradiates my dreams, and I am starstruck. On my first day, it rained mythically, and I was laughing so much at how picturesque it was. Four weeks in, I'm less mesmerised by its beauty. This scares me.

I wonder what I'll remember when it's time to go.

I hope it's the sense of adventure. Being mindful of your youth and the dozens of people you're going to meet, the faces you'll remember yet forget the names of, the infinite articles you could write, societies you could join, the infinite faces you can reveal to infinite people.

The sense of adventure recounting your steps, in every moment, thinking of how you are going to retell this to yourself and your loved ones in future. The mundane moments feel exciting.

All this pales in comparison to people – the most important thing we remember. But I don't know how to write odes to people. Which is perhaps why I'm settling on an ode to places and other things. Maybe that's my way of letting people know I love them and am fascinated by them, and they are the reason why I'm having a difficult time leaving after-the-fact.

But by default, my row of seats on the train was aiming forwards, and I knew I was going to stick with that fate.

In the meantime, I'm in the middle of this journey – it's not my first day, nor my last. I know when it's time to go, all the colours will change form, but right now, they're shades of green and I'm missing the jacaranda leaves of the old spot I frequented just a few weeks ago. I know I will miss this place too. My prayer is to not let my heart ache prematurely.

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year, decided I would really try to seek out the beauty that exists in the world. Even if it's hidden. Even if I've had the worst day and I don't feel like it. This is the challenge that I set that challenge for myself. I can't say I've succeeded every day, but it's the trying that matters.

Part of us needs them.

needs them.

girls bathroom.

solidarity behind it.

OK so the conversation didn't go so well The next one will go betfer

#### Dancing on my own: In defence of going to concerts alone Elliot Lawry stands in line alone.

In January I had an out-of-body experience. From high above I saw myself, standing in the middle of a sweaty crowd at Hordern Pavillion, but completely alone. Around me, people laughed with their friends and danced to Mariah Carey's Heartbreaker as we awaited the headline act for the night. With no reception and no one to turn to, I was forced to stand in place and revel in the loneliness of the moment.

There's a brave validation that one grants oneself for completing an ordinarily social task unaccompanied. Not to brag, but I am quite good at "Nights Like This" and I knew that I doing things by myself (there's the had to do the unthinkable and face a aforementioned validation in action!). general admission crowd alone. Having travelled solo, I've conquered most activities that are socially taboo to do alone: movies, restaurants, clubs, you name it. But live music has always evaded me and felt like something I could only enjoy with friends.

I love concerts. They are uniquely social events, and I have loved deepening friendships over the shared passion for a musical act. To this end, to say it, but I felt a sense of shame and I've never dared to attempt one on my embarrassment.

own, but late last year I moved from Melbourne to Sydney and in doing so lost my network of concert lovers and as me.

But live music is my thing, so when queer R&B legend Kehlani announced their Australian tour, I simply had to buy a ticket. I assumed that I would easily find a companion, but a quick survey of my social circle turned up short. The date was fast approaching and I considered bailing. It took one listen to Kehlani's seminal masterpiece

When telling coworkers and friends that I was going to the show, I fell into a web of lies about why no one was joining me. My creative flair had me spinning a new story every time —"a friend pulled out last minute", or "I won the ticket so I thought I'd check it out!", or "Kehlani is actually an old friend of mine, we go way back". I hate

All that awkwardness faded away after all. If when Kehlani took to the stage. As I had an the lights went down, I was no longer unhealthy people with just as questionable taste acutely aware of myself or the people around me. For the next 90 minutes, to I danced, I laughed, and I cried with reckless abandon. The last time I saw Kehlani live was during the marriage equality debate in 2017, and they to see how spoke with wisdom about protecting your heart from negativity. This time, my future as they sang Open (Passionate), I felt as though they were personally consoling me about the trials and tribulations of my love life. At that moment I felt connected to the person on stage in a way that I never have in a group setting. It was just me and Kehlani. One-on-one.

> Because I'm a nerd, I had to validate you to try if my positive experience was common. So I conducted a short-term empirical yourself. research study, and posted a poll on And don't my Instagram story. The findings forget to were as follows: 67% of respondents say hello, indicated that they would happily go odds are to a concert alone, yet only 34% said that I'll probably be there, dancing that they actually had done so. For all alone too. the worry, what I did wasn't that weird

attachment live music before, just wait

unhinged will be.

Friends, if you've come this far and still aren't convinced, I implore it for

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Don't feel like you need to apologise all the time O thank you! If GOOD  $\mathbf{V}$ Ø NO ONE 15 Judging you for pooping! LUCK Ø **Finding Solidarity on Bathroom Walls** ever!v

#### Part of us needs them.

I know this isn't an original idea Films, plays, poems and novels have proclaimed this 'pursuit of happiness' mentality for generations. Stories of people and characters living in spite of pain and tragedy are popular for a reason. They resonate with people.

People want to see the joy in the world. That's why our generation has constructed this meta-trend of reels of beautiful moments, places and lifted up by others. and people from movies, the news and people's private lives. That's why Sean Penn's line from The Secret Life of Walter Mitty has flooded my fyp as of late. "Beautiful things don't ask for attention." These messages resonate with people. Part of us

Beauty exists and lives in the places we least expect. For me, two weeks ago, this beauty existed on the back of a stall in the John Woolley

It was there that I found, in all different languages and fonts, words of encouragement and affirmations sprawled across the back of the stall doors. People before me had taken the time to stop and write these messages. Others had taken the time to respond. For me, and for whoever next visited the stall. And perhaps what made them so beautiful and special was that they were hidden. They were private and anonymous, which meant they were equally free to be open and personal. There was a beauty in the rawness of it and the

Some of the messages spoke to what it means to be perceived and the weight that is so often assigned to appearance.

# tù eres bonita

This was written on the back of the door, not knowing or seeing who walked in. It was for everyone. It was declared like one declares a universal truth. I don't know - and can't know - exactly what they meant when they wrote this. Perhaps it was as simple as encouraging whoever walked in to see themselves as pretty, no matter the expectations of others. Perhaps it was a message to themselves. However, either way, the act of writing this message speaks to so much more. The person who wrote it hadn't seen me. They couldn't control who saw the message and who didn't, and they wrote it anyway. They wrote it knowing that. They were recognising a beauty that is inherent. A beauty that is all the 'hope core'; aesthetic, cinematic more powerful when acknowledged

#### They couldn't control who saw the message and who didn't, and they wrote it anyway.

Solidarity thrives on dialogue. Without interaction and agreement, how can unity exist? These writings in the bathroom were a testament to this. While there were countless messages about beauty, love and encouragement for moments in the future, there were also conversations. People were responding, despite not knowing if the original writer would see. That didn't matter. They were acknowledging these messages and what they meant for them. They were recognising the power that solidarity can have.

As a serial people pleaser, this was a personal favourite of mine.

Freja Newman reads the writing on the (bathroom) wall.

apologise all the time"

"Thank you!"

As a serial people pleaser, this was a personal favourite of mine. While I've been told this countless times by friends and family, there's

something about hearing it from a stranger that makes it more powerful. Seeing it written down, and acknowledged by a person unknown to me proved that I'm not step further. 'No I can't"

to be open. This could have been

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is judging you... the revolution is love... They were created good luck."

Love always ( indurity Love always ( indurity Comes are ( generations, particularly for comes are ( have been so dependent on ( muunity to feel safe and ( "e. Art, film, literature and ( "ws have acknowledged ( mon experience of ( is Love always ( is comes) ( is come

I'll admit, it was sad to read, but

it was also brave. It showed just

how supportive people can be.

In a moment of raw honesty and

hopelessness, strangers had taken the

time to lift someone up. Someone

they didn't know and would possibly

never meet. Except it didn't matter.

This first message of encouragement

from a stranger prompted someone

the first or thousandth time this

person had spoken up but they did

That's kind of

the whole point.

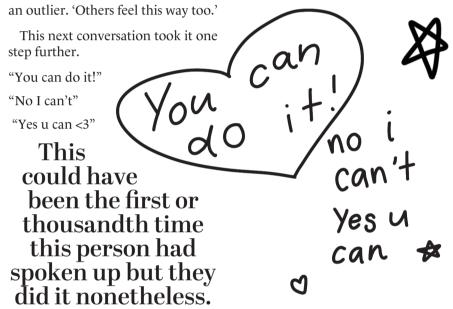
for us to stumble

upon and savour.

t nonetheless.

"Hey! Don't feel like you need to existence, both subtly and explicitly. across time and perspectives. A notion still produced, parodied and recontextualised today.

> Maybe you would classify these words in a bathroom as art. Maybe you just see it as a form of therapy; an achievement of catharsis through anonymous revelations. Perhaps you see it as poetry, a political act, or a postmodern stream of consciousness seeking permanency... whatever suits you best. Ultimately, you have the freedom to decide.



#### So savour it, if you like, or don't.

That's kind of the whole point They were created for us to stumble upon and savour. So savour it, if you like, or don't. Rest easy in the knowledge that there is still beauty and solidarity in the world, however bold or hidden.

thank yoy !

"Have a good day... no one

# The 'END OF' Era

of beginning at the end, but this is a story that's still being written. Its opening has blossomed outwards, but its climax is uncertain. Despite this, we can be sure of how it will end, or rather, of the two ways it will end: in total rebirth or complete destruction.

Instead, let's begin with a time of immense noise. The media is a competition of noise, the volume (in every sense of the word) of each bulletin drowning out the next. This is a time of spectacle: noise punctuates all issues, from the environment to the economy. Picture a hurricane, a storm, a tsunami, a flood, a drought. Crashes, bursts, thunder — now watch a market crash, a bubble burst, a thunder of applause.

This is a time of recycling: filmic remakes and biopics that poke at the corpses of dead stars, another fashion brand "collaborating" with a late artist, another Christie's auction where a century-old masterpiece is brought out to complete silence, and the crowd applauds only when the hammer falls. The sound of money is thunderous, and it has induced the dominant culture-makers in developed, western societies to repeat itself and imitate itself to no apparent end.

This is all to say, there cannot be an avant garde in a society where economic interests have completely usurped cultural ones. The market produces what is profitable, and art (and by extension, film, literature, and all other cultural commodities) is most profitable when

following what is tried and true, and therefore unoriginal. Arthur Danto notoriously proclaimed in The End of Art that we are in a posthistorical period of art, bringing into existence works "which lack the historical importance or meaning we have for a long time come to expect." Postmodern theorist Frederic Jameson wrote that "a truly new culture could only emerge through the collective struggle to create a new social system."

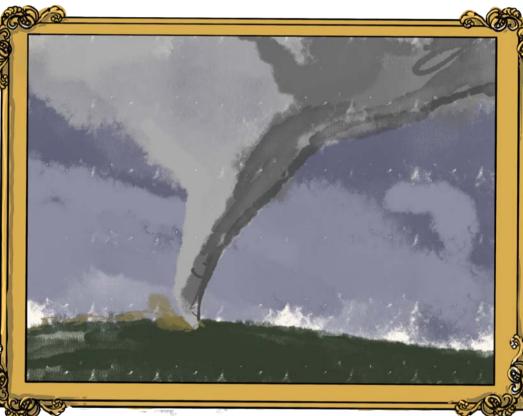
#### The media is a competition of noise, the volume of each bulletin drowning out the next.

Whilst these ideas -- posthistoricism, postmodernism — are many decades old, nothing has come since to definitively replace them as

I'd indulge in the contemporary trope era. It is true to say that the very nature of contemporary culture resists homogenised definition, but are we doomed to another lifetime of this unfixedness?

> How will the humankind of the next century look back on this time, draw lines between our artefacts, and hypothesise on what name to label it? It won't take a struggle to create a new social system to end the inertia of our self-loathing, self-regurgitating culture, as Jameson suggests. The next shift in

The next shift in art, its next breath of new life, is underpinned by the choice between looming environmental destruction, or environmental change.



art, its next breath of new life, is underpinned by the choice between looming environmental destruction, or environmental change.

The singular and most significant aberrance from the postmodern status quo has been through environmentalist cultural works.

Notoriously difficult to define and coneheaded as they are, we can think of postmodernism as a cultural shift from the grand, utopian narratives of modernism, to a scepticism of language and order that materialised after the end of WWII. Modernism was the era of movements: from Impressionism's stained-glass renderings of middleclass life, to Abstract Expressionism's rejection of representational integrity, each movement orbited around artistic circles and their world-shaping manifestos.

At its most extreme frontiers, from core cultural frames of the present Modernity also came Fascism. The

Advertising explodes into every aspect of our public and private lives; Disney comes to define the cultural age; Pop-Artworks like Warhol's soup cans confirm the dissolution of the distinctions between art, marketing, and entertainment. We can no longer assume that cultural works bear sophisticated or worldaltering meanings, because ornament and spectacle have been mobilised as distractions from the hollowness of most of the media that surrounds us.

This extends to how the media shapes our understanding of the environment, and environmental change. The vocabularies used to describe environmental issues in the media are far from neutral: shaped by distinct undercurrents of financial influence, shifting the phrase "making headlines" from figurative to literal. What is there to be said of "natural disasters" which are in fact

#### Anthony James-Kanaan thaws a frozen culture.

narrativist aspirations of Modernism,

and uprooted the entire utopian

foundations on which art had, for

almost a century, founded itself on. Art

making was displaced by two concurrent

post-war forces: globalisation through

the spread of multinational capitalism

advertising and cultural hegemons ---

and the spread of the television set, with

the image overtaking the written word

as a cultural dominant.

establishing global corporations as

events of WWII shattered the grand- consequences of human activities and climate change? The false balance fallacy created by giving climate denialists equal airtime as climate activists violates the real scientific consensus that human activities are definitively causing global warming.

> The language used to discuss climate change is dreary: replete with cliché, oversimplification and platitudes to cater to a supine audience. Another "once in a lifetime" or "once in a hundred years weather event," where the "hundred years" suggests that a disaster is inevitable, organic, and the complete understatement of "weather event" also abnegating human liability for those catastrophes.

> Local coverage of climate change is remiss if without discussion of the

Black Summer bushfires, its impact on air quality in Sydney and its deterioration of biodiversity, but what of the sacred Indigenous sites destroyed in the fire? Coverage of the Adani coal mine protests is replete with references to Australia's international climate obligations, and images of young Australians holding placards, but how much coverage has been given to the Wangan and Jagalingou people, whose traditional lands would be impacted by the mine?

Like postcolonial fiction, arguably the most significant artistic movement in the past half century, uses literature as a tool to decentre eurocentric assumptions and give voice to the marginalised.

The artworks and literatures that have been created within the last decades, and which demand a place at the forefront of our readerly attention, have centred around environmentalist subject matters. These literatures fill in gaps left by media coverage of climate

change.

It is difficult to understand oneself without there being an environment to contextualise that life, and it is more difficult to understand environmental decay in a world that lacks artistic continuity.

letters, from fiction to philosophy and memoir. Take this excerpt from the opening of Martin Hägglund's post-Kantian critique of secularity, This Life:

"When I return to the same landscape every summer, part of what makes it so poignant is that I may never see it again. Moreover, I care for the preservation of the landscape because I am aware that even the duration of the natural environment is not guaranteed ... Our time together is illuminated by the sense that it will not last forever and we need to take care of one another because our lives are fragile."

climate change is a challenge: to think creatively about the scale of the crisis, but also to imagine new ways of understanding our relationship with the natural world.

What makes Hägglund's philosophy distinctly tied to its historical context is its emphasis on the environment as Smith's Seasonal Quartet, a precondition to self-understanding. is largely a meditation It is difficult to understand oneself without there being an environment to contextualise that life, and it is more of tearing itself apart. difficult to understand environmental decay in a world that lacks artistic of bees in the novel continuity.

#### Feature



intruded into all aspects of contemporary

Writing about

The mood of environmental decay has Even critical works of legal activism are remiss if omitting reference to the real issues posed by climate change. *Finding* the Heart of the Nation: The Journey of the Uluru Statement towards Voice, Treaty and Truth, by Torres Strait Islander man Thomas Mayor, documents the journey of the Uluru Statement, and calls for Indigenous Australians to have a greater role in decision making, especially in regards to issues such as climate change.

> Works that feel the most alive, the most original and relevant, incorporate the issues of the environment into their substance. This is, after all, the measure of good art; the culture cultivates certain conditions that artists come to reflect in their works,

a contextual influence without which their work would be bare entertainment. Their adaptation of culture, their interpretation of the history of a society, in turn contributes to and constitutes culture itself. This is the artistic framework that has been forgotten since high Modernism, but revitalised through environmentalist

Autumn, from Ali on Brexit, and an ode to a country on the brink However, the motif is a point of contrast from which we can

reconsider national turmoil in the context of a threat facing the entire human population. Danial, an elderly art historian suffering from a terminal illness, obsesses over the plight of bees, 'dying out, vanishing, collapsing, all over the word' and evidently symbolic of the impact of human activity on the natural world.

Rarely does a new possibility open in the literary world that is not attached to the ideas or modes of previous artistic periods. Climate change is an issue sui generis, and a site for original art making removed from the oversaturated mediascape of the last century. Writing about climate change is a challenge: to think creatively about the scale of the crisis, but also to imagine new ways of

understanding our relationship with the natural world, new avenues for driving social and political change.

We can understate the relationship between art and life itself, but it is undeniable that the two have informed one another since we developed language, and writing. We can choose the comforting paralysis that comes with facing such a monumental challenge. Or, we can write a new ending, a better ending, to this story.

#### Art by Margot Roberts



# The Sound of Queer Joy

To start within my own body, queer joy broils from the middle of my little gay heart. It's vivacious. It takes space with a mere laugh. Queer joy is laughing so instinctually it shoots out of my body with a "ha!": I grip my stomach with both my hands and shrink in to try and contain it all. Queer joy is standing in a circle with my queer friends, almost as if in ritual, and one of us says something so outrageously hilarious that we have to bark with laughter. We can't hold it in. I grab someone's arm, they keel over into my body, and everyone around us is just staring at this troublesome gang of loud, effervescent teens feeling comfort in each other's presence.

Queer joy is feeling secure in a circle of friends where you can be raucous and provocative, but there's a constant, clear, and healthy discussion of boundaries and consent. Queer joy is making a small comment at work which, even if no one else understands, makes me laugh, and sometimes there'll be a giggle of recognition from someone else. Queer joy is a secret code. It's laughing when the lecturer makes a subtle "top/bottom" innuendo, intentional or not, and knowing just a handful of others in the room understand.

Queer joy is the confusion on straight people's faces when I tell them to "werk it hunty." Queer joy is when you get that

"look"

#### WIlliam Winter explores the sound of glitter, heels and laughter.

in our blood.

autotuned.

roar. Queer joy lets me take up space.

When you're socialised as a male,

queer joy is realising you don't have

to stomp around everywhere looking

miserable and unemotional, never

laughing or smiling cause that's too

gay. You are gay. Be gay. Queer joy is

sought out, but also found. Queer joy

is stumbled upon. It is oxygen and it is

Queer joy is gallivanting down the

street and spontaneously breaking

into a sparkling rendition of Believe

by Cher, knowing that if enough

voices join in, you can sound really

Queer joy is sitting in your room,

faint moonlight dusting over your bed.

You're cross-legged, phone put to the

side, and you're thinking about your

day. It's awfully quiet. You were here

a few months ago, dark, alone, silent.

Except, tonight, there's a little fire in

your heart. It keeps you warm. You

have a hearth filled with queer joy that

has made its home in your heart, and

you feel at peace with the world. You

lay down, go through every muscle in

vour body and unclench, and know

that life can only get better from here.

Art by Shaheen Boaz

from someone. You know the look: they see your little pronoun badge or the sashay in your walk, or maybe they hear the distant stomp of Doc Martens and a carabiner click, and your eyes meet, and you both nod.

I call all of my joy "queer" joy, because being queer is what pushed me towards seeking joy. Being queer is what taught me that my purpose in life can just be to seek fun, seek excitement, seek joy in my life and in others

Queer joy is political. We are being stamped out, we are misrepresented in media as miserable beings shrouded in self-doubt living inherently doomed lives. Queer joy is an act of survival. Queer joy is peeling apart your limbs which have been shaped into a square, and contorting them into new shapes, shapes which feel natural and smooth, and suddenly you're no longer

giggling in a modest, contained, typically masc or femme way, but claiming your space as your own.

When I learned to embrace queer joy, my laugh went from a timid giggle to a breathy, facially expressive, punchy

# An ASMRist for every season

*"Walking through the jungle, X marks"* the spot. Dot line, dot line, dot dot. *Spiders crawling up your back, Snakes slithering down. Here comes the spider to* bite you on the neck. Tight squeeze, cool breeze, do you have the shiver-ies?"

Does this rhyme sound familiar to you? Here are recommendations of ASMR sound artists for one to get more of the "shiveries" for each season.

#### Harvest fruit in Autumn with Animal ASMR

Tortoise, puppy dog, hamster, guinea pig, iguana and snail. Mango, watermelon, kiwi fruit, star fruit, strawberries, orange, grapes, rambutan and pomegranate. Mushroom, cabbage, carrots, broccoli and pumpkin. Yes, it is what it sounds like. This channel is about all kinds of animals eating all sorts of fruits and veggies.

#### Girl /g3l/

Last week an older male colleague referred to me and another young woman as 'girls' in the same sentence that he referred to a male colleague, my age, by his name. Of course, I've been called a girl countless times before, but there was something about that moment in particular that made me feel smaller than usual, like the distance between myself and my older colleague was the same distance you'd have between a teacher and a school child. And I questioned, why am I still a girl when my male colleague was allowed to grow up?

It isn't controversial that referring to adult women as 'girls' in the workplace is harmful to women. USyd Professor Rae Cooper has found that as people don't refer to men as "boys" in the same way women are called "girls", the term functions to differentiate women from their male colleagues in a way that is infantilising and demeaning.

### women as 'girls' in the workplace is harmful to women

when applied to adult women in the workplace, it implies that women are not mature, professional, or responsible, writes Susan Madsen. Women who are referred to as "girls", instead of women, are both less confident in themselves and more likely to believe that others view them as less suitable for leadership positions.

# TAKE MY HAND, KICKING AND SCREAMING

There is a child crying on this bus and all I want to do is get off. I have never heard such a distressed shriek in my entire life, a pitch so piercing it drowns the droning motor and pixelates the passersby. It replaces the air, gasping and incessant, yet everyone here pretends not to hear it. I keep my head down. I steal a glimpse at the child's mother — there is always a mother. She presses the stop button when I do, manoeuvres the pram onto the curb, and does not look back. I wonder if she is crying too.

#### \*\*\*

In her novel, Motherhood, Sheila Heti asks: "Why are we still having children?". Following the internal conflicts of guilt, wonder and longing she experiences watching her peers grow their families, Heti's narrator agonises over if, and not when, she will do the same.

I had never felt so heard by someone inevitably lose myself to else's voice. As a young woman who its howling demands. has whispered this question to herself almost daily since first reading it, I believe there might never be a good enough answer that I can give for myself. Instead, I must be dragged, kicking and screaming in the same way I was when I learned the Easter Bunny did not exist, to this decision I do not think I will ever be ready to make.

my mother caring for me. My second

memories are of myself caring for my younger brother. Four years his senior, I trickled water across his forehead and sang to him between splashes. As we grew older, I sanitised his baby bottles and taught him how to walk. Even now, as I watch him leave for school in the early morning glow, I hear gurgles own melody amongst it. amidst his giggles.

This is not a matter of loving a child that shares my blood. I am human, family. But I am also a woman, and by the time I was ready to start preschool, I was known as my brother's "second mum." I learned quickly that the love I know I can give, so full and overflowing that I sometimes do not know where to put it, will never just be warmth or affection. My love needs to be devotion, a force so nurturing and doting that I will

I was fourteen when I first heard the phrase "biological clock". The words came from my father, a condescending quip in the face of my longing for a

career without a 13.3% pay gap. I had Some of my first memories are of seen what children had done to every woman in my life: the waiting for

sleepless nights to pass, for bygone opportunities to come back, for the children they had raised to return home. While I know now that motherhood does not have to be overwhelmingly loud or blissfully silent, I would at least like to hear my

When I speak of a balance between my ambition and maternalism, I am not speaking about compromise. and I would do anything for my I am the first woman in my whole family to attend university, to see employment as a source of fulfilment and freedom. I

acknowledge, too, that



treatment of motherhood as a choice is a privilege borne from the sacrifices made by my mother, her mother, her out for the exits.

#### Simone Maddison hears a child crying.

You feel at home.

mother's mother. I bear the weight of their tears, through laughter and sorrow, in everything I am lucky enough to create.

However if I have a daughter, she will inherit all the screams swirling around inside me. I think now of Sylvia Plath's journal from 1950, of her need to repeat mantras that "males worship woman as a sex machine", that "wealth and beauty are not in your realm", and that we are all angry and unhappy. My daughter will never know peace, and it will be my fault. Perhaps this is what I am most afraid of: not my own oppression, but the certainty that my love cannot overpower it.

Of course, it is one thing to claim that I do not want to have children. It is another to be told that I cannot. Since my PCOS diagnosis, visits to my doctors have been dominated by questions of my fertility. Here I am, filling the devastating holes I thought only a child could create. This note in my future has been played too early, like a tremoring trombone that cannot tune itself.

It is not that I feel I will be less of a woman without children. It is not even that I do not want them at all. I want to be a parent, not a mother. I want to be certain in why I did it, and have enough love left for myself by the end of it. Above all, I want to hear a child crying and not find myself crying

#### Hear stories around a winter campfire with Batala's ASMR & Diddly ASMR

Batala ASMR's videos tend to have a lower brightness with dim lights or candles in the dark background to help set you into night mode. Batala can always amuse you with her jokes, or even an improvised rap song. When ASMR, doing she'll say surprising things to keep you on your toes. You won't feeling bored be on this journey to dreamland



With her soft whisper and gentle voice, she'll teach you everything from Australian slang to sex education lessons based on her health and sciences degree, or even sing you a Chinese meme song called "Xue Hua Piao Piao."

#### You won't be feeling bored on this journey to dreamland. An adventurous

spring camping trip with Jojo's ASMR

Another Australian, Jojo's ASMR always has eyecatching titles and covers

Diddly ASMR is from Australia. on his videos. For example, "if you do not tingle, I will send you \$100." Join in his adventure to compare the sound recorded by a \$1 microphone to a \$60,000 one, play a unique version of Minecraft with every sound changed into ASMR, or spend a horrific night with Joker on Halloween.

Kate Zhang wants you to get the shivers.

#### A visit to the cool lab in summer with asmr zeitgeist

Zeitgeist can amaze you with the range of material he uses, from ear picking tools — brushes, tweezers, cotton swabs, spoolies - to fruits, pillows, Golden snitches, cats, and things that you can't even name. Audiences enjoy the quality and aesthetic of his videos. He has named his microphones and animates them, so don't panic if you see his microphone raising an eyebrow and smiling at you.

### Why am I still a girl when all the boys have grown up? Bella Gerardi wants you to stop calling her a girl

#### noun 1. a female child

# **Referring to adult**

As girl is a term attached to childhood,

One explanation for the ongoing use of In "girls" is that it is a product of lingering sexism from the time that women (re)entered the workforce. Women working in the early twentieth century were largely only able to work in areas associated with features of domestic labour or in deferential positions in other industries, such as secretaries.

As many positions were deferential in nature, and most women in the workforce were unmarried young women, to be a working "girl" was all but the norm. Indeed, the term "working girl" — traditionally used only for sex workers — was expanded to describe working women generally.

**Girlbosses could** call themselves girls because their ideology ignored the existence of systemic sexism

Beyond this, the growth of girlboss feminism, popularised by Nasty Gal founder Sophia Amoruso in 2014 in her autobiography, entitled #Girlboss, encouraged the use of "girl" as a term for adult women in the workplace. Girlboss feminism is rooted in a capitalist ideology as it largely ignores structural inequality, focusing instead on individualist empowerment. It heralds women who, through hard work and hustle, succeed in a "man's world". The movement has since been widely criticised as neoliberal, white-centric and performative, and in online spaces, #girlboss survives only as an insult.

addition all of to this, girlboss feminists proudly labelled themselves as GIRLbosses, or even just girls, in the workplace. Girlbosses could call themselves girls because their ideology ignored the existence of systemic sexism, after all, a girlboss could just hustle herself out of not being taken seriously-right?

Girlboss feminism was built on the capitalist fantasy that "hard work pays off" and encouraged women to be bossy and "hustle" to reach success. However, Nasty Gal and Amoruso's success was reliant on deeply exploitative labor practices and in 2016, the company filed for bankruptcy, putting speculation on the truth of the girlboss ethos. Colloquially, "girlboss" now refers to a woman who ascertains success at the expense of others.

#### **Girlboss feminism** was built on the capitalist fantasy that "hard work" pays off"

While choice feminists strove to redefine "girl" according to their own metrics, as the integrity of the movement dissolved, it left in its wake yet another negative association attached to being a "girl" in the To make matters simple, if you're not workplace.

While the linguistic pair for girls is boys, young men in the workplace likely find

themselves called

"guys" as the informal alternative to men. Although historically, "guvs" has been masculine, women have been using "guys" since the middle of the 20th century so there is no reason the word cannot evolve into gender neutrality.

Alternatively, "girls" is predominantly used in the plural, and is an unnecessary qualifier that could be dropped all together or substituted for a gender-neutral pronoun: "how are you girls" becomes "how are you", "could you work with the girls on that task" becomes "could you work with them on that task."

in a situation where you'd call a man a boy, then that woman isn't a girl.

Art by Caitlin O'Keeffe-White

# Liberté, égalité, sororité: The sounds of sorority

Liberté, égalité, Sororité

The sounds of sorority

"Debout les femmes" - stand up!

Place de la République, Paris, International Women's Day 2023

This year, International Women's Day coincided with France's ongoing general strikes against raising the retirement age from 62 to 64. Welcoming us to our first protest in Paris, the recognisable tune of Britney Spears emerged from a turntable setup on the back of a rented ute. The modern sounds of the Princess of Pop seem to juxtapose the Place de la République's tall bronze statue of Marianne, the symbolic figure of the French Revolution. Standing strong, she holds an olive branch high in one hand, and rests her other hand on a tablet titled "the rights of man." At two, the atmosphere shifts as an eerie hymn plays on speakers placed underneath Marianne. Intrigued, we approach her and are beckoned by older French feminists to hold onto the cords tied to her in solidarity and join them in singing. Referring to a print-out of the lyrics, we are soon chanting "Debout les Femmes" (Women Standing Up). Unfamiliar with the song, I started tentatively but was encouraged by the fire within the women around me and the striking lyrics:

"Asservies, humiliées, les femmes. Achetées, vendues, violées". "Enslaved, humiliated, women.

Bought, sold, raped."

a melancholy melody and a refrain As union vehicles arrived with floats holding a peace sign in the air. As she referring to women as "slaves" who must break out of their chains — resurfaced, beginning with KRS-One's pose reminiscent of the statue's, slightly unnerving from the mouths of white women. Later research unearthed that "Debout les Femmes" was the hymn of the MLF (Mouvement de Libération des Femmes - Women's Liberation Movement) from France's major protests in May 1968. My initial hesitation was affirmed by reading about the afro-feminist critique of the song's slavery motif.

Of course, solidarity and sorority are the key, but without recognising our different treatment and plights in the global system of patriarchy, we cease to make much progress.

The scale of the May 68 and these 2023 nation-wide protests are quite comparable: both with protests for women's rights nestled inside the larger fight for workers' rights. Whilst impressive, such repetition of history would be slightly disheartening if not for the fighting spirit of the French. As the women's march began, the air was flooded with a cacophony of

to block off the road, the pop music "Sound of da Police" — an almost comical addition to the shocking sight of French protestors at work in the middle of the road.

Taking to the streets, we were swarmed by a sea of 'pancartes' and placards calling for protection of abortion access, prevention of sexual assault, and tearing down the patriarchy. Amongst them, a number of signs mentioned equality for "52% of humanity," equal salaries, sorority. Others depicted the Prime Minister, Elisabeth Borne, as a crow — playing into the tired trope of women as witches. Some simply presented the

word "feminism". When coupled with popular and vaguely women-related songs such as "Treasure" by Bruno Mars or "Buy Myself Flowers" by Miley Cyrus, the protest's radical spirit wavered. While these well-known songs and ambiguous signs made them broadly applicable, uniting all the generations of women present, I found myself wondering what we were specifically fighting for. The protest certainly drew in a crowd, with its sounds recorded by news channels and heard from blocks away. However, was it just making noise for the sake of it? I was pessimistically reminded of vague and broad liberal feminist movements.

In fact, the one aspect of the day that didn't produce a sound was a

The psalm was quite old-school, with drums, whistles, and beeping horns. silent woman wearing a gas mask, stood under Marianne in a powerful some women joined in whilst others continued singing the MLF's "Debout les Femmes" hymn. Whilst only this woman stood for the rights of Iranian women, I felt that this is where our 'sorority' should be turned towards - to marginalised women beyond our own communities. Rather than simply demanding "equal" treatment in the streets and workplaces for Western countries, there is a bigger fight to be fought in solidarity with women globally. Of course, solidarity and sorority are the key, but without recognising our different treatment and plights in the global system of patriarchy, we cease to make much

Grace Street partakes in the French national pastime.



Art by Katarina Butler

Revolution

The slightly cool air of an early autumn number of musicians responding to night in Newtown was a welcome relief police brutality, systemic racism, and after the sweaty heat of Billy Bragg's transphobia - among other issues. early albums set at the Enmore Theatre Hip hop is a genre that is as politically last week. Still buzzing from the show, charged as ever. Rappers with politics I walked with my parents across the on their lips include Donald Glover and glistening backstreet bitumen.

I was slightly taken aback when my mother turned to me and said, "they don't make protest music like that anymore, do they?"

My mother was parroting a sentiment I have frequently encountered, especially from older generations who have grown up with baby-boomer protest songwriters as Bob Dylan and John Forgerty, or more thoroughly Gen-X outfits like Midnight Oil and Bikini Kill.

Even Billy Bragg himself, famous in part for his extensive oeuvre of socialist music, suggested in a 2021 interview with *Crikey* that there was less protest music being made by young people in most sections of society. He argued that social media has led to many who would have become politicised musicians forty years ago, now making social media content instead.

despite some outliers — the apparent decline in protest music was due to young people being less marginalised than they were previously.

correct? If so, where did all the political songs go?

Fortunately, they haven't gone anywhere: there is still a burgeoning and radical musical culture emerging from marginalised groups particularly from people of colour and the LGBT+ community.

The explosive politically charged music that regularly comes out of such quarters, is just as urgent and important as any protest song written in the 20th century was in its context. Even just a quick glance reveals a

Rock ', There is no music genre more known for its rebellious, shocking reputation than rock. This image developed from the roots of the genre itself, which in the 1950s and 60s achieved mainstream success whilst simultaneously driving a taboobreaking counterculture that continues to this day.

The formative rock 'n' roll acts of the of the nascent 60s counterculture 1950s sprung out of America, drawing were forming. Early rock 'n' roll was inspiration from black rhythm & also distinctly multiracial, crossing blues and white country, with a key America's sharply racialised music influence being the guitarwork of queer black gospel singer Sister Rosetta Tharpe. Among the era-defining artists were Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly, Elvis Presley and Little Richard. These artists and their contemporaries defined

rock's core themes. Chuck Berry's songs were often centred around a young protagonist — "Sweet Little Sixteen", "Little Queenie" and the autobiographical "Johnny B. Goode", which yielded perhaps the most recognisable guitar riff ever. Buddy Holly sang about love. Little Richard's "Tutti Frutti" is a veiled song about anal sex. The elements

charts.

However, by the early 60s, rock 'n' roll was in crisis. Chuck Berry was jailed in 1962 for transporting a minor across state lines for sex. Buddy Holly was among the emerging stars killed in a plane crash, inspiring Don Henley's classic "American Pie". Henley learned of Holly's death as a thirteen yearold when he was preparing to run his paper route. Holly and fellow rockers Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper both of whom also died in the same crash – are referred to in the song in terms that allude to the Holv Trinity. Elvis Presley was serving in the U.S. military and Little Richard had retired

from rock to record gospel music. It was in this environment that a new wave of largely British acts emerged, introducing a yet more rebellious style to the genre which would continue to develop over the decade.

These new bands, including the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, donned moptops and smoked cigarettes. Though they often debuted in suits singing sweet songs in unison, by the end of the decade they had dedicated entire albums to psychedelia. They also had an attitude, channelling the angst as well as the emphasis on liberation at the core of the counterculture. The Stones' breakout single in America, "Satisfaction", railed against consumerism and expressed sexual frustration while making a reference to menstruation seemingly missed by their detractors.

# From Billy Bragg to Baker Boy:

Bragg went on to suggest that --

Kendrick Lamar, the latter particularly known for musical activism that explores the racial violence and social injustice that defines the USA.

Closer to home, artists like Baker Boy and JK-47 continue a rich and urgent political-musical tradition that grapples with the extreme injustice and colonial violence faced by First Nations people.

But music and politics don't only intersect in hip-hop. Rock music also retains an intimate connection to radical politics. Irish punk outfit Mhaol regularly engages with feminism and queer politics in explosive songs like Bored of Men and Gender Studies, whilst Australian punk-rockers Amyl and the Sniffers have dabbled in protest about sexual politics, racism, and governmental incompetence with tracks like Capital and Knifey.

The examples go on and on: Courtney Barnett, Pinch Points, IDLES, Fontaines DC, Pussy Riot, Tasman Keith, and many more besides.

Political music is very much alive and kicking. Young people are still Could Bragg, and my mum, be angry about the state of the world, and they are still making music about it.

> Why does the continuing view of less politically charged music prevail?

Most likely, older progressives are simply out of touch with new political music. The situation is certainly not helped by the fact that young artists with radical politics are unlikely to receive much attention on mainstream radio stations.

Yet there is another question often raised about political music that deserves addressing. We know it's all

Protest music lives on Aidan Elwig Pollock thinks the future is bright for activist artists.



#### Art by Claire Hwang

around us, but what is it actually good for? Criticisms directed about any practical role for protest music abound — largely following the notion that "it's just a song; it can't vote, or strike, or organise."

Bragg himself concedes that you can't really change the world through music, arguing that such a sentiment is naive and ignores the real effort that goes into political organisation — the strikes, the protests, and the ballot box.

He instead chooses to focus on the power of protest music to "recharge" activists — to remind us that there still are people out there, willing to This includes, however, not only the come together around shared visions of justice, and a common drive to fight for a better world. Protest music, then, is instrumental in combating the cynicism that all of us would be forgiven for feeling in trying times. Protest music has the power to restore hope for change.

Protest music often has a very real impact, and is still very much all around us today in fresh and exciting forms. But this doesn't mean that older protest music does nothing for us. Contemporary artists exist within a long history of a tightly intertwined relationship between politics and music that goes back to Woody Guthrie and far beyond. Many of these artists have written music that continues to be painfully relevant today.

As young people, justifiably angry about the state of the world, we should consult this long history to recharge our appetite for activism and give a soundtrack to our agitation. musical activism our parents — and even grandparents — listened to, but the musical activism that our own generation is putting out into the world in great quantities — and quality — to this very day.

Will Thorpe believes that rock is a heretical force.

Another Stones single, "Street Fighting Man", was released in August 1968 and took inspiration from unrest in France as well as American protests against the Vietnam War. It tells the story of a poor boy who sings for a rock 'n' roll band because "there's just no place for a street fighting man." The Beatles' "Revolution", attracting criticism from the left and conservatives simultaneously, affirmed a belief in pacifism while supporting the causes of the counterculture, denouncing "destruction" and "money for minds that hate", while expressing the band's commitment to "doing what we can". A slightly later avant-garde track off the White Album, "Revolution 9", is a chaotic depiction of what John Lennon perceived revolution would sound like, with contributions from Yoko

"Blackbird" on the same album paid Movement.

In the 70s, rock lost ground in the charts to disco. In this environment, however, punk rock emerged, with its development taking place across Britain, America and Australia. Inspirations included the New Despite popular revivals in the 80s York Dolls, British glam rock, The and 90s, rock today lives largely away Who (exemplified by their 1965 hit from the mainstream. It exists mostly "My Generation") and The Velvet in pubs and bars, and that's okay — Underground. Punk was spearheaded it needn't be widely commercially by bands including the Ramones, the successful to be good or to have a Sex Pistols and the Clash, with the Sex point. Wherever it goes, its rebellious Pistols' "God Save the Queen" censored aura will live on. by the BBC at the time of its release. Punk would undergo a revival in the nineties, most notably demonstrated by Nirvana's breakthrough to the

Ono. Paul McCartney's solo acoustic mainstream. Ironically, some of their most successful songs protest a homage to the American Civil Rights superficial affection for their music that fails to acknowledge its underlying message. This aptly represents the dichotomy between rock's nowhistorical commercial dominance and the discontent with prevailing social norms it has always expressed.

Art by Sofia Angelini

#### Investigation

# IN THE WAKE OF GENTRIFICATION: THE RELOCATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS

"Il a strangene menter 5 7

#### Josh Clay investigates the human impact of the state government's "renewal" projects.

Carolyn moved into public housing at 82 Wentworth Park Road, Glebe, in the early nineties with nothing but a mattress, a black-and-white TV, and some clothes. There were certainly some issues — poor sunlight and a lack of ventilation meant that mould bloomed quickly in the newly constructed building. Nevertheless, over the last thirty years, Carolyn and their neighbours made this place their home.



"We help each other out," said Carolyn, a Wiradjuri person, "one has plants, the other one does another person's shopping, or does the other person's washing ... or looks after the cat."

The resident cat Koko, a chocolate Burmese, has been passed among residents as people became sick, passed away, or were otherwise unable to take care of her. Carolyn recently took up care of Koko after her owner became unwell.

The community also established gardens in their shared backyard despite poor sunlight and airflow conditions. Carolyn recalls growing chillies and sharing them with their neighbours — "We'd all talk to each other and grow things and share to house a population increasingly things."

That was until the Land and Housing Corporation destroyed their garden.

After announcing that 82 Wentworth Park Road would be demolished and its residents relocated, Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) tested the soil as part of early surveying of the property. They found lead something that did not surprise Carolyn, considering they knew the place used to be a battery dump.

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"I had ... plastic separating the ground soil and the raised garden bed," Caroyln said, "[but] I made a mistake," as the LAHC identified two contaminated areas. "[The LAHC] didn't want to negotiate," so the gardens withered and died under

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quarantine, ending their community gardening efforts.

connection."

The impending erasure of 82 Wentworth Park Road is not uncommon — the state government has been continually proposing the amalgamation of public and private sectors to renew and expand Sydney's public housing, particularly over the past decade. This has led to the destruction, separation, and relocation of communities as their homes are torn down, providing insignificant,

if not non-existent, gains to public housing stock.

This has led to the destruction, separation, and relocation of communities as their homes are torn down. providing insignificant, if not non-existent, gains to public housing stock.

The state government's claim of "expanding" Sydney's social housing is laughable. Across all Inner City and Inner West redevelopments listed on the LAHC website, about 915 public housing units will be demolished to rebuild a total of 1,267 — an increase of 352. Considering over 2,500 households are on the public housing waitlist for this area — and over 50,000 households in NSW overall - you'd think more initiative would be taken unable to afford shelter.

This is especially concerning when you consider the length of time these projects take to actually provide any housing. Elizabeth Street in Redfern, which is meant to deliver 100 social

housing units in 2028, will have taken 15 years since its public housing tenants were ejected and relocated to be completed.

> Edwina, a Māori woman, lives in public housing on Franklyn Street. "I don't think [the government] really cares about us," she said, "there are a lot

of wonderful people who live on this estate." Edwina told Honi that she and her neighbours "just want to be left

being relocated due to an incoming offers of alternative housing." redevelopment, and the third time she has been evicted from public housing overall.

She argues, citing case studies in St. Kilda, refurbishing that public housing Ø instead of demolition is the best choice. The government often argues that public housing estates are decaying and not fit for habitation, but there is little reasonable explanation for tearing down the homes at 82 Wentworth Park Road and Franklyn Street, which were only built about 35 years back.

Talking to Honi, the Tenants' Union discussed this issue, saying that "a lot of [public housing] is old and not fit for purpose. It needs upgrades, it needs renewal. What should that look like? ... Residents are very much best placed to identify what needs to change, what could work for [their] community, [and] what could be done better."

However, public housing tenants are often barely, if at all, consulted during the development process. The Tenants' Union mentioned how sometimes residents won't find out their homes are slated for demolition until the day media releases go out.

"There's been no community consultation whatsoever," Carolyn commented, "I read somewhere that they fancy they did that, but they did

Edwina said that "[the LAHC] haven't said anything because if they had said something, I would've found out." She said that her estate was told of redevelopment through a letter delivered around Christmas 2020, saying that "it looked like junkmail."

#### This pattern of failing to communicate with tenants is leaving many anxious and confused about where they are going to live.

This pattern of failing to communicate with tenants is leaving many anxious and confused about where they are going to live. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) — which operates various

"We're missing all that sort of alone," mentioning that they've all aspects of public housing alongside been through enough in their lives. the LAHC — states on their website This will be the second time that she's that "most tenants will be offered two

If a tenant

the rejects offer, first second option may provided. second option will be accompanied with a "Notice of Intention to issue a Notice of Termination", so if the second offer is rejected, you must move out regardless of whether you've found somewhere to live.

"Pretty much ... you're offered one," Carolyn said, "they will say to you and have said to several people, 'Well, if you don't like this one, your second offer is going to be really bad."

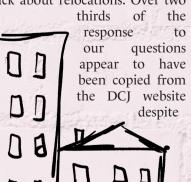
The Department of Communities and Justice often emphasises their "case-by-case" assessment of tenant needs in determining where to relocate someone. However, Carolyn said the extent of this was requesting a medical letter "and that determines where you can live and what type of property ... it's more a discussion on the practicalities."

"There's nothing about our emotional needs ... and never has anyone offered anything like that."

In Franklyn Street, Edwina said that the dislocation of the community was causing an "epidemic of mental health issues" on their estate, as she mourns her impending separation from friends and neighbours.

"There's another couple of neighbours that have quite profound mental health issues, and they're just not doing well. Really, really not," added Carolyn.

The DCJ was contacted several times by Honi, however they provided superficial responses and avoided answering questions about housing stock gains, tenants' wellbeing, and if they considered implementing tenant feedback about relocations. Over two



the information saying that it's not something [they're] almost responsible for." being entirely irrelevant. 0 **Ð**\_\_ result in better outcomes for tenants as their organisations are often A common smaller, flexible, and more responsive concern from housing to resident needs compared to the public

tenants, especially in the Inner City, is that they are often that manages public housing. moved into 'community housing' operated by Community Housing the board," they said, "sometimes Providers (CHPs) — being non-profits they're better but sometimes they're such as Bridge Housing — rather than public housing. Community housing arrangements are often contained within new private developments which were once public housing, with developers typically reserving 30 per cent of dwellings for CHPs.

The shift to community housing is justified by the state government on the basis that community housing tenants are eligible for Commonwealth Rent Assistance, while public housing residents are not. Typically, CHPs pocket all of the rent assistance plus 30 per cent of a household's income in order to use those funds to (ideally) create more housing and better living spaces for their tenants, shifting costs away from the state government.

The Tenants' Union told Honi, "we don't want [the] government stepping back ... taking their hands off and

It's a regular Tuesday afternoon. The trees, cars, and compressed air from the sun is blazing away, a stark contrast from what felt like a year of perpetual rain, courtesy of her majesty La Niña.

The trusty 440 is my steed of choice today. I look around me at the other passengers, all completely absorbed in their own worlds. AirPods in, faces to the window. It seems strange that all these people can sit in such proximity to one another in complete; silence.

The ephemeral swish of

#### Investigation

They commented that CHPs can "clunky ... government bureaucracy" However, "that's not necessarily across actually worse." With almost no choice gamble many don't want to take.

"In some ways," they commented, "it misses the key problem, which is the lack of a commitment to significant investment into social housing." They said that even with rent assistance incomes, CHPs could never deliver the amount of housing required for



waitlist.

This strange neoliberal enterprise between the state government and privatisation of public housing, shifts costs and responsibility away from the neighbours." They commented state government and onto the private that the "shortfall[s] in the system" significant role in the provision of social housing. This is extremely dangerous leave. and counterproductive because these in where you're relocated to, that's a companies will always fight for more market-sold homes on their estates and have little incentive to provide positive outcomes for incoming public housing tenants.

> to invest in public housing and failure to push back against market profiteers is leading us down a dead end road —

why must planning proposals loudly boast about providing social housing "at no cost to the government"?

Those forced into this opaque system are deeply impacted by its carelessness towards the people it houses. Edwina says she is fed up with the cycle of relocation and redevelopment, saying that the ordeal is "absolute torture."

New South Wales' ever growing She'd "seriously consider" moving back to Aotearoa (New Zealand) if Franklyn Street is demolished.

"I grew up in private housing," private industry is being criticised as the Carolyn said, "and there was no community ... I didn't know my sector, meaning that profit-driven have created tightly knit and strong development companies are playing a communities who support each other, and who desperately don't want to

Edwina and Carolyn are both part of Hands Off Glebe and are actively campaigning to save their homes on Franklyn Street and at 82 Wentworth Park Road. Their communities have not yet been relocated or given firm The state government's unwillingness eviction dates, meaning there is still time to protest and fight against the pointless destruction of Glebe's remaining public housing.

> As it places tenants under the looming threat of bulldozers and private developers, the DCJ consistently fails to communicate, consult, or recognise the trauma caused by relocations. It is tearing strong communities apart for absolutely no benefit.

Art by Bipasha Chakraborty

#### Perspective

# A quest for peace and quiet

I'm on my way back home from uni.

doors of the bus breaks the silence, but within the cacophony of noises, it's still quiet. For most, including myself, this is a rare moment of personal solitude. In a world constantly harangued by incessant pings, buzzes, and brief flashes of meaningless conversations, repetitive

to my overstimulated brain.

Noise seems to rule our lives. TikTok is only a swipe away from infinite hours of sped up B-list pop songs, and Spotify seems to have the world in its grasp. In a world full of sound, where can we find a bit of peace and quiet?

I find myself constantly in pursuit of this, somewhere where I can sit back, cold beverage in hand, and survey my surroundings completely by myself. No planes going overhead, no knocking seem to escape the constant noise of spark plugs next door. the world.

late-night dunny dashes marked by the tentative unzipping of the tent, fearing I'll alert the rest of the campsite to my nocturnal ablutions.

The bus makes its way up Parramatta road. I bask in the momentary quiet I've managed to snatch from the hands of the city. As the blur of faded shop fronts continue, I shut my eyes and

shuddering moan of the engine is balm allow the sounds to blend into white noise; is this as close as I can get to peace and quiet?

George Campbell journeys through the sounds of the city.

The stillness of those camping nights seemed to extend forever. I wish it could stretch as far as the city, but that would be asking too much - something will always alert you to the fact that you share this space with millions of bustling bodies.

The 440 reaches my stop, and I'm quickly whisked off the silence of the bus back into a world of sound. As I on my door from my housemates walk back home, I take a minute for asking me how to remove the washing the squawk of the magpies and the machine filter. Despite my noise sound of heated conversation, as the canceling headphones, I can't ever mechanics argue about the price of

The clang of the front gate echoes As our pursuit for silence pushes us behind me as I go inside. Tony further away from the city, I think Soprano's voice fills the living room. back to the moments where I think I lie on my bed trying to muster up I've found true peace — camping in the courage to open Canvas, but I rural NSW, with no noise but the notice a local pigeon cooing next to steady sizzle of a snag on the portable my window. The extractor fan is on in gas stove, sleeping bag zipped all the the kitchen and dinner is on its way way up to my chin, Dad snoring on All these small sounds make up a rich the other side of the tent. I remember tapestry. I feel happy and at home as the gentle hum of the dehumidifier lulls me asleep.

> The rousing tinkle of the "By the seaside" alarm fills my room. My ears prick up, and back to the real world we go

> > Art by Ella Thomas

# The Silent Treatment: how to talk about cancer

tough!

my mum's brain metastasis, I became that would grow during conversations around cancer. Cancer is by no means a rare diagnosis (one in two people will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime), yet despite this, we still don't know what to say. In the months after my mum's terminal diagnosis, I didn't speak of cancer — not because I didn't want to, but because too often the other party didn't know how to respond.

In the Cancer Journals, Audre Lorde critiques the silences which accompanied her cancer diagnosis, and argues for conversation, stating, "imposed silence about any area of our lives is a tool for separation and powerlessness." Cancer is a diagnosis that inherently involves a loss of power and choice. All roads after a terminal diagnosis lead to death, and conversation is one way to enable people to regain the power lost by this inevitable outcome. Great conversations around cancer give people strength, removing the sense of isolation, and replacing it with tears, laughter, and connection.

We need to get better at speaking about cancer. So, let me be your friendly guide on how to speak about the unspeakable.

#### Tiptoeing is awkward

If you have found out someone has cancer, their loved ones will also be aware

takes me back to a room I often

\*\*\*

My palms are sweaty.

The leather underneath

is not helping. Breathing

unsteady. Fluorescent lights

I've been in this chair

multiple times, different

loved ones across the bed,

different situations. Yet 4

the same sounds always

seem to haunt me, despite

Squeaky shoes against

repeatedly polished floors

lead me to this corner of the

room. A room which, without

fail, withholds curtains drawn,

beds and leather chairs. Each cubicle

is ornamented by machines and wires

with their own unique tones and tunes

emitted sporadically throughout the

find myself in.

uncomforting.

their familiarity.

Visitor's chair

In conversations after the discovery of of this. When sharing your good wishes, it is always best to openly acknowledge viscerally aware of the imposing silences that you know. A simple "I'm thinking about your family, and sending you love" will always go further (and be less weird) than becoming way nicer to someone without saying anything. Be direct and honest, nothing you will say can be worse than hearing about a cancer diagnosis. Know that even if the other person does not respond to your text, or nods away your well-wishes, they appreciate it and likely will think about it long after the interaction ends.

#### Don't only speak about this! Follow their lead!

It is boring when the only thing people speak about is cancer. Life is full of so much more than treatment plans and MRI scans. After diagnosis, follow the person's lead in how often you speak about cancer and acknowledge that sometimes it will be the only thing that the person wants to discuss, and other times it will never be mentioned. Don't force it.

#### **Context matters!**

Grief has no hierarchy, but in the

immediate whirlwind post-diagnosis, it is best to keep your own relationship with cancer to yourself and focus on the person right in front of you.

Caitlin O'Keeffe White breaks the silence.

I remember every middle-aged person grieve and experience the full range who would tell me about their elderly parents being diagnosed and how I would judge them harshly. A parent dying when they are 85, have achieved many of their goals, met their children, and have seen them become fully established adults? Gosh, it must be

With distance, I sympathise with others' experiences and enjoy conversations where people reflect on their experience with cancer. This has only come through the passing of time. Your experience is rarely relevant immediately after diagnosis, and even in the years after, it is best to reflect on differing contexts before you bring up how your life has been shaped by cancer when someone is sharing how theirs has been.

#### Shut up about positivity

Nobody wants to hear about how you can think your way out of the abnormal genetic multiplication of cells. Really happy, lovely people die of cancer. Really awful, grumpy people survive it. A positive outlook does not cure cancer that is wishful thinking. Preaching positivity places the burden of survival onto the person who has cancer, and if that diagnosis is terminal, people blame their oncoming death on themselves.

In your conversations, let people

#### of emotions that a diagnosis brings. Be quiet if you are only going to spurt out pseudoscientific, Belle Gibson advice — everyone would prefer the uncomfortable silence over that shit.

#### You know this person

At the end of the day, you know the person you are speaking with. Diagnosis doesn't change that. If you find out that someone has been diagnosed, speak to them the way you always have, about the mundane, about the exciting, about what's funny. Trust your gut. Being present and sitting with someone through all the ups and downs goes further than you may realise.

This article speaks specifically of cancer, but tough conversations where the silence grows long, and becomes something that all parties are uncomfortably aware of, happen with many a tough topic. From cancer to suicide, uncomfortable silences work to isolate, making one feel as though their experience is too much for others. Language tends to fail in the face of life's most difficult moments. If you're not sure what to say to a loved one, that's okay! Acknowledge this, and swing by their house with a frozen dinner — I can guarantee that will drown out an awful lot of those uncomfortable silences.

#### Bipasha Chakraborty listens in a hospital.

beep for when all the fluids have been few minutes. The orchestra of beeps and buzzes are crescendoing. It's burning into every crevice of my skin.

> I hear a group of footsteps towards the ward, bringing me back to the bed in front of me. Is it another round of news from the medics, or gifts of homemade seasoned meals?

> The doctors are here. I can't seem to make out their sentences properly when they're in front of me. I ask to leave and the curtain drawn behind me scrapes my

> I don't hear the hand-holding. I don't hear the tears. I don't hear the "I love you"'s.

A click from the clip in one thumb, I can only hear the same ceaseless

Only a minute has passed since the first beep was heard outside the classroom, but I lived an entire life in that time. Different familiar sounds are hidden and tucked away into the everyday. Sounds that always make me return to the visitor's chair imprinted into my mind

# Seymour Centre's 'On A Clear Day You Can See Forever': Colourful, funny, and good for the soul

presented by Squabbalogic and the Seymour Centre, is the most fun I've had at the theatre in a long while. Continuing the long history of a lost Broadway gem, Jay James-Moody as director and adaptor masterminds a charming story of self-love and self-determination. Before the show begins, classic show tunes play over the speakers, evoking a sense of nostalgia in the older audience. With all the student theatre I watch, sometimes I forget that not all of us are evil young rascals. As the lights dim, the inevitable hush descends.

The musical follows the story of three people in two bodies. Psychiatrist Dr Bruckner (Blake Bowden) discovers a dead woman, Melinda (Madeline Iones), living inside the soul of one of his patients, David Gamble (Jay James-Moody), in the course of a hypnotherapy session.

of hypnotism, ESP and the sparkling spot between the living and the dead, a love triangle surfaces. The set (designed

I'll be honest, I was a little hesitant when I entered the woods - also known as Belvoir's Upstairs Theatre.

Now, don't get me wrong, I was Having attended the Belvoir Briefing a few weeks earlier, I had heard from director Eamon Flack about how for him Into the Woods is a show about stories. The stories that we are given, the stories we tell, and the stories we use to understand ourselves and the world around us.

Flack's interpretation of Sondheim's classic was described as a lo-fi version brought to life with paper and cloth. This is a fascinating premise for a show that tends to require complex physicality to bring it to life. And that is how I ended up walking in, wondering how exactly this story would be brought to life.

Lovegrove), Jack (Marty Alix) — of the (Lena Cruz), Cinderella (Shubshri and Rapunzel (Stefanie Caccamo) and her Prince (Andrew Coshan).

I'm sitting outside my classroom, The sun streams through the windows, waiting for my tutorial to start, and I hear a sound so familiar in the distance.

for lunch?



of fluids are here.

They have their own sounds too. A beep for when the drip is in place. A

sucked into the decaying body. The same tones and processes for the transfusion. It takes a while for a nurse to come

by and turn off the machine. In the meantime, its pitch, spacing, and pattern are etched into me. Its rhythm memorised, its tempo retained. A symphony of knells spin and swirl within my consciousness.

I hear the cart being rolled down the ward, bringing me back to the bed in front of me. Is it another round of ears. I can hear them clearly from the pressure checks, or tender flavourless other side of the fabric. chicken for dinner?

It's the fifth check for blood pressure today.

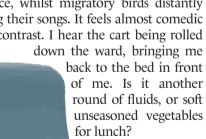
and the sound of velcro ripping across chimes of the ward. the arm. Another beep sounds at the machine's end. Dry pleasantries are exchanged between us and the nurses. The wheels rattle and squeak away, after getting stuck between the falling

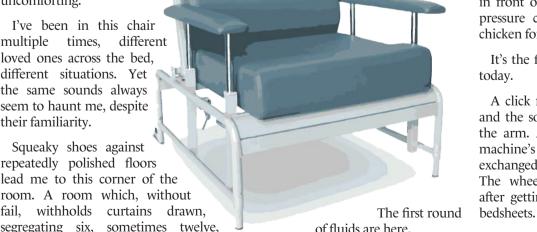
The laugh track from the hanging TV monitor from the next bed over resonates down the whole ward. Someone is beep for when the syringe is attached to snoring, another is playing snippets of the patient. A beep for when there is a recycled whatsapp videos. The buzzer for blocking in the pipes. And an incessant the nurse has been ringing for the past

22

day.

trying to embrace the dull curtained space, whilst migratory birds distantly Short, spaced, monotonous frequencies sing their songs. It feels almost comedic that seem to grow louder and closer. It in contrast. I hear the cart being rolled





Through a supernatural combination

On A Clear Day You Can See Forever, Rose Saltearn) mirrors the story's descent into madness. It begins as a psychologist's bland wood-panelled office stretched to absurd size, over which Bruckner holds decisive dominion. Over time, it becomes overrun with flowers as David's extraordinary personality and psychic husbandry infuses into the space.

> A common and infuriating criticism often launched at musicals is their lack of depth, but the richness of the story and characters in On A Clear Day make this claim laughable. Each character is fully realised and personable, brought to life by a cast of immense talent. Bowden as Dr Bruckner is a charming sceptic. In my favourite moment of the whole night, a couple swear undying love to each other on top of his desk while he sits beside them eating skittles. His chemistry with David is electric, and his transformation into a morally complicated romantic is made believable by how lovable David

James-Moony's David is genderbent from the original role of Daisy, famously played by Barbara Streisand in the 1970 film. The character uses both names, and by Michael Hankin and realised by Bella there is a very accessible trans read to the

play. Much as I enjoy Shakespearean- Me', marking his descent from figure of focused much more powerfully on identity than on relationships. In the search for identity, David — a 'sentient marshmallow' — is caught up in the expectations and desires of those around him — friends, Dr Bruckner, and David's overbearing fiancée Warren, struggling with internalised homophobia.

The choreography (Leslie Bell) is gorgeous and very well executed. It's rare to see the three-person waltz pulled off elegantly these days. The show's original lyrics and music have been adapted by Natalya Aynsley and live up to the show's illustrious Broadway origins. The voices of a talented cast contribute to several particularly stunning numbers.

Melinda's power is palpable in her voice during 'Don't Tamper With My Sister', so fierce that it's hard to believe she's been dead for 100 years. Both 'Hurry, it's Lovely Up Here' and 'On the S.S. Bernard Cohn' are dexterously performed and bright, with phenomenal physicality from the ensemble. A highlight was Bowden's sonorous performance of 'Come Back to

#### Zoe Le Marinel is hypnotised.

level sexual confusion, the play was authority to a figure desperate to possess David, in body and souls. Despite the romantic tune, the song manages to be quite menacing, with Bruckner surrounded by black and white spirals and using a commanding tone of voice.

> This production is sweet and entertaining, but it also achieves something very difficult. You see, the love triangle at the centre of all of it manages to be equal parts satisfying and excruciating. All of the cast have phenomenal chemistry, and the way they push and pull like magnets is delicious. In the way many real-life romantic mishaps play out, the emotional resolution is hard-won but earnt, leaving a bittersweetness that packs a punch after a production seeming so light hearted. This marks the endurance of the musical 50 years on, and the strength of Squabbalogic's production: amidst the Broadway showmanship is a sliver of real life. The show is a sweet medicine for anyone exhausted with life's twists and turns, and a tonic for anyone in need of a laugh.

# Belvoir's Into the Woods: 'Best to take the moment present, as a present for the moment'

characters

Act 2

feels.

brings with

it the presence of

a giant that the

audience really

singing.

more than excited to be there.

beanstalk fame — and their mother Kandiah) and her Prince (Tim Draxl), they figure out what they want and what they'll do to get it — including collecting a cow as white as milk, a cape as red as blood, a slipper as pure as gold, and hair as yellow as corn. We are expertly guided through their stories by the Narrator (Peter Carroll), as he blurs the line between telling us the story and being part of it. As their stories progress, we wonder if they'll ever make it out of the woods.

Flack's Into The Woods is a production that rewards your suspension of belief. If you let yourself sit back and believe it all, the whole world unfurls in front of you. The cast and creative team have been what can only be described as truly crafty. Some cast members play multiple roles, effortlessly switching speaking between each. I'm wary of spoiling what the spectacular — and often nilarious — solutions to the practical Into the Woods tells the stories of the challenges of trying to fit three Baker's Wife (Esther Hannaford) and different houses, a tower, and a path the Baker (Justin Smith), the Witch through a forest into Belvoir's easily (Tamsin Carroll), Little Red (Mo cramped theatre are, so you'll have to experience these for yourself.

The stage is set minimally but I have never seen the ceiling of a theatre used so well. A chance for spectacle is never missed. Between sprinkles of glitter to emphasise exits, dazzling In an overlapping and intertwined costumes, creative transport choices,

#### journey, we follow these characters as a man dressed as a horse, and ornate headdresses, you have to see it to cast that keep you enthralled. Esther believe it.

Notable moments include Rapunzel actually letting down her hair from the 'tower', a crooning wolf complete with a green feather boa (reminiscent of a certain Mr Styles), some very creatively used dolls, and for those observant audience members, a transformation of the houses used to represent each of the different storylines they as light up when their respective

Amidst the theatrical tricks, it is the Hannaford is truly spellbinding as the Baker's Wife. From her incredible singing (just wait for her 'justifies the beans') to endearing choreography with the Baker (Justin Smith) in a stellar 'It Takes Two', Hannaford

Veronica Lenard went into the woods.

excels at creating a Baker's Wife that is both strong and

> vulnerable. Tim Draxl and Andrew Coshan have cultivated Princes that are somehow both endearing and entertaining, just that right and amount of charming. Shubshri Kandiah a compelling Cinderella, who makes you want to find the life that she wants — something in between a dream and a nightmare.

> > With a stellar cast, entertaining theatrical moments, and fascinating tales, Belvoir's Into the Woods is a love letter to stories and how we ell them.

Photography by Christopher Hayles

# President

#### LIA PERKINS

#### Hello! Lia here.

On Friday students joined academic and professional staff at the University on strike for the 8th day of strike action. The NTEU is still yet to bargain directly with University management, as management is taking a hard line against the demands of staff which will make this University a better place to work and learn - a goal we must all

on Wednesday.

A few members of the SRC and I met to discuss the 100+ year celebration of International students at the University, which SUPRA and Sydney Student Life are organising. The SRC is thinking about ways we would like to participate in this, and run our own events addressing the difficulties international students face at university – such as lack of access to concession Opal cards, the impossible prices of student accommodation and barriers to understanding the low SES backgrounds. All of which the hours if you have anything you'd like to University's bureaucracy, among other University needs to address.

support. We will be out in support again things. Keep an eye out for this and email president@src.usyd.edu.au if you'd like to be involved.

> On Monday I participated in the University's Thematic Review, which is focused on the first year experience. From my experience and speaking to other students, I believe the key problems in first year are an over- ABS. The SRC will be again supporting reliance on casual teaching staff, a the strike on Wednesday, and we lack of clarity on where to go for support, and a university culture which marginalises students from diverse or

ACAR held a speakout for Land Day, which you would have seen information about in their amazing edition of Honi last week, fighting staunchly for the rights of Palestinians and celebrates the history of their resistance.

On Tuesday the 95th SRC will meet for its 3rd Council meeting at 6pm in encourage you to join us. As always, get in touch via email president@src.usvd. edu.au and come to my consultation discuss.

Vice **Presidents** 

#### **DANIEL BOWRON ROSE DONNELLY**

The Vice Presidents are pleased to see the back of the Dominic Perrottet led Liberal Government. We hope the new Labor government will deliver better reform on gambling machines and address the housing crisis in NSW in a substantive way.

of government on a state level, we are displeased by the projected \$368 billion that the current federal Labor government has promised to America for not even a dozen state-of-the-art submarines. We believe the purchase of the subs to be an act of militarism and such

Whilst we are pleased by the change

exorbitant spending on subs is quite a poor decision when looking at the state of the cost of living crisis in Australia right now, alongside some shaky international relations unhelped by such a gesture towards America.

slightly out of our depth with the

working with the NUS on how best to engage with climate protest during budget week. Will come in clutch with updates shortly.

Once again, we stand in solidarity with the NTEU strikes and hope wholeheartedly that the University changes its offer to what staff at this University have a right to demand-least of which- a wage rise and remuneration for hours they currently work for free.

Foodhub update: As of last Friday 626 students have used Foodhub in the current year, we have seen an increase

Upcoming protests: Rose has been in students using the service, which indicates that the impact of the cost of living crisis is affecting students more than ever, but also that word about the Foodhub service is spreading. Foodhub currently has an excess of energy drinks supplied by the USU, if you guys are interested stop by 10am-2pm Tuesday or Thursday. Foodhub will be open during mid semester break.

> We are once again asking for volunteers, as Foodhub expands and the semester gets busier!!! Please email vice.president@src.usyd.edu.au if you are able to assist at all!

# General **Secretaries**

#### **TIGER PERKINS JASMINE DONNELLY**

Last report we mentioned that we had been working on the SSAF acquittal for the 2022 SRC, a sort of analysis and justification for our funding across the year so that the funding may continue into 2023 and beyond. Although

legalistic nature of the document (wow, members of the executive who aren't lawyers, crazy), we have now completed it. We also had the audit of our 2022 expenses with an independent financial auditing company, where we trawled through all our expenses and budget lines. This was to make sure that our actions were aligned with our funding requirements and also to ascertain to the best of our knowledge that no one is embezzling money from the SRC. Certain anonymous individuals have often joked that it would be pretty easy

to do so but having sat through the audit, I'm now convinced it would be exceedingly difficult.

We attended another day of strike action on Friday and wish all power to the staff of the University in their fight for better working conditions. We would also like to commend the students who have attended the pickets in support of their staff. While missing a class or two may be inconvenient, we feel that it is much more inconvenient to have class sizes double what they used to be, or to have staff unable to

mark assignments to a satisfactory level because they are not being paid to do so. Speaking to a casual tutor the other day, many tutors are not even paid to attend the compulsory lectures for their subjects and do so out of a moral obligation to their students. We in turn have a moral obligation to support them.

Also, Ramadan Mubarak to those who celebrate!

**Students** 

The International Students

Office Bearers did not submit

a report this week.

**ASHRIKA PARUTHI** 

**KEJUN (CLARE) LUI** 

LILY WEI

**YUCHEN LI** 

Intl.

# Indigenous

#### **BENJAMIN MCGRORY**

#### Heya Mob,

My name is Benjamin and I'm your First Nations Officer for 2023. During March I have worked with the SRC and Gadigal Centre to advance on the following:

Launching SRC's First Nations agenda for the 95th SRC,

Securing funding for a Voice, Treaty and Truth campaign,

Organising workshops for First Nations or via email for a yarn! students on Voice, Treaty, Truth,

Organise a welcome launch with SRC and First Nations students at the Gadigal Centre.

We firstly thank Lia Perkin's for being the first SRC to come down to the

Gadigal Centre and meeting with us. We also welcome the Gadigal Centre proposing using the Gadigal Centre as a regular meeting space for the Indigenous Collective. We also thank ACAR and Rand for their support of First Nations students.

In April, we will have another lunch for First Nation's students to come meet the SRC OB's and to discuss the launch of the Indigenous Collective!

We also will launch a First Nations only Collective chat to ensure conversations and concerns are dealt with in a culturally safe way!

Please reach out to me on Facebook

My email is indigenous.officers@src. usyd.edu.au

# Welfare

**ELEANOR DOUGLAS ELLA HAID HARRISON BRENNAN FELIX TONKIN** 

The Welfare Office Bearers did not submit a report this week.

# Disclaimer

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They are not influenced, altered, or otherwise changed by the Editors of Honi Soit.

# **HOUSE RULES:**



If your landlord (or their agent) lives in your home, it is likely that you are considered a boarder or lodger. There are some "principles" that give outline your rights and responsibilities.

1. State of premises Your home should be clean, in good

repair, and be reasonably secure. 2. Rules

There may be rule, e.g., how much notice you have to give to move out, when you can have visitors, or how noisy you're allowed to be. You should know what the rules are before you move in. Consider these carefully when you decide if you want to live there.

#### 3. Penalties prohibited

You cannot be fined for breaching the rules of the house. This does not mean you do not have to pay to repair something you have broken.

#### 4. Quiet enjoyment of the premises

The landlord cannot stop you from occupying and "enjoying" your room, or using the common areas of the house as long as you do not interfere with the same rights of others. This does not mean that others in the house cannot make noise.

#### 5. Inspections and repairs

The landlord has to maintain the home in good repair, which includes being able to inspect your room. This can only happen at a "reasonable" time. For example, they cannot clean your room at 3am. However, if the landlord thought your room might be on fire, e.g., they could see smoke or feel heat, the landlord can enter your room without notice.

#### 6. Notice of increase of occupancy fee

The landlord can increase the cost of your room if they give you at least four weeks' notice 7. Utility charges

The landlord can charge you for utilities (electricity, gas, water and oil), if you were told when you moved in that you would be charged, and the charge is based on the actual cost with a "reasonable" approximation of your share of the bill. For example, if the bill for your four person apartment was \$200, you should not be charge \$150. Be aware

#### SRC Caseworkers

# **Occupancy Principles for Borders & Lodgers**

that running an electric fan or bar heater uses a lot more electricity than an oil or gas heater.

#### 8. Payment of security deposit

The landlord can ask for a security deposit, sometimes called a bond, of not more than the equivalent of two weeks occupancy fee (rent). Make sure you get a written receipt, even if you paid by bank transfer. When you move out they must return this deposit, minus the cost of repairing any damage you or your guests caused, within 14 days. To avoid paying for someone else's damage, make sure that you take photos of any damage present when you move in, and lots of photos of the room in good repair when you move out.

#### 9. Information about termination

You should know how much notice they need to give you to ask you to move out. They must also give you a reason to leave.

#### 10. Notice of eviction

The landlord cannot evict you without "reasonable" notice, in writing. Reasonable notice can be different amounts of time depending on why you are being evicted. For example, if you are a threat to the wellbeing of the other residents you might only get a couple of days notice, but if you are being evicted because the landlord wants to renovate your room, that notice period should be much longer. 11. Use of alternative dispute

#### resolution

If you have a dispute with your landlord you both should use a "reasonable" dispute resolution mechanism, e.g., a Community Justice Centre or the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

#### 12. Written receipts

The landlord must give you written receipts for any money you pay, including occupancy fees (rent), security deposit (bond), or bills. Get this in addition to any record you get from your bank for electronic bank transfers. Take a photo of each receipt and email it to yourself, so you always have a copy.

If you have any questions about your rights and responsibilities as a boarder/lodger or tenant, please contact an SRC Caseworker

### Ask Abe

SRC Caseworker Help Q&A

Withdraw After Census - New Job **Ready Graduates Package - No DC** 

#### Dear Abe,

I hate 2 of my subjects and I want to drop them. I thought I could just get a DC but the uni's website is confusing me. How can I drop these subjects?

Thanks

Desperately Seeking DCs

#### Dear Desperately Seeking DCs,

The process for DC grades changed at the beginning of 2022, due to the introduction of the Job Ready Graduates package. You can no longer drop a

subject after the census date, unless you have "special circumstances", like illness, injury, or misadventure, that was unexpected and outside of your control. If you can complete all your subjects without failing them, it is best to do so. If you think you need some academic support, contact an Academic Advisor, or talk to a tutor in the Learning Hub. If you still want to drop those subjects after considering that information, contact an SRC caseworker (fill out the form at bit.ly/3YxvDUf) to see what your choices are.

Thanks

Abe

If you need help from an SRC Caseworker start an enquir on our Caseworker Contact Form: bit.ly/3YxvDU



#### WARNING!!! New Rules Apply for Discontinuing (DC)



### If you need to **Discontinue a** subject make sure you know the new rules!

The rules for applying for DC changed in 2022 See an SRC Caseworker if you need help.

SSAF

Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney e: help@src.usyd.edu.au | w: srcusyd.net.au (f) usydsrc (i) src\_usyd (i) src\_sydneyuni



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30					31					30. Spanish Painter Pablo
										31. Study of the body (7)

#### Find the answers at <u>honisoit.com/puzzle-</u> answers

#### Across

1. Dodgy CEO takes ketamine drug (4)

3. Smell Music (4)

6. They're all black in Microsoft diaries (5)

10. Greek treat: Donut with liver trimmings (5)

11. Radiohead's Non Binary Music(3)

12. Pan Colombian music (5)

13. They're melting two drugs together? (7)

14. Pleasure house soup with eel skin (7)

15. Apple Music (4)

17. King Solomon screws slimy beast (6)

19. Grandfather music (3)

22. Hit Music! (3)

23. Biblical character to wash Pj with Hose (6)

24. Rapper Rocky is a dope (4)

26. Release talking bee without charge (7)

28. Decapitate body on ship to begin exploratory yacht journey (7)

30. Die in Australia, farewell (5) 31. Return of the Jedi is quietly famous (3)

32. Vietnamese food truck operation open still (5)

33. Japanese food display amuses us, hilarious! (5)

34. Korean urban centre played music (4)

35. Swing Music (4)

#### Down

1. Chef opens Indian eatery, judges award restaurant sweet container (6, 3)

2. Potassium, Nickel, Iron cutter. (5)

4. Pixar film increasing revolution (8)

5. Spooner's flying insect taxi very popular with late night drunkards? (5)

6. Spooner used to own rat in asylum (8)

7. Lady circles crooks (9)

8. Korean urban centre played music(5)

9. Ease up on studies of religion in Californian airport (5)

16. Motorboating 'Ze nipples' on German aircraft (9)

18. Exhibition pimp romp turned on the spot (9)

20. Spooner's duplicate nonwhite person is pure rubbish

21. Country Music maker I fight before 1

25. New York measures speed of ethereal maiden

26. Faulty decks creak

27. Music icon is a terrible vile shithead

29. Spooner makes occasional kerfuffle on primary break

# Quiz

	Down					
h: Plague (7)	1. Spawn (6)					
eologists find (7)	2. Lawyers (9)					
ck and Roll	3. What you would say to indicate a no vote (3)					
ık (3)	4. Type of Church (9)					
(5) Taylor, Winsor (9)	5. King of Hip Hop Grandmaster(5)					
daughter's o Beyonce (5)	6. South African Rugby team named after this animal (9)					
Markup Language	7. Picture (5)					
markap Language	8. Queen of Disco Donna(6)					
un's are found at lese (8)	15. Mandarin, Tamil, Quechan (9)					
Soul Aretha (8)	17. Below the Adriatic, between					
frobeat Fela(4)	Italy and Greece (6,3)					
(5)	18. Hungary has won a record 9 Golds in this sport at the Olympics (5,4)					
staurant (9)						
speak (5)	21. Turn Down (4,2)					
ap (3)	22. King of Reggae Bob(6) 24. Asimov, Hayes, Newton (5)					
oital (5)						
ainter Pablo(7)	25. Cash's Partner (5)					

1. These pretzels are making me thirsty, is a repeated joke in which classic sitcom?

2. In 2015 a viral petition to change the Australian currency from the Dollar to 'Dollarydoos' was inspired by which hit TV show?

3. The 2014 hit song Bad Blood is rumoured to be about which musician's falling out with fellow pop star Katy Perry?

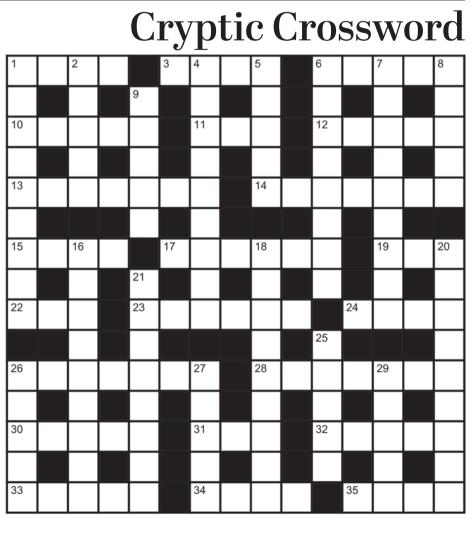
4. Tim Berners Lee invented this, that is usually shortened to what common three letter initialism?

5. What did Ronald Reagan urge "Mr Gorbachev" to tear down in an iconic speech?

6. What connects the previous answers?

#### Puzzles by Some Hack.

26. Electric car brand (5)











# Freya FLOPS: Leach loses Balmain run



Liberal Party.

cent less than the previous Liberal Party candidate in the Green's candidate Kobi Shetty was in the lead for Phillipa Scott.

Rumours abound that Leach ran to prove she was not the murderess the aborted 2022 Criminal Law exam supposedly painted her to be. (Both Shetty and Scott remained alive throughout the campaign, lespite their left-wing roclivities.)



26

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Enmore Girlie asks for vegan camel burger at Ramadan Market



Mosman woman thinks her experience of queerness is all-encompassing

**X** 



USU opens bakery.



Activist develops festy trench foot after rally on wet day

JSvd student, and long-suffering victim of the conservative cause, reya Leach has failed in her bid to be elected he State member of e legislative assembly for Balmain with the

The criminal law icon gained only 18% of the primary vote, almost two per

seat. At the time of writing, Balmain, followed by Labor's

While some within the Liberal Party are blaming Leach's loss on the locale's left-leanings, Honi suspects the reason for Leach's poor



candidates.

Criminal Law students.

showing is due to the lingering after-effects of the oomed exam. With a name as

ncommon as "Freya", Leach would have had an enormous name-recognition advantage compared with the other

Leach also went into the election with a proven record of "giving back to the ommunity." – her fight for conservative rights led to the Law School giving back a brand new exam to 400

However, Honi has been told that voters of Balmain were shocked to see a candidate named Freya running for their seat with a conservative

party. It was confusing, Honi heard, that her election run came after the only



other person with the name Freya (also conservative) was

amously thrown out of a window by Daniel's drunk fiancée, Nicola.

"How could she be running for election after she 'die[d] almost as soon as she [hit] the

one

### their

Leach's



oter asked. shock at

round'?"

expressed their opposition to voting for someone who (allegedly, we guess) so mercilessly ran over Daniel Wallis, an illiberal liberal, with

her sporty-looking Mercedes car moments before her murder (for which the prosecution must prove that...).



They told us 'DO NOT discuss dangerous driving causing death offences or any other offences hat are outside the scope of this init of study' but what else are we to discuss after what she did?"

"It's blatant censorship," Honi was told by a voter.

After her clear election loss, Leach has likely learned that much like politics and criminal law don't mix

(apparently?), neither do being a culture war hack and a viable candidate





2023 Honi Soit Writing Competiton

# Sononitis Sononitis Sononitis

entreies Open Now

