Honi Soit

Week 1, Semester 2, 2020 / First printed 1929





Acknowledgement of Country



Honi Soit is published on the stolen land of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation. For over 230 years, First Nations people in this country have suffered from the destructive effects of invasion. The editors of this paper recognise that, as a team of settlers occupying the lands of the Bidjigal, Darug, Gadigal, Wangal and Wallumedegal people, we are beneficiaries of these reverberations that followed European settlement. As we strive throughout the year to offer a platform to the voices mainstream media ignores, we cannot meet this goal without providing a space for First Nations people to share their experiences and perspectives. A student paper which does not acknowledge historical and ongoing colonisation and the white supremacy embedded within Australian society can never adequately represent the students of the institution in which it operates. We seek to resist colonial violence and the racist power structures that serve to oppress those who are Indigenous to this land. Sovereignty was never ceded. Always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

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Yours, in rage, Lara Sonnenschein

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CANCELLED CORNER

Aidy Magro goes straight to gaol, does not pass go, does not collect \$200.



the reality is that the people we are probably haven't even read? reading about do not have a choice.

things that appear on our screens. ahead?

Content warnings trigger me. We In fact, it would be very arrogant to do not need to content warning assume that you "need" someone everything! Content warnings on to put "cw: bombings" on an article redundant and only a way to signal everything are making us unwilling about bombings in Syria. Why do you to engage with terrifying situations deserve a content warning here when realise that you getting triggered from that are currently unfolding around people have literally died and you reading about a situation that you the world because we are worried are sitting safely in your inner west probably have never experienced is that reading about it might trigger us; bedroom, sharing articles which you weird and if you have experienced it,

I do believe in some situations ask yourself how many times you have understand it only gives people the a content warning is completely not read an article or watched a video opportunity to not engage with your necessary; traumatic experiences because there was a content warning pain and struggle. others. That is why the Australian moment or piece of information esteem" "tw: lesbian mention" "tw: Classification System exists. Contrary which is SO TRIGGERING that we children" and, my personal favourite, to popular belief, life does not need a can't go on! Also, headlines usually "cw: bit sad." I think its cw: a bit sad classification system like the fictional give a pretty good idea of the road that we've gotten to this point.

Which leads to my final position on content warnings: they are mostly that you are either too arrogant to you probably wouldn't put a content I also believe they do not work. Just warning on it because you would

are important to keep in mind and above. Actually, they probably do As a conclusion, here are just a few people need time to process their own distract us from the real purpose of of the content warnings I've come into experiences in order to engage with the content and force us to find the contact with: "cw: snake" "cw: self

Letters **#Notallcolleges**

Firstly, well done on your recent investigative piece about the Colleges. It obviously took a great deal of time and effort (there were several factual inaccuracies, but I suppose that is to be expected of a student newspaper). I want to raise a different point though:

There are many people at the colleges who support themselves financially, through a combination of scholarship, paid-work and government support. They come to college for a variety of reasons: because it may be the cheapest option, because they want to be a part of a community when living away from home, or because they need to leave home for personal or familial reasons, among others. It is insulting to those students when you write a satirical piece casting a blanket over a group of over 3000 people. Many of them wouldn't be studying at university in Sydney but for the financial support of the colleges. There are students at the colleges who pay nothing. It is simple economics that there also has to be students whose parents or guardians are willing to pay significantly more.

encourage you to be a little more considerate and forward-thinking before you put pen to paper in a cheap attempt to score a few likes and stir up the college kids. All you have achieved is a widening of the ideological gap between those at college and those who are not, and in doing so, made it harder

Responses to our St Andrew's College Investigation

However tempting, I would

for the students at college who don't come from privileged backgrounds. How can you present as journalists and reporters when you are such an active player of a petty zero-sum game? You are a revolving door of student journalists, who come and go year to year; if each group of you is complicit in the same game, what is the end result? No change. How ironic. Maybe time to think of a different approach, unless of course, you don't really care?

Release the names

I do not have a tip, I would just like to see the colleges burn to the ground, these disgusting degenerates don't deserve one bit of their privilege :(Release their names on 4chan, please.

Correct!

As a current member of the st andrews community, I can confirm that the St andrews college principal delfected comments in a SMH article saying he had no idea that facebook posts were being made. The reality of it is that he has the dean of academics, students and alumni affairs in every facebook group to ensure what is being posted meets community guidelines. Walkabout also still exists in a "City to Country" form where by seniors feed large amounts of alcohol to the first years and shave their heads and in some cases tan them a

very very very dark colour, then take them has been published and the appallto the country and force more alcohol onto them and make them sleep in paddocks to been revealed, as it has managed to return the next day. Victory dinners still involve forcing first years to slide down the others like Paul's and John's have exmetal edged stairs from the dining hall to the bar below which has resulted in many broken and bruised bones, the first years that do not partake in this are looked down upon by senior years.

Got us!

graffitied, shortly after you posted an arti- I arrived, I could tell almost everycle spreading accusations that matched the one there already knew each other, sentiment of the vandalism, implies your from boarding schools and exclusive endorsement of the crime and leads to the private schools in the North Shore. reasonable assumption, by some, that a The college is the product of a much member of Honi Soit may be a perpetra- broader, very exclusive, highly privtor. I have been particularly disappointed ileged community, sustained over with the journalism by Honi Soit as of late, generations. The college is their as it seems your 'journalism' continues to playground. In this community the slip to standards ignorant of more than appalling, alcohol fuelled behaviour one viewpoint and fulfil the objective to is deemed completely normal and exploit private stories that when taken out ritualistic- parents of residents even of context, completely flip the story. Your participate in it at events where fampainting of communities to be promoting ily members are invited to the college. some sort of 'dystopia', makes you a pup- St Andrew's is extremely insular- I pet of fake news media and your relentless would say most people there only pursuit to humiliate people contradicts the interact socially with other Drew's morality you preach

#Yesallcolleges

Hi, I wanted to write regarding the recent story about allegations at St Andrew's College. I lived there in recent years. Reading

the article brought up some trauma for me which I had suppressed for a while, but I'm glad that this piece ing behaviour that occurs there has avoid a lot of the media coverage that perienced in relation to previous incidents

I don't really know where to start in summarizing my experience there. The frustration, anger and repulsion I still feel is overwhelming. I arrived there with no previous connection to it, no past family members, no pri-Posting the images of St Andrew's College vate school network. The moment people. Many hail from just over the other side of the Bridge, and move to college to gain complete, indulgent freedom. I want to stress how disconnected the place is from the outer world. Some would barely get out of the place to go to uni. The pressure to conform is so strong.

WHO?Weekly

#SettleforSwapnik

It seems that all political factions have #settledforSwapnik. Current General Executive member and councillor, and last year's Ethnocultural Officer, Swapnik Sanagavarapu (Grassroots) was uncontested within Groots' preselection, and at this stage looks to be uncontested at the ballot box too. Rumour has it that he didn't show up in-person to his own preselection, allegedly suffering from COVID symptoms (cough, cough). Grassroots seem to be putting their support behind a candidate who couldn't commit to deferring university next year. This is unprecedented for Grassroots, a faction which prides itself on its commitment to student unionism and representation. They robustly criticised Miss Josie J (Moderate Liberal) last year

international student ticket, seemingly modelling

signing with NLS before SAlt. The two are set to last week) as the 11th editor they were looking for. sign with a position divide up that will see SAlt Christian Holman, however, has proven to be an likely receive ¹/₂ Education Officer, at least 1 NUS delegate and an assortment of Trot-favourite minor positions. There were previously whispers that SAlt were considering running their own candidate for President. Alas, it was not to be :(. Current co-General Secretary Abbey Shi was also considering a run for the top job, but her plans have been guashed by a lack of factional support.

Bloom Bloom Bloom: I want you on my ticket (let's spend the year together, from now until December)

Last week, we reported that the remnants of the Grassroots ticket were considering a run at our jobs. for the same reluctance to commit to the role full A certain Miss Ellie Stephenson (formerly Groots, current Pulp editor) took issue with this in the Recently hired SRC Returning Officer Geoff Field itself off Advance. Unity and the Liberals are decided to expand it in spite. Christian Holman, absent from any current deal, though there are Thomas Sargeant and Courtney Leanne Daley hints that the Liberals might even put Swapnik on were added to the Ellie Stephenson Dream Team. their how-to-votes. Scandal! Long time comrades Yet in the past couple of days, Courtney has been Groots and Socialist Alternative are experiencing unceremoniously ousted, and Stephenson may some fractures in their relationship, with Groots end up on Bloom (the full ticket we reported on

enthusiastic competitor, so who knows what's to come?

Who's running for Senate?

The biennial Senate elections will soon be upon us, and Cole Scott-Curwood, a St Paul's who, Enviro Collective them and previous Colleges for SRC ticket member, is set for a run. In news that will make WoCo members' ears bleed, Gabi Stricker Phelps, 2019 Women's Officer and current AUJS Public Affairs Coordinator, also has her eves on the prize. Will she be more successful than her mother, Kerryn Phelps? We'll see....

Wake up Geoff!

At the time of writing (Sunday evening), Groots comments — vehemently denying such allegations. is experiencing some Google form teething issues: has signed with NLS, Panda and Phoenix - a new It seems that Stephenson was so perturbed by our the nominations form remaining open and editable (allegedly false) reporting of such a ticket that she through the weekend. Oops! Geoff, a self described election junkie, has reportedly administered an election every year since 1992, though never a student one!

Nina Dillon Britton and Lara Sonnenschein report.

of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) majority against potential job cuts.

The motion passed at the meeting management to make up shortfalls by "draw[ing] on and borrow[ing] against the University's significant financial and physical assets" rather than cutting jobs.

The vote follows news that the FASS Heads of Schools had been asked to "propose concrete schoolbased or broader suggestions" to cut 30% of full-time employment.

A representative from the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) claims that this may indicate Sydney University management are considering staff cuts of up to 30% across the University.

A University-wide 30% cut would be equivalent to the loss of 3000 jobs, dwarfing cuts recently announced at UNSW, the University of Melbourne students." and UTS.

"The University of Sydney management must come clean on its plans to cut jobs. Cuts of up to 30% would compromise the ability of the University to fulfil its obligations to provide high quality teaching, research and student support," states of the NSW NTEU.

"Cuts would be devastating for pay. anyone who loses their job in the middle of the biggest economic downturn in living memory."

The University has rejected that it is currently looking to implement such cuts.

"As we've flagged with staff and unions over the last month, we are looking at how best to safeguard

At a meeting of more than 200 Faculty Sydney from the ongoing financial impact of this pandemic in a range staff, staff voted by an overwhelming of different scenarios," a University spokesperson told Honi Soit.

"These are scenarios that may never calls for the University's executive eventuate. We think it's too early to predict what will happen in 2021 and if we have to move to measures that will affect our staff we want to be more certain about the numbers. Whatever happens, staff will be consulted first and normal change processes will apply."

> The University did not deny that a 30% cut was being considered.

In a joint statement, SRC Education Officers Jazzlyn Breen and Jack Mansell have condemned potential cuts."Unsurprisingly the University's promises that it would not pursue job cuts were empty," it states.

"In announcing these job cuts indirectly and at the discretion of heads of school, Jagose has again shown utter contempt for staff and

Earlier this year, the FASS rolled back an attempt to cull 30% of courses to a "pause" on 8% of courses following opposition from staff and students

Moreover, the proposed FASS cuts come after the recent acknowledgement of systemic underpayment of staff by Dr Damien Cahill, Assistant Secretary the University, which may mean the University is liable for millions in back

> The Australian higher education sector is experiencing its biggest crisis in decades, due in large part to COVID-19 related revenue losses and a failure of the Federal Government to provide the JobKeeper subsidy to public universities.

Education and Social Work School to cut up to 30% of staff

Chuyi Wang and Lara Sonnenschein report.

In an email sent to all staff in the and students should not pay for the Sydney School of Education and Social Work (SSESW), Head of School Debra Hayes has announced that a faculty restructure is being planned which may cut up to 30% of all full-time equivalent employment.

The decision seems to have been initiated by the Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Annamarie Jagose, who has called upon Heads of School to "propose concrete school-based or broader suggestions" to facilitate the aforementioned cuts.

One of the suggestions raised by Hayes is for all full-time staff to take one day's unpaid leave per week. resulting in an overall reduction of employment hours by 20%. This would involve maintaining a full 15 will continue to roll out attack hours of teaching per week, whilst reducing the number of paid research and service hours.

The email also suggests alternative solutions are unavailable, citing "the qualifying nature of [a] large suite of degrees and the absence of departments in [the] School" as the to 30% of Arts courses, which was reason why cuts are necessary.

"If such cuts were to proceed, they would have devastating effects on the livelihoods of staff, and on the kind of teaching and research that the School can perform – thereby affecting many hundreds of students as well," NTEU USyd Branch President Kurt Iveson said to Honi Soit.

such cuts are both unfair and unnecessary. We maintain that staff

pandemic. The university has other options to address pandemic-related revenue decline that do not cut jobs. Indeed, it has already put measures in place to address this year's revenue decline, so imposing any further cuts on top of those measures is totally unjustified.

SRC Education Officer Jack Mansell told Honi: "This latest announcement is an indication of just how far management is willing to cut from staff and students before they even consider using their own thick piles of cash and property portfolios to pay for the crisis in their marketbased model for higher education."

"Unless we resolve to fight, they after attack on our work and study conditions until there's nothing left to cut from."

This proposal follows months of attacks on the arts and social sciences at both a campus and federal level. In May, the University proposed cuts reduced to 8% for Semester 2 after protests by the NTEU and University staff and students. In June, fee hikes were announced by the Morrison government that could see the cost of social work degrees almost double.

A nationwide student action to protest the aforementioned changes is taking place on August 28. The "From the NTEU's perspective, Sydney event will be held at Fisher Library at 1pm.

USyd admits staff underpayment of almost \$9million

Lara Sonnenschein and Chuyi Wang report.

Sydney University has admitted University of Western Australia is to underpaying staff with around also currently undergoing a review in \$8.8million set to be repaid. Most of relation to a similar claim. those affected by the underpayments are casual employees. The University has attributed the underpayment to 'deficient processes' and 'failings' in the payroll system, though the specific details of the errors were not clarified.

In an email sent to staff. Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence explained that the University had engaged Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) to conduct an investigation into the quantum of underpayment and the specific affected staff.

PWC also assisted in a preliminary and unacceptable.' review which first identified systematic underpayment at the University, following reports of wage theft at other institutions.

11.1%

Enviro Collective demands USyd Senate divest

Deaundre Espejo reports.

During a meeting of the University Senate, the USyd Enviro Collective USYD last year, which found that the gathered on campus to protest the University spent \$28 million on fossil university's ties to the fossil fuel industry.

The stunt, which was live-streamed on their Facebook page, saw students member Paola Ayre said.

In the meeting, the Senate was rumoured to be discussing the implementation of the University's new sustainability strategy, which is set to launch in September. Honi understands that the first draft of by 2025. the strategy has no specific targets or requirements for divestment.

Co-Environment Officer Shani Patel drew attention to a freedom of information request by Fossil Free of the fossil fuel industry.' fuel energy and a further \$22.4 million on fossil fuel investments in 2018.

"At a time when fires have burned through the planet's most valuable dressed as university executives, carbon sinks and a heatwave has kicking and destroying a ball painted as swept through the Arctic Circle, investments. the earth. "The university is gambling the University's greenwashing has They also called for the University wake of the incoming recession. USYD Convenor Alison Eslake.

> She also pointed out how USyd's sustainability strategy is trailing behind other universities such as UNSW, which is set to divest from fossil fuels

initiatives [at USyd] will erase the recovery in response to COVID-19.

In a media release, the Enviro Collective demanded that the transition 100% University to renewable immediately, energy divest from fossil fuels and weapons manufacturing by 2025, and redirect these funds towards renewable energy and corporations are continuing to

away our future," Enviro Collective become unbearable," she said, reading to commit to an ethical investment "We will not sacrifice our future a statement written by Fossil Free portfolio and implement a more for the bottom lines of individuals and ambitious sustainability strategy—one corporations whose contingency plans which includes allocation of sufficient for the current climate crisis are to resources and rehiring of staff.

The action was part of the Enviro Collective's ongoing "Grow Back Greener" campaign, as well as a global "No number of green campus push for a renewables-led economic

knowledge that this university is This year, the fossil fuel industry profiting from the continued success experienced a plunge in prices and

consumption, meaning that these investments are no longer financially viable. At the same time, renewables have grown to become a cheaper, cleaner and viable technology.

Enviro Collective member, Drew Beacom, condemned how governments push a fossil-fuel led recovery plan in

maximise extraction, maximise profits, and maximise destruction," he said.

"Enough is enough. Now is the time for a green recovery, now is the time to grow back greener."

Police and university security were present throughout the action but did not shut it down.

Chuyi Wang reports.

education fee support was unveiled performance from Commonwealth supported places, HECS-HELP and FEE-HELP.

Bachelor's degree. This equates to one at the University of Sydney.

This makes Sydney University the

As a result, the Fair Work Ombudsman will be conducting an investigation into the University.

The President of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU). Alison Barnes has attributed the recent wage theft scandals on campuses to casual and insecure employment.

Addressing the news, Dr Barnes said: "A rich institution like Sydney University really has no excuse for wage theft. In the boom years it has sucked in the student fees while simultaneously underpaying staff. This is repugnant

"Universities never seem to make mistakes when it comes to paying exorbitant salaries to managers, like the \$1.6 million paid to Michael Spence."

"We are now in a situation where fourth Group of Eight university to hundreds of casual staff across the be repaying staff following instances university have had hours reduced or of wage theft, with instances at the cut completely in an attempt to save the University of Melbourne and the university approximately \$10 million University of New South Wales. The this year, with devastating impacts on

looks like those savings will go towards casual staff through an almighty USvd Branch President of the NTEU, also told Honi.

When asked for comment, a USvd that errors have occurred regarding payment of employee entitlements, and are working to understand and rectify the problems as swiftly as possible."

"Since the initial review was completed, we have already put in place a number of system and behavioural improvements including around exception reporting, the establishment of a project to deliver system notifications to managers regarding timesheets, and further guidance to managers and staff on entitlements provided by the Enterprise workers.' Agreement to mitigate any potential ongoing issues."

Last month, a survey conducted by the USvd Casuals Network revealed underpayment of casual staff in the

their livelihoods and careers. It now Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), which had been exacerbated rectifying the underpayment of other by the pandemic. The report showed that casuals reported an average of 50 management failure," Kurt Iveson, the unpaid hours of work during semester one this year.

A spokesperson for the Casuals Network told Honi: "The extent of spokesperson said: "We deeply regret wage theft at universities would make George Colambaris blush.'

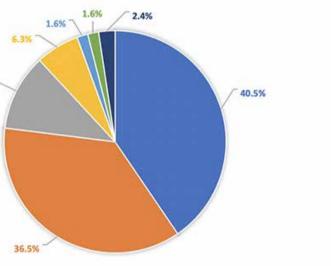
"While University management will want to be given credit for "proactively initiat[ing] a review, this ignores the fact that staff and unions have been raising issues of systemic underpayment of both professional and academic staff for years."

"Instead of pointing to particularities of the timesheet and payroll system, management needs to admit they are culpable in the exploitation of their staff, and especially casualised

Graphics: USyd Casuals Network, Overworked and Worked Over: Casual Academics Bear the Costs of COVID-19.

18.3%

AVERAGE NUMBER OF UNPAID WORK HOURS PER WEEK DURING PRE-COVID-19 SEMESTERS



■ 0-3 hours ■ 4-7 hours ■ 7-10 hours ■ 11-14 hours ■ 15-18 hours ■ 19-21 hours ■ 22+ hours

AVERAGE NUMBER OF UNPAID WORK HOURS PER WEEK DURING

SEMESTER 1, 2020

4.6%

■ 0-3 hours ■ 4-7 hours ■ 7-10 hours ■ 11-14 hours ■ 15-18 hours ■ 19-21 hours ■ 22+ hours

New government proposal precludes low-performing students from accessing HECS support

accessing

The release defines such students

A new proposal by the Morrison provider, demonstrating any adverse education," SRC President Liam Government to overhaul higher circumstances suffered.

The proposal does not suggest any will not carry over to new enrolments.

Any debt incurred under from an in appeals." initial degree will be immediately payable, in addition to any HECSas those who have failed fifty per HELP and FEE-HELP support cent or more of 8 or more units in a received for subsequent enrolments.

"Though the government claims full-time semester's worth of subjects to be targeting 'serial failers', these attacks will intentionally deny Students who fall under this education to precarious students,

Donohoe told Honi Soit.

24.5%

in a media release from Minister of further options or financial support are in first-year. It is this group, who Education Dan Tehan. The proposal for students whose application is not are least aware of the help they could Honi. aims to preclude students with low successful, other than transferring to a get and least able to reach out for the documentation needed to succeed

changes are not 'serial failers', but fully individualised market system, hardworking, sincere students dealing and up front fees." with serious issues outside their control."

an application to their education they cannot afford to self-fund their biggest social and economic crisis in degrees by over 100 percent.

a lifetime, the government wants to punish students who aren't getting the "Many of these vulnerable students right support to do their studies," SRC Education Officer Jack Mansell told

_ 31.3%

"Instead, we need funding to progression rates and academic different course. Low completion rates diagnoses, who are unlikely to have address student poverty, resources to assist students in their studies, and free education for all. Any move "Indeed, the overwhelming towards a performance-based funding majority of students hurt by these model is a dangerous step towards a

The change is part of the larger 'Job-ready Graduates' legislation "The measures announced by the package announced earlier in June, Morrison government are the latest which included controversial fee hikes categorisation must then make sacrificing them as collateral if in their war on students. During the to humanities and communications

Hackers publish unis' ProctorU data

Nina Dillon Britton and Chuvi Wang report.

Hackers have published a database students' computers and require of 440,000 ProctorU user records, including records belonging to University of Sydney staff.

The database is part of 386 million user records published by hacker group ShinyHunters over the past week, cyber-security publication BleepingComputer reports. The data includes usernames. unencrypted passwords, legal names and full residential addresses.

Honi Soit can exclusively report that it includes user records with emails belonging to the University of Sydney, the University of New South Wales, the University Honi of Melbourne, the University of Queensland, the University Tasmania, James Cook of University, Swinburne University of Technology, the University of Western Australia, Curtin University and the University of Adelaide.

It does not appear that any records of USyd students are included in the database.

ProctorU was engaged by the University of Sydney to oversee online exams this semester, following the transition to online learning.

The data breach follows heavy student criticism of the University's use of the service, arguing ProctorU violates student privacy.

ProctorU involves invasive supervision of students undertaking allowing exams. proctors to remotely control

students to show their rooms on camera.

policy acknowledges it is possible it will transfer user data to third parties without users' consent.

May, the Students' In Representative Council voted to call on the University not to engage ProctorU.

"The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council is extremely troubled by news that ProctorU has been hacked and up to 440,000 users data compromised," SRC President Liam Donohoe told

"We consistently warned the University that this could happen. demand the University We immediately suspend the use of ProctorU, as that is the only way to guarantee that students are not exposed again in the future."

In an initial statement provided on 5 August, a University spokesperson told Honi that, "We are aware of recent reports of a cyber security incident impacting ProctorU, and have been in contact with them to confirm the circumstances of the alleged breach and whether any University data has been impacted.'

On 6 August, a spokesperson was able to confirm that the University had met with ProctorU's CEO and Compliance Officer, who confirmed they are investigating a breach of confidential data relating as to how these emails came to be to users of their service.

"We understand the data relates to people who were registered as users of ProctorU's services on The company's own privacy or before 2014. We don't believe our current students are directly impacted by this breach as we began using ProctorU's online proctoring services in 2020, in response to the COVID19 pandemic.

"Any breach of security and privacy of this type is of course deeply concerning and we will continue to work with ProctorU to understand the circumstances of the breach and determine whether any follow-up actions are required on our part. We'll also review our experience of online exams and proctoring this year to inform our approach to assessments in 2021."

On 7 August, ProctorU publicly acknowledged the breach on Twitter, claiming the leaked records did not contain any financial information

"ProctorU has disabled the server, terminated access to the environment and is investigating this incident. In addition, ProctorU has implemented additional security measures to prevent any recurrence.'

Spokespeople from James Cook University and the University of Adelaide have told Honi that the University had not engaged ProctorU, and a spokesperson from UNSW said that they had been advised their records had not been compromised, raising questions included in the database.

Neo-Nazi stickers found on campus

Lara Sonnenschein and Chuyi Wang report.

In a statement to

against our values and

anyone with information

to contact our security

team on 1800 SYD HLP

Last year, Honi also

uncovered the presence

of fascist organising on

campus through leaked

Discord chat logs. That

investigation revealed

Neo-Nazi scrutiny of

the University and its

student organisations as

far back as 2017.

(1800 793 457)."

"We would encourage

our codes of conduct."

of Neo-Nazi Tens precinct on campus. stickers have been *Honi*, a spokesperson for plastered on campus near Fisher Library and the University said, "We the Law School. will remove the stickers as quickly as possible. The stickers appear to No matter the medium. be from the National racism and any other Socialist Network, intimately form of discrimination group are not tolerated in our linked with the Lad's Society and Antipodean community, and go

Resistance. This follows similar events by the group at Swinburne University and the University of Queensland within the past month, signalling an orchestrated attempt to target Australian universities.

Antipodean Resistance last postered on campus in 2017 outside the Brennan McCallum learning hub. In 2019, racist posters

were also found in the Engineering and IT



USU staff furious at Board's decision to cut hours to 40 per cent

Lara Sonnenschein reports.

Staff at the University of Sydney Union are angry with the Board's decision to cut staff hours across the organisation to 40 per cent. The decision was met with considerable backlash from USU workers at a staff forum which saw Board Directors questioned, Senate appointed directors fail to show up, and newly appointed President Irene Ma cry.

measure from the organisation. The workforce was already operating on 60 that they are lying to them, and know per cent hours, and many staff members that some have lied to some of the staff were laid off at the beginning of the about which way they voted on this pandemic

Importantly, seemingly no staff with the exception of senior management — were consulted about the decision, with workers only finding out about the cut after the decision had already been voted on during an in camera Board meeting. Yet staff say there was some sense that another cut was possible, with a casual worker describing the feeling as one of "impending doom" amongst their colleagues.

out the vote before the new Board Directors were even officially inducted. Additionally, staff allege that acting CEO Jess Reed and some heads of department attempted to talk the Board down from the decision, noting that the USU's finances weren't that dire.

Honi understands that the decision

Max Shanahan reports.

Professor Wojciech Sadurski, the motivated civil and criminal defamation charges in Poland amid attacks by its right-wing government on the judiciary, press and freedom of speech.

constitutional law and is the author of, among other works, Poland's Constitutional Breakdown and, perhaps ironically. Freedom of Speech and its Limits. He has been critical of the ruling Law and Justice Party's (PiS) undermining of the Polish constitution, and is active in the Polish media and international academic circles. Professor Sadurski told Honi that the charges are "purely political accusations" which are

appeal is expected. In a highly unusual move, Polish state television (TVP) has brought both civil and criminal defamation actions against Professor Sadurski in respect of a tweet in which

Police shut down campus rally, two fines issued

Lara Sonnenschein and Vivienne Guo report.

Over thirty police shut down a small student protest called by the Sydney University Education Action Group. Police issued a move on order based fine everyone should they not comply with the order.

Despite students complying with the direction, police detained two protesters, and said they would be issued with infringement notices expected to be \$1000 each.

Protesters were adhering to social distancing requirements, in addition to the vast majority of attendees wearing masks

Josh Lee, one of the protesters told *Honi*: "The hypocrisy of the NSW Government and police is blatant. They are refusing to take proper action to combat this virus. While 300 people are allowed in pubs and casinos, thousands pack into schools, shopping centres, and footy matches, and up to 500 can participate in community sporting events, they are cracking down on responsibly organised protests of 20 people spaced out in large outdoor areas."

"That's what they are trying establish now, that all protests to are effectively banned, and for the foreseeable future. But the things we on protesters being on campus "for a are protesting about – opposing job common purpose," and threatened to cuts, cuts to Jobseeker, fighting to make Black Lives Matter, demanding action on climate change – these are issues we need to protest about now more than ever.'

> SRC Education Officer Jack Mansell said, "It's clearly pretty cynical when the cops come down, repress and arrest students or Indigenous people protesting in an extremely safe way that adheres to all known health guidelines."

The police's response to the protest follows similar action taken on Tuesday, issued with an infringement notice, where police issued a move on order to a redundancy, leaving remaining staff Black Lives Matter protesters at The Domain, minutes before the event was set to begin. Several protesters were also USvd SRC, argued that students and to oppose Federal Education Minister detained and issued with infringement notices.

Chaired by Mansell, the protest addressed cuts to education at both a national and local level. Speakers referenced spikes in staff redundancies at universities across the country, cuts to courses and funding for universities, increased costs of degrees and the

overall diminished quality of tertiary education in Australia.

Yasmine Johnson, a science student and member of the USyd branch of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU), noted that USyd Vice Chancellor Michael Spence has taken no salary cut while numerous casual staff have been made redundant in the university's financial fallout as a result of COVID-19.

"As we've seen on campus after campus, vice chancellors are proving that they're happy to keep on taking, regardless of whether staff have already taken pay cuts or voluntary redundancies or anything else."

"A redundancy of any type is still overworked "

staff should be fighting back against Dan Tehan's proposed cuts to tertiary course and staff cuts together.

"The lack of work [for staff] is linked want to resist, which is a lack of course 2. options and a lack of diversity in what we're able to to study."

Donohoe also addressed the impact fee hikes would have on regional

universities, who lack the financial

strength of larger universities like USyd. "Universities like La Trobe [and Wollongong] are already looking down the barrel of significant funding and revenue crises, and [the nation-wide fee hikes and cuts to funding and courses] are only going to add to that."

Donohoe also drew attention to the devastating effects of cuts in overall funding to areas like environmental sciences and medical sciences.

"We're going to have less environmental scientists, we're going to have less medical scientists, we're going to have less young people trying to grapple with the problems that are causing such significant issues for us right now."

The snap protest was called as one Liam Donohoe, President of the of several actions across the country education, building toward the upcoming National Day of Action on specifically to what we as students August 28, at the beginning of Semester

Several staff members alleged that

Meeting on 21 July, but that it was then voted on at a meeting on 24 July — the day the Board Directors finished their three-day induction. In response to debate and discussion occurring prior to induction, one worker told Honi, "How can they even know what they're looking at?"

Staff believe the vote was "pretty unanimous," with one worker noting The new cut is the latest austerity that "from speaking to some of the Board Directors, the staff get the sense particular motion."

Another worker told Honi, "we're all pretty disgusted with the Board" before going on to describe them as "inexperienced children ... in charge of something they don't understand."

The decisions of the Board are clearly having profound impacts on USU workers.

"Staff have had months of lower pay and have been working themselves to the bone to get things done. They've felt the full weight of decisions made by the members of the Board wanted to carry past Board. This has just proven to staff that the new Board is no different. All trust has been completely thrown out the window, and we're three weeks into their term.'

Many of the new Board Directors campaigned on platforms of better support for workers, a focus on mental health, and greater transparency and was initially considered at a Special consultation within the organisation.

already proven they mean none of it," a Senate's alleged influence in the result staff member asserts.

All the staff members *Honi* spoke to believed that the decision to further cut hours was unnecessary, and that the USU's financial position is not as bad as this decision, they've been the ones it is being made out to be.

"Most outlets are closed, our Info Hubs are closed, no events are Senate appointed directors are taking occurring, the government covers a a very active role," another member of large chunk of staff incomes. How are staff notes. we bleeding enough money to justify this when we actually do have people on campus now?"

Another worker commented, "Why should all staff have to pay for this instead of management? Why aren't cash reserves being used up?"

Many workers were also quick to fact that their induction was catered by HostCo

The decision to reduce hours is one that will likely see staff work additional hours unpaid, one worker tells Honi.

"It's inevitable that staff will be working more than they're paid to. I know that people are checking emails and calling us on days they're not supposed to be in the office already, and now they're going to be paid even less.'

Yet, whilst there is certainly anger at the student Board Directors, some staff reserve more criticism for the Senate appointed directors, given the students' relative inexperience and age. Indeed,

"In their first few weeks, they've there is a feeling amongst some that the of this year's Executive Election comes into play.

> "They can throw their weight around a lot more, and have done in terms of pushing for it," a staff member alleges.

"I have it on good authority that the

"It's quite obvious they have an agenda. It's quite difficult to piece together what the agenda is, but they definitely have one.'

There was uncertainty amongst the staff Honi spoke to as to whether a full or partial takeover of the USU by the University is on the cards, yet there was point out that Board Directors still have no doubt that they believe the Senate is, perks such as free meal cards and the via its directors, playing a more hands on role in the organisation.

The USU has provided no real indication as to how long these cuts might be in place for, only saying that conditions will improve once campus returns to a degree of normalcy. Yet, even then, the organisation is apparently not promising staff full salaries, instead saying they might only go up incrementally.

Honi did not receive the USU's press release regarding the recent cuts, as has previously been standard practice by the Board. Press releases are sent out by the President.

USyd law professor faces politically-motivated charges in Poland

Professor Sadurski is an expert in 'incompatible with a democratic state."

In January 2016, the Polish Challis Chair of Jurisprudence at Parliament legislated to take control Sydney University, is facing politically- of TVP and fired all 118 of its senior management staff, replacing them with direct political appointees. Many journalists critical of the government have since been removed from their positions at public broadcasters or subject to legal harassment by PiS. After the Mayor of Gdansk, a critic of PiS and regular subject of TVP invective, was assassinated in 2017, his widow linked TVP's campaign against her husband to his assassination. TVP then sued for defamation a number of prominent Poles who repeated the allegations. In 2020, Poland fell to its lowest ever ranking of 62nd in the Press Freedom Index. In 2015, the year in which the Law and Justice Party was elected, it Professor Sadurski faces three ranked 18th. Professor Sadurski told Polish government and state television. suing its opponents for defamation is PiS was dismissed in June, but an failed to reply before publication

Professor Sadurski expressed concern faces up to 12 months imprisonment. to lower the retirement age for judges who are courageous and honest'

from 70 to 65, while granting complete that still remain in Poland and has ministerial discretion to extend terms been encouraged by the favourable beyond that limit. This was widely seen as an attempt to remove judges perceived to be critical of the government, while allowing for favoured members of the judiciary to remain. These laws were struck out by the European Court of Justice in regards to the Supreme Court, but are still applicable in lower courts, such as those hearing the suits against Professor Sadurski.

In December 2019, legislation was passed to establish a new Disciplinary Chamber of the Supreme Court, with powers to fine or sack judges that engage in "political activity" or question the independence of the politically appointed Chamber. Furthermore, the National Council of the Judiciary, which oversees the appointment of judges, has School, and the university as a whole, charges relating to tweets critical of the Honi that "the fact that the media is been overhauled to allow for political stand in solidarity" with Professor appointments to the Council, effectively Sadurski. A civil defamation suit brought against either ironic or perverted." TVP was granting the government control over him by the ruling right-wing populist contacted by Honi for comment, but judicial appointments. These sustained attacks on the rule of law prompted the EU, for the first time in its history, expected. The trial for the suits brought to Honi about his prospects of receiving a to invoke Article 7 proceedings against by TVP will commence on October 2. fair trial in Poland against a background a member state for persistent breaches academic disruption during this global of attacks on the independence of the of "EU values," which can result in the pandemic. The safety and wellbeing of judiciary. Since its election in 2015, the suspension of that country's EU voting all our students is our highest priority he described TVP as a "Goebbelsian PiS government has sought to exert rights. The proceedings are ongoing. and we are keen to continue to support media organisation." If convicted of control over appointments and opinions Despite this, Professor Sadurski draws both their educational progress and their the criminal charge, Professor Sadurski of the judiciary. A 2015 law attempted some comfort from the "many judges wellbeing, with minimal disruption.

preliminary verdict in the PiS case.

While noting the significant cost and time pressures associated with having to defend himself from state-sponsored legal harassment, Professor Sadurski remains defiant and views his defence as an opportunity "to practice what I preach" about democracy and freedom of speech. Sadurski has received widespread backing from the academic community, with an open letter in his support co-signed by 70 prominent legal scholars from around the world. In a statement to Honi, Professor Simon Bronitt, the Dean of Sydney Law School, decried the "extraordinary proceedings, inimical to the values of free speech" and said that "Sydney Law

On June 18, a judge made an interim decision dismissing the defamation action brought by PiS. An appeal is

HECS cuts strip equality from education

Alice Trenoweth-Creswell demonstrates that HECS changes deliberately exclude low-income students from universities.

Students and university bodies have fiercely criticised the Morrison Government's proposed cuts to tertiary education, which hurt low-income students.

Last week, Education Minister Dan Tehan announced that students who fail 50% of their first eight subjects at university will be stripped of their Commonwealth-supported place. The draft legislation aims to prevent students with low completion rates from accumulating large debts with little qualification. However it will lock many low-income students out of their chosen higher education pathways.

Undergrads struggling financially are far more likely to fail university courses. According to a 2019 National Union of Students study, more than a quarter of full-time undergraduate students regularly miss classes due to work commitments. A further 41% say paid work commitments negatively impact study.

The requirement for struggling students to pay their future fees up front reinforces the adverse effects on lowincome students.

able to afford to go to uni without HECS," says student Leah Bruce. "Low income students often rely on very little Centrelink a week or are not able to get Centrelink for some reason or another, so they're working a lot of hours while still studying... They would have to pick up second and third jobs."

The Department of Education will be able to consider factors beyond a student's control in removing access to HECS. These factors include unforeseen medical, personal or employmentrelated circumstances. However, it Bruce. excludes adjusting to university life as an excuse for academic failure, placing substantial strain on students from rural, regional and remote communities.

In 2017, Bruce moved from her home on the NSW South Coast to Sydney for university. "When you're moving away you don't have the same support networks as people who grew up near the university, or people who grew up with families that always economically supported them," she says.

The government's homogenisation of the university experience doesn't correlate with the different experiences of university students. It will disproportionately impact students with disabilities, those who are first in family and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Student Eilish Wilkinson says, "I don't think everyone is able to go home and do five hours of study because "A lot of us simply would not be people do need to afford to live in places where the best universities are."

> The long, arduous and often stressful nature of appeals processes creates another issue for low socioeconomic students. Those already struggling to balance paid employment and university coursework are unlikely to find extra time to successfully complete an appeal.

Sydney University bureaucracy is often criticised by students for its inefficiency.

targeted to make life harder for students whose lives are already hard," says

The University of Sydney has criticised the Morrison Government proposal to strip funding from failing students as "overly strong".

"We are concerned about what the introduction of such a rule might mean for our students in first year as they make the transition to university study and especially for students who are firstin-family, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and from rural, regional and remote communities who have to deal with the extra stresses of moving away from home," says a spokesperson for the University

Mental health support groups have also shared concerns about the impact of the policy. Student mental health is already poor. A 2017 Headspace study reported two thirds of students had dealt with high or very high psychological distress over the past 12 months.

Clinical Psychologist Aliza Werner-Seidler of the Black Dog Institute told Honi: "The first year of university is a challenging and tumultuous time. Research tells us that this period of great transition, often involving living out of home or in a different state for the first time, represents a heightened risk of mental ill health. Young people have to navigate a new environment and

learning system, a new social network and changes to their living and working "These processes feel like they're patterns. Adding additional financial strain could understandably contribute to any stress felt by students."

The COVID-19 pandemic has weakened all sectors, but higher education has been hit by some of the biggest blows. Public universities fell between the cracks of JobKeeper and the proposed Job-ready Graduates program includes fee hikes across the humanities. The new announcement creates further challenges. The policy will likely lead to unnecessary dropout rates and has the potential to discourage students from attempting more academically challenging subjects. In the wake of widespread underpayment scandals, universities will have to expand their workforce to provide greater assistance to struggling students.

The policy marks a brutal switch in the sector's approach to failing students. Currently at the University of Sydney, if a student fails half their subjects, they are placed in the Staying on Track program before they become excluded from funding. The program attempts to identify and resolve issues impeding their academic success.

The shift towards the economic penalisation of failure creates a culture where students can only try again if they have the financial means. Clearly this compromises equality of access in the education sector.

head-hunting mission centred on public humiliation, ostracism and guilt by association.

Critics of cancel culture tend to be flag-waving patriots, such as Peter Kurti, a director at the conservative think-tank the Centre for Independent Studies, who recently exploited Coon's rebranding to rant about freedom of speech in The *Australian*. But the idea that we cannot to work through their trauma. Holding critique cancel culture because it is a public figures accountable is positive. I term weaponised disdainfully by the take no issue with ostracising people for right is utterly regressive.

It was refreshing therefore to tune into the podcast Dirtbag a few days in its current form, I think of microago and hear the hosts - two socialist activists - launch an offensive against cancel culture. Like water boiling over bedroom carpets, downward glances in a pot, the podcast (well worth a in corridors and Twitter warriors listen) overflows with scalding criticism. Nasal-infused Kiwi curse words scythe through the air, speaking to a bubbling frustration among leftist organisers who recognise that cancel culture is antithetical to so much of what we fight and protest for.

Indeed, how do we account for the diversity of signatories to the Harper's letter? Margaret Atwood, Noam Chomsky, Bernie Sanders supporter Zephyr Teachout and Jamaicanborn sociologist Orlando Patterson, a frequent contributor to The New York Times and New Left Review, usually on issues of race, are just some of those signatories. We cannot simply dismiss Chomsky, for instance, as a self-absorbed nonagenarian shielded from the biting gale of critique with a coat distinguished by its sewn-on badge reading "freedom of speech." This is a most vulnerable in society – young man who has advocated for Palestinian activists, people of colour and nonindependence for over fifty years. In university educated workers, for

UNSW is (still) failing its Indigenous staff

Claire de Carteret interrogates UNSW's poor record of Indigenous employment.

In 2019, Universities Australia outlined a commitment to improving the sector that has, "historically underperformed against their obligations to Australia's to a target of having "90 Indigenous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples." Government guidelines to "establish a financial compact that require Australian universities to have plans to increase the representation of Indigenous staff to 3% of the total workplace; a goal few have yet met. This year's Black Lives Matter movement has highlighted institutionalised racism in the university sector. In June this year, more than 100 former staff and students signed a letter stating NIDA was "complicit in white supremacy and colonial violence' by not doing more to support students of colour.'

This anger is not new. In October 2019, UNSW sparked outrage from staff and students when it refused to renew the contract of its celebrated Indigenous Programs Director, Tess Allas. The effective firing of Allas, one of few long-term Indigenous staff at the UNSW Art and Design (UNSWAD) campus, proved to many that UNSW was not fulfilling its promises to increase Indigenous staff representation

of #StandWithTess started a petition that has gained 1,719 signatures and a boycott of UNSW galleries with the support of Australian artists including Richard Bell, Frances Bell Parker, Daniel Boyd, Vernon Ah Kee, Dianne Jones, Julie Gough and Joan Ross. Uncle Vic Chapman OA, the UNSW Nevertheless, UNSW and UNSWAD Indigenous Elder in Residence and #StandWithTess was not being renewed.

In 2018, UNSW management entered into an Enterprise Agreement with academic staff, which committed itself academic and professional staff" and will guarantee dedicated funding [...] associated with advancing Indigenous employment outcomes" of at least \$1.5 million by 2021.

In spite of this, the 2019 UNSW Annual Report records only 0.80% of staff being Indigenous, or 25 people. This is well below the 2% Equal Employment Opportunity benchmark that UNSW set for itself. It appears UNSW has given up on meeting its goal by the nominal expiry date of 31 December 2021. Indeed, following announced cuts of almost 500 jobs, this number may be even lower. UNSW declined to respond to Honi's request for updated Indigenous employment figures or provide a response as to whether management believe the goal would be met.

decision. In October 2019, after exiting supporters waiting outside that the Dean had said the decision to cancel her contract was a "budgetary" issue, "restructuring" directive from Pro Vice Chancellor Indigenous Megan Davis. the matter.

problem by getting rid of the Aboriginal people.'

In an email sent by Harley formalising the cessation of Allas's contract, the Dean refuted that account. "Misinformation [has been] circulating regarding the cessation of your employment," the email states. '[T]he contract's not being renewed was a Faculty decision supported by the University. This was not a decision of the Pro Vice Chancellor Indigenous."

A spokesperson for UNSW told Honi that "We are not able to comment on an individual staff member's circumstance but would like to reassure you we are In a final correspondence, Deputy Vice committed to Indigenous students and staff at the University."

Uncle Vic described the failure to renew Allas' contract as "our Faculty's Sorry Day" and announced he would be stepping down as UNSW Indigenous Elder in Residence if Allas was sacked.

Allas's case highlights the particular challenges faced by First Nations staff UNSW management has been within an already precarious sector. reluctant to accept responsibility for the Despite being a member of staff for almost 14 years, Allas had only Students rallying under the banner a meeting with Harley, Allas informed worked on two to three year fixed-term jobs lost in the recent merge of the contracts. Fixed-term contracts give the Art and Design faculty into the new descriptive illusion of job security, but Arts, Architecture & Design. One of in fact, the "appointment is made for a these is Dean Ross Harley. But unlike "out of his hands," that was part of a specified term or ascertainable period." Allas has declined to comment on

Dean Ross Harley continued to ignore Fellow who had sat in on the meeting, organised a rally on campus protesting UNSW has awarded him with the title requests to explain why Allas's contract expressed bewilderment stating, "As Allas' removal. President of the Student Tess said in the meeting, it appears Council, Jack Poppert, delivered a

Faculty is, 'getting rid of the Aboriginal letter in person to Vice Chancellor Ian Jacobs seeking a meeting with students. In the letter, shared to Instagram, Poppert states, "We are concerned by the manner in which each of you have upheld the Indigenous Strategy as a defence of actions that we believe directly contravene its very principles. We have asked for attention. In return we have received mere signification."

However, campaigners were met with silence. Despite a meeting with senior management, campaigners were told that the decision to "restructure and centralise" Indigenous programs and to sack Allas remained incontestable. Chancellor Merlin Crossley states that "the necessary management actions have been undertaken in good faith."

In final correspondence with the Dean, Uncle Vic Chapman states: "Dear Ross,

Until such time as you apologise to myself, Tess, Ruth and Tony for calling us liars, please remove me from your email list. Do not sent [sic] me anymore emails from unceded Indigenous lands." Still more staff have seen their precarious staff like Allas, he remains protected. In a leaked email to staff, VC Ian Jacobs applauds Dean Ross Before Allas' contract expired, Harley's leadership and in recognition campaigners of his outstanding contribution to Emeritus Professor

For reconciliation, first there must be truth

Prime Minster Scott Morrison's recent comments denying the existence of slavery in Australia reveal a sobering truth about Australia's ruling class: they are unconcerned with confronting the persisting trauma and oppression of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Australians. Not only does this denialist rhetoric prevent political action needed to alleviate systemic Indigenous burdens, it disregards the condition and suffering of a people who nurtured a country we now inherit for millennia. Acknowledging responsibility is by no means an easy task, but attempts made by South African anti-apartheid administrators during the mid 1990s to exact justice and amnesty provide a cooperative starting point: the truth must be nationally recognised. The common inference of South

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela in Mav unquestionably vanquished the scourge of post-Apartheid administration Alex Boraine and Sisi Khampepe (alongside others) effectively established TRC) in 1995.

Abolish cancel culture

Robbie Mason thinks cancel culture is a dumb, toxic, liberal phenomenon.

Cancel culture is an evangelical his own words: "I used to have police protection... even at my own university. The meetings were broken up violently." Chomsky is undeniably accustomed to vitriolic dissent.

> Certainly, cancel culture is important in certain situations to remove an abuser or predator from a circle of people. Their presence can trigger volatile responses from victims denied the space and time extreme, toxic behaviour.

> But when I think of cancel culture transgressions and microaggressions. Rumours. Fight versus flight. Tears on emboldened by the poisonous sting of a keyboard.

> In 2018, the Herald Sun published on its front page comments jokingly posted years before by Victorian Greens candidate and punk rocker Joanna Nilson. In a private Facebook group, these posts mentioned shoplifting and recreational drug use. Under pressure. Nilson stepped down from running for state parliament. In an apology letter published in *The Guardian*, Nilson wrote that she became interested in politics because "politicians didn't look like me. They certainly didn't sound like me or anyone I knew." God forbid if anyone looks at my social media history.

> This encampment – this safe space has transformed into a towering fortress. It is built upon the smeared reputations and social corpses of the

instance. As Masrur Joarder recently wrote for Junkee, those with racial privilege – particularly whiteness – tend to be immune from being cancelled in Australia, meaning that cancel culture usually fails in its intended goal of bringing down public figures and elites via grassroots justice.

As an anarchist sympathiser. I am distrustful of a technocratic elite replicating the behaviour of ruling classes. Academic writing leaves a sour taste in my mouth. Forcing readers to continually decode the meaning of research and jargon ensures an intellectual elite remain in control of society and dominate public discourse albeit an intellectual elite often with their hearts in the right place. This is nonetheless a form of power and hierarchy. Similarly, punishing and cancelling someone who may not have comparatively poor behaviour of those taken gender studies units or even attended university for not championing the latest and most respectful terminology is not conducive to alliance-building or solidarity. Don't get me wrong, I recognise the wrongdoing. But I do not condone the response.

As an anarchist sympathiser, I culture, however, jars against everything prison abolitionists fight for rehabilitation, transformative justice, the cessation of solitary confinement and more. Prison abolitionists highlight the root, intersectional causes of societal ills. Cancel culture, meanwhile, breeds a mentality of guilty until proven innocent, recreates carceral conditions and entrenches in the left norms surrounding punitive punishment and retribution.

adopted in recent times a binary tribal mentality of us/them and good/evil. When we cling to our black and white worldviews, clothed in confirmation bias, we reduce complex human beings and constructs to shopfront mannequins. We depersonalise, conflate and lose the ability to think critically. The "other" becomes interchangeable with a broad cross-section of society. Even centrists become "white supremacists" and "literal Nazis." The goal thereby becomes social annihilation.

As an anarchist sympathiser, I am inclined to distrust hegemonic leftist arguments and mob rule. Social capital is integral to the persistence of cancel culture. Too often cancelling someone in political spaces is about clout – that is, furthering one's own credentials as an activist by highlighting the around you.

Cancel culture enforces a homogenisation of views in a world increasingly defined by what political scientists term affective partisan polarisation. That is, animosity between people who do not share political views has increased in recent decades. While support prison abolitionism. Cancel political tribalism may be slightly less pronounced in Australia than the US the jury is still out – fear of expressing non-conformist thoughts will only stifle intercultural relations and debate.

> Virtue signalling, blind ideological dogma and disengagement are quickly replacing humility, compassion and inclusivity as foundational elements in leftist organising. So while we're abolishing police and prison, heck let's abolish cancel culture too, lest we fail our comrades.

Fuelled by identity politics, the left has

Alexander Whitehead explains how an African model of justice could be utilised in Australia.

African history sees the election of

The party of the nation's liberation, the African National Congress (ANC), did not seek to trial, punish and shame its former oppressors. Neither were their crimes ignored. After fusing three human rights committees, international law and human rights violations committed by the National Party (NP) government since its election in 1948 were publicly addressed, acknowledged and denounced in a lengthy series of nationally televised hearings.

High ranking officials of the Apartheid secret police (or "Bureau for State Security") were interrogated and encouraged to publicly apologise for the brutal torture and death of political activists in custody. In a notorious case, six officials of the Bureau responsible for the murder of the Cradock Four were made to demonstrate methods of torture and vividly recollect their crimes. Eugene de Cock. commander of 1994 as the day which definitively and the counterinsurgency unit Vlakplaas,

was subpoenaed by the commission. of the Apartheid complex. Excluded Without his testimony and admittance from dialogue surrounding the of guilt, stories of numerous "erased complicated South African narrative is lynchings" would never have been how modes of dismantling trauma were brought to light, nor etched into national used to (theoretically) confront the past consciousness. Eugene de Cock was and implement restorative, instead of granted full amnesty as reward for punitive justice to victims of a barbaric transparency. The six Bureau agents' racial system. Lesser known figures pleas for absolution were denied. In this way, the TRC laid bare the savagery of Apartheid.

In Australia, despite what Morrison

north-east coast and livestock properties and non-Indigenous throughout the country. These enslaved workers effectively enabled the cattle and farming boom in rural Australia. Indigenous people have been displaced en masse in a long-term scheme which replicates Apartheid legislature that annexed non-white properties to advise the government regarding and farmsteads, relocating 90% of black South Africans into desolate, designated 'homelands'. Australia's (continuing) child removal policy has seen generations of Indigenous children abducted from their parents. Eugenic practices legitimised by "anthropological" journals, charting racial spectrums and supporting ethnic assimilation, persisted throughout white occupation.

The ghosts of the past haunt our present, as they do in modern-day South Africa, and colonial practices continue, as evident in the incarceration the Turnbull government claimed that rate of Indigenous citizens. But additions to representative institutions recognising our country's history of racialized enslavement, murder winning acceptance in a referendum, and marginalisation is the first step. Thereafter, government-sanctioned bodies must investigate and provide factual narratives about our past. They should encourage reparations.

"reconciliation" (also known as the South Pacific Islanders were forced reconciliation by building relationships, to labour on sugar plantations on the respect and trust" between Indigenous

Australians Through organisational and media influence and legal advocacy, Reconciliation Australia seeks to influence government policy.

The Referendum Council, a stateappointed legal panel which sought constitutional reform, held two yearsworth of dialogue with traditional owner groups. They made numerous suggestions to the Turnbull government in 2017. Among the recommendations was the abolition of section 25, which grants states the ability to exclude a racial group from elections (a 'dead letter' due to the Racial Discrimination Act). Other proposed constitutional amendments included the enabling First Nations people to advocate directly to Parliament through section 116A.

In response to the Uluru Statement was neither desirable nor capable of and the government did not remove section 25.

Consistent undermining Indigenous histories inhibits even the most incremental constitutional Various Australian NGOs and amendment. If we are to truly commit not-for-profit groups have initiated to the reconciliation of our fellow black processes not dissimilar to the Mandela Australians, we must pursue the truth administration's with limited success. first. With the Morrisson administration Reconciliation Australia, established only further trivialising racial trauma, a commission of truth and eventual may espouse, First Nation peoples and in 2001, "promotes and facilitates clearly a greater shift must occur in the Australian psyche.

USyd's community classrooms show the power of **Indigenising education**

Deaundre Espejo on the role of education in fostering cultural competence.

Last semester, as university students self-assessment in order to engage in working with Indigenous organisations from their bedrooms and balconies.

Through the interdisciplinary unit FASS3500 - Service Learning in Indigenous Communities (SLIC), they developed solutions to high-priority issues such as funding shortages as well as social restrictions that have prevented many organisations from operating.

"More than any other university course, SLIC allowed for an exploration of Aboriginal self-determination and resilience on Gadigal land" one participant says. "It was a distinctly different interaction with the history and the land on which Sydney University stands."

Run by the University's Indigenous Strategy and Services portfolio, SLIC aims to improve students' cultural competence.

But rather than learning in a traditional classroom setting, students learn in a "community classroom," working directly with Indigenous people to address their identified needs and priorities.

Despite some roadblocks over the past few years, SLIC has become stronger Is cultural competence training than ever, and its current educational approach demonstrates how cultural competence can be taught effectively, how well engagement with Indigenous communities can be facilitated, and how we can prioritise Indigenous perspectives in tertiary education.

were plunged into quarantine, 17 were behaviours that facilitate culturally safe spaces," she says. "This is particularly important for universities, which can be perceived as largely white institutions"

> Emerging in the 1980s in fields of health and education, cultural competence training has since become commonplace across a variety of sectors.

> The University committed to cultural competence back in its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, collaborating with the NCCC to make changes to the curriculum and teaching. This includes working with staff to develop anti-racist teaching practices, as well as the creation of SLIC and several open learning environment units.

> "We currently don't have an inclusive education system. We're working towards it and cultural competence is a piece of that puzzle," Dr Marlin says.

> "Through cultural competence education we encourage people to become reflexive about their beliefs, values, assumptions, and social positioning, and understand all of that in a socio-political context."

effective?

Research has shown that cultural competence training can have a positive impact on the knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of participants. In one study, social work students

demonstrated an increased awareness of racial privilege and overt forms of

The idea that students can "solve" problems in Community can indeed perpetuate patronising and unhelpful ideas about the places they visit, however students are actively taught not to be motivated by that prospect.

What does 'cultural competence' mean?

USvd's Graduate Qualities as "the communication ability to actively, ethically, respectfully, and successfully engage across and between cultures."

This is just one of many definitions. For Dr Demalza Marlin, an Academic Facilitator and Lecturer at the National (NCCC) who is of Wiradjuri heritage, cultural competence is a process of ongoing learning.

discrimination. In the health profession, it has been shown to reduce provider Cultural competence is defined in bias and improve patient-provider

its critics. Gordon Pon, an Associate This may not happen in a conventional that cultural competence can reinforce videos." power imbalances by stereotyping, Centre for Cultural Competence essentialising and "othering" minorities. last semester, says that service learning

> conflated with cultural awareness, a very and appreciation for diversity in our like there was a real acknowledgement different concept which tends to focus community, and that "it teaches you and respect for the space that we work

than a set of attitudes and practices.

Others criticise the fact that 'competency' implies an endpoint, assuming that it is possible to learn a quantifiable set of skills or knowledge that will allow them to interact effectively with all people.

Amy Cole, another academic facilitator at the NCCC, recognises some level, sees those you feel empathy that criticisms are valid. However, she believes that where it is done well, cultural competence education can be incredibly transformative.

"At the university, we don't focus on what particular groups of people do, think or act like. This could lead to stereotypes or lead people to make generalisations", she says.

Instead, USyd's initiatives aim to provide staff and students with the tools to critically interrogate the assumptions, values and expectations that they bring into all their relationships.

Dr Marlin describes this as "decentring" their world views: "This kind of critical self-reflection helps people start engaging with cultural difference and diversity empathetically, without measuring it against their own norms."

Service learning in Indigenous communities

Although cultural competence at USyd is primarily targeted towards staff, SLIC is one of the main initiatives directed at students. It adopts a service learning model, a form of experiential education where academic learning is integrated with the fulfilment of community needs.

The unit is made up of three main components: students first undergo several weeks of preparation, then spend a week living in a remote Indigenous community. Finally, they develop and present their solutions back to Community. In the past, students have travelled to the Northern Territory, the Torres Strait, and Western New South Wales. Due to COVID-19, students who completed the unit last semester worked with local organisations online, with local organisations Gamarada Universal Indigenous Resources (GUIR) and Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation.

"The close partnership of truly outstanding relationships and remarkable educational outcomes". says A/Prof Evans, a Wiradjuri woman and previous academic coordinator for SLIC

The fact that you are working with Islander communities while respecting Community creates a sense of obligation knowledge and knowledge ownership? However, the concept is not without and reciprocity that is very sincere. A/Prof Evans says. Professor at the School of Social learning environment where you are of the community partners involved in Work at Ryerson University argues reading text, watching and listening to SLIC this year. He is a descendant of

Althea, who participated in SLIC and Managing Director of Gamarada. This is especially the case where it is goes beyond a mere acknowledgement "It's a capacity for self-reflection and on the acquisition of knowledge rather how to really listen to others, how to in, and understanding of cultural

participate ethically and with humility." Another student, Ranuka, learned to identify more subtle forms of racism in the way she thinks and feels about Indigenous people: "I've always seen my own empathy as a positive part of my personality. However, even this is informed by a Western lens that on for as being below you.'

While the unit is not perfect — some students felt that there was too much of a focus on assessment outcomes its overwhelming strength is its close connection to Community.

The potential for harm

Before completing the unit, some students were cautious about the potential for harm or exploitation, especially due to widespread trends of voluntourism

"I was very sceptical about SLIC to begin with," Ranuka says. "I think the idea that a bunch of rich, white students could go out to rural Australia and come up with solutions for the issues communities are facing out there is delusional and paternalistic, and it made me uncomfortable."

Other students were aware of SLIC's unfortunate history. In 2017, Shane Houston was dismissed as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Services and Strategy) and replaced by Kylie Gwynne. This meant that SLIC was temporarily under non-Indigenous leadership, and several aspects of the initiative were changed without consultation.

But today, the unit uses practices that are much healthier than what previously seen. Indigenous was academics have since regained control over the initiative, with last semester's coordinating and supervising team comprising A/Prof Evans, Suzanne Kenney, and Penny Viles.

They currently work within the portfolio of Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver, a Wiradjuri woman appointed to the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services) in 2018

Further, academic staff spend a considerable amount of time students and Community forges collaborating with Community to ensure that they know exactly what students will be doing and that engagement is both safe and productive.

"We want to ensure that students contribute in ways that are of benefit "It's a very active process of learning. to Aboriginal and Torres Strait

> Ken Zulumovski Hon DHSc was one the Kabi Kabi people, and is the founder

> "The program exists in a way that it is so open to Community," he says. "I felt



people do business our way."

Adopting an Indigenous lens While the unit is marketed as an opportunity to "make a real difference to Indigenous communities," SLIC puts more emphasis on teaching students how to form healthy relationships with Indigenous people.

academics and community speakers in order to ensure that they not only have the tools to interact safely, but also a healthy outlook on the project.

problems in Community can indeed perpetuate patronising and unhelpful ideas about the places they visit, however students are actively taught not to be motivated by that prospect.

primary goal is to learn to contribute, to be humble, to listen carefully, and engage in behaviours that show respect to Community during their placements.

'what can I get out of this?' on its head, ensuring that our focus was on service rather than self-gain or reward," says Genevieve, another participant.

interactions. As students prepare their final reports, students learn how to use property in a way that respects original ownership.

relationships with Community are supported, with students getting the their projects.

to a fairly small group of students.

Shane Phillips, CEO, Tribal Warrior, speaking to SLIC students. Photo courtesy: Cornel Ozies and Tom Cavdaroski.

protocols; of how we as First Nations

Students are briefed extensively by

The idea that students can "solve"

A/Prof Evans explains that their "The course flipped that notion of

This extends beyond physical

And after the semester, ongoing

Can community engagement be incorporated into other degrees?

opportunities for practical engagement that Country?" with Indigenous communities built into

people's degrees.

While this may be achievable at some point in the future, the main issue is how opportunities can expand in a way that doesn't place inordinate pressure on communities. There would need to be mobilisation and resourcing of communities before that can occur.

However, service learning is not the only way that students can improve their cultural competence and understanding. The NCCC at USvd offers resources and workshops that are led by Indigenous academics, and local organisations such as GUIR run initiatives such as community healing circles that are open to non-Indigenous people.

Additionally, changing aspects of our current educational practices can result in extremely powerful forms of incidental learning.

Healthy practices in the classroom

In 2016, the New South Wales Education Standards Authority engaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers to develop representations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in new NSW syllabuses.

Similar practices should be translated to the university context for students and staff alike.

In our research and writing as well Indigenous research methodologies as curriculum development, it should and utilise Indigenous knowledge or be questioned whether the same outcomes can be achieved by focusing on Indigenous histories, phenomena, people, stories and cultures.

We also need to be constantly reminding ourselves to check our opportunity to continue working on language, and use our words in a way that respects and elevates Indigenous people

"When we talk about places locations, towns and suburbs — in our Currently, SLIC is a standalone unit essays, for example, we can continually available to students who are in their recognise whose land those places are final years of university. Staff have on," A/Prof Evans says. "It would ongoing plans to continue expanding the even be a healthy learning opportunity unit, however, it would still be restricted for students in university classes to be asked the question: whose Country are Ideally, there would be more you on, and what do you know about

And when discussing Indigenous

SLIC students with members of Tribal Warrior. Photo courtesy: Cornel Ozies and Tom Cavdaroski.

While students that are passionate about the ongoing fight for Indigenous sovereignty may perceive themselves as having relatively high levels of cultural competence and understanding, the opposite is almost always the case.

issues, it is important that we are about the ongoing fight for Indigenous checking the authors of the sources we sovereignty may perceive themselves as use in order to ensure that there is a fair representation of Indigenous ownership on topics that relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people.

"All schools and disciplines should be looking for Indigenous perspectives and centering the voices of First-Nations peoples" Genevieve says. "There is so much wisdom in consulting these communities and allowing their voices to take priority in the stratosphere of education and pedagogy."

Working towards better relationships

Until only a few decades ago, Indigenous Australians were excluded from tertiary strategic plan. education. Charles Perkins was USyd's and Western scientific traditions has only emerged in the past 30 years.

during their degree is the most rewarding that their identity is seen, respected, still working through their knowledge denied for decades. of past policies affecting Aboriginal people."

While students that are passionate

having relatively high levels of cultural competence and understanding, the opposite is almost always the case.

We have a long way to go in committing to learn from and listen to Indigenous people, especially at the University. It is important that we take every opportunity to improve our relationships with Indigenous people, land and knowledge in the classroom and beyond.

This is a process that the University must actively support, both in its unit offerings, its funding of projects by Indigenous academics, and its upcoming

"I don't think anyone can ever be first Aboriginal graduate in 1966, and truly culturally competent," Cole says. Indigenous participation in research "But we all need to take responsibility for our learning.

While taking this responsibility is So for A/Prof Evans, watching a small step, changing our practices students develop an authentic would mean that Indigenous people connection with Indigenous culture entering the university space can feel aspect of SLIC. "These engagements responded to, and that we are reaching are incredibly important as society is out to create the relationships that were

This magazine has 1.4 million readers, but it doesn't pay its writers

Fabian Robertson investigates the magazine created almost entirely by its unpaid interns. Additional reporting by Nina Dillon Britton.

Unpaid internships have become a economic prosperity of the magazine. staple of the Australian media sector, promising professional experience and employment opportunities to young people looking to gain a foothold in a collapsing industry. But this job description belies a sobering reality. In most cases, unpaid internships merely sanction the widespread exploitation of students for free labour. Despite guidelines issued by the Media Alliance and legal restrictions under the Fair Work Act, the extensive use of interns has become essential to some media companies' business models. A 2016 Department of Employment report states that almost 6% of people aged 18-29 had completed unpaid work in media or a creative industry. And, in a weakened post-pandemic economy, this practice will only become more prevalent.

Offspring Magazine operates with a team of interns all year-round. Owned by Kate Durack, the magazine touts itself as Australia's largest gloss and digital parenting magazine with 1.4 million readers annually. Its website claims the magazine is "created by real mums and dads for the modern parent".

Yet, according to Caitlin*, who completed an internship at Offspring in November 2019, more than half the magazine is produced by its team of eight unpaid interns, all of whom were in their early twenties.

Stephanie,* who left after only a tells Honi that "essentially all of the magazine is put together by interns," she says.

Offspring relies on unpaid interns for the completion of integral tasks that would typically be undertaken by a paid employee, directly contravening Fair Work guidelines. In fact, in her introductory email to Caitlin, Durack requested that she "treat it as [she] would any job".

Honi was also able to view screenshots of Durack delegating work via email, confirming that the magazine enlists unpaid interns for distribution, articles, ad creation, marketing, social media posts and Search Engine Optimisation.

Though interns are promised the opportunities to develop their writing portfolios, they are often tasked with s

Stephanie began the internship after having to leave her paid journalism role due to COVID-19.

"I told [Durack] that as long as I was able to keep writing articles, I would be happy. She said that would be fine."

But the work Stephanie completed during her time in the program had "nothing to do with writing." The largest task she completed was resizing images on the magazine's website.

Even when interns are given the opportunity to publish their writing, much of their work goes uncredited, meaning they are unable to gain exposure. In the six months that Caitlin worked at Offspring, she was only given credit for one of her pieces. The majority of her articles and reviews were published under the byline of "freelancer".

In 2020 alone, 30 articles have been published on the Offspring website attributed to an unnamed "freelancer". Many appear to have had little or no editorial oversight, with several appearing to be restatements of product press releases and one stating incomprehensibly "amar number e call dao"

A lack of educational guidance further renders Offspring's use of unpaid interns as unlawful. The Fair Work Act states that observation, learning and skill development are indicative of a role that should be unpaid. Yet, despite promises sort period interning at the magazine, of industry mentorship, Stephanie says that the program provided negligible educational opportunities for the interns, who worked from home.

> "There was no mentorship and very little oversight. I'd be thinking to myself 'what the hell are we supposed to be doing?""

Caitlin had a similar experience.

"I chose to specialise as a writer but never received any constructive feedback on anything that I wrote. I can honestly say there was no effort from [Durack] to help me become a better writer".

Durack also regularly allocates assignments that take longer to complete than the agreed-upon hours of work, or are entirely outside of the job description. In the six months

h e

worked at Offspring, Caitlin says that week.

"[Durack] often would give us work that took way longer than one day to finish. I would spend two to three days some weeks working for free. [Durack] was pushy and I felt pressured."

"At one point, I spent two weeks of the internship researching resorts and tourism activities in Thailand for [Durack's] upcoming holiday — two full days of working as a personal travel agent. While I was there, all eight interns were made to do research for her holiday".

On top of this, it appears there were little to no prospects for paid employment upon completion of the internship, with none of the interns in Caitlin's program continuing at the of.' magazine on a paid basis. According to Caitlin, Durack alluded — at the start of the internship — to the possibility of future employment opportunities at the conclusion of the six month unpaid period.

"[Durack] implied over the phone that there was a chance of getting hired so I pushed myself to excel in the role. I wanted to impress her and I was excited to learn new skills."

But Caitlin quickly became disillusioned

"It took two months for me to regret the day that I applied. Now that I've finished I'm hesitant to go for another internship and am fairly apprehensive about entering the journalism industry. It's gotten to the point that I am looking at other career paths", Caitlin says.

Stephanie says that during her time at the magazine, several interns kept working at *Offspring* after their program had ended. She understands that they too were unpaid. Under the Fair Work Act, an intern is entitled to payment for the work they perform where they are in an "employment relationship" with an employer, and the internship is not a vocational placement that is a requirement for a course.

While vocational placements are easy to define, it can often be unclear to interns whether they are in an employment relationship. Though

unpaid internships are often advertised half of all of her weekly tasks exceeded as work experience, where interns find the original commitment of one day per themselves doing the same work as paid employees with little by way of professional development they have rights to payment.

> Mass layoffs at NewsCorp, Fairfax and the ABC, as well as the shuttering of BuzzFeed News Australia and eight Bauer Media magazines, have seen hundreds of young journalists lose their jobs in recent months. Desperation amongst young people has made them even more vulnerable to exploitation.

> "It's frustrating because I don't want this to keep happening to other people," Stephanie says. "I was lucky that I had enough industry experience to see the internship for what it was, but a lot of younger and less experienced people won't. And they can be taken advantage

> As the consumption of goods and services declines in a post-pandemic economy, businesses like Offspring will look to further cut costs, potentially by appointing unpaid labourers. Additionally. COVID-19 is severely limiting the number of jobs available to university graduates, thereby increasing competition and the perceived need to stand apart from one's cohort by having unpaid industry experience. This further allows companies, like Offspring, to hire unpaid interns in perpetuity to undertake work that should be occupied by an employee in a paid role. Now, more than ever, there is a need for legislators to provide stronger work protections for unpaid interns.

"I've honestly become quite jaded over the whole experience," Stephanie savs

"Interning in this industry is something you really need if you're going to get anywhere and you need to be very privileged to be able to take on unpaid work."

"If we're going to keep that norm, we really need to reexamine the relationship we have with unpaid workers. Perhaps if people are getting genuine skills, unpaid internships can be justified. But there is a lot of exploitation. It needs to stop.

Kate Durack did not respond to Honi's request for comment. *Names have been changed.



Juliette Marchant makes the case

There is a tendency to class the philosopher as a sort of "idle dreamer". An individual that spends their days invoking Rodin's *The Thinker*, as they sit in their ivory tower and mull over trifling distinctions and hair-splitting semantics, all the while stroking their long, white beard. This image, the product of an ignorant conception of the ends that philosophy strives to achieve, is what fosters the assertion that philosophy as a discipline lacks utility and value outside of a mere search for knowledge for the sake of knowledge.

Although I cannot earnestly contend that the study of philosophy produces the sort of definite answers that one could draw from disciplines such as maths or engineering, this is not a shortcoming. On the contrary, in a political, economic and social atmosphere built on uncertainty, our obsession with predictability and pragmatism actively reduces our conception of what is possible, diminishes the value of intellectual imagination, and perhaps most notably, threatens us with the prospect of floating through the world asleep. The world needs dreamers, because when first conceived, it is incredibly difficult to tell if a dream is truly idle or achievable. And so as not to fail in our endeavour to make the world a more meaningful place, we must cast aside our prejudiced notion of what is "practical", continue to ask questions, and embrace the philosopher: the bold, curious and intellectually alive dreamer. In June of this year, the government

The cost of thinking outside the box: Valuing philosophy in a changing world

for degrees under the umbrella of the humanities and social sciences (HASS). In response to the denigration of humanities in the package, over 100 of the most notable and respected professional philosophers in the country penned "An Open Letter on the Importance of Protecting Philosophy". It is upon the foundation of this letter that I call on students to reject the misguided approach to funding undergraduate education, that is little more than a culmination of decades of devaluing the humanities, and discounting the impact of subjects upon which the wellbeing and flourishing of our common life depends.

Whilst obstinately clinging to the defence of "job-readiness" to justify the package, the government's interpretation of what it means to be "job-ready" rides on a prophetic vision of the future jobs market; one that has fallen subject to the aforementioned prejudices that see "value" as reducible to pragmatic and measurable economic ends. Such a criteria openly dismisses the value of many soft skills that are held in high esteem by employers, common among HASS graduates, and absolutely fundamental to the study of philosophy, such as critical thinking, analytical skills and cultural competence.

If employability is truly the incentive behind the government's fee adjustments, then in a world where

announced the Job-Ready Graduates we are told that we will have as many Package, signalling a 113% fee increase as 11.7 jobs before we reach 48, surely the skills that are most valuable are mathematics, logic and ethics, to name those that make us adaptable workers but a few. Additionally contrary to the in a variety of fields. Technology will popular assumption that philosophy undoubtedly evolve, and new hard skills will irrevocably replace those that world", the content taught within these have become outdated. But the need subjects is dynamic and receptive to for effective communicators, thoughtful compromisers, and skilful strategists of Medicine", a course on offer this in all areas of the workforce will never semester, tailored to address many fade

> boasts of lofty goals to transform Shpall, a senior lecturer in philosophy and bolster the university sector in at the University of Sydney, to explain

principled in subjects as diverse as the philosophy of human rights, literature, remains disconnected from the "real current events, with "The Philosophy of the issues surrounding the current Additionally, whilst the package pandemic. In sum, when I asked Dr Sam

Perhaps more than any other HASS discipline, what continues to plague philosophy is its characterisation as a sort of self-indulgent wankery that the humble taxpayer should not be expected to fund.

Australia, a severe lack of empirical foundations foster questions about me the issue you care about most, and the likelihood of the success of the that's part of philosophy". initiative in shifting enrolments towards disciplines such as science, maths and languages. Nonetheless, the normative as well as in her recent appearance on implications of the package could be the Minefield Podcast, was that being perilous to the continued existence "job ready" is but a tiny fragment of of philosophy as an independent being human. And thus, what the 'Jobacademic discipline. As philosophy is Ready' Graduates package completely not a well-established subject in high at a university level by chance. From discussion with friends, tutors, lecturers, "contemplation enlarges not only the and from my own experience, it is objects of our thoughts, but also the almost a rite of passage for arts students objects of our actions and our affections: to choose 'Reality, Ethics and Beauty' on a whim during their first semester at The uptick in engagement with quasiuniversity – a subject that has served as a philosophical self-help books, podcasts sort of philosophical Kool Aid; birthing such as the Philosopher's Zone and the philosophy majors, and keeping curious Minefield, and public celebrations of students coming back for more. But ideas and questions such as the Festival under the guise of a government that is of Dangerous Ideas are but a blip on in the process of actively condemning academic experimentation and uncertainty, students are less likely to is a profound public acknowledgement venture into the realm of the unknown, of the value of philosophy to our and be accidentally enlivened by human inner-culture. A value that the philosophy in the first place.

Perhaps more than any other HASS discipline, what continues to plague philosophy is its characterisation as a discipline of philosophy that is more sort of self-indulgent wankery that the fundamental to its value than anything humble taxpayer should not be expected else. Funnily enough, it is also the to fund. I, for one, have found myself thing that is the most commonly having to defend my discipline in misrepresented. The philosopher. The alarmingly frequent conversations with bold, curious and intellectually alive companions that reduce philosophy dreamer that keeps the questions alive to "airy fairy bullshit that is out of and the students coming back. It is touch with reality". However, one because of these erudite scholars that I need only look at the list of subjects am able to see the intricacies and ideals offered by the philosophy department that I would otherwise overlook, and it at the University of Sydney to see how is because I study philosophy that I am baseless this assumption is. Students are able to question what it is that makes given the opportunity to engage with life truly meaningful. the political, aesthetic, rational and Art by Nishta Gupta.

what philosophy is, he responded "tell

A point returned to many times in my discussion with Professor Moira Gatens, fails to recognise, is the integral role that school, students often come across it philosophy plays in making our lives better. In the words of Bertrand Russell: it makes us citizens of the universe.' the map of public engagement with philosophy. However, what they point to government is completely out of touch with

But there is one thing about the



The social isolation of university life

Pailey Wang wants a less-transactional, more equal and involved university post-isolation.

'Rona really put a dampener on things didn't it? The social aspect of university was totally lost. I'm so glad we're going back to in person classes, at least for tutes, it's better than nothing. It's going to be so good to be around other people be less subject choice. Putting more again!

But wait a minute, I had fuck all social life at uni before the virus. Now. it's coming back to me. Avoiding eye contact when entering lectures and tutorials. Sitting looking straight ahead. a mandatory two seats between myself and anyone else in the class; and that was well before 'social distancing' entered my lexicon. Getting to about week four and thinking 'it's too awkward to introduce myself now.' A silence at the obligatory end of class 'any questions?' before a line forms to ask the prof one on one, god forbid having to speak in front of the whole class.

'University is great, it was the best time of my life, I made so many great friends' - is a notion only peddled by boomers, college kids and people who studied weirdly specific degrees. Why, you ask? I have a theory. For these people, the university experience involved a 'cohort.' This is a group of students, who (for better or worse) were grouped together in a variety of contexts. In the heyday of my parent's enrolled in a course in the first year, with about half of them successfully

Ah, how we have suffered this year, specialised degrees today, these social In the best tutorial I have had to date; periodically announced, cringesomeone in the admin building starts frothing, that's not to say there should students into fewer courses will, in my thousand students.

Of course, none of this is helped of accommodation near University. Increasingly, it seems that the student experience is one of working parttime, punctuated by longer commutes to university from family homes further afield. It's unsurprising that the prevailing attitude towards university is to stack the most classes onto the fewest days and spend the least amount of time possible on campus. This does not mean, however, that the prospect of a social the past. If anything, the greater effort many students today put in, to support themselves, and in travelling greater socially fulfilling university life.

The transactional nature of today's generation, they would start out as a corporatised university experience of class. larger group of around 100 students perpetuates a cycle of disengagement which deteriorates the entire process of teaching and learning. There is a dire making it as a group to the second year. need to foster genuine engagement in Indeed, in this context, and in more the courses that we came here to study. deserves more attention than some pursuit of knowledge.

groups came about through a smaller when it became patently clear that, as it number of students studying any degree does in most classes, that hardly anyone Fisher or on Zoom cooked up by some and with less choice of subjects. Before had done the required readings, let alone low-rate HR professional. So, what can had the slightest interest in the topic at be done? Perhaps the organic 'cohorts' hand, the tutor snapped. To paraphrase, "If you haven't done the readings, get the fuck out of my class! I don't mark experience, only exacerbate the feeling attendance so you're not only wasting to pay for them through residential of isolation, which is already an issue in my time, you're wasting your own!" some 101 courses that have more than a He forced half the class to stand up and leave, and most of them never returned.

This is the only seminar where I met by the skyrocketing cost of housing anyone who I would speak to if I saw which has priced most students out them on campus today. Our genuine engagement with the subject, and thus in discussions with one another, came about not through the management prescribed 'attendance requirements' and other pointless check boxes, but through one tutor's desire for their students to take a real interest in the course content. I presume if other tutors were to take a similar line with attendance and participation, it would inspire similar results. However, this life at university should be relegated to change must start with properly paying and academics on campus. Shock! seminar tutors, as well as making it part Horror! Could you imagine actually of their job to help students engage with the subject in and out of the distances to campus means that we classroom; which would mean proper deserve now, more than ever, to have a remuneration for work many casual academics already do, like replying to emails or making time for students out unorganised meeting places for students

inducing coffee and chat sessions in of times past are lost. Indeed, it seems that contemporary equivalents are only accessible to those who can afford colleges or expensive weekend camps run by societies. Surely, however, it is not beyond the middle-managers of the university, if they put their minds together, to engineer similar social circles that are accessible to all.

Why not start with putting more students who study the same subjects into more of the same tutorial classes?

This would go some way to dividing first year students into informal 'cohorts.' Why stop there? Split all firstyear students into explicit groupings of around 100, based on their subject choices. Hell, organise a social event to get them started! While you're at it, rationalise the location of courses having classes in the building of your faculty? Co-locating classes based on related subjects and departments might well lead to the common areas of those buildings serving as informal or and teachers. If ever there was an Coming out of the pandemic is the opportunity to reimagine how university perfect time for a rethink of university might be a less isolating experience, social life. Our student body, more now is the time to transform it back into socially isolated than ever before, an engaging, social environment for the

No shame: I use anime as a coping mechanism

Danny Cabubas on the impact her young weeaboo days have had on getting her through the pandemic...

When lockdown was first announced, I thought it would be the perfect time to work on forgotten projects, develop a new hobby, or attempt some overall self-improvement. For the first few weeks it actually happened, I was cooking more, learning the ukulele, and had even bought some flashy roller skates. Eventually, my extraordinary laziness took over and soon enough all my time was spent online or sleeping. With so much free time and no idea what to do with it. I found myself revisiting things that I'd loved to watch or read when I was younger.

Now, I'll be the first to admit that I was kind of a weird kid. I had some animation and graphic novels.

To put it simply, I was really into anime.

I binge-watched hundreds of episodes, spent too much money on merch, attempted to learn Japanese, and even cut my hair to match my

unabashed, and unafraid to show off to life in the first place. Internet anybody who would listen. Childhood 'cringe culture' had created the ignorance truly was bliss because stereotype of anime watchers looking back now, I probably weirded as pathetic, nerdy, male virgins out plenty of people.

But God was it fun.

in my life will be able to match the pure passion and energy that I had as image myself, and I didn't a young weeaboo. It was such a huge, integral part of my life that there was no so why should I let myself be way I could leave it behind so easily. In a affected by the extremely wrong time where I was so unsure about what the future held, it just made sense to go back and relive the days when I didn't pretentious, I'm of the opinion care about all that stuff. Anime became a coping mechanism of sorts, a form recognise anime and manga as rather interesting and intense hobbies of escapism. It became an anchor to valid forms of art, with a diverse (read: obsessions) that I was extremely keep me from floating away in a sea of range of stories, characters, and open and obnoxious about. Basically, as stress and anxiety. I didn't have to worry art styles you'd be hard-pressed is common for many Asian teenagers, about global pandemics or university to find in Western media. starting from the ripe old age of 12 marks when I was huddled up under There's something in there for I went through an intense weeaboo blankets and pillows watching Bleach everyone, from fantasy epics, phase. 'Weeaboo' is a word used to or Haikyuu!!. There was a huge comfort absurd comedies, and sweet label people who have a special interest in watching something I'd already seen romances. No matter what your in Japanese culture and media such as and knew the ending to. I even found taste or preference, you'll probably find myself hesitant to start watching new something catering to them exactly. It's important to understand that there shows. I didn't want any more surprises It's part of what makes anime such an or plot-twists; 2020 had given me more effective form of escapism. than enough of those already.

who never left their rooms and had naught but body pillows I genuinely fear that nothing else of their anime 'waifus' to keep them company. I didn't fit that know anybody who did either, assumptions of random internet trolls? Without sounding too that it's about time that people

In times like these, everyone is looking Growing up also meant that I had for something to use as a distraction, to long gotten over the fear of being allow them to escape from the current bullied or made fun of that had partially bleak reality. For me, it's anime and the favourite characters. I was unashamed, led me to abandoning my weeaboo childhood nostalgia that comes with it,



for others it might be learning a new hobby or general self-improvement. are different strokes for different folk; everybody copes with a massive global crisis in their own way and there's no one method that's right or wrong. If it works for me, it works for me and there is no shame in that.

Art by Isla Mowbray

A PORTRAIT OF THE FASCIST **ASAYOUNG GAMER**

WORDS: WILL SOLOMON // ART: EMMA PHAM





The desktop computer that sits in my room match, my opponent asked for a second game. to design anything better. We fucked them glows in rainbow colours, my keyboard is I agreed. Unexpectedly, the other player then over so badly they couldn't even conquer us. backlit in red, and I have two monitors. sent me a link to a Discord server. The server They're cockroaches." Growing up, I had a boyish interest in military was populated by some sixty users, and of history, and the video games I played for those who were online, they were mostly listed entertainment aligned with such tastes. My playing strategy games: Company of Heroes the Soviet invasion of Finland over the winter first memory of this simulated murder comes II, Hearts of Iron IV, Europa Universalis from when I was eight; I was a United States IV, Civilisations V. The text channel was forced to compromise on the peace treaty, Ranger storming the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc mundane, this appeared to be nothing more having initially failed to take little more land on D-Day in Call of Duty II, and I had Nazis to kill. The Second World War became my favourite subject matter. To many, these things might register as warning signs - the hallmarks that he was Finnish. We began our second of a nocturnal life spent engaging in what are game and each played the same factions. The violent pastimes, woven within a troubling conversation that followed was sporadic, relationship with the internet.

hobbies. But with an abundance of free time in the isolation of earlier this year, I began replaying this one - I hadn't yet decided I would be had reached the Fin's base and I was about to many of the games that had brought joy to me as writing an article. What follows is a version of a boy. Amongst these was a strategy game called Company of Heroes II, which requires the player on my phone after we stopped speaking. As Subhuman." to command squadrons of soldiers from the armies of WWII on a 3D battlefield. As such, the the first match, he did most of the talking. player can choose to play as the Nazi Wehrmacht. Each faction is unique, but there is a golden rule the previous match. My opponent criticised a literally. - Wehraboos only play Germany.

A Wehraboo is a Nazi military "enthusiast." The word is a portmanteau of Wehrmacht and weeaboo, and it's a term that emerged from strategy game circles to describe those that play Nazi factions to engage with their military fascinations in an interactive way. These interests often appear harmless, as the designers have weighed the strengths and average conversation between Wehraboos is not a political one, but a technical one; play one of these games and you'll much sooner hear an argument about the superiority of the German Panther tank to the American Jackson equivalent. Lull one of these people into a sense of interpersonal comfort, and they may It's balanced," I replied feel inclined to disclose the full extent of their relationship with the Third Reich. In one such game of Company of Heroes II, I inadvertently found myself, an ardently progressive uni student from Sydney with a Jewish surname greater effect. and Grandfather, engaging in conversation with a Finnish national socialist.

Playing a 1v1 game of Company of Heroes engineers were dog shit." II as the Soviets, I was matched against the Wehrmacht. The crucial moments of the decided to bite. "I don't think they were bad game - mass assaults, flanking manoeuvres, engineers, they just had a different design armoured encounters - were punctuated by messages from my opponent in the game's text-based chat: "fucking T-34s shit tanks" -"Zis OP" (over-powered) - "eat shit. blitzkrieg numbers to their tank production as well." time." Such messages are part and parcel when playing these games.

than a generic gaming Discord.

I joined a voice channel with my opponent, whose accent I did not recognise. He explained and grew increasingly troubling. Unlike the These days I take to a more diverse array of latter conversation in this piece, which was documented verbatim, I didn't think to record that conversation, which I jotted in the notes was the case in our text conversation during

> tactic I had used: "you shouldn't spam T-34s like that, it's a scummy tactic."

> "They're much weaker than Panzer IVs, spamming them is necessary."

> "But they're way too cheap. It's not balanced!"

Balance refers to how well the game weaknesses of each faction against the others, making a match fair. The balance in Company are genetically inferior." of Heroes II is designed to mirror the strategies quantity over quality, the Nazis vice versa.

"T-34s are cheap because they're not good.

The point at which I understood that my opponent's Wehraboo fascinations extended beyond weaponised machines occurred when I repeated this tactic in the second game, to a

"If this were real, two Panzer IVs and a Panther would fuck up four T-34s. Soviet

Adopting an inquisitive and polite tone, I philosophy. If Russia's greatest advantage over the Germans was scale, then it only made sense The number, six million. You know it wasn't that they extended a strategy of overwhelming even Hitler's idea?"

They can't design shit. Their armour was never looked into it." As sometimes occurs after a closely contested simple because they weren't smart enough

The conversation had become personal to him. The event that he was referring to was of 1939/40, in which the Russians were from the Fins than they needed to sure up the defence of Leningrad. The war is held as a point of national pride for Fins. The fact that the Fins then cooperated with the Nazis during the subsequent Continuation War remains a difficult truth that many Fins, and many Europeans at large, believe remains unreconciled by the national conscience.

At this point in the match, my tank column win. "Cockroaches?" I asked.

"Yes, the Russians are fucking cockroaches.

I had never spoken to a real fascist, and the conviction with which this man spoke led me As the second game began, we discussed to suspect that he meant 'subhuman' quite

> "In what way are they subhuman?" I continued to be polite, "I'm not sure what you mean.'

"It's genetic. You know what a Slav is?"

"An Eastern European, right?" I wanted to keep it personal for him and continued: "Aren't Fins Slavs?"

"Fuck no, we're natives, always been here. Fins are Fins. The Russians are Slavs and Slavs

Our match had finished and I had won. I was of the armies they represent. The Soviets prefer now thoroughly convinced that the man on the other side of my screen was a Nazi. In the fifteen seconds of silence that followed, I decided that I wanted to better understand this person, and that I may be able to write about it. It was at this point that I started jotting notes in my phone.

> "Is that not what the Nazis thought about Jews? That they were genetically inferior? With the Holocaust and all." I couldn't appear utterly incredulous.

> "Yes, but what you learn about the Holocaust at school is not accurate. There are a lot of lies told about it.

> "Oh, what kind of lies? I didn't learn that much about it at school."

"A lot of it is lies. The gas chambers, for one.

"No, I didn't. That's really surprising to "That's bullshit, the Russians are idiots. hear. Where did you learn about this? I've

"If you want to know, I can add you to

another Discord." human being.

"Yeah man, send me the link. I've got to head off, but I'll join on my other Discord account."

At this point we parted ways. I didn't need to go at that moment, but didn't want to progress any further using my personal accounts. Using a VPN, I gave myself a Canadian IP address. I created a new Discord account, linked back to a new email. At this point, I felt I had sufficiently distanced my real self from the inquisitive gamer the population of this new Discord would meet.

gaming and moved towards politics, they were Joining the Discord, I was met by a myriad privacy of my customers." of disturbing memes in a text channel populated "Of course, I more wanted to ask about the taking note of the fact that my contributions by only 16 accounts. It was a horrifying thing. nature of the work." would cease. The humour of the posters was racist, sexist, "What do you mean?" One evening, after I failed yet again to homophobic, and Christian-centred. No topic was "I heard from someone that you've done laugh at a joke about Jews, I was, seemingly safe from their commentary: the Crusades, the Nazi and Confederate porn. Is that true?" jokingly, accused of being a "kike." Later that Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide, the Balkan "Yeah I have is that what you want? No evening, I quietly left the server, deleted the Wars, the Spanish Inquisition. This humour was Discord account, and turned off my VPN. I judgement from me. And it's not porn, it's also competitive - posters would egg each other lewd art." was a member of that server for ten days, and I on to express increasingly detestable views. One "Ah, right. But you wouldn't call yourself a had experienced the alt-right pipeline. image depicted a pregnant Anne Frank standing Nazi?" The competitive nature of the games that alongside Confederate soldiers, who had liberated "Haha no definitely not." these people play shapes the social and political the Netherlands from Nazi occupation. "Well, how do you justify facilitating that organisation of their Discords. The new gamer Such alternative history fantasies proved seeks at first to prove to others that he is a kinda stuff?"

common. One evening I spoke to an American whose favourite game was Paradox's Victoria II. From 2010, this strategy game has an expansion pack that allows the player to play as the Confederacy. He joked to me that he had played the game so many times that "Robert E. Lee has stepped foot in every country on the map."

IV is another World War II strategy game.

In the discord's text channel, a discussion "But surely your role in the process reinforces Germans are the best. of Rule 34 followed the disturbing image of the customer's mindset, right? And contributes They had thought I was one of these Confederate Anne Frank. Rule 34 is one of to the normalising of this kind of porn?" vulnerable gamers, and as they realised I was "It's not porn. And hey sex is weird. As I the 'rules of the internet,' which holds that if more self-assured than they had thought, they something exists, there exists pornography of said I'm not one to judge. had grown tired of me. I reported the server it. A user then sent a link to the Deviant Art "Is there anything you wouldn't draw?" to the Discord company. Following the link "Yeah probably if someone asked for page of an artist he had commissioned to draw that the Finnish man gave me months ago now an image for him. According to the user, the something super fucked up. I haven't been vields a 404 error. I can only imagine these asked to do anything that I haven't been okay people are routinely starting new Discords. artist was willing to draw anything for the right sum. When asked what he had had drawn for with doing." I never learnt a single one of their names, him, he simply responded: "femboy hitler." I "Wouldn't a lot of people describe drawing they will remain usernames: TheBigSlip, was thankful he didn't follow this by sending Deus Gulp, aut0sensational, KEISERbill... lewd Nazi art super fucked up?" I imagine these usernames are constantly the image. "Nah I mean necrophilia and that shit. Wouldn't draw it." changing too.

I decided to message the artist; the idea

I had hit a potential goldmine for understanding these people, and I was horrified. I wanted to meet characters, individual Nazis. I wanted to know, plainly, what a crypto-fascist was like as a

Another member of the Discord joined this conversation and began sending us links to downloadable Hearts of Iron IV modifications that allowed the player to pursue the Final Solution as an in-game event. Hearts of Iron

of an illustrator enabling such horrid sexual fantasies seemed resoundingly unethical, and I wished to understand whether the artist had somehow justified this consciously, or if they were some kind of crypto-fascist too.

I introduced myself in text conversation: "Hey, I heard that you're open to doing commissions on any subject, is that true?"

Taking me as a potential customer, the artist confirmed, "Yep! If you pay me \$40 for every hour of my time spent I will draw whatever you want."

"I was hoping to ask you about some of the work you've done in the past."

"My commissions are exclusive and they are owned by the patron. If you want to see the work you have to ask them. I respect the

"The way I see it is that it's a private transaction. I have a skill and they've got cash. Whatever they do with the images is up to them."

I was glad that the artist was being responsive to my questions, and I began pressing harder. It was clear that they had, at least to some degree, considered the ethics of their work. Continuing, I asked: "Would you consider someone using your art as porn inappropriate?"

"Yeah I guess I do but I don't lose sleep over a controlled environment than if they tried to live it out."

Not only had the artist thought about these things, but they had drawn their own proverbial line. I was stumped as to what to ask next, before they continued: "Look do you want me to draw something for you or not? I really don't judge."

"I don't think I will, but thanks for answering my questions."

Reaching the end of this conversation. I found myself feeling as if I had also reached the end of my plunge into this dark corner of the internet. I was beginning to suspect that my time as a newcomer to the Discord, who the other members were treating kindly so as to bring me into the fold, was over. They had come to expect me to take part in their humour, and as each conversation began with

capable gamer. The hierarchies that form within the communities of particular games are skill-based. When the content of these games is historical, the best players emerge from those who are invested in this subject matter. In the case of WWII games, these are often the Wehraboos. To earn the fellowship and advice of the best of players, those of lesser skill seek validation, and when the Discord's top dog happens to also be a fascist, the pipeline forms. A search for guidance as to the mechanics of it. Better that I can draw what they want in a game can become guidance as to how one should understand the subject matter of the game itself. German tanks are the best because

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Pillow talk: Confessions of an eye-mask addict

Tasia Kuznichenko on the struggles of sleep.

Insomnia, to me, tastes like a deep-fried March and April, 2020. Mars Bar. Sickly sweet and coating my tongue with an impenetrable fat of sleep experts, I began to recognise that numbs my taste buds. I tried this gluttonous treat for the first time following a sleep-devoid night. It had been at a sleepover with my friends, one that was pretty high stakes as I had just moved to a new school.

Bleary eyed, I watched as the morning light leaked into the room and I realised that I wouldn't be getting any sleep. It was a familiar feeling of failure: sleeping was never something that came easy to me.

During isolation, after reading article upon article about 'wild dreams' and 'sleep disruptions', I came to the realisation that there was never much discussion about sleep illnesses before COVID-19.

I asked Dr Sarah Blunden, who is the founder and director of the Australian Centre for Education in Sleep, why insomnia was not as widely talked about as other health issues. She told me that overall many GPs and other health practitioners weren't attuned to the fact that sleep loss has such a significant effect on physiological and psychological outcomes.

Dr Blunden remarked, "sleep was something that we could always give up doing for something that we deemed [more] important...now, the importance of sleep has started to creep into [the] conversation a lot more."

As I struggled with my own sleep difficulties around ten years ago, the lack of social conversations surrounding insomnia led me to feel isolated. Unable to fall asleep, I would feel like the only I thought. person at night awake in the world.

These feelings are something many of us are currently experiencing in 2020. Validated by a noteworthy trend in Australia, there has been a spike in the popularity of the search term 'insomnia' on Google from 50% to 92% between

During my discussions with a slew how such a sudden shift in the sleep COVID-19 related disruptions).

Throughout it all, I couldn't help thinking to myself, 'join the club.'

I have often attempted to explain what I experienced growing up, but I didn't possess the vocabulary to describe it. Associate Professor Bartlett defines insomnia as being "a difficulty going to sleep, staying asleep, waking too early." Importantly, to qualify as insomnia these dysfunctional behaviours "occur repeatedly at least three times a week, and it's been present for at least three months.

For me, it was the associated social impacts that highlighted that my sleeping was abnormal. Camps, would fill me with irrational dread.

I often did try my best to stay put the whole night. Usually, it would end up with me small and self-conscious, knocking on my friend's parents' bedroom door, often crying and asking sympathetic, other times they would tell me to go back to bed and try again, but that made me long to be at home even more.

I resorted to assembling a sleeping toolkit. Armed with my yellow bear Wattle, and my extra soft pillow drenched with lavender oil (so enthusiastically done by my mother that one time she accidentally poured

Rosie, my best friend since childhood, laughs when lavender oil is mentioned. When I smelled lavender, I would think of you struggling to sleep and that was kind of hard... just because you were me as a baby. usually [di]stressed..."

and clutched in an attempt to alleviate cautious, making sure to keep quiet. my over whirling mind, the worse it became. Rosemary Clancy terms what I experienced as 'performance anxiety'. paradigm had come about (caused by It sounds lewd but she had nailed in two of quiet and calm that even today I words what had tormented me for so long

> Clancy believes that sleep hygiene rules have good science behind them; things like getting up at the same time every morning, getting sunlight and going to bed when you feel sleepy, are all sleep conducive.

Yet, she highlights that "if you try to follow the sleep rules perfectly you will actually create insomnia... you start to distrust your brain's capacity to sleep. And that's when you start waking up during the night getting frustrated or scared, especially about next-day functioning.'

Paradoxically, the culmination of sleepovers and any overnight activities tools I tried scared off my sleep even more

By age thirteen, my sleeping was so disruptive to my health and wellbeing that my mother took me to see a sleep counsellor. I recall being very openminded, trusting that maybe this would to go home. Sometimes the parents were be the solution. But it didn't go quite as planned. The counsellor ended up hardly talking about sleep, and instead psychoanalysed the relationship I had with my parents.

At the end of the session, as an afterthought, she pushed a rainbow covered tape in my hands. I was meant to listen to it before bed and envision that I was a dolphin. When I discussed it with my mother, she raised her eyebrows and some in my eye!) I felt 'prepared', or so conceded that maybe it was not one of her best ideas.

On our recent walk with my dog, I asked her if she could pin down why my sleeping issues began. She described

"As parents of an only child, we as I thought. The more things I sniffed, sprayed were perhaps more anxious and more

keeping the room dark and things like that," my mother reflects.

I became so used to an environment cannot sleep without an eye mask and earplugs. I questioned Dr Blunden almost sheepishly, but she reassured me, "we have triggers that make us sleep, we go into a bedroom, we brush our teeth... that's fine."

Nonetheless, she flagged the issue of becoming dependent on sleep aids (which to be plainly honest, I definitely am). Dr Blunden expresses that if you go to sleep and are "worried that you need a mask, a mask in itself is not the worry. It's the importance you've placed on it that's the worry."

I view this sequence of little actions that I do before slumber almost like a placebo for me to rest. Regrettably, Professor Bartlett states that anything ritualistic surrounding sleep can be dangerous, "if you get into a pattern where [you think] if I don't do this, I can't sleep... you create pressure again." On the whole, my sleeping issues

have now dissolved. It came with the awareness that I will eventually fall asleep – even if it takes a while longer.

Professor Bartlett tells me it's normal to have intermittent nights of bad sleep. It makes sense as it's " a direct response to something that's happened in terms of work-related, family related... [or] mental health.'

Whilst talking to the differing sleep professionals, I was presented with an opportunity to reflect on my own sleep behaviours.

However, over the days that I conducted the interviews, my mood dropped, I was tearing up throughout the day and was second guessing my how her and my dad struggled at settling ability to sleep. Ultimately, it was clear that my suffering was not buried as deep

> I even felt guilty conducting my interview with Rosemary Clancy on my bed as she talked me through the effects of using our laptops and devices in our bedrooms; creating "sinful associations, especially of bed with wakefulness."

> It gave me a bit of a jolt to change my practices, with Professor Bartlett stressing to me that "the person who sleeps well doesn't know what they do... they're able to put thoughts to the side."

For some, like me, this may not be a realistic possibility. Thinking before falling asleep can also be a positive thing.

Often, we need time to process everything that is going on around us, whether that's what has happened in our day, or what would have been a better argument in a 'heated discussion' we were having with someone.

I have learnt not to hate those nights where my mind can't seem to slow down, as they have given me some of my best ideas. Sleep is a more complex thing for some, and that's okay, because it's important to remember that sometimes our bodies have a mind of their own.

Art by Claire Ollivain.

In 1995 sports writer Joan Ryan penned described how trusted adults stripped Little Girls in Pretty Boxes, a nonfiction them of their agency and pressured account which unflinchingly documents them to develop disordered eating the abuse and trauma of young girls patterns and how non-compliance led inherent in narratives of success in to neglect or physical abuse. Though the gymnastics and figure skating. Among breadth and depth of Nassar's abuse has Ryan's critiques of gymnastics was the shocked the gymnastics community, it immense pressure it places on teenagers, often prepubescent gymnasts to "race against time to transform themselves into perfect little machines before their bodies turn against them, swelling and rounding into a woman's or simply giving out." Twenty-five years on, Ryan's book has become eerily prescient in a moment of reckoning for the international gymnastics community. On 24 June, Netflix released Athlete A, a feature-length documentary focusing on the hundreds of survivors of former USA Gymnastics (USAG) team doctor, Lawrence Nassar. In particular, the documentary depicts the life of Maggie Nichols, who first reported Nassar's sexual abuse in 2015 and was once known in legal paperwork by the a side aerial cartwheel in her judging pseudonym "Athlete A." Though the details of the Nassar

scandal and the negligence of USAG to bring Nichols' reports to relevant authorities was well documented before its release, *Athlete A* focused particularly on the ongoing psychological trauma of Nassar's survivors. Due to its release on followed, prominent elite gymnasts



Chellsie Memmel is not "too old"

Oscar Chaffey believes Chellsie Memmel's Olympic comeback at 32 is shattering every narrative about elite women's gymnastics.

is perhaps unsurprising to find a sport that cultivated a culture of abuse in the name of success had also enabled a sexual predator for decades. Whether and how gymnastics culture will be reformed to better nurture athletes remains an open question.

Amongst the current moment of reckoning, an unlikely protagonist has emerged: a 32-year old mother from Milwaukee. For over a year Chellsie Memmel, a 2008 Olympic silver medalist who officially retired in 2012, has been documenting her journey to regain fitness after giving birth to two children. In early 2020, Memmel started posting her attempts at difficult balance beam skills - like attire - to the delight of the online gymnastics community. In April, after landing a double pike dismount off the balance beam, Memmel declared that a "seed [had] been planted" to begin a structured training regimen with two days of physical conditioning and three days of gymnastics with an emphasis Netflix, it was also afforded a far greater on quality execution rather than a audience and public attention than any high number of repetitions. By June, a other work to date. In the weeks that camera crew was following her as she regained all of the skills she performed from the United States, Great Britain, as an elite gymnast. Nevertheless, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium and Memmel remained uncommitted to the Netherlands (among others) began anything more than enjoying herself. to speak out against the exact abusive The gymnastics community could not culture and training methods that Ryan help but notice that with an additional

increasingly realistic chance to return the international history of the sport. to the sport.

(balance beam, floor exercise, vault and uneven bars) that make up the women's weekly videos. Memmel encourages months though Memmel was reluctant to return to training on the uneven bars, despite the fact she was the 2003 world shoulder injuries held Memmel back during her career, including a major one incurred during the 2006 world championships whilst competing on the uneven bars; Memmel worried symbolic moment this July, Memmel prepared a pair of bar grips and began In a moment befitting of a scripted drama, Memmel seemed to realise that her fourth attempt at qualifying for an Olympic Games was not only possible, but inevitable. On 31 July she made the obvious official.

Essentially everything about Chellsie Memmel's comeback to women's her to perform the hardest skills whilst gymnastics is paradigm shifting. An maintaining her agency in training extremely select number of female decisions. gymnasts compete into their late twenties, let alone in their thirties committed to officially returning to the after an eight year hiatus. At 32, she sport and gymnasts had begun to share is nine years older than Simone Biles, the oldest member of the current US Biles, the reigning Olympic all-around national team. Even fewer women return to the highest annals of the sport the greatest gymnast of all time and I after giving birth. Memmel will be the first American gymnast to ever compete protagonist of the open-ended code of had described in 1995. The gymnasts year to train (after the Olympic in elite gymnastics after becoming a

postponement), Memmel had an mother and only the sixth woman in

However, the most radical aspect Each week, Memmel's YouTube about Memmel's comeback is not videos document her strides towards simply that she is a 32 year old mother elite calibre gymnastics as she brings of two returning to a sport traditionally difficult skills back to the four events dominated by teenagers. Memmel is also a gymnastics coach and in her all around gymnastics event. For young gymnasts to enjoy the sport and advocates for "[taking herself] out of the equation" of her athletes' goals. While watching Memmel's attempts at champion on that event. Numerous complicated skills makes for fascinating viewing for gymnastics fans, it is equally compelling to watch Memmel as an alternative model of coaching.

The hours that Memmel herself trains are dwarfed by most other elite that a shoulder injury could derail her gymnasts, who usually train six days fledgling comeback. Nevertheless, in a a week and repeat skills several times until they are perfected. Despite this, Memmel feels her physical condition a cast to handstand on the uneven bars. and gymnastics ability has never been better, an observation she attributes to a more positive relationship with nutrition, physical conditioning and injury management since becoming a mother. Memmel's coach and father, Andy, has also quickly become an internet favourite as he encourages

> Earlier this year, before Memmel had their stories of abuse, I profiled Simone champion. Biles is widely regarded as noted then that she is perhaps the true points that gymnastics adopted in 2006. If Biles is redefining excellence on the competition floor, then Memmel is fabricating the most radical blueprint for healing the toxic training culture of professional gymnastics. As coach and athlete, Memmel is guided by the principle that gymnastics should be enjoyed by all; in making this simple argument, she is dismantling every narrative at the heart of its history of child abuse.

Memmel's appearance at the Tokyo Olympics is by no means assured. Next year, competition for the four member gymnastics team will be fierce. One spot will almost certainly go to Biles, who has not lost an allaround competition in seven years. As many as fifteen to twenty gymnasts could feasibly fill the final three spots, including Memmel. No matter what the outcome, Biles and Memmel competing contemporaneously will be an aspirational portrait of gymnastics' future. In the gymnastics world that Joan Ryan documented twenty-five years ago, Chellsie Memmel would have been labelled simply too old. In this moment though, she seems to have arrived exactly on time.



The side effects of cinema

Genevieve Couvret interrogates the damaging impact psychiatrist portrayal in film can have.

The psychiatric ward has always been portrayed in film as a scary place. Whilst hardly the ideal place to be, film's fascination with the insides of its characters' minds - and the psychiatrists that try to get inside effectively others the world of mental illness. The problems with the depiction of mental illness in film are extensive, but tracking historical and recent portrayals of psychiatry in film are useful in highlighting the particularly problematic attitudes towards mental illness and psychiatry as a whole.

Psychiatrists don't like to use the word crazy, but they are themselves often portrayed as such.

The demonisation of psychiatrists as individual characters feeds off a stigma that they are manipulative, themselves unstable, intimidating or something to be afraid of. These range from professional indiscretions, such as having inappropriate relationships with patients or prescribing untested medication, to going mad and becoming diagnosed psychopaths themselves. The invocation of psychiatry as imbuing some sort of character depth or darkness is as harmful and reductive as assigning a nondescript mental illness to a morally ambiguous character, like the Joker.

Psychiatry occupies a space in the collective cultural imagination adjacent to mental illness and psychosis, because these concepts are inherently part of its discipline. But their conflation instils fear and entrenches a preconceived resistance many may already have. Hannibal Lecter scares us. Harley Quinn amuses us. From the highest to the lowest brow of cinema, the idea of a psychopathic psychiatrist is ripe for exposing our internal contradictions. But juxtaposition should not be mistaken for complexity, and filmmakers should be careful with how they invoke and incite fear or parody in their portrayal of psychiatrists.

In Side Effects, starring Channing Tatum, Jude Law and Rooney Mara, Dr Banks prescribes an experimental drug that leads to side effects including stabbing someone to death whilst apparently sleepwalking. Throughout the film, characters are threatened with electric shock treatment or incarceration in the mental ward, psychiatrists commit securities fraud to manipulate stock prices via the prescription of medication and there are discussions of how to fake psychiatric disorders. Whilst it is interesting to explore how perverse incentives operate in the medical profession and look into the personal lives of our doctors and their patients, if it is not done well, what filters into the mainstream can infect

perceptions negatively. Further, a depiction of outdated

sunken place in *Get Out* is performed by his girlfriend's mother, a psychiatrist. Mention of her profession immediately stirs intimidation in him, and an ominousness suddenly surrounds her. This unnecessary characterisation as a psychiatrist, which bears no relation to hypnotism, plays on tropes familiar to the horror genre, a nod to The Silence of the Lambs. It is unnecessary because it delivers no commentary. It is merely designed to trigger and reinforce a negative association.

Films that reframe or challenge diagnoses of established disorders as a plot point can also exacerbate distrust



amongst everyday audiences. From Freud's avid cocaine addiction and the concept of penis envy, to Jung's theories of the unconscious and the propagation of electroshock conversion therapy in the mid-20th century, suffice to say that psychiatry is an imperfect discipline. But since One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, psychiatry has developed. Lobotomies are no longer performed. Even the depiction of electroconvulsive shock therapy as an inherently harmful practice lacks nuance and likely makes patients less likely to opt in.

Inaccurate psychological methods are also often appropriated as forming and to those suffering from intrusive part of psychiatry in film. For example, the use of hypnotism to trap Chris in the

practices can deepen clinical distrust of clinical diagnosis and ultimately stigmatise seeking professional, often institutionalised, help. In Split, a man with dissociative identity disorder is portrayed more or less as a monster. In its follow-up, *Glass* (a title that directly plays on the concept of the disordered being broken), the characters that are detained for delusions of grandeur are actually revealed to be superhumans. Whilst admittedly fun to entertain, when the vindication of delusion becomes a pervasive trope rather than a unique narrative, its harms extend far beyond poor screenwriting. To give credence to a reality that is threatened by a disorder thinking confuses the ways in which we should treat and perceive those who are

mentally ill.

In Unsane, a woman is involuntarily committed to a psychiatric hospital by unknowingly signing a consent form and then having multiple physical altercations or attempts to alert staff of her plight. In the film, her being stalked is perceived as a delusion by the medical professionals. This framing is perhaps dangerous, because the validation of psychotic delusion leads to counterproductive questions that invite audiences to challenge the diagnosis of similar hallucinations in the real world. The notion of involuntary commitment as an insurance scheme, as a pernicious act undertaken by untrustworthy medical professionals, further cultivates distrust in the psychiatric system. However - interestingly - as in Side Effects, these narratives seem to intersect with problems with the healthcare system in the United States, most glaringly the financial incentives of big pharma. Whilst this kind of exploration should be foregrounded, it need not be tradedoff with faith in our actual doctors.

To the extent that the media significantly shapes our perceptions, it is dangerous to popularise negative depictions of a field that already suffers from stigma, even and especially if there are commercial incentives to do so. Stereotyping in popular discourse is generally quite harmful, but the commodification of mental illness in the film industry is particularly damaging where stigma is a huge barrier to seeking help. Approximately 18% of Australians received mental health-related prescriptions last year and in the wake of COVID-19, a mental health crisis, particularly amongst young people, is incredibly likely. It is paramount that psychiatrists - who are also essential workers - are portraved responsibly. At the very least, characters who take on the profession should be developed in the way those they embody do their jobs; with compassion depth and the most up to date medical knowledge.

Art by Shania O'Brien

or compositional approaches that tones. cemented themselves as 'the sound' of the times due to their sheer ubiquity. The grunge bands of the late 90s went haywire on low-wattage amps and cheap Boss distortion pedals. Late 00s hip-hop 5, a plugin so horrendously janky that it changed the musical landscape of vocal processing forever. There was a period of time in the 60s and 70s when Phil Spector's over-compressed mixing style was on every big rock record from England and the United States.

Sometime around the turn of the century, however, between the inception of Friends and the apocalyptic inauguration of George Bush Jr., one particular sound dominated the dancefloor, providing the soundtrack to ecciez binges so great you'd probably cry if you remembered them. But unlike other era-defining sonic features, it wasn't an arrangement style, a piece exploding the instrument's popularity timbre of the motif feels like an embrace of gear or a combination of effects. It was something far simpler, and far more fundamental than any of the above. It was a waveform. A certain wiggly arrangement of air amongst all the possible wiggles.

The JP-8000 was first introduced by Japanese instrument manufacturer Roland in the late 1990s – a digital synthesiser meant to emulate the fat and exorbitantly expensive analogue woodwind instrument as it is a swarm keyboards from American titans of bees. Its name screams gravitas and

Fantano (Cult)ure: A critique of the echo chamber

Amelia Raines on the dogmatism of Fantano followers.

seen music commentary evolve and spread across various platforms. We've seen algorithms designed to spoonfeed us music we are mathematically calculated to consume and enjoy. We've seen the rise and subsequent cult-following of figures like Anthony Fantano, aka TheNeedleDrop, shaking up music discourse as we know it.

acquired a loyal following over the years through his YouTube channel, as his

structure - background about an album or artist, a track by track analysis, and some conclusive musings. Harmless, right? Until the guillotine drops, and the stifle the album is branded, blessed, or tarnished with a numerical rating - determining its fate of dismissal or infamy.

I never had an issue with Fantano's opinions inevitably being brought up in music discussions. They were a topical point of comparison, something to grapple with, a take you can get behind or ignore entirely. However, I've come to notice that Fantano's influence has shapeshifted from a trivial point of comparison to something more pervasive. Recently, a friend of mine was fumbling with an aux cord to show me a song she liked, but paused

Nick Cave's Red Hand Files - A gift to songwriters

Ben Lopes explores the unexpected sense of intimacy found at the core of Nick Cave's project.

in one-to-one correspondence with fans from across the globe. Questions range from simple curiosities like the meaning of a song lyric to universal inquiries such as "What is mercy?", "Why do you write?". and asking Cave how losing his son has impacted his songwriting. After or makes you appreciate your amazing reading about 70 of Cave's carefully one. It's not that Cave discounts this income come from my music then constructed replies I became aware of inherently simple quality of music but a sense of intimacy not easily found rather challenges songwriters and artists ways of thinking about all matters of things creative.

At the core of The Red Hand Files is the idea of the pre-eminence of largesse that has the capacity to redeem the world." Cave's endorsement of point of view for songwriters, such as myself, struggling to think artistically not always obvious, there is definitely

Discovering Nick Cave's Red Hand in an industry dominated by a a hunger to reach this artistic space replying to a never ending supply of abundance of commercial music meant mind-numbingly boring emails. The for simple entertainment, songwriters Red Hand Files is a website launched in and musicians can create music that 2018 where the artist Nick Cave engages surpasses the realm of the spectacle and into the domain of the sacred.

> Ultimately, to most people music is and always will be a form of simple entertainment, an outlet from the mundane, something unpretentious that makes you forget about your shitty day Cave's opinion is what will keep music playlists and other all too familiar In Sydney's music scene, while nobody is affected!'

Files was a lifeline as I sat, buried in commercial mindset. There is a sense in which both artist and audience spreadsheets at work, mechanically of hope that amid the clutter and over are challenged. After being in the fortunate position to be surrounded by like minded musicians studying at the Conservatorium you become aware of the fact that there is a community, much like the one reading Nick Cave's Red Hand Files, that is constantly in search for a refreshing view on what it means to make music

After playing a gig with my band last week a friend of mine was telling me that if I could make 33.3% of my could call myself and 'Artist', all I had to do was write some songs that could on the internet, a fellowship amongst of all creative disciplines to move past be played on Triple J so that we could people eager to engage in alternative what they think they know and create get more of a following. All the while "beyond convention and acceptability he was imparting this wisdom onto without losing oneself". Understanding me I was thinking back to something the limitless potential of music in I had read in the Red Hand Files: 'Challenging music, by its very nature, creativity, as in his thirtieth issue Cave advancing; beyond what is heard on alienates some fans whilst inspiring describes "that to create [is] an act of Triple J, The Voice, 'curated' Spotify others, but without that dissonance, there is no conversation, there is no platforms that perpetuate the cycle of risk, there are no tears and there are music's sacred quality is a welcome uninspired commercially driven music. no smiles, and nobody is moved and



An ode to the supersaw

Chuyi Wang f*cking loves trance music.

Musical eras in history have often been Moog and Oberheim, but which failed defined by the production techniques miserably at achieving the same warm

Instead, the synth produced a wide array of raspy and buzzy farts that, conventionally speaking, were musically unusable. After fading largely into obscurity for several years, one was dominated by Antares' Auto-Tune particular setting caught the attention

superiority, which is all but unjustified: the supersaw

I would hesitate to describe anything on this planet as a religious experience, but the opening 30 seconds of Gigi D'Agostinos L'Amours Toujours, blasted through a speaker stack and listened whilst extremely un-sober, gets quite close. The highlight of the track by far of electronic producers across Europe, is the supersaw riff: melody aside, the



almost overnight.

Take a sawtooth wave – piercing and sharp – and multiply it a few times, stacking the waves one on top of the other. Detune these copies slightly, and pan them across the stereo field. The resulting waveform is warm and rounded, fuzzy yet comforting, visceral but with a kind of 3D depth. It is somehow equally evocative of a reedy

- it somehow blooms to fill the entire space without ever feeling offensive or overdone.

The sheer number of global megahits that utilise the waveform as a central musical component is almost unimaginable when you realise how many genres and electronic styles vocal cords with a Roland JP-8000, are built solely on this one timbre. Everything from Darude's Sandstorm, to Madonna's vocal house discography. to the most Ibiza-rinsed of Armin van

Bauen tracks are filled to the brim with gooey supersaw goodness.

Outside of campy and nostalgic Eurobeat hits from the early 2000s, the waveform has found enduring relevance and popularity in the modern day, being a secret weapon of producers when they want to evoke intense and cathartic emotion.

Trap producers like Dylan Brady have employed washed out supersaw passages to punctuate blood curdling Bones verses and melodic choruses alike. PC Music, the record label that has now stamped its synthetic and bouncy sound signature on artists as big as Charli XCX and Carly Rae Jepsen, is more or less a supersaw worship cult wrapped up in a shiny aluminium bow. Even the material coming out of underground local rave outfits like Eternal and Ultravirus don't shy away from the supersaw's thick detuned chaos.

In my dreams, I hear glittery trance arps and punchy chord stabs echo between my ears. They speak without words and in an algorithmic tongue. When I'm down, supersaw patterns pick me up. When I'm happy, supersaws shoot me up to the stratosphere.

I have often considered what it would be like to surgically replace my and communicate entirely in Lorenzo Senni songs. I think it would be a fairly euphoric life.

Fantano, the self-proclaimed "Internet's Busiest Music Nerd," has His album reviews follow a common

In the realm of modern music discourse, for a moment before she hit play. She hot takes, and pitchfork ratings, we've prefaced the song with: "Fantano gave it a woeful rating. But I don't mind it!" - A sentence soaked in self-censorship. I was struck by the fact Fantano's opinion preceded her one. How did this flannel clad, mediocre bass player become so deified, and characterised as a figure of absolute truth?

Fantano culture has developed into something more monolithic, with fans beginning to possess an unquestioning loyalty to his opinions. This could possibly extend from the flavour of absoluteness to his rhetoric - which seems scrupulous and sometimes provocative to outweigh his attempts of maintaining commentary style has gained notoriety. a sense of subjectivity. This attitude has seemingly, in turn, permeated throughout his fanbase. It can bring one to question - does an unwavering faith in someone else's opinion

ability to cultivate your own?

Fantano's reduction of albums to a numerical rating has become somewhat weaponised by his loyal viewers. Sharing appreciation of an artist can now immediately be nullified in the form a sense of robust musical discourse - for of a swift dismissal: "Fantano gave that the most part. The response to Fantano's a 4". In this culture of self-censorship, and intrusive thoughts in the form of Fantano ratings, numbers have evolved into a no-fuss substitute for a detailed into a place of subjectivity.

The notion of repressing one's own opinions and adopting the subjective deemed counterproductive within authentic opinion?

controversial opinions have almost set with a reductionist rating. a precedent of hot takes, making others Fantasy, somewhat

rudimentary ratings. MBDTF was hit with a "Strong 5 to a Light 6" - unleashing an enduring sense of havoc amongst Fantano's fanbase. Ironically, it seems that his unpopular opinions have led to rating of MBDTF also manifested in masses of fans mindlessly bashing their keyboards, demanding a re-review. The overwhelming backlash is further proof opinion. It injects a sense of absolutism of the grasp and influence of Fantano's singular, individual opinion.

It can be argued that the problem with Fantano culture is not Anthony Fantano takes of those who crowdsource - but the complacent commitment credibility is dangerous. It can be to his opinions by many. There are certainly organic components to the subjective disciplines like music and art. Fantano culture, where fresh ideas are Disciplines that call for people to share exchanged rather than an echo-chamber their diverse perspectives - rather than of recycled ones. However, the culture coil under the authority of those who of lazily adopting Fantano's opinions dictate their opinion. Will dependency at the expense of one's own must be on figures like Fantano result in people rectified. Absolutism in the fields of malfunctioning at the request for an art and music is simply incongruent with their subjective nature. Conflicts Fantano culture has, however, had of artistic opinion should be embraced an opposite impact on some. His rather than conquered, or slammed

On account of this, I have to give feel comfortable to share unpopular Fantano culture a light 4 out of musical opinions that could leave them 10. Redeeming factors include the shunned, or perhaps socially estranged. abundance of hot takes and thought-Fantano has given critically acclaimed provoking reviews. Points have been albums, such as Kanye West's shredded off accordingly due to the My Beautiful Dark Twisted lingering taste of dogmatism.

The crisis that was: A photo essay

Thomas Sargeant captures the aftermath of 2020's first catastrophe.

2020 has been the year of coronavirus, shutdowns, protests against police brutality and racial injustice, and, if you cast your mind far back enough, devastating bushfires. There was a time earlier this year when everything from the airwaves to our social media feeds were dominated by bushfires - photos, stories, and fundraisers to raise awareness and funds for recovery.

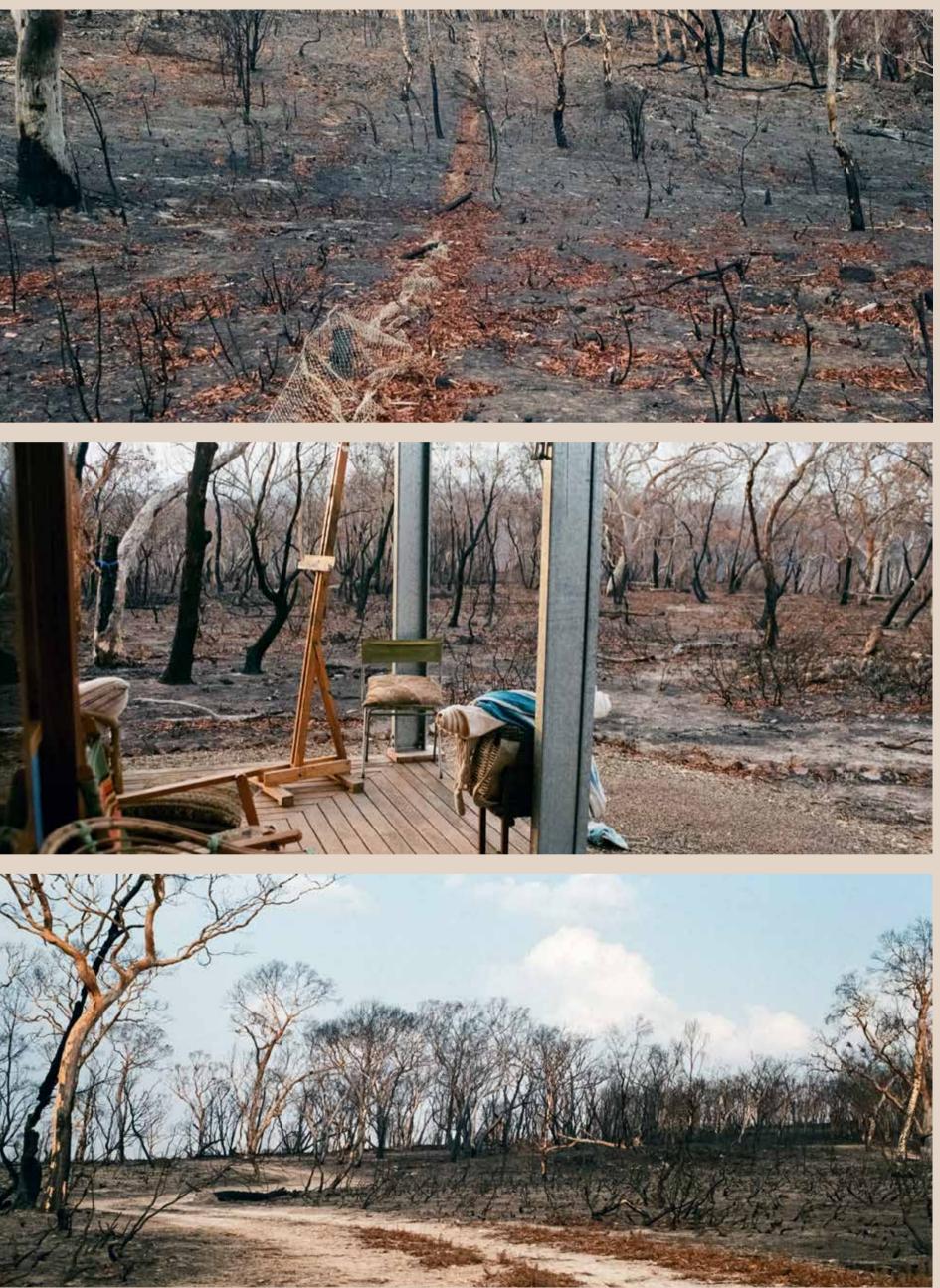
These images of firefighters and koalas inspired grief, which soon turned to blame - directed at our politicians. As much as this sadness and rage may feel like it was a lifetime ago, especially to many of us who might be geographically or personally detached from the bushfires and those affected by them, many Australian communities aren't able to so quickly forget.

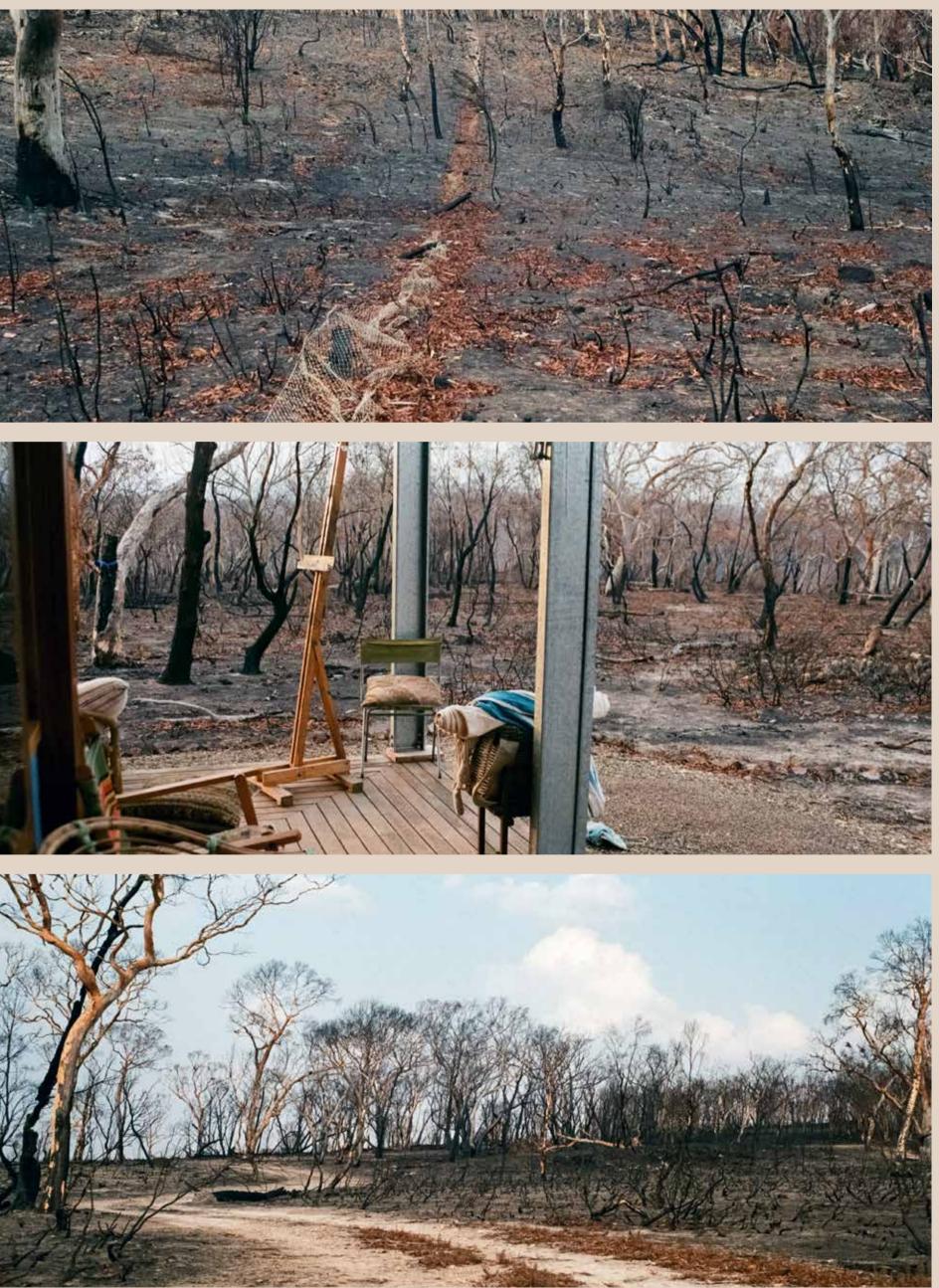
In January, I was lucky enough to visit the rural town of Braidwood, which was severely impacted by the recent bushfire season. I stayed there for almost a week, much of this time was spent helping with the recovery effort through spreading food and water for local wildlife. The eerie silence was occasionally broken by a single bird call, or a wallaby making its way through the area.

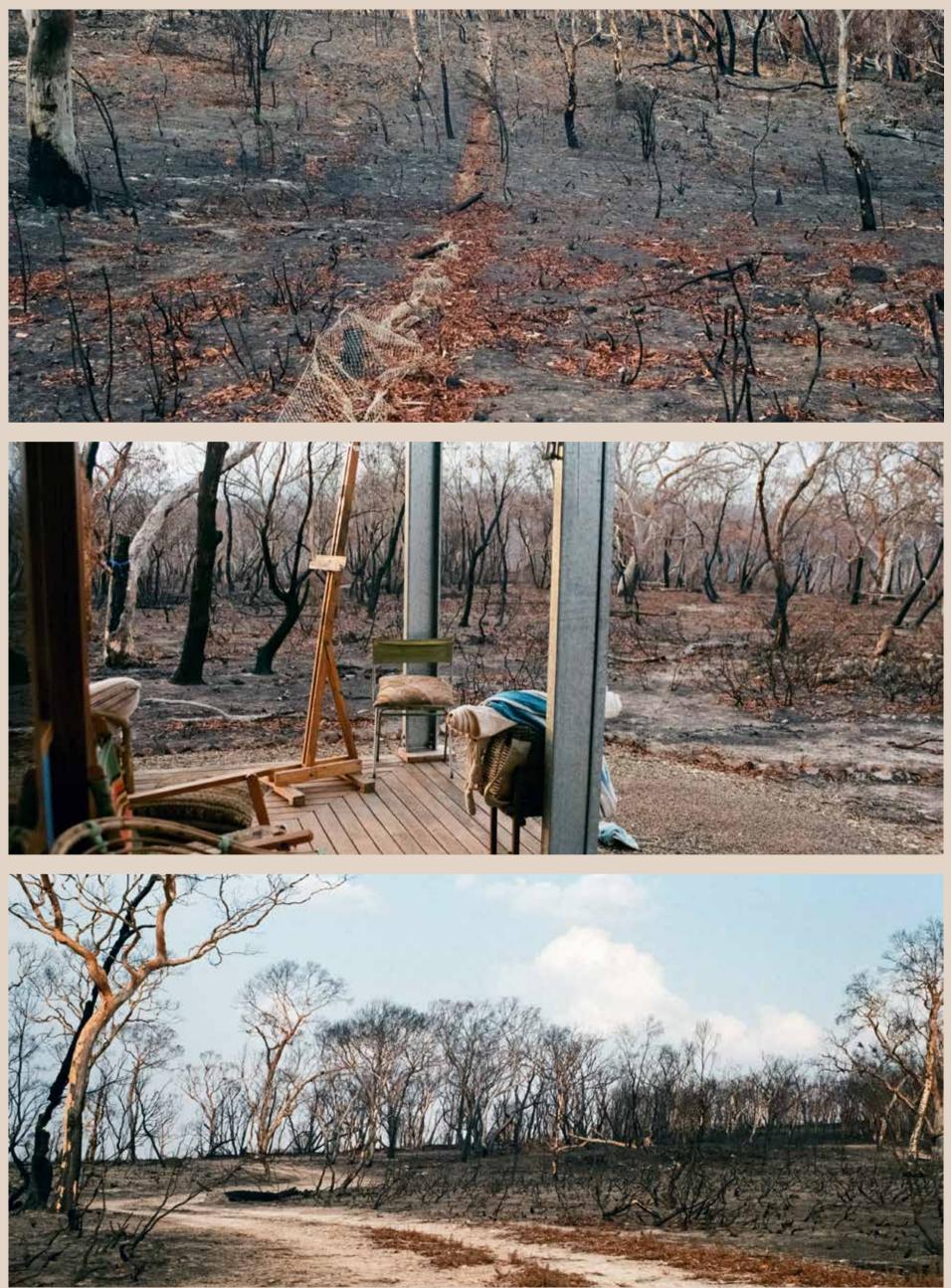
Life is returning to these places, yet even as the impacts of the pandemic continue to unfold, it's important for us to remember that rural communities are still making their way out of the last crisis.











DISRUPTION

Many thanks to our two judges for their time, patience and efforts - Tilly Lawless and Rick Morton, who judged the fiction and non-fiction categories respectively. We extend particular thanks to Dr Wenkart, our donor, and Cecilia Robinson, our Donor Relations Officer, for their tireless efforts in supporting, contributing to and giving momentum to the 2020 Honi Soit Writing Competition. We appreciate and thank all who took the time to submit entries for this competition.

Last but not least, congratulations to the winners! For non-fiction: Eliza Victoria (first place), Oscar Eggleton (second place) and Emilie Heath (third place). For fiction: Amy Wang (first place), Edie Griffin (second place) and Alvin Chung (third place).

Stay tuned next week for the announcement of the final prize - the people's choice selected by your editing team at Honi Soit.

Winter

Amy Wang|| First place fiction

& it's winter '09-

my mother serves me sliced apples & i stuff them in my cheeks, ripe

laughter spilling out of my too-small mouth & bounding off my tongue. in this moment & the rest, time is a freshly ironed sheet, crisp with the sun. every tree's filtered light is a personal disco ball. i dance to almost-visible sound & my head is a tooth ready to fall. i think i could be the bobblehead on my father's

dashboard

& i giggle at the sight of it.

again again again i am just a child -

inflatable toes & always forgetting how real a body is. everyone has touched me but no one has

Touched me & i am my body & everything more & it is all still mine &

it's winter 2020 & there's a pandemic outside & it's blooming. i am sitting in the bathroom trying to scrub the skin off of my body, pressed against the side of the sink.

i hang it up by the fingernails to dry in the spilt drool of the sun.

i am blacking out all the mirrors,

braiding pearls into my hair, planting white lilies in the garden

& i am still

just my looted body & the skin holding it together & nothing more.

time in the time of lockdowns is fruit-bowl stilleach second sits, ripe & ready to be peeled open. i watch them rot. i see my reflection hiding in the window & i am tangible again. someone Touches me

to the chants of tired protests

& the worldwide gravedigging.

my body wonders if it can be a watch.

wonders if it can be a stamp in the corner of an envelopeVoices from the underground

Edie Griffin || Second place fiction CW: gendered violence, abuse, death

his hands strung her throat in a wedding band and they clip her feet and bag her stiff limbs up;

W're unzipping all the unlived years from the choke of body bags –

while other bones are battered into seaspray, and a dismembered mother is frozen like an ambered bug;

Gathering our scattered bits and patching

each to rediscover our remembered selves -

as fathers knead his children's flesh, curl them

up like foetuses or umbered fronds;

Unpurpling our bodies and

Unfurling like September's buds. And no -

spiderlike, a groom ensnarls her in his silk, thieves to flaunt her jawbone as a necklace, her clavicle a crown;

No more in your warzone jaunts will we be your usables, your playthings or collaterals -

on the bus a stranger thrusts too close, his hunting tongue is rummaging for bits of her to eat; two hands in the bush halve her up two eyes in the rear-view carve her down; while battering fingertips wet their cheeks to manufacture streaks bleating sorrys that die on their lips

Watch, as we unvanish each effaced one of us, unbend our spines, emerge from all the hidden places unbury us from bushes and car boots

unfold from webs and freezers unearth from underground as bulbs found by No longer evanescing phantomlike beneath daybreak.

your boots, the webs, the sleep. We're coming, and

spilling in from every edge,

Us unkilled ones, us unstilled ones,

scintillant as eastern suns that split horizons,

Halo trees and soak the breeze in apricot –

See us flooding in like dawn that steeps the windowpanes.

That hum is the sound of us coming, coming,

Each drumming foot, a shooting sun and see us showering the sky in fireworks rupturing the silence

that protects none but the silencers.

Not even spidersilk has the strength of the spine that mends itself.

Tomorrows

The dream starts to fade as morning warmth encloses me, sunlight crawling. Yet, I still remember skyscrapers rising from the soil like thin crystals, moonlight shining across mountains and tunnels, highways and bridges, concrete jungles a grand concerto. and wild grasses, illuminating furious faces. People gathered in the city: they stories in the garden, by the sea. Sea view seen raised banners, they sung slogans-like five years ago, only amplified.

These visions came like hallucinatory Electrifying skin. Electric infatuation, like read that a news reporter needed eight Youth sealed in a silver bag. Moon. words from a garbage bin. The sea, the stitches on his head. In a video, blood Moan. Memory: a grave to dig. Moment: newsreels: I saw a boy biting off a policeman's finger, citizens throwing waves, laughters. Strong breeze, soft moist. drips on the train carriage floor while a *a jug of skulls. Glass. Glaciers. Gravity. I* Weak grass, waiting parents. Playing man begs on his knees. I watch broken *cannot go back. Look into the stack of noise.* barricades against windowpanes, Thick, glowing blood. Sunglass windows. blood on train carriage floors. I heard children, departing souls. The winner: time lips, fallen glasses. More screams. screams, commen-taries, and words that I looked at the open mic host's plump Showers. Storm. Against buildings. A metal and time only. face, his voice echoed: "I mean, where scrap blown off. Strong shadows. A few feet sounded like the traffic. I saw cars stuck My cousins ran across the trees within the labyrinthine cityscape. I was are your parents from?" I was silent. He from me. Desires. Ecstasies. A future or the while their parents ate biscuits, sitting future? Nature or nurture? Painted walls. on a wooden mat, talking about flying across the sky too; I saw crowds then asked me another: "So, why do gathering, permuting like particles you sing? Why do you write songs?" I Graffiti. For-eign languages. Glass, scattered our relatives, the economy, and pop under an unknown force. Would they musicians. About me too: they joked felt artifi-cial warmth from his sweaty and warm. Storm, insomniac and insane. I can only understand your madness through light their torches and inflame the city? how my passions often change-now skin. His smile pulsated the question it is magic performance, before it was blink my eyes to force away the like how Sisyphus pushed a rock uphill. my madness. dance, before that it was chess, plants, "I don't know why." confusions. I do not know what to It is eleven in the morning. I jump believe, or which side to stand by, or and rock-ets, what's next? I said these words five years ago, myself onto bed and fling my arms around my stomach; my navel feels my who to follow. I am lost in ideologies; They did not predict, I would perform to my uncle, when he asked why did I I am thrown between rhetorics, like at my first open-mic as an aspiring want to leave Hong Kong. The farewell bicep. I curl myself up like an infant; a plastic bag blow-ing in a hurricane. singer-songwriter ten vears later. in took place at the Check Lap Kok my thighs now against my chest. The another country. In the dark bar, many Sometimes I think my homeland is being International Airport gate. My uncle winter sun grows whiter; it casts away changed by politicians and by greed. At middle-aged couples were drinking. The and two school friends, by my sides, my body's shadow and illuminates my other times, I think my home has never were smiling. I look at this photo now: legs, then my chests, my armpits, my venue was located near Sydney central three thirteen years olds and an eighty ears. It warms my skin like a stranger's existed: a home is only something you business district. Young people tooimagine under a golden hue. These vears old. The girl's awkward arm was likely friends of the other perform-ers touch. Through the window, sunlight that night—were there; I did not bring around my neck: the boy kept a two-steps engulfs me. I'm now within a sunny days, I want to understand the world like how birds understood each other's anyone to see me. Chatting across distance from my uncle; my uncle's hair womb, bathed with affection. I know the light will soon fade away and cast songs. But perhaps I never could. tables, they ordered piz-zas, gin-andwas white, unkept—his eyes squeezed The birds outside my Australian tonic, some just sat there. into two lines, his smile-a happiness its warmth somewhere else. But for feigned by the weight of parting. These now, it intensifies like a spotlight; at this home chirp a dawn chorus in baroque-The hour before I got on stage, I sounding counterpoint. I rub the back talked with other singers-about our faces represented people who would moment, I don't believe in the fu-ture. of my hand against my face; I want to influences, ambitions, hopes. I then drift away or pass on. I thought: love is Maybe when it's over, I will think: memorise the melodies of the birds' introduced myself to the host. He wore a language we learned to speak with our longing always fade to a wound I song. But soon those notes slip pass an absurd gold t-shirt, shimmering faces, a tunnel we learn to leave.

my ears like a waterfall, rolling towards forgetfulness. Undressing, I sigh: may-be beauty is best preserved through oblivion.

The slippers slide pass my toes as I replied with my home area in Sydney. "But I mean where you are from.. dream remnants disappear from my mind's edges; electric sensa-tions flow where are your family from? I mean, through my back. I try to remember the where are your parents from?" dream again, holding my pen against I could say: I was born and lived my dream diary's empty page. I feel a in Hong Kong for thirteen years trembling in my chest: no recollection. lost moments, the more illusionary all ago, while staring at bronze dusk by the to be whomever you want—an idea Through gentle sea wind and clashing unexplaina-ble guilt, a sense of having waves, I feel all the laughters in my life intruded something. this moment, the past touches present, fled Vietnam and settled in Australia.

umbrellas were on magazine covers and Mong Kok streets. The western media published articles on democracies while some Hong Kongers worried about traffic blockage because at times, madness where you sacrifice sanity for ambulances could not pass protest areas. and then moved to Australia. I re-I recall during those months, around As always, the more I try to recap-ture membered in school I was taught, to be us were tear gas, rhetorics, shouts for moonlight hanging on my back, I will resignation. But of course, one couldn't try to love my memories. I will recall Australian sometimes means to belong experiences feel to me. Like when years to somewhere else; to be Australian is observe all this from our airport photo. So I said to the host: "I don't know sea in late summer: I start to remember. I didn't understand. I always felt an why? performances began. The first singer was off the silence between lightning and coming back. I feel, but cannot recall, After World War II, my loud-her amplified, fuzzy guitar spilled thunder. I will write a song. all the eyes I have stared into. Sounds of grandmother's family fled from China over her sweet voice, like fire drowning Maybe then, I will feel wind passing all the words I heard warp around me to Vietnam, where she birthed my fa- a spoon of honey. Her performance through Saddles Mountain again. I wil like a storm. I see the sea turning from ther. During the Second Indochina defied genre: it was original. The roaring listen to my relatives talking about my riffs and volume modulation crafted an cousin's high school friends and the girl hazel to grey, golden sky dimming. At War, my father and my grandmother emotional tsunami. As she came down he met at the swimming pool. I will space marries time. I mutter to myself: Once, when we were watching a war the stage, I shook her hand and told her listen again to the wheat field's whistle. how much I liked it. I got on with my I will look out for the coming storm and there will be a day when today is old. movie together, my father joked that It was 2006. The city: Hong Kong, burnt human parts would fly around mahogany acous-tic guitar, and began bring an umbrella. I will apologise for nine years after the Handover. I was five. every time a bomb drops. On his sixth to sing in a foggy, dawn-like voice. I was sitting on the top of the Saddles birthday, an American soldier's ashen Mountain, about twenty minutes leg landed on the family house's tiny carriage: his hands up in the air-'please will breathe among concrete jungles walk from my childhood home, near porch in a 'splash' sound; he said it stop hitting us'. He picks up the glasses of his and wild grasses, glad to be lost. I will abuser. Got punched again. Facedown, on remember everything. I will wait for the countryside. We were far away was his birthday present. Once, my from apartment blocks. The bronze grandmother, while making an ominous *the ground. White shirts all around, sticks in* tomorrow while dozing towards a new landscape breezed with autumn; waves face, told me how when she was ten, their hand. Panic. Smoke above the city,

Alvin Chung|| Third place fiction

golden, dropping sun made the rattling wheat field shine like a throne room built by nature. The sound of the sea was mixed with trembling grasses, like

Wet feet. Slippers. Small beach. Telling through mir-ror. Seabirds flying, chirping a song of desire. Black toes. Numb fingers.

under the dim bar lights. His voice was energetic; he reminds me of an insomniac who drinks too much coffee. He asked me where am I from, to which

grew quieter as the sky darkens. The Japanese sol-diers flung their military swords-known as gunto-around her: she was too afraid to move. We were watching television; she laughed, it was loud and unnatural.

heard on Hong Kong protest news. blades turning-like a furnace fan, like On my phone, I have seen triad gangs the confused hurricane in my mind. I dressed in white shirts beating train passengers' heads with baseball bats. I

We took the photo in 2014, during the Umbrella Revolution. My friends talked about change and hope. My uncle just sighed. Symbols of yellow

The protests and screams escalate. They penetrate my ears like snakes. I sensed the fury of ideas, the fury of freedom, the fury of belonging. I walk into history like approaching a Her laugh reminds me of screams helicopter-I hear the flicking rotor refuse to join. I refuse to decide. I don't know.

mistake for a heart. I will watch dawn-lit clouds pass by like a washing machine of passions. I will yearn for affection when a year turns into starlight. I will lament: dreams always ache half as much as desires when loneliness is hardened into language. I will be moody and write: affection is never a thirst between the heart and the body-it is the hope. I will realise our veins are galaxies when the night bleeds into stars. With bus bumps and birds screaming along the horizon: I will listen to footsteps and see faces that like to swirl into He soon left me when the themselves. In imagination, I will leave

whatever. I will run to the edge of the A man begging on the side of a train hill; I will hear the wild waves roar. I dream. Will I arrive?

Meaning-making in the age of collapse

Eliza Victoria || First place non-fiction

searched and wrote about histor- root of this paralysis is existential. evitable and obvious. I trace the the definitions that have guided histories of political and artistic me all my life. Just when I am movements from hundreds of about to find that definition, watching revolutionaries and no- the pandemic hits, my meaningbles scurry about, my perspective making disrupted. allowing me to see the exit from catastrophe, clear as day. I can tuttut at these historical idiots, chastising people who are long dead: What the hell are you doing? Can't you see you're just making things worse for everybody?

Right now I am the one trapped in a maze, unable to see the way it is almost always a he—and be out of seemingly inevitable re-interpreted and defended by his collapse. I have begun reading 1177 BC: The Year Civilization Collapsed by Eric H. Cline, which discusses the violent fall of advanced civilizations in the Late Bronze Age—the kingdoms of Mycenaean Greece and Egypt, for it? What's the point of doing among others, transforming into scattered and isolated villages in the first Dark Ages. Cline's thesis was that there must have been a "perfect storm" of events that caused this collapse: "climate change; drought and famine; earthquakes; invaders; and internal rebellions." That's the Late Bronze Age, but it also sounds ominously like the present chore, "a small act that create[s] dav.

about "errand paralysis" and burnout back in 2019, or a a time when writing stories was thousand years ago in pandemic fun, but I seem to no longer be time. For me (and Petersen able to access this happiness.

Before the pandemic hit, I re- touches upon this in her essay), the ical events in my casual work. I It is the loss of meaning. It is understand that the privilege of being faced with a world that no distance makes certain things in- longer made sense, betrayed by years away. I stand outside the touch the edge of that word that maze, looking down from above, will open up the world to me,

> Many times I would find myself pausing in the middle of (happily) proofreading an essay or poring over a sentence in a short story and think: What's the point? What's the point of caring about language when a political leader can say whatever he wants—and supporters to the death? What's the point of caring about facts and the effects of my words when political spokespersons can reply with toxic screeds filled with lies and be believed and applauded anything right, if we're all heading towards collapse anyway?

I once received a request for an email interview, and the first question was Could you share with us the exact moment (or moments) wherein you realised that you wanted to become a storyteller? Writing used to bring me joy but now it also feels like a order, temporarily, but seemingly Anne Helen Petersen wrote amount[s] to nothing," to quote writer Rachel Khong. There was

After weeks of trying, I wrote the Younger's uncle managed to back to the interviewer with an sleep because he was unaware apology: I've tried answering the interview but I'm having a difficult time, to be honest. I think I just feel uninspired, and I would love to answer the questions when I'm feeling motivated about my writing. They wrote back to kindly say they understand, and can they get in touch with me again? That email remains unanswered in my Inbox.

I could not even think longterm; I could only take this one day at a time. Revel in the little happinesses you find. I actually said that once, to a friend. In a Facebook chat. But I guess if you feel that the world's falling down around your ears, you are allowed to be dramatic.

'Many begged for the help of the gods, but even more imagined that there were no gods left and that the last eternal night had fallen on the world." This was Pliny the Younger writing to Roman historian Tacitus in his second letter about the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, which spewed out molten rock and buried Pompeii and its inhabitants in 79 CE. But before that, in his first letter, Pliny the Younger wrote: "My uncle soothed the fears of his companions by saying that they were nothing more than fires left by the terrified peasants, or empty abandoned houses that were blazing. He went to bed and apparently fell asleep, for his loud, heavy breathing was heard by those passing his door."

Of course, it was not the world's "last eternal night". Pliny

that he was moments away from one of the most cataclysmic volcanic eruptions in history, unaware that he was in fact in the midst of history, as we all are. Pompeii was destroyed and frozen in time under layers of ash. but the world marched on-and perhaps will keep marching on, even if most days I feel it will not, or should not, or will, but not for much longer. Collapse also means to give way. Give way to what, I have no idea.

I want to return, not to the blissful ignorance of childhood, but to that feeling of gratitude and excitement I had when I was young, that moment when I can look up from my desk, see the leather-bound volumes of encyclopaedia and classic novels that my parents saved up and paid for, and think of all the empty notebooks I can fill with poems and stories, think that everything is new, that nothing is over, that everything is just beginning.

I am trying not to wave a white flag in the face of Disruption. I want to believe that this is just a pause, the way you'd stop to take a deep breath after an uphill climb. I'm tired, and I need to rest, but I'm still here. Just pausing in order to find the courage to continue, to write more stories, to listen and contribute to the conversation (no matter how painful) about identity and politics and finding meaning in the here and now. Just pausing to be ready for what happens next.

DSRUPTION

like them

No

anxiety.

place in it. civilisation.

For those who have been displaced

Emilie Heath|| Third place non-fiction

of Mount Vesuvius proportions chaos" I chant, sinking further into the calming rhythm of being enveloped by something I know the disruption; as it is essential so well, something I now em- that we wield our disruption and me to my world around me. My mind wanders to my heartbeat, the ultimate human display of the beauty of disruption. The cardiac

sionate place.

symphony, a still pause, a moment It was 2006, I was 12 years old There was quiet, there was calm, stood up too quickly and vertigo

Disruption, rejoice. Disruption, of reflection and rejuvenation, and had fled to the mountains of in those glorious, safe, mountains. celebrate. Disruption, eupho- then the conductor disrupts the Lebanon, to the Notre Dame du I'll never forget the week of ria. If the metaphysical collided silence, nerves and muscles fire in Mont nunnery. The nuns were blissful solace, where my 12 year with the physical in an eruption symphonic disruption then in a accepting those displaced from old self was free of the burden split second, the isovolumic con- their homes, including myself of the thought of war. However, in my life, disruption would be a traction disrupts the body like the and my family, who were fleeing there are no happy endings in bathtub filled with marshmallows, clash of symbols announcing the from the Hezbollah stronghold wars. And like every heartbeat, and I would be found in the mid-beginning of a symphony. May of Tyre; a city where I had spent like every disruption, that week of dle, bathing, melting, and drap- this story be a challenge to those the 10 years of my life. We arrived laughter and safety was the quiet ing myself in it. "Comfort in the who abhor distribution, to those and were embraced with open before the eruption. I scuttled who push it away, this article is a arms. My child-like mind realized up the ancient monastery stairs, call to embrace the loss, embrace the bombings were quieter in the them, groaning under the weight mountains. The earth shaking of my bouncy youthfulness. Up I airstrikes, the rhythm of the went to my room to retrieve my brace, something I know connects use it as motivation to leave the buildings swaying, all of the sunglasses from the blaring solar world a more just and compas- formative experiences from the flares of the June sun streaming south, had transformed into the through the atmosphere. Then The first disruption in my life faint sounds of birds in the trees silence, followed by an immediate came in the form of a bombing. and the church bells ringing.

pressure change, as though I had

crying.

Am I an aristocrat?

Oscar Eggleton || Second place non-fiction

No; probably not. But as the late sponsored idleness mirrors summer, then Autumn, and then a mild, sunny, Winter passes by in lockdown, I find myself drawn to the history books and old-timey tales of my high school years. I read of Napoleon, Tocqueville, Hume and Voltaire. I picture stern, fusty men in powdered wigs and coats that drip with starch. As I sit, a child of privilege in my inner-city home, I wonder if I am

The cases rise. Another day passes by. I paint a toy soldier quite an achievement. I wander the idleness of my mind, not a care in the world other than what to have for lunch. The next day I sit on the porch and read Smith. Or, at least, I have the book open in front of me while I scroll Reddit. The maple leaf tree paints pictures of the sunlight. Am I an Aristocrat, enjoying a lazy breeze passing through this red-bricked chateau?

The thing with an artificially inflated self-image is that it's liable to fall apart pretty quickly. As the rejections on job applications mount. the world surges in revolution. Ennui is replaced by

I take more shifts at the shop - despite the health risk I need the money. I rewrite my CV six more times – it's leaking contrived corporate jargon all over the rest of my work now. I volunteer for mutual aid and University initiatives. I go to protests; I write frustrated essays. My anger at such an unjust society is matched only by my burning desire to find my

"To be able to fill leisure intelligently is the last product of

This experience of government

another great period of social change. In the wake of the French Revolution, with the Napoleonic British Wars ramping-up, aristocrats feared that poverty in rural England would fuel a nasty French-style revolution at home. The Westminster dandies descended on Speenhamland, Berkshire with a brilliant idea to test out: universal income. If the costs of daily living were subsidised by the government – via the employers – then the good plebs could furnish themselves with all they needed to be comfortable and feel no need to follow in the footsteps of the troublesome French.

At some point, however, those same dandies decided the whole project was a failure. They proclaimed that the idle poor of Speenhamland had merely filled their extra time with drinking and vice: that the proper place for the ignorant masses was to perform good works in the factory or the field. The idea became entrenched in the capitalist ethos, and Speenhamland appeared as a cautionary tale on the perils of the welfare state. It was cited by Ricardo – one of the fathers of modern economics – who argued that the only true remedy to poverty was the free market. Over a century later, Speenhamland was levied by policy advisors in the Nixon administration to shoot down a proposed universal income bill. Today, notions of the "lazy poor" and "dole bludgers" are common parlance, and politicians are obsessed with "jobs and growth" as if that's the solution to everything. Indeed, it was these same sentiments that inspired Diefenbach to title his

popular nineteenth century novel: Arbeit macht frei.

Yet Speenhamland was a lie. As Rutger Bregman, author of Utopia for Realists, points out: no-one had actually bothered to collect any data. Vast reports on Speenhamland were commissioned by the Government, and they were filled with lavish detail on the depravity, sloth, and vice into which the residents of Speenhamland had supposedly fallen. Yet almost no actual interviews of residents were conducted, no hard data was assessed, and the bulk of the claims in the reports was simple hearsay spouted by local aristocrats and associated land-owning fops.

"In life... what one aims for is ennui.'

So says the grotesquely patrician, paedophile father of Patrick Melrose in the miniseries of the same name. This is the mindset of the aristocrat: to idle one's life away sustained by the fruits of another person's labour. And herein lies the error of the dandies of Speenhamland and, indeed, the great multitude of welfare critics who have come since. These pampered men – lazy, dismissive and bloated – assumed that we were all aristocrats inwaiting. They projected their own spoilt worldview onto the rest of 115

Yet they had never felt the sting of multiple job rejections, or the dread of seeing their bank account relentlessly tick downwards week by week. They failed to acknowledge that psychologists tell us there is almost no condition more debilitating to an individual's mental health than unemployment and feelings of uselessness. They choose to ignore

the mounds of data that show that when individuals are given opportunities for self-betterment, they take advantage of them.

I am not an aristocrat. I'm not like them. I don't want to idle my life away sitting on the porch scrolling Reddit or watching Netflix. The lockdown and ensuing government payments gave many of us the opportunity - ever so briefly - to waste away. free of material concern. Yet while the aristocrats may have expected sloth, instead, we see restlessness. We see vast mutual aid networks spring up and numerous volunteer initiatives swell in numbers. We see students banding together to run online social events and collaborative projects. We see protests sweep the world with more vigour than has been seen in a generation. We see great works of art, directors putting together stop-motion films in their homes, and people taking up new hobbies and finding sources of creative fulfillment

We are not aristocrats – as they seem to think we are. We are social, inspired beings. We want to make a difference: to make a mark and to feel useful. The false logic of Speenhamland has created a society that worships work for the sake of work. We are told that if the masses are not kept in jobs, or if they are given financial assistance. they will become depraved and useless – gorging on drugs and cheap media. The pandemic has proven precisely the opposite.

Let us finally give rest to the myth of Speenhamland. We are not aristocrats.

Now I'm off to sip a brandy by the fire.

realm. It was a flickering feeling like you had been ripped in a thousand pieces, suspended in a gravity-less world. Then the auditory compression of the explosion brought those thousand splintered pieces of myself back together and I let out a deafening of a CNN news report. The ceiling events of the past weeks. collapsed on my body. Tinnitus

snatched me from my immediate dreams of eating military supplied pop-tarts and ready-to-eat meals, reveling in a world of sugar and not having to do the dishes.

During the voyage, I slept on a cot, on the exposed bow of the cruiser, as there were no more beds available. The majority of the scream of a child who knew fear, hiding under a lifeboat during statistic, flashed across the screen skin and trying to understand the

It has been 14 years, 1 month, and vertigo disrupting my inner and 5 days since that moment. ear at every attempt to escape. I For many of those years I chose tried to run, dusty, frightened, and to ignore that disruption. I chose to ignore the vast trauma of my A day later my family and I childhood. I buried it. However, evacuated on a US military war trauma is a ballast that no matter cruiser which set sail for Turkey. how many times you throw thing as I lived out my childhood the depths of the ocean, it always have chosen to rise and recognize

Trauma is a crippling, choking, weed that grows, and regrows. with roots that grow in an infinity eight-shape in your mind. I chose to fight it for many of those years, disassociating from the pain.

two day sailing I spent my time I decided to embrace the pain, encourage you to uplift your embrace the trauma, and embrace community? And even when the who knew life was ending, who the day to keep the harsh glare of chaos and disruption. In doing pain of loss and displacement feels knew she would be a casualty the Mediterranean sun off of my so, it has allowed me to embrace unbearable, how can we continue compassion, embrace justice, to ask ourselves what we are willing and wield the most horrifying of circumstances to connect myself to my community and uplift the most vulnerable within it. It is a united, common story that I share with the millions of displaced men, women, and children of Lebanon, Yemen, Palestine and the further 80 million displaced A child's mind is a wondrous overboard hoping it will sink to refugees of the world. Therefore, I

remains visible in the distance. my fellow men, women, and children who have walked beside me, displaced. We all have stories of displacement, however this paper is a challenge, to not hide our trauma, but to use it, to ask ourselves the questions: how However, my story begins when can our stories of displacement to give up in to exist and live in a more compassionate world? There are many individual answers but there will be no justice, peace, and care for the most vulnerable in this world until we recognize our own displacement stories in theirs.

President

Liam Donohoe

The holiday period was an incredibly busy one for myself and the SRC, with staff and student Office Bearers working diligently without a proper holiday or break. In fact, the period was so hectic and eventful that it'll be impossible to summarise it all in this report. At risk of superficiality, I thought I'd briefly highlight some of the key events.

Undoubtedly the biggest news of the holiday period was the Morrison government's confirmation of their war on the University sector. For those who somehow forgot, the picture was already pretty dystopian before semester concluded. The Liberals refused to provide additional government funding or employment support to the sector, leaving Universities with limited ways to address the revenue crisis caused by International Student dropouts. Unsurprisingly, and in concert with most Universities across Australia. USvd management responded austerely, cutting subjects and leaving no work for casuals.

Instead of offering a lifeline to the sector, Morrison has instead used this opportunity to fatally damage any remnant of or hope for the Good University. On July 19, the Liberals announced a complicated new funding arrangement which, to summarise,

Vice Presidents

Charlotte Bullock and Felix Faber

As semester starts again, the quality of our education is becoming more and more apparently at risk. The Covid-19 pandemic has robbed the tertiary education system of much of its revenue, and the government has poured salt in the wound by failing to intervene, excluding many university staff from JobKeeper. All this has been compounded by the difficulties of online learning and the increasing casualisation of university staff. This has resulted in widespread cuts from Arts courses, a proposed 30% staff cut in FASS, and illconceived learning conditions, such as

reduces overall funding for "job-ready" programs while significantly increasing fees for the rest. They later disclosed their intent to deny higher education to students who

Note: These pages belong to the Office Bearers of the SRC. They are

not altered, edited or changed in any way by the editors of Honi Soit.

half of them. Both these changes amount to a declaration of war on both the University sector and the poor. The new funding arrangements will leave the University of Sydney with even less government support, exacerbating the existing revenue crisis. This will mean less subjects, less staff, and more cost-saving cuts which will permanently and irreversibly degrade the quality of our already woeful education. The move to deny HECS HELP support to students who fail a few subjects, and to increase fees simultaneously, will guarantee that precarious students neither enter higher education, nor graduate from it. Students with disabilities, students who work, students with mental health issues, Indigenous students, and students with carer responsibilities are among the groups most likely to be affected, while working class students will bear the brunt of significantly increased HECS debt.

The SRC opposes every single aspect of these changes, and is willing to go to

SCA students being forced to learn online. These changes will only get worse if the government's proposed funding cuts are passed. In the midst of this, we have been working with the rest of the SRC to fight for a better quality of education, accessible to every student

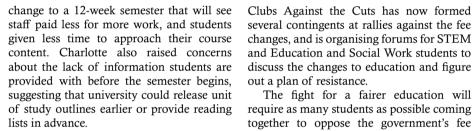
On University committees including Student Consultative Committee, UE Education Committee, Academic Board, and in regular meetings with University management, Charlotte has been raising student's concerns at recent developments. In particular, Charlotte argued against the

war to defeat them and achieve our vision of free, publicly-funded higher education. I have spoken at multiple rallies, attending countless organising meetings, spoken to have studied 8 subjects and failed at least the media, and done virtually everything in my power to fight the changes and build the mass campaign we need to defeat them (for a full account of all my activity check out my 11-page 08.07 and 19.08 reports to Council, which you can find here: https:// srcusyd.net.au/council/council-meetingsminutes/). I implore all students to attend the National Day of Action against these

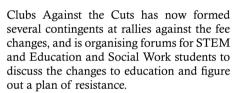
> speaking!) Though these attacks, and our response to them, have dominated my time lately, I have still been working on plenty of other things. On Friday the 31st of July the 92nd Council successfully passed the most comprehensive changes to the Election Regulations this millennium, if not ever. Special thanks are owed to Janek Drevikovsky for his tireless work and these impressive new regulations. I have also been working with the Returning Officer and SRC Staff to ensure our elections run smoothlythey start in about a month, and I'm sure

changes at 1pm THIS FRIDAY, August the

28th, outside Fisher Library (I'll even be



Felix has been working to engage the wider university community in the campaign against fee changes, organising Clubs Against the Cuts, a coalition of clubs and societies against the proposed fee changes.



C activism advocacy

they'll be hard to miss. I've also spearheaded

the new "SRC Informs" program, which

will-from NEXT TUESDAY (the 1st of

September)-bring experts in to present

seminars on topics of interest every Tuesday

at 1pm. First up we have An Li, the SRC's

Principal Solicitor, offering expert advice on

over a dozen committee meetings over

the break. Those meetings have covered

countless topics, but I have particularly

fought for the extension of semester one's

No-Disadvantage Assessment policies into

semester two and for the University to stop

using ProctorU (especially after we found

out it had been hacked). I have also opposed

the University's proposal to move to 12 week

what was an incredibly productive and busy

period. Though the end of my term is now

in sight, there is still much to do before the

end of November. I look forward to seeing

you all at the National Day of Action this

This is a very very brief summary of

semesters at numerous committees.

Beyond all that, I also attended well

visas and migration!

Friday

The fight for a fairer education will require as many students as possible coming together to oppose the government's fee hikes and funding cuts. If you would like to get involved, email us at vice.president@ usvd.src.edu.au





Appointments:

SRC Legal Service

University of Sydney NSW 2006

PO Box 794 Broadway NSW 2007

General Secretaries

Liam Thomas and Abbey Shi did not submit a report this week.

International Student Officers

Ziying (Nicole) Huang, Mengfan (Karen) Ji, Mingyu (Moses) Lin, and Kigen Mera

around the globe, we have postponed the protests on the fair fare until the situation eases, and international students are allowed back into Australia. With many students still barred from entering Australia, we are receiving significantly fewer student inquiries. However, we will continue to answer student issues and direct them to overseas will be able to return to Australia

As the COVID-19 situation is still dire online teaching options to students unable to return to Australia and face-to-face previous plans for the collective to organize teaching to students who are in NSW. This proposal may raise many potential issues for international students.

First and foremost, it undermines the teaching quality for students overseas. As seen from last semester's experience, online stream poses many issues for students abroad. including internet connection the correct department. There seems to issues, malfunctioning assessment webpage, be little hope that international students and a lack of opportunity to participate in class as usual. Additionally, assessments before the commencement of semester two. may separate into online and face-to-face. Many faculties have now started offering In that case, the fact that only a portion

of students enrolled in the online stream does not give an accurate measure of each individual's academic ability. Students who take online assessments will be significantly disadvantaged if there are any internet holdbacks, which is very likely. International students are also paying full tuition fees Federal income support. while missing out on campus amenity that students in Australia are having.

For students currently within Australia, they are also facing many issues never encountered before. For instance, many countless international students are now facing unemployment and are suffering financially. Currently, international students

are blocked international students from accessing Federal income support through the crisis. We are working with GetUp and Colour Code to lend help to temporary visa holders in Australia by doing what we can to grant international students' access to

We have also recently gained access to the old international student officers' Facebook page and group. We will start working on developing a less complex network to distribute information and a more effective way to pass on the social media account to the next generation of international student officers

Global Solidarity Officers

Kelly Chen, Holly Hayne, Enrong (Annie) Zhao, Shailene Wei

workplaces to close because it's clear that the weeks and months with the recent news that police in pursuit of justice. In Sydney, the

I have spent many hours building activist life to preserve the profits of business. The time staff could be given the sack! campaigns for social and environmental recession has unleashed an agenda of class- The mass, multi-racial Black Lives justice on and off campus. In Feb-March I war from the rich and powerful, who are Matter uprising that has swept the United Indigenous people. Office bearer or not I helped organise a number of climate protests, determined to push the costs of this crisis States has done more to challenge racism will continue to fight for justice in the face including the occupation of the Sofitel foyer, onto ordinary people. In higher education than decades of electing black Democratic of inequality and oppression. Make sure the venue set to host the 'Future of Mining' this has meant the hiking of fees, mass staff politicians. The Biden campaign and ex-cop you're coming to the next rally to defend our Conference that we planned on blockading. layoffs, course cuts, and attacks on HELP Vice Presidential candidate Kamala Harris education at 1pm Fisher Library on Friday When the pandemic hit I campaigned loan access. It is likely that the university is a slap in the face to every protester that alongside other activists for schools and will roll out even more attacks in the coming has risked their life fighting militarised

This year as Global Solidarity office bearer government is prepared to sacrifice human up to 30% of Arts and Social Sciences full- BLM solidarity protest of 50,000 (despite the government ban) was a historic moment in the fight against the oppression of August 28th!

Indigenous Officers

Tilly Langford and Leroy Fernando did not submit a report this week.

Need help with your tax?

Students and low income earners can get FREE help with tax returns from a Tax Help volunteer!

To book an appointment go to:

www.ato.gov.au/individuals/lodging-your-tax-return/ tax-help-program/



🚓 src 🚃

Do you have a legal problem? We can help you for FREE!*

Police, **Courts Traffic offences Immigration & Visa** Fines **Employment law Consumer rights** ...and more SRC LEGAL SERVICE Call us to make a booking. p: 02 9660 5222 **APPOINTMENTS ARE NOW** We have a solicitor who speaks Mandarin AVAILABLE 法律諮詢 法律アドバイス **BY PHONE OR** ONLINE Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01),

p: 02 9660 5222 w: srcusvd.net.au ACN: 146 653 143

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professiona Standards Legislation.

Scholarships & Prizes: Get Financial Help with your study!



If you need financial help to cover study and living expenses the University has a Scholarships office that may be able to help you.

sydney.edu.au/scholarships/

General scholarships for undergrads: sydney.edu.au/scholarships/domestic/ bachelors-honours/general.html

Faculty scholarships:

sydney.edu.au/scholarships/domestic/ bachelors-honours/faculty.html

There are scholarships for a wide range of students, with an equally wide range of awards, ranging from a couple of hundred dollars to many thousands of dollars. First year students should feel particularly encouraged to apply. The

Have a look at The University website: interesting thing about scholarships is that most people won't apply, making them less competitive than you would think.

> Throughout the year there are also prizes and competitions for writing and other projects. Keep an eye out for these opportunities too.

Literary prizes are listed here: sydney.edu.au/scholarships/prizesawards/literary-prizes.html

Faculty prizes are listed here: sydney.edu.au/scholarships/prizesawards/faculty-prizes.html



SRC caseworker help Q&A

Ask Abe about Getting Help with your Tax Return

Hi Abe,

Every year I feel crushing anxiety about doing my tax return. In the past, I have just ignored it, and not worried about The Australian Tax Office provides free submitting a tax return. I think this advice and assistance to low income year my anxiety is so high that I have to earners (under \$50,000 per year) who actually do something about it. Do you have any ideas on where to start?

Tax Anxious

Dear Tax Anxious.

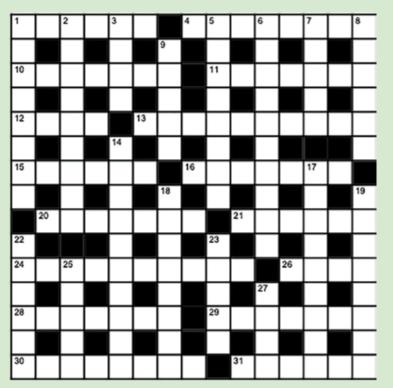
Tax can be a pretty scary issue, because there's a lot of complexity, and the penalty for getting it wrong, whether Abe you've paid too much or too little, can be

onerous. This is especially the case as a result of all the changes made during the COVID pandemic.

need to submit a tax return. You just need to gather all of the paperwork you have (e.g., previous payment summaries; receipts for deductibles; details of any investments; etc), together with your tax file number, and My Gov account details. To book an appointment go to https:// www.ato.gov.au/individuals/lodgingyour-tax-return/tax-help-program/.

Contact an SRC Caseworker on 02 9660 5222 or email help@src.usyd.edu.au

Quick



ACROSS

- Behave (6)
- MATH2023/2923? (8)
- Flimsy (7) 10
- A good old rub (7) 11 Blunder (4)
- 12 13 True blue (4,6)
- 15 Whoosh (6)
- 16 Lining up (7)
- 20 Reduce (7)
- 30 Permitted (8) 31 Put to one side (6)

24

26

28

29

Sudoku

	6					7	1	3	
						2			
1		3	8						
2					9				Puzzles by MsEelKink. Solutions next week.
	3			6		1		8	
		6	3						
5	4	9			2	6		7	
		2				5			
					4			9	

DOWN

- Group (8)
 - The Communist ____ (9)
 - What cats want, brother (4)
- Plenty (8) 5
- Delectably (10) 6 Catalyse (5)
- Veritably raunchy (6) 8
- An English staple (5)
- Zesty (10)
- Definitely not a morning person! (9) 17

- Dream about another time (8) 18 19
 - Minor annoyance (3,5)
- 22 The time, the place, the motion, the way we are feeling? (6)
- Maestro (5) 23
- 25 Quality (5)
- 27 Yank ruler unit (4)

Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney

Notice of 2020 Students' **Representative Council Annual Elections**

21 Utterly banal (6)

trouble! (10)

Reparation (7)

Mercury and this make

Hearty gas expulsion (4)

The Aluminium state? (7)

Nominations NOW OPEN!

Nominations can only be accepted online from 4:30pm August

5th 2020 via BigPulse accessible through the SRC website:

For more information email admin.manager@src.usyd.edu.au.

Nominations which have not been completed by the close of

The regulations of the SRC relating to elections are available

Online nominations must be completed no later than 4:30pm on

nominations will not be accepted regardless of when they were

commenced. BigPulse will automatically lock out any nomination

www.srcusyd.net.au/elections.

online at:

srcusyd.net.au/elections

Wednesday 26th August, via BigPulse.

not completed by the close of nominations.

Nominations for the Students' Representative Council Annual Elections for the year 2020 close at 4:30pm on Wednesday the 26th of August 2020.

Online Polling will be held on the 29th, 30th Sept and 1st Oct 2020 using BigPulse. BigPulse is an Australian online election system used internationally for many association and university elections.

All undergraduate students who are duly enrolled for attendance at lectures are eligible to vote. Members of the student body who have paid their nomination fee to Council are eligible to nominate and be nominated, except National Union of Students national office bearers. Full-time office bearers of the SRC may also nominate as NUS delegates.

Nominations are called for the following elections/positions and open on the 5th August 2020 at 4:30pm:

(a) The election of the Representatives to the 93rd SRC (35 positions)

(b) The election of the President of the 93rd SRC

(c) The election of the Editor(s) of Honi Soit for the 93rd SRC

(d) The election of National Union of Students delegates for the 93rd SRC (7 positions)



HECS-HELP access to be removed for the "horny fucks" on USyd Love Letters

against student horniness. what you'll be duckin'." partner for their 'friend'.

under the Biden-Harris administration. In an attempt to connect with younger voters, who were unable to understand any of Biden's speeches on the campaign trail, VP candidate Kamala Harris has committed to streamlining and integrating her two favourite pastimes: fun TikTok dances and upholding

an oppressive carceral state which punishes minorities. "Kamala came to visit us the other day," Juan, 12, told one of our reporters. "My cell is getting fitted for three halo lights — and one of them even hides the

discolouration from all the times I've been beaten up!" Prison exercise equipment is also getting an update. Instead of chin-up bars and a running track, inmates

will now have well-lit areas in which to group dance to

Warren secretly pleads for mercy killing amidst excrutiating DNC convention





FIERCELY INDEPENDENT JOURNALISTS, BOUGHT OUT BY NEWS CONGLOMERATE, **STILL CONTROLLED BY RATS ON OUR HEADS.**

Matthew Forbes, Premarital HECS-Editor

The Morrison Government has announced plans to bar access to fee support for anyone submitting posts to the "USyd Love Letters Revived" Facebook page. In a media release, Education Minister Dan Tehan

called the Government's action "essential in the fight "With many starting to filter back onto campus, we

want to encourage students to continue limiting their social interactions and keep up the studying, regardless of how hot the guy who sits in the back-left corner of your International Business Strategy tutorial."

Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence has praised the idea, reminding students of the classic phrase: "If you're thinking about suckin' and fuckin', good grades are

USyd Love Letters admin Crodly McThestitude has expressed his relief at not having to "indulge any more thirsty first-years looking for an exceedingly average

Many have questioned how it will be possible to

identify these lovelorn losers, as submissions to the page are done anonymously through a Google Form. "It's actually quite simple," a representative from the University told us over the phone. "Thanks to the disturbingly easy-to-hack ProctorU, we'll be able to locate -'

The representative was then cut off by what sounded like a spanner to the cranium.

Additionally, staff at the University have been told to observe their students carefully to catch signs of a potential Love Letter-poster: any prolonged stares, longing glances, lip-biting, whispers amongst friends while pointing to a particularly attractive individual, or flirtatious conversations with palpable chemistry that may occur during classes.

Tehan has promised that those who have lost access to HECS-HELP for posting to the page will have the chance to earn back said fee support should they provide irrefutable proof of their religious celibacy.

Kamala Harris connects with youth voters by restyling prisons as TikTok content houses

Shania O'Brien and Chuyi Wang, Zoomer Culture Correspondents

In an exclusive interview with an American inmate, Top 40 hits like 100 gecs' Money Machine and Doja The Rodent received word of prison remodelling Cat's Say So.

Alcatraz Island is in the process of being renamed 'Hype Island' and will soon be open to conducting brand deals and collaborations with other Los Angeles TikTok mansions. Prisoners will also be able to opt-in to help influencers edit clean TikTok transitions in exchange for a shorter sentence.

We encountered another inmate on our way out, a young man named Hasan who was set to be deported the following week. He said: "This would make a great POV TikTok. I'm an immigrant and you're a vengeful Attorney-General looking to clean up the streets."

The Rodent also encountered other inmates on our visit, but our reporters could not, for the life of them, figure out what 'oomf' or 'stancharlie' meant.

In this issue:

'People who fail subjects shouldn't be financially supported', writes compassionate young Christian / p. 3

Virtual Welcome Fest 'a huge success', says friend of Board Director / p. 2

Joe Biden comes out as non-Bidenary / p. 1

Film bro won't let COVID infection stop him from seeing new Christopher Nolan movie / p. 0

INVESTIGATION: Can't we just run to edit again? / p. -1

Are you hot enough to become a female alt-right personality, or should you finish your degree?



Ever thought "fuck this I'll be a stripper"? Tried pole dancing and realised it's actually love. Never fear, there's always the path of becoming a hot, racist, hot alt-right provocateur. But do you have what it takes?

1. Are you racist?

a. Of course not! b. Of course not! I just believe in a white ethno-state. c. Of course not! But getting a job in

media is pretty hard...

2. Are you hot?

a. Yes! I model part-time.

b. My mum says so. c. I'm hot but in a "I don't know it" kind

of way.

Results

A, B, C: You took the quiz so the answer to question 1 is obvious, you racist. But you're reading *Honi* so don't quit your degree, or your day job, fuggo.

NATIONAL STUDENT PROTEST

NO FEE HIKES NO COURSE CUTS

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