Honi Soit

Week 3, Semester 2, 2020 / First printed 1929



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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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Editorial

pieces in the edition. But, in the true spirit of democracy, I simply want to thank all who helped create this edition - from artists to reporters to fellow editors and to the copper dogs who inspired the front cover.

For a newspaper with a radical reputation, it often saddens me that Honi reinforces so many hierarchies. As far as I'm aware, no previous editor has reflected publicly on issues of accessibility and poor working conditions, despite the rich history of *Honi* editors fighting for workers' rights and dismantling power structures in other areas of society. Toiling away for what equates to maybe 3 dollars per hour entrenches a culture of privilege (like unpaid internships) whereby editing the newspaper is generally only accessible to those able to rely on families for financial support or to those in no rush to finish their degree. This near unpaid, yearlong internship often means losing the benefits of studying full-time (Centrelink, concession Opal cards and more). I myself am a university student born into financial and racial privilege. But I do not consider myself lucky to be holding a position which locks out those less fortunate than myself from future career prospects.

This is only a small, behind-the-

Honi editorials are usually a space scenes glimpse into Honi's position for the editor-in-chief to thank con- on campus, and *Honi* is not unique. tributors and praise their favourite Toxic work cultures plague student media across Australia. More honest self-reflection is needed.

Social capital is the fuel which drives this thirsty engine of student journalism. So when I make a decision to not thank reporters personally, it is not because I am ungrateful. It is because I want to pop the Honi bubble with a nail gun. I want to see people writing for Honi who have never written for any publication before. I want to see more editors who have no background in student politics. Writing for *Honi* is an honour. Writing for Honi radicalised my own politics - not in the sense of exposing me to new ideas necessarily, but in terms of pushing me to take to the streets with my comrades. Honi rescued me from being a theory bro. It has the capacity to do so for others.

I implore you - if you are reading this newspaper and you have never considered writing for Honi - reach out to us at editors@honisoit.com or contact me personally on social media. We need to build a more inclusive student newspaper.

Last but not least: film cops, betray your boss, stay staunch and love your parents. Never let the fire

Robbie Mason.

Dear editors

Letters

Ok nerd

I commend Nina Dillon Britton for her piece in last week's edition in respect of the link between defendant-friendly tort law in Japan and wild Japanese game shows. Honi could well do with more delictual delights, contractual conundrums and equitable essays. I would like to take issue, however, with the claim that "the action for wilful infliction of nervous shock" is "the only available action for emotional harm in Australia". As a majority of judges in the High Court explained this year in Moore v Scenic Tours Pty Ltd, a person who has been promised "enjoyment, relaxation or freedom from molestation" under a contract may sue for the "disappointment and distress" occasioned by breach of those promises, and may do so without proof of psychiatric injury. I should add, however, that such a claim is one for breach of contract, where the gist of the action is the breach, not the consequent distress. Insofar as "only available action for emotional harm" means "the only available action for emotional harm without proof of breach of contract", then the learned author was right to make her general statement. I would also direct readers to a recent article on equity's jurisdiction in respect of emotional distress, published in the Sydney Law Review and written by William Khun, an alumnus of this institution: "Equity's Wergeld: Monetary Remedies for Emotional Distress by way of the Equitable Obligation of Confidence".

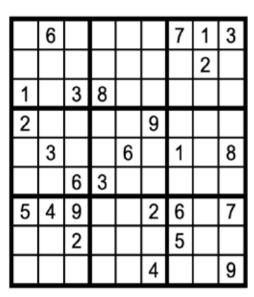
Kind regards Declan

Nudes, declarations of affection and hate mail may be sent to: editors@honisoit.com

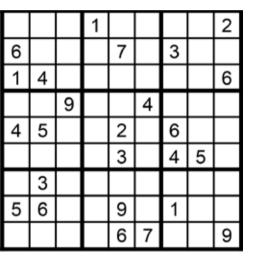
Yes, your majesty

Hey, could you please tell me where is the answer of Sudoku of week 1's news-

Thank you, Frustrated Puzzler



Do it yourself. I believe in you.



Here's another one for extra practice.

Second wave demons!

Victoria was once the garden state!

Melbourne was once the sports capital of Australia, The Australian Rules Football Capital of Australia

and the first political capital of Australia.

Melbourne was once the most livable city in the world for most of the

Now Victoria and Melbourne have got sick of livability, gardens, Australian Rules Football, politics and sports.

Now Victoria has got sick of Melbourne As Melbourne is the Covid 19 Corona Virus Capital of Australia.

Is Victoria the Worst Australian State Of our Modern Covid 19 Corona Virus Times?

Yours faithfully, Jane Wallace

Re: Content Warnings

I don't really see content warnings as a way for people to avoid reading or engaging with things that might 'trigger' them. They have been useful for me to mentally prepare myself for something I'm about to read/watch that could impact on my mental health during recovery. The position taken up by op seems to suggest that content warnings suck because they would turn people off from wanting to be good allies or engaging with your struggles. Do you know people who refuse to acknowledge pieces of information purely based on a content warning of a traumatic situation they haven't experienced? It's oddly specific. Saying that content warnings are useless because the title of an article has those words in it is also a fairly niche point.

I would rather see a cw/tw: fatphobia, or cw/tw: police violence in the lead up to an article, and then have the choice of whether I'd want to read the article, or find another article reporting on the same subject without some of the violent content that would be emotionally and mentally damaging.

Grace S.

A note of apology

We want to acknowledge that in last week's Who? Weekly we mispelled Daany Saeed's name as "Danny". We apologise for our error.

Write, create and produce for *Honi Soit*

Interested in reporting or making art for Australia's only remaining weekly student newspaper? Email us at editors@honisoit.com or message us over on our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram pages.

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CANCELLED CORNER

Imogen Grant goes straight to gaol, does not pass go, does not collect \$200.



I'll preface this article with an and women have it a lot better. Fam-children and do less domestic labour. admission, and an apology: this is column. But I'm gay, so that's just not going to happen. Sorry!

Any woman who's experienced the (perhaps excessive) love and support of another woman, or the multiple orgasms could tell you that there's distinctive advantages to lesbian relation-

ilies with two women parents remove In fact, the positive effect on lesbians' supposed to be a funny, light hearted the gendered division of household la- wages is stronger the EARLIER we bour and the gender wage gap within the family that comes with it. That's early that we will never be a tradwife, on top of the fact that lesbian couples we make career decisions accordingly generally have less children, which are -e.g. stay in school longer, have continexpensive and time consuming (and uous labour force attachment, or work

cute!) Simply put, lessos have it better. longer hours. A study from the United ships. Despite accusations that hetero oppression [FACT!] that has the poten- had previously lived with male partwomen have so-called "straight priv- tial to change depending on widely held ners made 9.5 percent less than who'd ilege" lessos preach the truth: if you views about the family and "twinks", never cohabited with a husband figure.' want to play oppression politics, you're "dykes" and "faggots". This is how better off embracing your inner heter- out-of-the-closet lesbians went from bia obviously, remains important. But being unemployable to arguably one of failing to acknowledge the advantages

out of nowhere – it's the direct result The (hetero) wife penalty versus disadvantages of patriachy. Really my of our role as child bearers. Hetero the lesbian wage premium! Lesbians message is this: ladies, cast off your women are stuck bearing and caring in Australia earn moderately higher men, you have nothing to lose but your for children, and are in turn down- wages and around 33 percent more oppression. graded within the workforce. Remove income than hetero women. The reathese gendered child bearing systems son for this is obvious – we have less

come out of the closet! If we realise Homophobia is an attitudinal-based States even found that 'lesbians who

The struggle to overcome hompho-Women's oppression doesn't come the wealthiest minorities in Australia. of lesbianism means we overlook the

WHO?Weekly

Double agent!

The SRC Council on Wednesday surprisingly went in camera, meaning non-councillors and editors were relegated to the Zoom breakout room. The Farts Dean opens wallet oldest 7th year hack who would take our call on a Sunday night confirmed that they could not recall such an event occurring.

While what was confidentially discussed remains Executive will only go in camera when discussing the meeting officially got under way, Who?Weekly believes he may have been the topic of discussion. One punter theorised that Geoff may be a CIA agent (as seen on our Twitter), prompting Geoff himself to email us on a Thursday morning asking seems unprecedented. us to call him.

phone that he was NOT A CIA AGENT, doing so in Russian (net was the specific term he used) The grass is greener

which leads us to believe... maybe not CIA, but maybe KGB????!?!??!?!?

Following the Education NDA on August 28 which saw 10 students and staff members fined by police, a GoFundMe was set up to cover the costs of the somewhat of a mystery ;), generally the SRC \$10k in fines. Whilst scrolling through the list of generous donors, one particular name caught our (when Groots was first formed) once proposed staffing matters. Given the cheeky quips about a eye by surprise: Arts Dean Annamarie Jagose who that all Groots members should be Greens party certain 2020 Returning Officer, Geoff Field before supposedly donated \$350. Whether this was Jagose members. herself or not remains unclear to Who?Weekly, though with likely staffing cuts of up to 30% in her Going national own faculty which she has seemingly justified, and never come out against, such a display of solidarity Current co-Women's Officer Ellie Wilson

National Day of Action. The staff (scabs!) locked Believing it was *us* who started the intelligence all the doors bar one, leaving patrons no choice but agency rumor, Geoff stressed several times over the to yell at Slimy Spence — serves the bastard right.

and stressing that we must publish this information, As a way to increase recruitment, Grassroots has decided to take over the Greens club on campus, with current Groots members Paola Ayre (Queer Officer) and Drew Beacom elected as convenors, alongside Tom Williams as Secretary and Dictator Doon himself on the executive. This signals a shift in recruitment strategy, as in recent years Grassroots has tried to distinguish itself from the Greens, with this tactic more reminiscent of early Grassroots. Indeed, one member way back in 2011

(Grassroots) has her eyes on the prize of NUS Women's Officer. Honi understands that she has been in talks with the Grindies to try and secure factional backing. As with Groots' Greens turn. this interest in NUS also signals a change in Groots' priorities.

UTS gives marketing team "approved messaging" on cuts during Open Week

Lara Sonnenschein reports.

The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) has given its marketing department "approved messaging" on staff and course cuts for Open Week.

Whilst held online this year, Open Week traditionally sees thousands of prospective UTS students visit the the University to market itself.

The approved messaging document seen by Honi includes pre-written answers to questions such as: "I've seen media reports that UTS will have to lose staff and there will likely be redundancies coming to the organisation — what does this mean of the main buildings including the for prospective students?", "Will UTS need to sell off buildings for financial

reasons?", "With classes continuing online will student fees be reduced?", in addition to questions on potential restructures, mergers and course cuts.

The approved answers are deliberately vague, pointing to UTS not being "immune to the impacts of Ultimo campus, and is a key time for COVID-19," and attempting to offset anger about cuts to courses by gesturing to "new courses based on demand and interest." The University explains that cutting some courses will be a result of low demand or costing too much.

The answers also show that UTS has no current plans to sell off any Tower, UTS Central, the Chau Chak Wing Building or the Engineering and

IT Building, but that other land assets purchased prior to COVID-19 may need to be sold.

Whilst the University does not have any current plans for faculty mergers, they admit that these are possible in the future months or years. UNSW recently announced that the Arts and Social Sciences, Art and Design and Built Environment faculties would be merged

UTS has no plans to reduce fees for online subjects, with the University's approved answer attempting to dispel any concerns that online learning is worse for students, saying students are "overwhelmingly satisfied."

UTS has lost \$60million in revenue

this year as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, with predicted losses of between \$80 to \$250million next year. Up to 500 staff on campus risk losing

Honi reached out to UTS for comment on why the University saw approved messaging as necessary, whether the University would consider pursuing disciplinary action against employees who deviated from the script, and whether the University actively monitors what employees say. in addition to asking what specific land assets the University would consider selling. UTS did not respond in time for publication.

University considering permanent shift to 12-week semester

Lara Sonnenschein reports.

With a delayed start and end to this Academic Board Imogen Grant has semester as a result of the three week winter holiday extension, Sydney of Semester One by one week and shorten the semester to 12 weeks.

However, in a proposal spearheaded by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) Pip Pattison, the University is also students saw this as an opportunity to awful, but ultimately it's far too rushed controversially considering making this rip students off by charging the same for such a big decision... they would a permanent shift, telling Honi this is amount for less content. Staff members like to finalise the consultation process "in line with many other universities." also felt that it would put them under within a few weeks. This is clearly not A decision on whether this will be a lot of pressure to reconfigure courses enough time, no matter how many permanent is set to be made early next to ensure they met the same learning representatives from key stakeholder

The University last attempted to teaching." shorten semesters to 12 weeks in early 2017, but the proposal was roundly defeated at Academic Board, largely due to a coalition of SRC, SUPRA and NTEU Academic Board members opposing the motion.

2017 SRC representative

told Honi, that there was a "strong backlash from student and staff unions and reduces the income of casual academics.'

2017 FASS representative Georgia outcomes with one week less of

Whilst the University seems to be as a cost saving measure. pursuing somewhat of a more rigorous consultation process this time around, to shorten semesters is yet another including emailing all students on move to dilute our education to enrich Monday with an invitation to provide feedback, there are still concerns.

Staff and student representatives



Students opposing a 12-week semester proposal in 2017.

remain unsupportive of the proposal.

"How do we know this is not simply lip service before management just University is seeking to delay the start because it both waters down our degrees implements ongoing 12-week semesters anyway," Toby Fitch of the USyd Casuals Network tells Honi.

SRC President Liam Donohoe told Mantle said that "myself and other Honi: "The consultation process isn't groups they chat with about this."

Donohoe and Fitch see the proposal

"The proposal by management themselves," Fitch told Honi.

In addition to having to squeeze content into 12 weeks, the shift would also see one less week of pay for casual staff, a cohort who are already under immense pressure at the University.

"Given the lengthy breaks between semesters and with no leave entitlements, casuals would be left adrift for even longer periods of the academic year," Fitch said.

When asked whether the University would decrease fees proportionally in line with a shorter semester, a spokesperson told Honi that such a measure was not under consideration because management believes students will "gain the same educational outcomes."

A reduction in semester periods to 12 weeks would bring Sydney University closer to UNSW's 10-week and UTS's 11-week trimesters.

The Sydney University branch of the NTEU did not respond with comment in time for publication.

Staff cuts proposed in the Faculty of Medicine and Health

Robbie Mason reports.

Head of the School of Medical Sciences, Professor Sarah Young, has proposed staff cuts within the Faculty of Medicine and Health under the guise of restructuring and streamlining teaching. The cuts would see the number of full-time equivalent staff in physiology reduced from 30 to 17, from 15 to 7.5 in pathology and 16 to 14 in pharmacology. The proposal estimates that this restructuring will save the Faculty "between \$4m and

The draft proposal indicates that the university wants to "minimise duplication [in teaching requirements] across the Faculty" and to create more "flexibility" and "agility" within the Faculty. The proposed alterations represent "a move away from disciplines and into interdisciplinary themes/programs for both research and education. This will enable a blended learning environment and greater connectedness for Academics and Students and will create broader opportunities for our staff to develop and evolve." These proposed changes will further specialise staff roles, bringing pharmacology and pharmacy together into one school, for instance

Positions not impacted by the proposed restructuring include: leadership roles, such as Heads of Departments, casual staff, Robinson Fellowship holders and staff recently appointed via merit selection processes.

This news comes just days after the university announced that a voluntary redundancy process in response to revenue shortfalls.

University to launch voluntary redundancy program, Executive to take 20% pay cut

Chuyi Wang reports.

In an email sent to all staff this the end of this year into next. afternoon, Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence has announced two financial decisions to be undertaken by the the continuing impacts of the pandemic University in response to the expected revenue downfall precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first is that all members of the University Executive, including the Vice-Chancellor, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Vice-Principals, Executive Dean and Deans, will take a 20% salary cut for the year 2020.

The second is the launch of a voluntary redundancy program, which will be offered to staff on fixed term contracts with more than 6 months of their contract remaining. The email notes that the program is only in a 'preliminary consultation' process, and that there is no target currently set for the number of redundant roles that the program intends to achieve. The program is expected to be complete by November, with staff departing from

The justification provided for these further financial austerity measures is going into 2021, especially in relation to restrictions on international travel. As a result, only 65% of the planned number of commencing international students are expected to enrol next year.

However, due to a lack of access to the University's financial modelling, it is unclear what exact impact the voluntary redundancy program will have alongside Executive salary cuts in saving jobs and staff hours.

Honi contacted the University for comment, who could not provide anything beyond the text of the original email from Spence.

The decision follows proposed 30% staff cuts in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences as well as a hiring freeze on all new staff appointments.

Honi has reached out to the USvd branch of the NTEU for comment

Student and staff speak out against police presence on campus

Chuyi Wang reports.

arrest of activists and \$10,000 total police. fines issued against protesters at the education NDA rally in late August, Joel Griggs, who openly criticised student and staff gathered outside F23 Vice-Chanellor Michael Spence for Administration Building to speak out not condemning or even commenting last Tuesday afternoon.

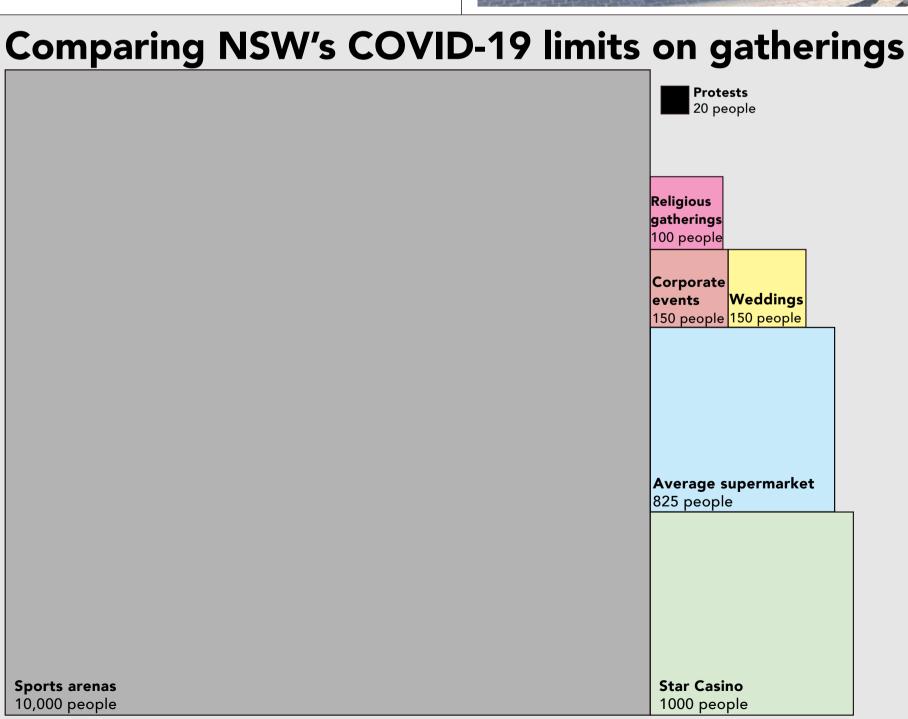
NTEU, the snap action drew attention to the need to fight for the democractic right to protest, and against the silencing of protesters by collaboration outside Fisher Library.

In response to the heavy police presence, between university administration and

Speakers included NTEU activist on police brutality at the prottest, and Called by the USvd Branch of the alluded to USvd as a 'fascist campus'.

> After a short demonstration at F23, protesters marched and chanted down Eastern Avenue, concluding the rally





Graphic: Nina Dillon Britton.

MULTILINGUAL

在国家行动日抗议集会抗议期间,警方用 抗议者先前的性侵经历使她难堪

Nina Dillon Britton 撰写/ Fengwei Yu 翻译

在周五的国庆行动抗议中被捕后,一名警 官拿出了一女子之前遭到性侵的记录以使 她。 她感到尴尬。

27岁的Maddy参加了周五的抗议活动。 抗议学生正面临更高的学位费用,以及如 果学生挂科而取消的HECS资助费。

"我知道在您处理心理健康问题时,大 学有多难。您不考虑取消日期,这样就不 会挂科,而是在考虑如何获得帮助。我感 到非常恐惧因为我很多朋友都将面对这项

Maddy说,在集会开始之前,她已经拍 摄到抵达校园的防暴队。一名警察走近她 并且告诉她,如果他再次看到她在该地区 违反《公共卫生法》,将对她处以罚款。 她说:"我只能假装听不到他的声音。"

在新南威尔士州拍摄警察不是犯罪。新 南威尔士州警察局自己的媒体政策也承认 这点。公众有权对警察在公共场所的活动 进行记录。试图阻止人们摄制的警员可能 会因攻击而被起诉

Maddy说,集会开始后,警察开始逮捕 示威者,相同的一名警官靠近她并说:" 我告诉过你,如果我再次在这个地区见到 你,我就会逮捕你。

此时,她与其他示威者以及学生和工作 人员走一起在东部大街,为她们的课程而

抗议。 Maddy说:"我并没有真正意识到周围的 环境,直到我因我的朋友被逮捕而分心,"

"我看到他靠近我,我开始逃跑。但有 两个警察最终抓到我,并用的武力。我丢 下了手机和其他物品。

警察没有给她任何机会去收拾她的物 品。她的一位朋友很幸运地在她现场逮捕 行动直播中找到了她的手机

Maddy的手臂上有瘀伤,警察抓住了

她说:"他们把我从其他抗议者中拉开 了。""其他所有被捕者都有目击者,但没 有人意识到我失踪了。我感到非常害怕。

然后,警察开始询问她,问她以前是否 曾与警察打过交道。Maddy以前从未被警 察逮捕过,因此告诉他们没有。

"军官对我进行了检查,并且通过无线 电与其他人进行交谈。然后以一种非常自 鸣得意的方式对我说:"您以前作为性侵犯 的受害者与警察打过交道。"

"他带着这样的笑容说,就像他知道我 骗了他一样。"

"几年前,我就带着我的故事来到警察 局,但他们从来没有帮助过我。之后什么 也没有发生。我甚至不知道这会有记录。

"我真的很震惊也感到很心寒。我真心 希望我能说些什么。"

她说:"我仍然对此感到震惊。" "我现 在依然可以回想起他的傻笑,当他告诉我 他知道我以前受过侵犯时。"

Maddy最终没有被起诉并且被释放,但 因未遵守第4号公共卫生命令而被警察罚款

Honi Soit周五报道说,至少有10名与会

昨天创建的GoFundMe网页筹集了上周 五抗议活动的罚款,已筹集了超过12,000

新南威尔士州警方发言人证实,周五已 向数名抗议者罚款,但不会对此事发表进 ─步评论。当被问及是否有任何政策── 为警官提供对待敏感性侵幸存者的准则 时,新南威尔士州警方同样拒绝置评。

国庆行动教育集会被警方查封,并处以几

Chuyi Wang 撰写/ Edith Chen 翻译

队在内,他们分散了由悉尼大学本科生学 生会,新南威尔士大学教育集体和麦格理 大学学生联合发起的国庆行动集会。

这次集会是为了抗议莫里森政府和各 大学行政部门最新一轮教育资源的削减和

这次集会原定于下午1点在斐雪图书馆 外举行。但是,在集会开始的前一个小 时,几辆警车已经在图书馆外待命,并且 至少有20名警官站在悉尼大学主街上。

下午1点,在集会开始之前,警察发布 了正式的移动命令,确定抗议者"出于共 同目的"聚集了超过20人的团体。他们还 威胁要对所有与会者处以最高1000澳币的 罚款。这呼应了警方上个月停止类似的教 育集会的理由

警方随后开始清场,并将一支由团结 派成员组成的队伍从F23行政大楼推向图 书馆。在此期间,SRC Education Officers 之一的Jack Mansell被捕并被罚款

其他参与和平抗议和高呼口号的人也 被不加区别地逮捕和罚款。SRC Mature Age Officer Vinil Kumar在发表讲话后的一 分钟内被抓获。SRC Environment Officer 限制。" Sofie Nicolson在试图脱离警察时也被捕。 总共有大约10名与会者被罚款。

Honi了解到,警察没有进行正式逮 捕。然而,有人听到警察告诉那些被他们 逮捕的人,他们已经被"逮捕"了。据悉, 警方的目标是一些特定的人,包括来自不 同政治派别的组织者和活动团体。

悉尼大学历史讲师David Brophy 说:" 昨天,我有20多名学生在一个教室里上 课。但是今天, Michael Spence (悉尼大

现场去了大约80名警察,包括骑警和防暴 学校长)将警方防暴小队召集到校园,阻 止反对学费上涨的集会,理由是该集会已 超过20人的上限。我听到一位警察说:' 让我们一个接一个地把他们干掉"。

下午1点20分左右,防暴警察和几匹警 马赶到了现场。这些马匹被用来驱散剩下 的抗议者,让他们从Footbridge的入口进 入Parramatta路。

SRC主席Liam Donohoe告诉Honi: "SRC在今天的国庆日谴责警察的暴行。 我们向所有与会者表示团结,特别是那些 仍被拘留和处理罚款的人。SRC将会尽我 们所能,为保释和罚款做出贡献。我们不 会被警方的行动吓倒,无论他们有多么暴 力和残忍,我们都将继续抗议。

Honi联系了悉尼大学的一名发言人发 表评论,该发言人说:"虽然我们知道校园 里有抗议的计划,但我们并没有试图阻止 它的发生。

"今年,我们与学生代表合作,为符 合新南威尔士州健康建议的活动制定 COVID安全计划。"根据新南威尔士州政 府的新冠肺炎公共卫生命令,我们还强调 了目前户外公共集会人数不得超过20人的

"这次活动是公开宣传的,新南威尔士 州警方根据《公共卫生秩序》自行作出决

至于为什么超过20人的班级可以在室 内聚集但不能进行室外抗议,该发言人 说:"像学校和超市这种不必可少的公共 设通常会免除4平方米的要求,但是我们 尽可能继续鼓励身体疏远。

未完待续。

Disappointing return on investment for international students

Akanksha Singh charts a more equitable post COVID-19 experience for international students.

As Australia's largest services export Sydney University (USyd), along with industry, the \$38 billion overseas other major Australian universities, has education market greatly adds to pursued austerity measures in the form the nation's economic prosperity. However, amidst the current COVID-19 uncertainty, Australia has failed its international students.

University is not simply about the degree conferred to us upon graduation; students are paying large fees for the complete 'university and campus experience.' Last month, The Economist presented the notion of the 'absent student,' which explores the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on education. Schooling through video calls at the same skyrocketing price of the regular 'university experience' needs radical rethinking, in particular for international students who pay at least double what locals do, indeed in some cases up to \$44,000 a year.

There is a widespread misconce that international students evade Australian taxes and that in turn, they compensate for this through higher tuition fees. However, these students pay taxes on all other purchases and their income earned within Australia, and this blatant inequality could result in Australia's 'overseas education appeal' drastically

Overall, student visa applications have dropped by 33.5%, and there have

of course and staff cuts.

There is some hope associated with Australia's first pilot program that intends to facilitate the return of stranded international students. However, Australian High Commissioner in India, Barry O'Farrell, specified that this program will not cover South Asia and that "there doesn't seem enough certainty... for Indian students just yet." It is noteworthy that India is the secondlargest source of international students

The lobby group Association of Australian Education Representatives in India (AAERI) is pushing for changes to make Australia an appealing study destination for Indian international students again in the post-COVID-19 era. AAERI's president, Ravi Lochan, proposed that "one of the reasons why Canada and the UK have increased in popularity with students in South Asia is that the return on investment is much higher.'

AAERI's recommendations include reducing the international student fees by 25% to shorten the fee-gap between international and domestic students. AAERI also noted that the main appeal behind overseas education is skilled been over double the deferments in migration; the most significant ROI 2020. As a result of this loss in revenue, for international students. Since this

migration quota for graduating students, Australia may be able to position itself better than other overseas education destinations for the post pandemic

Morrison in June 2020, Indian Prime am especially grateful for the way you have taken care of the Indian community in Australia, and especially the Indian students in these difficult [COVID] highly misleading.

An August 2020 study revealed otherwise. International students were experiences once, pre-, and then again, post-COVID-19. 61% of international compensation, a third were going without food to pay for their rent, and 21% feared homelessness. Only 13% of education providers had reduced the fees, and the general feeling toward the government materially improve students' lives. was that support and welfare-relief had not been strong enough.

Increased government support and ROI is crucial for vulnerable onshore international students. Many international students are themselves essential frontline workers despite not being entitled to the JobKeeper of COVID-19, only time will show the subsidy. Deakin University's Professor outcomes of these efforts.

is the case, by setting aside 25% of the Ly Tran stresses on extending 'Post Study Work' for the currently enrolled onshore international students to incentivise international students to choose Australia as a study destination during this time. Further, in response to During a virtual-summit with Scott prioritising domestic jobs and economic support, Tran criticises this approach as Minister, Narendra Modi exclaimed, "I xenophobic and states that "rather than taking away jobs," international students actually create jobs for locals, supporting around 250,000 Australian full-time jobs.

Additionally, NSW is the only times." However, Modi's words are Australian state to exclude international students from the concession on public transportation fares. The Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations surveyed at UTS, USyd and Macquarie coordinated a campaign in late July University for stats on their living 2019 against the concession opal card discrimination towards international students; however, the campaign did students faced job losses without any not result in any successful outcomes. As they face increased economic precarity, extending concession cards to international students is merely one simple way that the government can

Improving the ROI for international students whilst strengthening the industry's 'overseas education appeal' is going to be essential for Australia's post-COVID recovery. Although lobby groups such as AAERI are working towards salvaging the industry from the impacts

艺术与社会科学学院(FASS)员工投票反预期的裁员

Nina Dillon Britton & Lara Sonnenschein 撰写/ Rong Hu 翻译

投票之前,有消息称,FASS学院的负 责人被要求"提出具体的基于学校的或 者更广泛的建议",以削减30%的全职 工作。

今天,在超过两百名FASS员工的会 议上,员工们以压倒性的票数反对可 能到来的裁员计划

会议上通过的议题要求大学执行管 理层通过"依靠并借用大学的大量财务 和实物资产"来弥补资金短缺,而不是

投票之前,有消息称,FASS学院的 负责人被要求"提出具体的基于学校的 或者更广泛的建议",以削减30%的全

全国高等教育联盟(NTEU)的代 表称,这可能表明悉尼大学的管理层 正在考虑在整个大学范围内裁员30%

在整个大学范围内进行30%的裁员 相当于减少3000个工作岗位,这使得 新南威尔士大学、墨尔本大学和悉尼 科技大学最近宣布的削减计划相形见

"悉尼大学的管理层必须对裁员计 划保持清醒的态度。高达30%的裁员 将损害大学履行其提供高质量教学, 研究和支持学生的能力"新南威尔士州 全国高等教育联盟的助理秘书Damien Cahil博士表示。

"对于那些在记忆中最严重的经济衰 退中失业的人来说,这种裁员将是毁 灭性的。'

但是,悉尼大学否认了它目前正在 寻求实施这样的裁员计划。

一位大学发言人告诉Honi Soit:"正如

我们在过去的一个月里与员工和工会 联系的那样,我们正在研究如何在目 前这种复杂的情况下最好地保护悉尼 免受这场流行病持续的经济影响。"

"这些情况可能永远不会发生。 我们 认为现在预测2021年会发生什么还为 时过早,如果我们不得不采取可能影 响员工的措施,那么我们希望对这些 数字更加确定。 无论发生什么情况, 学校都将首先征询员工的意见,并且 将采用正常的变更流程。

悉尼大学没有否认百分之三十的人 员削减会被考虑。

SRC的教育官员Jazzlyn Breen和Jack Mansell在一份联合声明中谴责了潜在 的裁员。"毫无疑问,大学承诺不裁员 的承诺是空洞的。

"Jagose间接宣布这些裁员,并由学

校负责人自行决定,这再次显示出对 教职工和学生的完全蔑视。

今年早些时候,由于教职员工和学 生的反对,FASS学院放弃了削减30% 课程的计划,改为"暂停"8%的课程。

此外,拟议的FASS学院裁员是在大 学承认最近对员工工资存在系统性的 支付不足的情况下提出的,这可能意 味着该大学将对数百万的拖欠工资负

澳大利亚高等教育部门正经历着 几十年来最大的危机,这在很大程度 上是由于与COVID-19相关的收入损 失以及联邦政府未能向公立大学提供 JobKeeper补贴导致的

"Shut up and dribble?" What the Australian left can learn from players' strikes

Daany Saeed examines the untapped political potential of Australian sport.

The NBA players' strikes over the last been defunded and the Minneapolis month have been extraordinary. To Police Department disbanded. halt one of the biggest entertainment enterprises in the world in any context, let alone in the midst of such unprecedented economic and social different was the sheer scale and ferocity with which they spread.

This was the first time the four American major sports leagues had simultaneously staged a co-ordinated strike action, in a time when not even a global pandemic could stop play. All of the players' demands were met, including every single NBA arena being turned into a polling station for the upcoming American elections, despite the majority of NBA teams being in her semifinal at the Cincinnati Masters at home. in solidarity.

continued, with a public mandate, to organisation. over-police and violently target minority communities of colour, the LAPD has in Australia has faced have been

In early June, we watched incredulously as New South Wales Police attempted to shut down the first major BLM rallies in Sydney through upheaval, is something to be marvelled the Supreme Court, on the same day that at. Protest is not by any means new the state Government endorsed crowd to sport, but what made these strikes exemptions for the NRL, and months onwards as professional sporting codes and their associated crowds have continued to enjoy a seemingly unearned privileged role in the nation's ongoing battle with coronavirus.

Further to this, the focus in terms of restarting community activities has disproportionately been on grassroots sport. It seems utterly incongruous with the now-sacrosanct notion of social distancing that sweaty, huffing contact sports continue to be played across Republican states with conservative Sydney while anyone who can't kick a owners. Within hours, the strike had 35 metre checkside punt is told by the spread outside of the four major Premier to limit their social interaction leagues, with Naomi Osaka forfeiting and movement, wear a mask and stay

The Black Lives Matter movement for political organising that has in Australia has experienced marked otherwise been left completely alone setbacks and ongoing stagnation in by the left. Sport in this country is so comparison to some of the victories deeply intertwined with our collective it has accomplished internationally, understanding of identity that it bridges, particularly in the United States. in several senses, the class divide that upsetting the establishment has led audiences, allowing communities who While supposedly progressive state otherwise presents insurmountable to an extremely limited view of what may never otherwise engage in social governments in Australia have challenges of access to political

The challenges the BLM movement worst utter tone deafness.

identified as stemming from an inability to broaden the spectrum of people that are engaged by the various campaigns such a variety of sectors of society, both at a professional level and at a community level, and simultaneously is largely considered and desired to be insulated from the winds of social change and justice. Sociologists Peter Kaufman and Eli Wolff, for example, argue there are important various parallels between participation in sport and successful progressive activism, namely: social consciousness, meritocracy, responsible citizenship, and interdependency.

long history of sport being intertwined with political activism. In European sportspeople in this country comes postfootball, for example, club rivalries have long represented class divides and ethnic identity. But this has fallen flat in an Australian context — with the up and dribble" mantra is adopted developing professionalism of sport enthusiastically by the right, but also in most male sporting codes through inadvertently by the left in its refusal the 1990s (and more recently in major to engage with sport as a mechanism Herein lies an untapped opportunity women's codes) came a capitalistic for progress. Sport, in a moment of desire to sanitise it of its potential to multiplying streaming platforms and represent mass concerns about social fragmented news media, is one of the injustice. The rapid growth of most last forms of entertainment that whole codes into multi-billion dollar businesses countries watch together. It carries that are reliant on fundamentally not unparalleled potential to reach mass social change can look like in a sporting justice movements to contextualise context; at best, meaningless PR, and at them in the familiar sporting arena. If

example of this was the AFL's bushfire relief charity match at the beginning of this year, for which mining conglomerate associated with it. Sport brings together Rio Tinto was the primary sponsor. More recently, the Collingwood Football Club have led a consortium of AFL clubs supporting the "Free the Flag" campaign, whilst simultaneously leaking against ex-player Heritier Lumumba during an ongoing internal investigation into the racist club culture that drove him to retirement.

If the NBA's strikes tell us nothing else, it is that activism must come from players and supporters; we cannot expect codes to lead the way. But in Australia, This is not a novel concept: there is a we have a long way to go. Almost every reference to political activism from career, and centres on the flawed arena of nonprofits and corporate luncheons. It cannot remain this way. The "shut the left is serious about building mass Perhaps the most extraordinary movements, we would do well to use it.

极右翼激进分子出现在悉尼大学团结互助"黑人的命也重要"讨论会上

Robbie Mason 撰写/ Qinyuan Li 翻译

在周三由校园社会主义者团体 论会上,当Padraic Gibson谈到土著社 园保卫库克船长雕像的景象。 区的持续压迫时,鲜为人知的极右翼 活动家Chris De Bruyne闯入了集会现

他最初拒绝在Solidarity学生与校园 安全人员的协助下离开并停留了大约 20分钟。

Mottee , Jaiden Jameson(前自由党)一起参加了近日悉

尼在Hyde Park和Domain举行的BLM抗 发表声明称,对Kenosha恐怖分子表 De Bruyne离开后不久,警方赶到, Solidarity 组织的"黑人的命很重要"讨 议活动,并现场直播了自己在海德公

他最近成立了一个我们不愿在此提 及名字的组织,以争取对其政治行动 和"一切生命都很重要"运动的支持, 并且还作为自由民主党的候选者。 但 是到目前为止,该组织几乎没有受到 De Bruyne与极右翼活动家Bayden 派集会,以诱使抗议者做出轻率的反 Penney和George 应,并传播不正确的左派文化代表。

De Bruyne在他的Facebook上公开

示欣赏,该恐怖分子上周在威斯康星 州枪击了多名BLM抗议者,造成两人 死亡。 在这篇声明中,他批评试图 解除射击者武装的手无寸铁的抗议者 Anthony Huber具有"很长的犯罪记录"

,因此暗示他的死是理所应当的。 尽管有他的出席,Solidarity成员仍 关注或支持。De wBruyne现场直播左 继续并完成了会议,之后拍照以表示 对原住民社区和Tane Chatfield家庭的 声援,这是由于对Tane Chatfield被拘 削减的问题。 留之死的案件询问即将结束。

担心这起小型集会违反了COVID-19 的规定,尽管学生和员工们是使用大 学设施及图书馆进行的校内辅导和会

在此之前,近几个月来警方专门针 对和制止了悉尼周边的左翼和反法西 斯抗议活动,其中包括7月31日在悉尼 大学举行的一场有保持社交距离的小 型抗议活动,其内容涉及裁员和课程

ANALYSIS OPINION

USyd managment: Friends of the police state

Robbie Mason on the targeted assault on dissent and police intimdiation during COVID. Cops off campus now.

Australian police, judiciaries and state governments are working in tandem rights, on the one hand, and public game. Advertisements encouraging us to download the COVIDsafe tracking app and to dob in neighbours breaching coronavirus restrictions bombard our news cycle daily, alongside images of Australian Defence Force personnel in camouflage gear and face masks, signifying the realisation of technototalitarian state surveillance. The Morrison government has exploited the pandemic by introducing a bill to beef up ASIO's capabilities, receiving criticism from lawyers and the Australian Humans Right Commission in the process. Expanded compulsory questioning powers, which represent a shift from ASIO's focus on terrorism towards politically-motivated violence, could be used to target Black Lives Matter (BLM) protesters.

Just this week, Victorian police bashed Aboriginal man Korey Penny who was on his way to work when officers racially profiled and misidentified him. Penny has an exemption for mobility restrictions during Victoria's stage four lockdown thanks to his role in Melbourne's Metro Tunnel project. You might forgive USvd students, then, for being distrustful and wishing cops off campus.

As COVID-19 has set in, police local activists. have come down even more heavyhanded than usual on protests, despite significantly more people congregating at professional sports matches – 7051 at the recent A League Grand Final, for instance – and shopping malls. Invoking the Public Health Order (No. 4) 2020, police have issued move-on orders and fines to disperse crowds before some protests have even begun, often outnumbering the protesters in number

At a peaceful counter-protest to a far-right "Free Raimond Kelly" to present political activity and privacy rally in Newtown on 15 July, antifascist protesters, cordoned off from health, on the other, as a zero sum the far right activists and numbering enter university grounds, university Management (2018-2020). Allegations no more than twenty, were shocked when police arrested a Sydney branch member of the Australian Communist Party (ACP) for "offensive language." When another ACP member tried to intervene, the police charged her with "assaulting a police officer." Video obtained by Honi, however, shows no

had apprehended and bruised over a previous sexual assault report she had made to police.

By allowing law enforcement to management cannot guarantee students' emotional and physical safety. When questioned by *Honi*, the University failed to make any immediate or concrete pledges to prevent police from entering campus grounds or to reduce future police presence. A USvd spokesperson stated: "We share concerns about the aggression or resistance on her part. police response to the small and peaceful

Advertisements encouraging us to download the COVIDSafe tracking app and to dob in neighbours breaching coronavirus restrictions bombard our news cycle daily, alongside images of Australian Defence Force personnel in camouflage gear and face masks, signifying the realisation of technototalitarian state surveillance.

The strict bail conditions for the former of these two ACP members includes not attending "unlawful gatherings/ protests." Similarly, police have sent letters containing official warnings about attending further rallies to certain

culminated on 28 August in the most disproportionate police presence witnessed for a protest at USyd in recent memory. As the crowd at the National Day of Action education rally scattered, obeying police orders to disperse, riot police descended, fining attendees indiscriminately. A phalanx of horses left behind a shit-smeared Eastern Avenue. As Honi recently reported, and failing to social distance themselves. one police officer taunted a student he

as to why such an extensive police pay disputes and "sham contracting" presence and operation was deemed to be required, and the disturbing allegations about the treatment of one Police pressure on leftist organising of our students. We have offered to discuss options for different approaches, so we can try to avoid a similar situation occurring at future events... We were aware of plans for the protest on Friday but did not try to prevent it from taking place, and did not initiate contact with NSW Police about it." One attendee who requested anonymity expressed shock at the sight of ten to twelve riot trucks and mounted police in a place he normally associated

protest last Friday. The Vice-Chancellor

has written to the NSW Police Regional

Superintendent seeking an explanation

with "status" and "freedom of thoughts and expression". This was "jackbooted thuggery – authoritarianism in the most blatant and in your face form." Many believe police arrived at this rally with a predetermined list of targets, speaking to a siege mentality among politically-engaged youth. SRC Education Officer Jack Mansell has penned an opinion piece for Honi,

theorising that university management.

again collaborating.

2013, Honi uncovered emails between university staff and Newtown authority of the state or a need for police, obtained via freedom of excessive totalitarian measures. information laws. These emails indicated that university management stopped pointing fingers at protesters had worked with police to break the and stood against police brutality. picket line during staff strikes. Emails Continuing university support for police included an offer to Simon Hardman, - the shock troops of neoliberalism the Superintendent of Newtown perpetuates a model ill-suited to our Local Area Command, to go for a current crises.

Newtown police station and campus security is so entwined that Hardman was later employed as the Head of Campus Security and Emergency of homophobia plagued Hardman

That the university was set to host "Coffee with a Cop" sessions last year specifically intended for international students – a community especially vulnerable to police discrimination speaks volumes.

Our neoliberal state has broken up protests and platformed digital technologies including the COVIDSafe app, while leaning on contract tracing. private security firms and defence force personnel ill equipped for a public health crisis. These measures have a dual purpose. In some cases, they may improve public health. But they are also a smokescreen hiding the limitations of privatising hospitals and smaller government.

COVID-19 has exposed the idiocy of forever pining after a budget surplus glorifying austerity measures, privatisation and deregulation. Private security firms – and an industry rife with – are responsible for Victoria's hotel quarantine disaster, for instance.

It's lazy for state authorities to blame protests as hotbeds for COVID-19. This is a cop-out response. Despite Liberal Party politicians and conservative media outlets promulgating the narrative that active political organisers are reckless and self-indulgent, there is no evidence linking BLM protests in Australia to COVID-19, just as there is little to suggest that BLM rallies in the US have become spawning grounds for the disease. The National Bureau of Economic Research suggests, in a paper published in August this year, that BLM protests have not caused a spike in the number of American cases of COVID-19. Based on extensive research into 315 US cities, the study showed that urban areas with BLM protests concurrently saw a rise in social-distancing and stay-at-home behaviour. While neoliberal states platform individualism and the nuclear family, these facts expose yawning fissures in neoliberal architecture. campus security and police are once They indicate that socially-responsible citizens can self-organise and prevent a public health crisis without the express

It's about time university management

"milkshake." The relationship between Art by Lauren Lancaster.

On the persistence of racism on campus

Shania O'Brien drops the mic.

As an arts student who majors in have under their belt, or if they even politics and spends a lot of her time want to edit. Student politics maintains around circles who vocally claim to its obsession with the tokenistic and be progressive and anti-racist, I have superficial, all in the name of electoral experienced a lot of racism. If there were image and voting potential. And this a map of the university and a red 'x' to mark the spots where I have received unsolicited comments about my racial identity and English-speaking ability, the ink would bleed from Courtyard on to a very specific kind of Chinese Science Road all the way past Carslaw international student: rolling in money, Lecture Theatre 157 to Victoria Park, closets so full of designer clothes right opposite the SRC offices.

editor for Honi Soit two weeks ago. The pre-election negotiation processes were characterised by tense back and forth discussions that circulated around the same issue: "the ticket needs an for decades and the exploitation of international student," people would say repeatedly. "It's a very important base to cover."

"I am an international student," I responded every time. And every time, I got the same response: "oh, you know what I mean," or "oh, I meant a popular Chinese international student," or "oh, it's just how elections work."

It never seems to matter who these students are, how much experience they reductive attitude is blatantly racist.

The international student experience at this university has been homogenised. Representations of it have been limited and bags the doors barely close, a I was provisionally elected as an nonchalance that only comes with affluence. This stereotype is extremely harmful, ignoring that a more realistic portrayal would be a combination of hardworking parents who have saved international students in the workplace because of strict visa conditions. Not only do international students have to take a 24-credit course load every semester, but their working hours are capped at 40 per fortnight

Earlier in the year, SUDS put on a one-woman production. I was asked, twice, by people I considered closer than acquaintances, how I found being in a solo play. "No, I wasn't in it," I had

to say, "that was a different Indian girl."

"Oh, are you sure that's what they meant?" people ask me when I recount assumptions and ignorant questions [an experience of racism]. "But, they're like "did you learn English before you such a nice person!"

"You don't really look like an international student," someone once then?" Why are we not granted the told me in a politics lecture. "It's because nuance that domestic students are? But you're not Chinese. Wait, are you? You said you were Asian, right?"

That exchange was ignorant and offensive, but I am also tired of white Australians thinking every East or Southeast Asian person is from China. Every Asian country has a unique cultural heritage and distinct physical features, and 'Chinese' cannot be used as a blanket term.

On another, separate occasion: "I thought you were a domestic student because you speak English so well. It's a compliment!" Sometimes, I wish I had been brave enough to ask why the alternate was meant to be an insult, but the incredulous look I gave them instead seemed to suffice at that moment.

In my experience, international students are subject to a process of 'othering' that serves to alienate

community. The international student character is built on a series of empty came here?" and "how much money do you have in your bank account, more importantly, why do these things matter?

No matter how progressive one claims to be, racism is still racism even if it is latent. And it is the most insidious form of the beast, as it goes unchecked at every utterance. I am tired of having to explain to people how I did not go to high school in Australia, and am regularly appalled by how being told that I could "pass as a domestic student" is considered complimentary. International students deserve the dignity and humanity that is so easily ascertained by domestic students; they are more than ticks on an election ballot, more than what country they are from, and definitely more than the credit they

Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney

2020 Students' **Representative Council Annual Elections**



Election Notice

Elections for the positions of:

- Seven (7) Delegates to the National Union of Students
- Thirty-five (35) councilors for the 93rd Students Representative Council, University of Sydney

Polling will be held on

Tuesday 29th September 2020 Wednesday 30th September 2020 Thursday 1st October 2020

Register to VOTE!

In order to vote you will need to register as a voter prior to 6:00 PM Monday 28th September 2020.

To be eligible as a voter you need to be enrolled in an undergraduate course (degree or diploma). Students who have deferred their studies are also eligible to register as a voter.

Full details of how to register as a voter for these elections can be found at: srcusyd.net.au/elections

At this stage it is still proposed to conduct a form of in-person polling, and considerable work is being undertaken to obtain the necessary permissions required to do so. Full details of how and when to vote will be made available at a later date.

Authorised by G.Field, 2020 Electoral Officer, Students' Representative Council, University of Sydney p: 02 9660 5222 | w: srcusyd.net.au



How my housemate accidentally joined a cult

Llewellyn Horgan reflects on his friend's experience withthe Shincheonii church

may have joined a cult

gotten home from work when I noticed my housemate Alex sitting on our couch, a stunned look on his face. He often looked like this, so I paid it no mind. He had recently completed his law degree at the University of Sydney and was working 90 or so hours a week at a small law firm, so he often looked pretty shocked with the world and his place in it. However, it was clear that this night was a little bit different when he looked up and said:

a cult."

I dropped the onion I had just removed from the pantry. It was ruined because our kitchen floor was filthy. I felt rage at this cult for what it had apparently done to Alex and my onion.

looking strangers

In December 2019, with Christmas carols in the air, Alex had been walking through Central Station, returning home from his volunteering session at an Inner West legal centre. He was going back to the welcoming bowels of his sharehouse in the rarely talked about but often travelled past Wolli Creek, which he and I have the pleasure of cohabiting. He had been approached by a pair of hip young people. At first Alex had thought they were arts students doing some sort of street research. He had been ready to throw a shoe at them and run as fast as he could in the opposite direction, when they had asked him if he was religious. "Yes, I'm Catholic," he'd said, carefully putting his shoe back on his foot and lowering his leg. The hipsters invited him to come

Prologue: Where Alex thinks he was studying pharmaceutical science at UTS. Michael presented himself A few months ago, I had just as another new member of the study group, and quickly befriended Alex, often asking him about his faith and what he thought of the group.

After two months of attending

Part 2: Moving up in the cult!

the small casual get-togethers, Alex and the other new recruits were invited to complete a test, which basically asked them to declare their commitment to the course in writing. The test asked applicants to fill out what possible reasons "Llew, I think I may have joined there may be that would stop them from attending the classes, and then identify solutions to ensure that the group meetings were prioritised. Alex apparently passed this test, and was invited to attend large group sessions, held in an office building in Surry Hills. These sessions featured over 100 'students' studying in a large Part 1: Approached by cool study hall, with a lecturer speaking from a lectern at the front of the room. After the lecture, the room would be split into several smaller groups, each with a homeroom teacher to direct them through a digestion of the night's lessons. Alex soon found himself attending three 6pm to 9pm sessions a week, going there after PLT sessions and his volunteer work at a legal centre. He also found himself paying \$60 a fortnight in contribution, apparently for the space that the group rented. Regarding what he was taught these classes, and what their religious beliefs were all about, Alex

> "I think one of the fundamental principles they rely on is based on their interpretation of Genesis verses - that because Adam was tempted by the demon and betrayed God, God cannot dwell in the world

It appeared the group was trying to isolate him from his beloved friends, which was of course very hurtful for me.

along to a non-denominational bible anymore because God is perfect but study group they were holding. Alex always loved a good interpretation the world has been 'taken over' by of the bible, so he accepted.

The first few sessions were casual, and held in coffee shops

the world no longer was. Hence, demons because Adam has sinned." Heavy stuff.

around Central. There were three issues when the bible study group around 1am. It appeared the group enticing. Indeed, Alex had read other people at these meetups - leaders encouraged him not to tell was trying to isolate him from his enough on Reddit to realise that this also apparently new recruits for the his friends and family that he was beloved friends. I very rarely saw study group. These early meetings attending 'bible study groups.' He him around the house – which was try and convince members to rejoin would involve little more than chats was told to lie and to tell people also of course very hurtful for me. about faith, the bible, and their lives. that he was merely studying late, At these early meetups, Alex met or engaged in some other non- Part 3: Escaping a cult in the least be kidnapped and reprogrammed. a handsome young man named religious pastime. He was told that exciting way possible Michael who would say little else anyone who attempted to stop him

by a demon, and were trying to where Alex briefly forgot his own prevent him from receiving the word of God. Finally, it was stated that anyone who questioned any of the teachings was similarly possessed by some sort of a demon. There were a lot of demons around, clearly.

Alex kept attending the sessions because he figured it was still an opportunity to learn about some other points of view and make stronger connections around Sydney. Also, he hadn't gotten any more enticing offers from any other mysterious bible study groups, so he figured he couldn't be too choosy. amount of infamy this year due to Upon COVID-19 hitting Australia, its role spreading the coronavirus

name, he was lying in bed with a pounding headache and bloodshot eyes. Not being able to sleep, Alex googled some of the interpretations of the bible that the group had introduced him to (it was all around tree metaphors, and God having abandoned the earth to demons, if you're interested) and realised that he had inadvertently become a loyal and regular devotee of the Shincheonji church.

It turns out the Shincheonji church, which gained a reasonable four months after Alex first started in South Korea, and whose

He was told that anyone who attempted to stop him attending the sessions was possessed by a demon, and were trying to prevent him from receiving the word of God.

keep paying their fortnightly contributions. Alex, now a junior lawyer, offered to take a look at their rental contract and suggested that they might want to try to ask for a rent reduction, and seek legal advice. The study group leader shut this suggestion down with little explanation – a somewhat odd reaction for an apparently financially strained non-denominational study

Apart from this, the strain of attending nine hours of bible study session a week, on top of the demands of full-time legal work had begun to take its toll on Alex. The bible group was insistent that Alex not miss any classes. Although the now-online and social distanced classes were recorded, Alex was required to view the classes 'livestreamed' over Zoom while being supervised by the bible study group teacher. They were remarkably flexible and able to fit within his suspect that Michael was actually schedule, no matter the hour, so he a senior member of the group who soon found himself getting back had been planted at the lowest level from work at around 10pm, and to keep tabs on and help win over then watching a three-hour bible new members. Because of this, Alex Alex realised there might be some study class, and not getting to sleep did not find the offer particularly

Late one night, after an about himself other than the fact he attending the sessions was possessed interminably long study session.

attending the sessions, the bible leader believes himself to be the study group moved its study sessions second coming of Christ, has been online but asked that everyone recruiting innocent Sydney students for years and doing their utmost to indoctrinate them.

> Upon his discovery, Alex was briefly intrigued about joining a cult. However, after some consideration, rather than attempting to snag himself an all-expenses-paid trip to South Korea, he opted to instead send a message to all the church members whose numbers he had, saying that he'd realised the nature of the group and wanted nothing more to do with them. He then blocked their numbers.

> He thought that this would be the end of it, and was glad to have avoided being brainwashed. A few weeks later, he got a message from 'Michael,' his friend from the initial study group, texting from a different number. "I want to leave the group as well," Michael had written. "Will vou meet up with me so we can talk about it?"

> However, Alex had come to was a common ploy of the group to - he did not reply to the message, as he did not particularly want to Another innocent life saved by

Not just a girl's disease

Rhian Mourdant destigmatises men's eating disorders.

"Don't guys your age want to be bigger and not smaller?"

Many friends and family members asked me this question whilst I was in the midst of an eating disorder. I genuinely don't think they had bad intentions — most of the time it seemed as if people were just asking out of mere curiosity, whereas others used it as a way to encourage me to eat. Of course, if male attractiveness is largely determined by how physically strong one looks, why would a man actively strive to look weak and frail?

A large misconception surrounding people with eating disorders is that we are obsessed with our appearance, which is what propels us to go to such extreme lengths to alter our bodies. I never really felt that. Whilst my body dysmorphia somewhat warped my perception of my appearance, I was always cognisant that I was looking sicker and worse every day that I was ill. For me it was never about vanity, it was about control. When I was at my sickest I had been struggling with homophobic responses from certain to move. I pretended that I had already family members after coming out, in eaten to get out of events where I knew addition to being a victim of emotional food would be involved. I pretended and financial abuse. Unlike my to be allergic to certain foods so that

sexuality or finances, my weight was something that I had ultimate control over. However, on reflection I came to understand that it was never just about my weight and this obsession with control manifested itself in many different ways. I was studying to the point of exhaustion trying to control my university marks. I was checking my bank account numerous times throughout the day to ensure that I had control of my finances. I had reached a point where I was trying so hard to control everything that I ended up spinning out of control.

Ultimately though, the worst part of my eating disorder was the lying. I would constantly lie to my then boyfriend to try and cover up the fact that I was still struggling with my relationship to food. I would often ask myself: "who would want to date a man obsessed with something so narcissistic as weight?" Much like my eating disorder, my lies also developed in severity. I pretended that I was busy when I was actually in bed, too weak

told was. "I'm getting better."

no one ever believed my lies, especially him and we eventually broke up.

decided to get help. I was incredibly lucky to have had an incredible support network of family members, friends and medical professionals who made than what it could have been. As I was beginning to recover, I noticed that blaming on various medications, such as nausea, my low mood and lack of sex drive, were caused by my terrible myself returning back to my empty shell of a body.

My advice for recovery: don't get better for others, get better for yourself. At the start of recovery my goal was to take me back. Yet whilst that goal body image. motivated me to initially seek help, it wasn't sustainable. I truly started to have ever been was when I was at my see results when I focused on what I wanted to get out of recovery. I was

people wouldn't ask me why I wasn't 20 and had a neverending bucket list eating. However, the most fatal lie I of things that I wanted to tick off. I wanted the energy to finish my law I was oblivious to it at the time, but degree, land my dream job and keep on travelling around the world.

Whilst I was recovering there It was at that low point that I were so many YouTube videos and documentaries that I watched about eating disorders, though the overwhelming majority of them were from the perspective of wealthy, white, the recovery process a whole lot easier young women. On the rare occasion that there was a video about a man with an eating disorder, it centered most of the symptoms that I had been around the novelty of being a man with an eating disorder rather than focusing on their actual experiences. Whilst women are more likely to food habits. Although there were suffer from eating disorders than men, many difficult days, I eventually saw we must interrogate whether men are underrepresented in such statistics in part because we are too afraid to speak out.

It is imperative that we create space where men are free to express to simply 'get better' and beg my ex their struggles with eating and their

> I know for a fact that the strongest I weakest: it was when I asked for help.

Between two worlds

Chloe Jade Singleton reflects on her Fijian background.

Shaping my identity in my early twenties that it was a "useless language." has been difficult since I am currently dealing with this nagging feeling that my head whenever I ended up in I'm stuck between two worlds. I am known among my relatives as the "white girl in a black girl's body," since the way I speak and my mannerisms make me seem very foreign. At the same time, the Black Lives Matter movement and recent conversations surrounding race have also made me painfully aware of my unavoidable blackness. No matter how educated I am or how "white" I apparently act, I am still a black woman My dad makes a point to primarily and will still be seen as such.

Growing up in Australia, it has been hard to assert my identity as an ethnically Fijian person. Apart from attending Fijian churches when I was a kid, I have remained largely disconnected from the community. Whenever anyone asks me where I'm "really" from, the answer gets stuck in my throat. I may be born of Fijian parents, but I have no real connection to their homeland. As irrational as it Fijian identity. I have heard stories of seems, I don't feel comfortable claiming people in a similar position to me being an identity that doesn't belong to me.

goes back to language. Being understood that to be beautiful and inspiring, there my parents about this. I fear and being able to communicate helps aren't many resources to help me learn doing so would make me me to feel a stronger sense of belonging. the language in a way that will stick sound like I am ungrateful I was never taught Fijian, which didn't with me long-term, apart from a Fijian- for everything they have pose an issue in communicating with my English dictionary I've found in my given me. Their hard work parents since they were both educated house. in English. I've asked my parents many times why I was not taught the language, isn't the only way to engage with one's and I hope they know how but have received different answers over culture. I used to try to do this primarily incredibly proud I am of

This idea continued to play in situations where I was the only person who couldn't speak Fijian. A cousin of mine lived with us for a few years. Whenever he and my parents spoke the language to each other at the dinner table, it effectively locked me out of the conversation. It was hard to not feel like a guest in my own home. I know that it's never personal, but it was still a greatly upsetting and isolating experience. hear my mum speak more Fijian than English. The fact that she primarily speaks a supposedly "useless" language that I don't understand makes me feel

As one of the primary ways of maintaining a connection to one's heritage, the fact that I don't know the native language of my parentes makes me feel like I have no right to claim my able to reconnect with their cultures either. A great deal of this disconnection through language lessons. While I find

Nonetheless, I know that language able to live comfortably, the years. I was once told by my mother through religion, since Christianity them and of everything

is another strong pillar of Fijian culture. Though since discovering my bisexuality when I was 16, even that avenue feels compromised now. After the media storm concerning Israel Folau and his religious opinions concerning homosexuality, which most of the Pacific Islander community stands by, it is clear to me that I will face scrutiny and criticism from my family if I were to be open about my sexual orientation. It now also raises the question of whether I will be able to remain connected to my Fijian family in the future, or whether my identity and my values will further distance me from them.

Sometimes I fear I'm overthinking this, but these worries and thoughts still feel so real and tangible to me. I can't simply ignore them or pretend they're not important. I don't want to end up completely cut off from my family in the future. I love them and cherish them though maybe I will find a way to feel despite our differences. But continuing comfortable and secure in my identity to hide parts of myself means further cloaking myself in shame, and it's not might not know how that will work, but fair to continue to force that on myself I'm eager to figure it out.

is the reason why I am

they've achieved since moving here. I also fear that I might come off like I am blaming them for this, but I know there is no one to blame. I know that this also has a lot to do with the ways I think and make sense of the world, as well as how my parents raised me. I know that my parents love me wholeheartedly and unconditionally, even if they disagree with or don't understand some of my lived experiences, growing up here. I know that they've done the best that they could with what they knew, and I love them for that. I have become an honest and well-rounded person and a lot of that is thanks to them.

Part of it is wishful thinking. Even if I were to start intensively learning Fijian today, there's no way I can make up for roughly twenty years of cultural disconnection. I sometimes wish that things had turned out differently, whilst staying connected to my family. I



Rock & roll, riches and the Refectory

Matthew Forbes explores the history of live music in one of USyd's most suave yet sterile spaces.

There are bizarre elements within the 107-year-long story of the Holme Building's Refectory. The striking, slightly erotic murals on its back wall, for example, or the fact that their creator reportedly died for a few minutes during the process of creating the final mural. This grand hall has an eccentric flair and a history that links it to the more vibrant and unusual aspects of student culture. These elements are, unfortunately, not exactly reflected by what takes place there now.

The university-related functions that take place underneath its unsettlingly high roof are usually sit-down dinners, cocktail parties and balls. "The kind of USU events you have to google dress codes for," to quote Sam Langford's 2016 Honi article. But external events, such as weddings and receptions, corporate dinners and networking nights, are also common. This is all overseen by HostCo, a self-described "boutique catering and venue space nestled in quiet, picturesque gardens." The company sells itself through the 'elegance' and 'charm' of the various venues found in the Holme Building, the Refectory being the second largest of these.

My initial feelings towards the Refectory were characterised by a slight grudge regarding soundproofing. For students involved with the Dramatic Society (SUDS), The Refectory is best known for emitting the muffled yet consistently distracting noise that can often be heard from above during performances in the Cellar Theatre.

Usually, it's during a Saturday night wedding reception, throughout which the oh-so irresistible grooves of whatever wedding band is playing can be heard as they undoubtedly fill up the dancefloor with a slightly funk-oriented pop song. If there was one thing that SUDS' 2019 production of *Relative Values* needed, it was a cover of Robin Thicke's 'Blurred Lines' scoring the play's final act. With a corporatised, dolled up venue encroaching upon a dingy yet communal space of immeasurable significance to student culture, it's difficult not to see this situation as symbolic, and equally them were fans... Lloyd Swanton from

difficult to imagine anything fun The Necks says they were given a room happening there.

Hence my surprise late last year when I discovered that some of the most important figures from the Australian rock music canon - Midnight Oil, INXS, You Am I and Hunters & they weren't "at police attention." Collectors - had all played the Refectory on several occasions. Not only that, but international bands such as the Smashing Pumpkins, The Lemonheads and They Might Be Giants graced the venue's stage during their Australian tours. Raymond Ahn, bassist for the seminal Australian punk band Hard-Ons, describes the venue as "a legendary hub of university life, in terms of entertainment."

As a venue located within a university, the Refectory was part of a larger trend that was occurring at the time where oncampus venues were moved to the centre of the live music scene, both in Sydney and in other major Australian cities. Ex-Rolling Stone editor Toby Creswell says that a lack of venues in Sydney in the a "critical part" of the gig circuit.

"The university was kind of the only place where you could get much by way of cultural activity in Sydney," he says. "The student union ran everything they were obviously motivated towards the interest of their members, but also making a very vibrant culture. So venues at universities became an important part the middle of the day out on the Front

At that time, many Australian universities would have Entertainment Officers employed through their respective student unions. A "de facto" circuit, as Creswell describes it, involving on-campus venues was formed through communication between these Officers, space for shows that could be considered and became an important stepping stone for up-and-coming bands.

"Uni venues were regarded by musicians as being at the same stature as regular large capacity venues," says Amanda Brown, formerly of the Go-Betweens. She also notes how beneficial university campuses were for small acts. "A lot of local independent bands were hired because the students booking on the Refectory's status. "When it

at Sydney Uni to practise in for free. That sort of thing is unthinkable now."

The ideal nature of these campus venues was heightened by the fact that, as music writer Clinton Walker says,

"Uni gigs always had a great vibe because they were kind of... I hesitate to say 'safe spaces'... but they sort of

"It's such a different time for me to think about now," journalist Caleb Cluff says, reflecting on the notable lack of police presence on campus during his time at the University. "There were no security guards everywhere."

It's hard to imagine that now. Let's not forget the words of ex-Head of Campus Security, Simon Hardman in 2013 (when he was the Superintendent of the Newtown Local Area Command): police "do not require any invitation from the University management to enter the grounds and conduct police operations." If the current lack of live 1970s resulted in university shows being music on campus wasn't enough to indicate how much less exciting this campus has become since the 70s, the plans to introduce 'Coffee with a Cop' sessions last year certainly were.

Back then, the university was a cultural breeding ground; a campus with creativity oozing from even the most unlikely of places. Shows took place in Lawns. Tim Freedman, lead singer of The Whitlams, once witnessed Hunters and Collectors playing 'Throw Your Arms Around Me' in the Engineering Building (!) before its release.

The Refectory's visual splendour, size and acoustics made it the ideal "events" - such as the well attended 'End of Semester' shows - rather than the smaller "gigs" and band competitions that would take place at other spaces around campus.

Keith Welsh, the manager and a founding member of Icehouse (or Flowers, as they were known during most of his time in the band), reflected became a regular venue for rock bands, it became one of those points from an bigger, or they're able to play bigger shows."

The band played at the venue in August of 1979. "We probably would have been headlining that show because year, but with that song alone had we'd hit a point where our album was predated any recorded musical output coming out, things were going well... by UK punk rock contemporaries such we could feel a momentum."

sound. "So many places that we played would have a pretty loose idea of what a stage was – it could be something on milk crates."

The shows at the Refectory would at the venue in similarly high regard. often boast a 3-band bill, with headliners

needing to have some sort of substantial following. Up and coming bands or acts were far more likely to have their 'first discovered' moment elsewhere on

But that's not to say the Refectory wasn't enjoyed and remembered fondly by USyd students, indeed the opposite is true. Both Cluff and Ahn named a Go-Betweens show in 1987 as their favourite Refectory story. "It was around the time Robert Forster had taken to wearing slinky sheath dresses and channeling Prince," Cluff described. "Amanda Brown had joined. My friend Phil Garrett was rather taken by her stage presence, and there ensued a protracted long staring session between Amanda and Phil, which was not unnoticed by Robert. He stopped the gig between songs and with great headmasterly aplomb looked down his nose and pointed directly at Phil. Hilarious and beautiful, like the band."

Adam Spencer, former president of the USU, recalls seeing The Jon



Spencer Blues Explosion "tear the place apart on more than one occasion," as well as great performances from "real darlings of the indie scene," such as The Hummingbirds and The Clouds.

What could be considered as a 'watershed' moment for the Refectory came in 1977 on May 11, when Brisbane punk band The Saints played the venue with Johnny Dole & The Scabs supporting them. These were two of the artist's career where they're getting leading figures within the Australian punk scene, which was just burgeoning when this gig took place. The Saints had released their debut single, '(I'm) Stranded', in September of the previous as The Clash, The Buzzcocks and Sex The presence of a "proper stage" in Pistols, and launched the punk and the venue was a great assistance to the new wave movements in Australia. The band on the night, especially in terms of explosion of these movements were greatly assisted by the accessibility and inviting and relaxed atmosphere of oncampus venues.

Welsh holds the gig Flowers played

"Physically I remember the venue



being fantastic because it was packed, from various people.

As Welsh suggests, live music was met with a great deal of enthusiasm across campus – an enthusiasm which largely stemmed from the same question that propelled pub rock forwards during this era: what else was there to do? Often costing only \$4 or \$5, and in a convenient location for those who studied at the university, it was a perfect source of cheap entertainment at a time where there was little else of it – or any kind of entertainment – and an example of the unifying and energising effect of live music and legitimate student

"The whole idea of the audience being that into it – they were all ready to have fun," Welsh says, "and if the band was good... it was that wonderful symbiotic relationship between the audience and the artist where everybody winds one another up and things get

The social quality of these gigs, as Freedman remembers, was only enhanced by the presence of the Courtyard area (which, at the time, was essentially a set of wooden tables, rather than the open plan café current students know and love). Located just behind where the Refectory's stage would have been, it was "a great spot to escape noise, drink and talk."

And on that 'noise', one particular feature of the venue was the subject of differing appraisal amongst those who attended gigs there: the sound.

experience in this department was noth-"the room was built for there to be good

"I can recall our front-of-house guy used to be quite specific about trying to could only take so much." get the best sound everywhere, and I rein the room."

to have bands play quieter so that the sound could be 'pushed out the front' sounding room."

Ahn recalled seeing Sonic Youth at and, as those gigs used to be, it was just the venue and witnessing them go into fantastic, the response we would get a "free-form segment of their set where they were just playing anything they wanted, it was just pure noise, but it was blissful. Whoever was mixing them did

> However, without a decent crowd, as Freedman says, the same conditions that made the venue's acoustics optimal for larger gigs ("high ceiling, all hard surfaces") were its downfall.

> Putting it more bluntly, Creswell mentions that he "always found the sound to be really bad in there, it was a pretty horrible experience."

A particular gig highlighted this for him: in 1979, Skyhooks, who were "on their way out" by that point, played the venue to an audience of what he estimates to be around 12 people. Between the tirades that the band's bassist subjected their audience to, Toby noticed that "if you don't have a lot of people in that room, it just sounds terrible, it all bounces around."

This is, as former USU employee Alistair Cowie confirmed, at least part of the reason why the Refectory no longer hosts gigs. Manning Bar's multi-million dollar renovation and expansion, finished in 2000, turned it into an ideal, ready-made space for the kinds of gigs the Refectory was known for, but without the need for the expensive and tiresome process of loading in the stage, lights, sound, etc., nor the sound issues that that venue was perceived as having.

What's more, the safety of the considerably old, wooden-floored Refectory was, according to Cowie, ques-For Welsh, as mentioned before, the tionable. "I don't quite know what the capacity is, but I can assure you that the ing but positive, and he believes that capacity would have been exceeded in those days. I think I remember an INXS concert in there once that had maybe 8 or 900 people crammed in... the floor

As the heyday of the pub rock phemember him remarking that it sounded nomenon continued throughout the 80s, great that night, whether it's those old more venues began to emerge – specifiwood panels or whatever it was that was cally, venues that were more successful in meeting the criteria of the industry at Ahn stated that the 'blueprint' stratthe time, which Toby believes "was built egy employed by sound technicians was around how much beer you could sell."

While the decision to can gigs at the Refectory may not exactly be part of by the P.A. system. "With that tiny ex- a grand conspiracy involving the Unitra bit of reverb... it was a really-good versity's endless quest to ban fun, there were other factors at play aside from

those cited above.

Live music in Sydney has been experiencing what Clinton Walker labels a "death by a thousand cuts" for several decades now. Some of these "cuts" included regulations regarding the safety common as they are now). and noise levels of venues, and, of course, poker machines.

But the bigger blow to campus culture was the introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism and, subsequently, the USU's ACCESS program, in 2006. The reasonable budget that universities had allocated to cultural and social events before this was no longer seen as viable. Thus came a decrease in students' engagement in the campuses' cultural offerings.

Amanda Brown, formerly of the Go-Betweens, saw live music on campus as one of the "first casualties" of "the introduction of broader fees and the pressure to turn a profit rather than offer a well rounded education (including a vibrant campus social life)."

Going back further, a political shift occurred on campuses during the late 1970s and beyond. Creswell describes watching on "as this sort of conservatism started to sneak further and further least it would have been a packed one. into [the student body]". On-campus Creswell and Walker stressed the impor- – a symbol for the demolishment of an

of events that take place at the Refectory now aren't new. Graduation ceremonies, weddings, college functions - they were all happening during the day (though corporate events weren't as

Live music on campus is no longer the cultural force it once was. Of course, musical societies will organise their own performances, and take the stage during O-Week, though the collective organisation that was inherent to live music in the past is nowhere to be found.

The live music that does go on at Manning and Hermann's Bar feels distinctly separate from student culture. You'd be lucky to see any sort of substantial promotion of these shows from the student union that was once running

According to setlist.fm, the last gig to take place at the Refectory was as far back as April 7, 2000, when The Whitlams played there to a "full house." Tim recalled seeing the crowd through the large windows which line the venue's 'colonnade' while walking through there to get to the stage. If this was, in fact, the last gig to take place there, at

The birth of the idea behind this demonstrations decreased and an ac- article came from a perception of the tivist culture was "leached out." Both Refectory as a victim of gentrification

"I don't quite know what the capacity is. but I can assure you that the capacity would have been exceeded in those

tivism," says Walker.

But the Refectory was more separate from this culture than other venues on campus. It did not have the same grassroots agenda as, for instance, shows at the Tin Sheds, an art workshop near where the Wentworth Building cur-

The gigs that occurred in the Refectory weren't as frequent as other spaces, be thankful for that, at least. nor did they showcase that much by way of 'underground' music. The kinds Art by Jocelin Chan.

tance of this aspect of student culture to authentic student culture that has been the live music scene on campus. "Music replaced by corporatised schmoozefests was completely intrinsic to political ac- and boring cocktail parties for college kids.

In some ways, this is true. Yet, as Toby described it, USyd used to be a "melting pot university," and that is, perhaps, what the Refectory was actually symbolic of. It can still be said, though, that what the pot cooks up nowrently is that was completely run by stu- adays doesn't have as much spice as it

Maybe the Cellar Theatre's roof can





Unravelling the worst doomsday cult of all time

43.2k

📆 r/5September2020 Posted by u/ChuyiWang 6 hours ago \ominus 29 👺 29 💝 22 🍪 30 🕏 32

Unravelling the worst doomsday cult of all time

When one reads the word 'cult', all sorts of on September 5? images immediately spring to mind. Maybe through intense and intruding interrogation. Or, specifically of the 'doomsday' variety, and raptured listeners.

Behind all of these disparate images, however, a few things remain consistent: at least provide a compelling narrative for some kind of conspiratorial ideology, a fervent devotion to membership, a welldeveloped hieararchy of roles and a design à la Heaven's Gate. Not only is sure. clear collective goal of some kind. The 5 the landing page for the group objectively September 2020 'cult', which originated on fugly, but there barely exists a backstory the internet late last year, has none of these features. In fact, it's such an absurd and hilarious failure of a doomsday effort that it you'll get are vague phrases like 'the man could hardly be called a cult at all. And it's in blue flames' or 'The Organisation is not to something that could only have originated be trusted.' Dig any deeper as to why the from the circlejerky silliness of Reddit.

While the subreddit does seem to have some loose ties to real-world cultlike project in Portland, Oregon - revealed misfortune? through investigative videos by YouTubers Nexpo and ReignBot - the actual online doomed to collapse is due to its lax hold space is anything but enigmatic. Navigate on constituency. Being a public subreddit, there now and you'll find a webpage well and truly taken over by shitposters and account and begin posting. Though there 14-year-old memers trying their best to are rules against offensive and unrelated

Yet, despite such fervour in the group's it's occult symbols and men in long red early days, 'truthers' are all but an robes, like you'd find in *Resident Evil 4*. endangered species on the page these days. Perhaps it's a Scientologist auditor, slowly Any posts actually discussing doomsday are drawing out experiences from past lives quickly shut down by an endless barrage of copypastas and *nice cock bros*.

So, where did 5 September 2020 fail? it's a crazed pastor auguring the downfall of For one, there is almost zero mythology human society to thousand of devoted fans or recognisable iconography that establish the cult's identity. For a doomsday cult to have any kind of attractive power, it should why the world is ending at a particular time, preferably dressed up in kitschy graphic the members of 5 September, that's for for the apocalypse that was supposed to happen last week. The most in-depth lore group formed in the first place, and you'll hear roughly the same: that 'some dreams' that any believers still sticking around are happened to 'coincide' leading to 'an omen' behaviour and a strange performance art about ... last Saturday being filled with

One other reason 5 September 2020 was year. any user can simply register an anonymous scrounge up a Gold award from their peers. content listed in the sub's sidebar, they That's not to say that the cult never are utterly unenforced due to a lack of had dedicated followers at one point. moderation. The result? The subreddit now Scroll back far enough and you'll find all sits at almost 14,000 members, 85% of the fun and schizophrenic hallmarks of which are probably trolls jumping aboard aggrandising doomsday paranoia. Photos of what promises to be a hilarious trainwreck. canned pineapples expiring on September Without a tightly controlled information 5? An email from a telephone company stream, even those hypnotised by the stating that there would be disruptions on promise of apocalypse will soon have to September 5? QAnon-like rants about the come to grips with the fact that their global cabal kicking off the next world war discussion page for survival tips and end-

times portents is instead being used to share *monke* memes

But perhaps most embarassingly of all, 5 September 2020 is a doomsday cult without a clear idea of what doomsday even looks like. In the sparse communications sent out by the group's de facto leaders, the sketch shifted from world-shattering apocalypse, to localised cataclysms across the United States, to the final admission early this year that the world was in fact 'not ending' but rather 'many bad things will happen that day'. What sorts of bad things? How bad? And how many? Who knows! Certainly not

Thus, despite its lofty ambitions to connect those across the world that had received an omen in their dreams and create a tight-knit community of survivors, 5 September 2020 set itself up for failure from day one. Now that the augured date has come and passed without so much as a stubbed toe for most, it's safe to conclude probably thinking about abandoning ship, or selling off the thousands of dollars of survival gear they've accrued in the past

EDIT: The lesson to be learned is this: in order to make a successful online doomsday cult, you're going to need a cool logo. Maybe hire Dave Rudnick to do some lettering for you, and commission Keith Rankin for some surrealist artwork. Next, set up a tiered list of roles, vaguely sci-fi sounding. The Elites do all the dreaming, and the Grunts do all the recruiting. Keep membership highly exclusive and locked behind an interview that participants must study for. Finally, market the hell out the apocalypse. Consider hiring an e-girl on TikTok to dance to your cult's original hyperpop song. You'll get there.

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- sep5truther 3.6k points 2 hours ago
- Lmaooo wait you seriously didn't hear? The new date is 5 September 2024 hahaha I can't believe you would write such a salty rant when you literally got the date wrong? Maybe don't criticise us if you haven't bothered keeping up to date on the omens.
- gdeleuze 102 points 2 hours ago
- Join the new subreddit r/5September2024 please

2 more replies

19 more replies

MB: Yes, that makes sense. head, especially at fifteen. My dad was

In conversation with Miro Bilbrough

Sarah Jasem talks to the New Zealand writer about her new memoir.

Miro Bilbrough is a New Zealand born Immersion and the unknown-that's writer, poet and filmmaker. Her new the emotional world. By the time I memoir, In the Time of the Manaroans, left University in the eighties, where reflects on a distinct mythological milieu of the seventies, a self-adopted group of commune dwellers hailing life, where to make a narrative that from a small remote bay and farming community of Manaroa, New Zealand. The inspiration behind her 2003 film Floodhouse, she joined her father in eighties where I acknowledged that the isolated rurality at the delicate age of audience was largely in the cinema for fifteen. The Back to Land movement the emotional experience. Reintegrating and nature and nudity became part that knowledge enabled me to start of her teenage years, alongside water my working life as an artist. Having from the Wakamarina River flooding the house where 'nature encroached so on won't give you a narrative, won't you could see the sky through chinks in the walls boards'. It was a time and place now gone, distinct and extinct, Bilbrough remarks, but despite leaving the Manaroans, it is easy to see the tides of that time have stayed alive in Bilbrough's veins. She was eventually, albeit briefly, a Manaroan herself.

Sarah Jasem: You're a filmmaker, a published author and poet, teacher. Yet heat in it to last. To make a feature film elsewhere you state quite simply, 'I am that lasts for seven years for example, so a filmmaker.' I was wondering how do you navigate all of those identities, do they feel discrete at all?

Miro Bilbrough: My spontaneous response to that would be that they all talk to each other, that they are all part of the same changing thing that is the self. Sometimes, it's a case of needs must, or you find an idea that suits a certain medium, so you switch to that medium without even necessarily consciously thinking about it. The idea may present itself and it's a poem, or it presents itself and it's a memoir. Having said that, I did do a film that was very I think as nearly everyone does. I much like the precedent for the memoir.

SJ: Floodhouse (2003)? MB: It was Floodhouse, yes. It's completely polymorphously perverse,

they're completely entwined with each **SJ:** You say that there's a back and forth in your work across different forms, a poetic dialogue. What are the topics of conversation you feel you've so desperate to make it that I don't arse been having in this dialogue across your

Manaroans?' **MB:** I think if I too clearly identified that conversation, and was too conscious rebellious. I didn't want to apply for and analytical about it, I would no longer be interested in it. I am fascinated by mysteries, incompleteness, things that are only semi-visible, contradictory or paradoxical, and that sounds abstract but it's not. It's the way I encounter experiencing other people. So, a lot of my work is nutting out and not arriving at answers, but enjoying immersing myself in complications, the unknown, other people- because other people

an unknown deep.

postmodernism was at its height, I felt embarrassed by having an emotional was fired by strong emotions was somehow a shameful thing to do. However, there was a point in the late complex or powerful feelings to work help you technically, but it gives you something that can hopefully stay alive, something you can keep making contact with, even though its ephemeral, for the lifetime of you making the work.. Identifying that material that you have emotional stakes in, that's a big deal. It doesn't come around that often for me, so I wouldn't say that I'm super prolific, because it's like coal, it must have some you need to be able to keep fanning the flames. We have moved from water to fire weirdly!

SJ: In your work you focus a lot on travel.What made you want to travel back to that part of your life in the seventies, and why now?

MB: The simple origin of this book was as a palate cleanser. I came out of finishing a creative Doctorate of Arts, so I had just written a 30,000 word exegesis. It's a highly circumscribed space, language and series of protocols which I struggled to write within, came from a background as a creative writer, so there was a bit of a pressure cooker environment for me, in that just a different way of skinning the my relationship to language was really same cat... I would say the poet, the under fire. When I came out of it, I filmmaker, the memoirist, they are think I just craved an open space to write in again, where I was deciding and regaining my language, whatever that might be. I probably wrote 10,000 words in a week. I have periods where I work within institutions, so by the time I get to go back to my work, I'm around . I said to my partner, coming work and now in 'In the time of the out of the doctorate, "I'm not going to be anybody's bitch." I was unemployable, stone broke, and suddenly felt money, I didn't want permission. It was probably quite an angry phase? Which was great, because it was energizing, to discharge it all after pushing right to the edge of myself, working obsessively to get it done. It was a cleanse.

> **SJ:** Like a pent up desperation to start something new.

MB: Exactly, except the desperation stops as soon as I start again, then it's quite joyful really. I just sat down and are always the unknown - and aspects just started writing the first pages of of the self. Irrational behaviors and the book, which are still the first pages. inconsistencies. As soon as a position It turned out to be a piece about my is identified or something is clearly father, going to live with him at fifteen articulated and resolved, I can't really years old. I haven't really analysed why. work there. There's no work for me to If we are living in a fast time now, it was a slow time then, pre-digital, pre-**SJ:** I can see that within some of the internet My family all cohabited while imagery in your films. There's a lot of living very intensely in our heads, inside imagery of women coming in and out a space which allowed us to do that, of murky water, being submerged into which was kind of a blessing and a hell. It always is, when you're inside your

to live with him as a child of separated parents, so we all had a lot to process. I also felt that when I wrote Floodhouse, there was a lot of unfinished business. whole #MeToo phenomena erupted, and as early as 2007 I remember always being in film schools with women and sexuality. II wanted to speak about it the trials, the missteps, the traps and been accruing delicately, subliminally in the back of my mind and it was ready. You don't have a lot of say in that.

in nature with creatures alike. There's Virginia Woolf's, 'On the death of the moth,' she views the moths' activities say you view your characters with pity or empathy?

MB: I hope not pity. To me, pity implies superiority to the characters. I out of pity is problematic. Empathy - that's the writer's job, unless you're cultural anomaly. There's been nothing writing satire. That's how you get to and get under their skin. With pity, played and the weather. you'll collude with them and be blind to their complicity and their flaws.

SJ: How did you turn that empathy onto vourself?

MB: It's always very hard to write much out there? yourself as a character. Often my characters are an eve on a scene, a witness, and maybe that's the artist's character, I'm not sure. You have to occupy all your characters at some point to write anything that comes out of their mouth Once, a woman in the audience rubbing words together on the page and in Heidelberg, Germany, said 'the men in your films are all like colorful birds. They're exotics, they have no truth to I always believe that you should make them!' I, of course, bridled at the time, but she was possibly pointing out that early days of my film career, I found the they weren't as occupied. Maybe they were support characters.

SJ: It's interesting that you lived in a state of freedom surrounded by nudity and nature, but at the same time, it was available by ordering from your local hard to negotiate your sexuality as a young girl.

hippie movement wasn't necessarily after in Australia. (Bilbrough suggests feminist. Although there were plenty Bob Dylan's albums 'Blood on the of strong women around asserting their point of view, there was plenty of sexism too. Those paradoxes are always at work. I think whenever you get a tribe

iust newly divorced, so he was inside or a group of people strongly espousing his head and my sister had just come one value or set of values, there's usually going to be a subtext or an unconscious area that might be in defiance of the conscious position. I was also a child amongst adults, so negotiating I also started writing just before the sexuality in a world where everyone's older than you is problematic. It was a libertarian kind of set up. Everyone was reluctant to enforce rules or laws, girls under twenty who were leaving so in that dismantling of decorum, home and suddenly negotiating their taboo and etiquette, invariably some of it backfires. There were women living on the commune who were more the exploiters, filtered through my own consciously influenced by American experience. That strong impulse had seventies feminism, but I wouldn't say that was the governing ethos. It's kind of complicated.

SJ: I guess in reading the book we **SJ:** In your films, your characters live can experience the complexities at play.

MB: Yes, and the book, it's definitely a creature in Floodhouse that flutters not an essay. It's a series of portraits, within a windowpane, the moth. In and a self-portrait running under that, often quite indirectly.

SJ: It's amazing that the place you with 'a simple kind of pity.' Would you left at fifteen had such an impact on

MB: I think that probably anyone that lived at Manaroa feels like that. It functioned almost outside of a monetary prefer the word empathy. I think writing economy, because of its isolation, which meant we were actually very poor. A like it for me since and nor was there attempt to occupy another's perspective before, right down to the music that was

> SJ: What would you suggest to students who want to have autonomy over their own creative life, in this digital era when there is already so

> **MB:** Getting it out in the world is hard but first and foremost, you make creative autonomy in the relationship between you and your materials. Investigate, find it, play, have fun. Some of the most pleasure I have in life is that's total creative autonomy there. Getting published is another matter, but work for yourself first, invisibly. In the right people and I think that enabled me to make the work I wanted to make.

In the Time of the Manaroans is bookshop, FROM Gleebooks and Victoria University Press from the 10th MB: It was still patriarchal. The September in New Zealand, and shortly Tracks,' and 'Desire,' as the unofficial soundtrack to the memoir.)

Art by Prathra Nagpal.



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BTS' 'Dynamite' — Western pop or paradigm shift?

Zara Zadro on BTS' rise as symbols for a transnational identity of youth and optimism

BTS' latest single 'Dynamite'— a performance, glossy aesthetics, and glittering funk fiasco released August breaking release this year since March's produced 'idols.' album 'Map of the Soul: 7.' The group currently dubbed the biggest boyband in the world became the first Korean act to top the Billboard Hot100 songs chart on September 1, outselling the next 49 songs in America combined with the chart's like 2017-18's 'Love Yourself' series, biggest first-week debut in 3 years. But 'Dynamite' is also BTS' only all-English release, sparking controversy, not for the first time, over whether the group has been 'Westernised' by their global fame.

I believe that, far from conforming to the standards of Western pop, 'Dynamite' consolidates BTS' status as a global cultural phenomenon.

'Dynamite' is a serotonin boost in music video form. Think 70s flare pants and pastel diners, 90s streetwear and choreography reminiscent of Michael Jackson's Billie Jean. Though 'Dynamite' has no singular visual style, era, or musical genre it pays tribute to. the message is clear; as darkness looms, we must resist by "light(ing) it up like dynamite."

For the group, whose main message, if at all condensable, is one of authenticity and resistance; 'Dynamite' may just be a quintessential BTS song. (At least, since they began dishing out brighter, poppy-er title tracks with 2017's 'DNA'). That's with one exception; it contains no Korean.

But for BTS, so-called 'Western validation'— competitiveness in the American pop market as a measure of success— has never been the objective. Originating from a small, previously bankrupt company outside K-pop's Stone." 'Big 3' (YG, SM, and JYP), the rise of BTS has triggered a shift in the K-pop industry. More than 'music in Korean,' K-pop was born with 1992 act Seo Taiji and the Boys, the first to combine hip-hop and youth-focused political messaging with Korean popular music.

line of staggeringly high-quality dominant in Western pop, Dynamite is receive such.

in-house musical production style, as 21— marks the septet's second record- entertainment companies trained and

> Debuting in 2013, BTS, though undeniably a product of this industry, diverged by writing most of their own song lyrics encoded with socially conscious and political messages, actively using social media, and talking year to top the Billboard 200. openly about their struggles instead of maintaining a polished image. The comparison to K-pop's fathers is hardly and fused cultural content. Rather than imagined; the group covered and even performed with Seo Taiji in 2018.

Credit to this organic ascension, BTS have refused to create English music to appease a Western market in recent years; "We don't want to change our identity or our genuineness to get the number one," said leader RM in a 2019 interview when the topic was raised.

'Dynamite' surprised followers of BTS, English lyrics simply "fit the melody a little bit better," member V explained at the recent press conference. "Dynamite is a song that can lift anyone's spirits," added Jimin.

I'd add that, rather than compromising BTS identity or cultural impact, Dynamite symbolises their semiotic disruption of the Western pop

In Dynamite's first scene, main vocalist Jungkook dance-improvs in denim-on-denim around a bedroom plastered with the Beatles and David Bowie posters, like the star of an 80s American drama. Shooting the camera a cocky side-eye, he sings, "King Kong, kick the drum, rolling on like a Rolling an expression encoding joy originating

revival. One Forbes article says it's "crafted specifically to be a charttopper." Yet it's also, undeniably, K-pop. From perfectly synchronised choreography, to designer-brand outfits and infectious melodic hooks, to looks

Dynamite exudes Western retro-

no exception to K-pop standards.

But the single's successes also represent the emergence of a new cultural identity unique to BTS, who sold out Wembley stadium last year (one of only 10 artists to ever do so the only in 90 minutes), and matched a feat achieved by only the Beatles and the Monkees when album 'Map of the

BTS have consistently decontextualized devaluing cultures, this task equalises them. Adapting texts and styles from Western canon while consciously rewriting the metanarratives embedded within them is a prominent part of BTS'

'Dynamite's disco sound, instance, actually originates from the 70s American disco subculture formed of Black, Latino and LGBTQIA+ people. It's not the first BTS song to reference elsewhere; 2016's 'Blood Sweat & Tears' video mixes biblical imagery with Hesse's 1970 novel Demian. 2019's hiphop hype track 'Dionysus' pays tribute to the Greek god of wine and festivity while referencing Korean folk song 'Ongheya.

In fact, reworking elements of Korean culture is something BTS have done since debut, from older songs like 'Paldogangsan' and 'Baepsae,' to 2020's 'Daecwhita,' or 2018's 'IDOL'. In 'IDOL,' BTS wear gat and modernised hanbok (traditional Korean dress-wear), and weave in elements of traditional korean culture, like 'ulsoo,' from traditional pansori performance. As academic Sujeong Kim has stated that "it is not because the Korean-style attraction helps spur the popularity of BTS but because BTS' popularity helps spur the Korean-style attraction."

BTS was awarded a fifth-class cultural merit by South Korea's president in Yet throughout the 2000s, K-pop that transcend the aesthetic binaries 2018 for spreading Korean culture pop-cultural history, other K-pop acts metamorphosed into an assembly- of masculinity and femininity still to the world— the only K-pop act to

Like Dynamite's English lyrics, this re-contextualisation of Korean and Western traditions displaces the power hierarchies and divisions that have long defined East-West cultural interactions.

"Rather than be recognized as the rise of a genre or the rise of K-pop as a genre, I would like more talented Korean artists to be better known Soul: Persona' became their third in a around the world," said Member SUGA in a 2019 Grammy interview, Throughout their seven-year career alluding to generalisations and stigmas surrounding the K-pop world.

What's more, BTS proves not only the commercial success of this task, but how 'soft power' can re-focalise Eurocentric lenses of globalisation and capitalism through legions of devoted

A 2018 report found that 1in 13 tourists come to South Korea because of BTS — roughly 800, 000 people. BTS accounts for \$4.65 billion of South Korea's GDP, putting them in the same league as Samsung and Hyundai.

Riedel also writes, "K-Pop shows that not everything related to globalization is about homogenization or Americanization," as social media adjusts the tastes of global fans.'

Many argue BTS' success should be treated separately from K-pop due to their divergence from industry norms. But answering such a question becomes difficult when those norms are shifting in real-time, as producers seek to mirror BTS' global popularity and the industry recognises the consolidation of a new 'idol' image. New groups including ITZY and Stray Kids are pushing songs about self-love and personal struggles and there is more artist involvement in songwriting.

However, it's safe to say the septet, with their new world records, remain untouchable for now in their pastelhued bubble of flashing disco lights.

'Dynamite,' despite being an all-English song, is just the next step in BTS's journey. As they rewrite Western will likely follow in their footsteps. Art by Shrawani Bhattarai.





Locking down and levelling up with Duolingo

Baopu He thinks language-learning apps might have the edge on uni.

Earlier this year, I wrote an article about how you shouldn't learn a language at if there was a better way to study a university. In it, I argued that while learning a language is an enriching French and promptly enrolled in classes intellectual endeavour, studying one at the Alliance Française. But given the at university probably won't make you fluent, so those thinking of doing it should go in with tempered expectations. Much of this was based on my own experience of studying Japanese at USyd. Never would I have guessed that this article would be the most controversial thing I've ever

"This is such a poor take. I've finished Japanese 2 and I have some ideas of how to express my daily thoughts pretty simply in Japanese" one comment reads. A particularly angry reader even sent a letter to *Honi* warning them against posting "one-sided articles" like the one I had written as it would "dissuade people from studying what they're more to "Duo," the little green owl really passionate about." One comment that did stick with me though was from someone asking where else you would learn a language if not at university? Of course, immersion is the best way to go, but not everyone has the luxury of time you complete a level on it. Though or money to move to a different country many people who have tried Duolingo

So I took it upon myself to see language. I decided to start learning lockdown which happened afterwards, I soon had no choice but to go with Duolingo. Much maligned as nothing more than a technological gimmick, I was initially skeptical of how useful it would be. Little did I know that it would soon become the only thing keeping me sane during lockdown. Like most people, I struggled to maintain any sort of routine while stuck at home. Duolingo was the only thing keeping any semblance of structure to my days. I would try to spend at least twenty minutes a day on it, give or take a little depending on how busy I was with my studies. Some days, caught in the depths of lockdown despair, I felt like I spoke mascot, than I did to anyone else.

More than 160 days have passed since I started learning French on Duolingo. I know because the app keeps a streak counter for everyday report finding it hard to stay motivated

enough momentum around day 30 that I now feel anxious if I don't do my daily the fear of losing my streak. Other times it's the simple joy of seeing my name overtake others on the in-game leaderboard. Reflecting on this, I realise that I've spent more time studying French on Duolingo in five months consistent approach to my university out of it. That said, there are parts to

Duolingo that I genuinely prefer over in-class learning. The freedom to learn at your own pace, and the ability to Language. This is around where I would get immediate feedback are obvious be after a year of studying French at ones. More importantly, the underlying pedagogy it uses to teach languages suited my learning style much better. Traditional language learning often revolves around learning rules or fluent solely from using it. But for a free vocabulary and then doing exercises so application, I'd say it's pretty impressive. they stay in your memory. Children on the other hand learn their first languages

and continue learning, I had built up very differently — they aren't formally taught it, they just hear it so many times that it becomes second nature to them. Duolingo. Not all of my motivation has Duolingo is somewhat similar to this. been out of pure linguistic curiosity, It doesn't give you much guidance in admittedly. Sometimes the only thing terms of grammar rules or vocabulary, compelling me to open up the app is and instead encourages you to develop an intuitive understanding of what they are yourself through repetition. After doing lots and lots of exercises, linguistic patterns become clear to you even though you've never actually learnt what they are. And because than I ever did in two years of studying you've actually had to make these links Japanese at USyd. Had I taken the same yourself, they're much harder to forget.

So how's my French? Well, there are language studies, I might have got more eight levels in Duolingo and I'm about to start level five. After doing a whole heap of online diagnostic tests, it seems that I won't have any problems passing the first level for the Diploma in French university. Of course, Duolingo still has it's problems. It's not the best at fostering listening or speaking skills, and I don't think it's possible to become

Cottagecore, colonialism and the far-right

Claire Ollivain takes a look at the darker side of our obsession with picnics and cottages.

It is hard to deny that there is something flower-covered cottages, home-made bread and hand-picked mushrooms that proliferate across 'cottagecore' social media. I have always felt the appeal to this aesthetic; it evokes comforting memories of reading fairy books with my grandmother, watching Studio Ghibli films and dreaming of running away to the woods as a child. The shared desire many of us have for a stronger connection to nature and a simpler way of living speaks in some ways to an anti-capitalist sentiment, but darker political history which we should be vigilant of.

Cottagecore's fantasy of escaping to an idyllic life on a farm has roots in the cultural division of the urban and the rural. While the modern city has been constructed in discourse as a site of degeneracy and moral decay, rural life has been imagined as a more 'natural' and wholesome way of living. This is a common right-wing dog whistle. Visions of national identity and traditional, patriarchal gender relations capitalism across the continent. are often grounded in a mythology of of the 'white race.'

"regurgitate white supremacist talking soothing about the images of cosy, points" by equating rural life with a perfect past, glorifying the domestic role of women and insisting that it is "wholesome by definition." This is just one of many examples where people have used cottagecore's base of women and queer people as a shield from recognising its problems.

A common criticism of cottagecore not only as an aesthetic but as a practice is that people's attempts to live out the fantasy are connected to the legacy of homesteading and farming on stolen Indigenous land. In the United States, the romanticisation of the pastoral has a the Homestead Acts accelerated colonial expansion by providing an incentive for mostly white settlers to populate what was considered large "empty spaces." Almost 10% of the total area of the US was given away by the government for free, which led to the coercion and forced displacement of Indigenous peoples from their lands and onto reservations. American settlers sought justification for genocide in the cultural belief of 'manifest destiny' - a moral mission to spread democracy and

the rural. This distinction is also heavily settler's attempts to dominate the racialised; immigration to cities has "harsh and unyielding" bush has cottagecore accompanied by feelings been met with fears of the deterioration been mythologised as the essence of disgruntlement with modern of a national identity that is rugged, life, some have expressed concern Social media users who are sceptical masculine and anti-authoritarian. In that Neo-Nazis are exploiting it of cottagecore have observed that Fears and Fantasies: Modernity, Gender, as a recruitment base targeting those who uncritically embrace the and the Rural-Urban Divide, Kate people who already accept "white, aesthetic will often romanticise settler Murphy writes that the glorification westernised beliefs about nature." colonialism, many without realising of the bushman was a projection from Is it possible then, to separate it. In a Tumblr thread titled 'time to urban literary communities, bearing on cottagecore as an aesthetic from stop tagging cottagecore alongside settler anxieties that the failure of the its ambivalent connections to the solarpunk,' one user observes that in population to spread itself across the rural-urban divide which has been

of invasion. While cottagecore conflicts supremacy and colonialism? Ideology providing a fantasy of women and queer people in rural space, it is nevertheless with it the colonial assumption that

aren't consulted. A common response to these criticisms is that they don't apply in European nations which haven't been colonised. Yet, the nostalgic romanticisation of an agrarian lifestyle of eco-fascist rhetoric in recent years. also has historic associations with fascism. The parallels between the Nazi 'Blood and soil' idealisation of rural values and the aesthetics of cottagecore online spaces. As one twitter user has divert us from the important work of commented, "I love cottagecore but I always have to check if I'm reblogging Art by from Nazis." Regardless of the leftwing political leanings that many of us who enjoy cottagecore might have, its similarities with the aesthetics Similarly, in so-called Australia, of white supremacist propaganda is alarming. With the rising popularity of

another's defense of cottagecore they rural landscape would put them at risk historically underpinned by white

with these masculine, patriotic myths by is effective because it doesn't always present itself as such; what might appear to be a wholesome utopian a projection of the urban and carries ideal can obscure a history of genocide, theft, and violence. For many who are land is "up for grabs." An aesthetic that fond of cottagecore, these horrors are promotes a life of self-sufficiency in a far cry from fields of flowers and rejection of the city carries with it the gingham picnic blankets. Whether or danger of encroaching on Indigenous not we choose to continue enjoying the country when Traditional Owners aesthetic – and I'm not calling on anyone to pack away their floral cardigans into boxes – it is important that we are aware of its historical precedents and how it might be weaponised by the far-right, particularly given the rise Fighting for Indigenous liberation and being conscious of whose land we are on is something we should all strive to do and we must be open to criticism: has led to some startling cross-overs in lest we allow our escapist fantasies transforming reality.









A weary accountant's view of a day in the city

Words by Angad Roy



Pre-dawn

Electric gaze transferral from cyber tap-tap-tap through long night seen through faint lights peeking inside reinforced windows, and onto the real end-of-night hand-in-hand with realday (dawn), walking beside churning rubbish trucks groaning along roads like tanks with emphysema. Walk beside the menacing, big-bodied mechanic lumps and it's hoarse cough flushes one back into a non-cyber presence, free and flushed, free and flushed from the whirlwind of numbers and monitors and the deadening reflection of the face in said monitor or all monitors – it may as well be fragmented for the night-dawn identity of a plick plocking accountant is nothing more than an identity divested into screens and taps and the obscene figures for the people of means sitting in hefty watchtowers built by the sweat and the fissures of of machinery beautifying and modern windows of the tower glisten... pre-arthritic fingers. Soon enough, the (tourist)-ising the city... slow gurn of the emphysema truck waddles away and a shitty black uber replaces it. Sit in the car and murmur a half-language caught between the verbal and the numeric and drift off to sleep in the one-hour drive home to the suburbs. trying not to suffocate on the odorous stench of a 24-hour cigarette smoke fest and to faint as the lights of the office building and other buildings transform from mere flickers to a hogwashing, intensity as the car skittles away...

Morning

Wynyard cave. Cramped like thousands

hold of sweaty bodies. They wade out in a similar way when the doors decide to be begot. In the less civilised or the more modernised Sydney trains the standing trip is a test of strength and patience, and an unfriendly descent back into the acute finger-strained and eve-strained confines of tall towers. The eventual escape from the snaking Wynyard cave off the platform and through to Barangaroo greets the face with a much-needed dose of fast-paced, fresh air complementing the shimmering blue waters of the Harbour flashed across generic tourist leaflets that the emphysema truck usually picks up in its loud churn. Lines snake out from coffee shops and acrid coffee smells drift between clean fingers or covert cigarette fingers plonking away on phones. The aggressive, caterpillar-leg like flurry offsets the invisible movement of gargantuan cranes and the roaring wall

... that enlivens at the midday rush between lunch breaks and between shopping and between quick snapshots taken beside seagull shit and seagull swoops. The salmon poke bowl with a generic tasting mayonnaise and chilli that wasn't ordered but is too spicy to be a mistake is the most colourful

day but even that must give way to the of spirit or soul from a corporeal to nutrient filled, non-chemicalised mode other less tangible forms of existence." of sustaining the brain and the focus. Look into orange, migrate to dawn or Everything lives in fast forward but not night or see the smiling recesses of the one that sweeps by like trees in a fast car. It is instead a quickness that resembles that of a shit popcorn movie watched absent-mindedly and one which sits in the mind with a heaviness catalysed by the regret and dissatisfaction that one and evaporate to one times three x just spent two hours watching it. The six seven eight eleven point zero three lunch time rush amalgamates with the pre-dawn and the morning and with the upcoming soup o'clock and night and leaves the weary accountant living in the gunk of a two-hour popcorn movie of The Rock's pecks on endless repeats Night for 24 hours a day, and 21 not 7 days a week. The watery mayonnaise at the bottom of the poke bowl quakes in reaction to the walk back to the office and after throwing it out, the rays of the sun bouncing off the freshly cleaned

Soup o'clock

... as the afternoon sun rays at soup o'clock slant across the water of Sydney Harbour. The fatigue at soup o'clock is the worst part of the day as the tired ears. Sit back momentarily away realisation dawns that while the other from the computer and see the pieces of salad-eaters and shopping-eaters will head home or to bars for fun beers and everywhere and screens and their other emancipatory post-work events, contents increasing in acceleration and the changes in the gradients of the sky the little pieces of lettuce even giving swashbuckling swirl of whirlpool-like thing that graces the eye all day but the commingling in various shades of orange a little dance and smiling and all the most unpleasant thing to eat. A sloppy and grey and blue will be overpowered sights above and below and beyond the burger from Bar Luca would have been by the white glare of the screen. panoptics of the vision encircle the body preferred but those patties have the Colours are the easiest way to track like a coffin. They breathe heavily on same dead dryness and thinness of the days, to track one's own progression, the face and provide momentary respite ... and the train skittles into the questionably beef McDonalds patties to realise reality in its constantly shape- and reveal in themselves some hidden and a kebab from the generic kebab store shifting forms. Colours themselves are order constituting the space beyond of dirt particles between the tubes of a would be too embarrassing to eat in front the easiest sources of transmigration. the screen but even that revelation soon Connect 4 board game, the open sliding of all the midday office runners and Transmigration, as Doris Chon writes, becomes confronting and dizzying as it doors beget a flurry of white-collars. In sweaty gym heads and RM Williams'd "encompasses a twofold meaning: it enlivens the awareness that a manic and India, peak hour trains often leave late and power-suited workers feigning a can signify the migration or passage of fluctuating world exists outside of the... passengers floating above the floor and health obsession. The oily sloppiness something or some person(s) through require no effort of the muscles as they of junk food would be the only robust, time and physical space at the same time float along the tracks suspended in the knowingly satisfactory event of the that it can allude to the transcendence

soul. Look into blue, migrate to dawn or night or see the frowning recesses of the soul. Look into grey, migrate to dawn or night or see the melancholy recesses of the soul. Stare into white zero three repeater or heavy annoyed breathing on the ends of people who hate pesky accountants or blank void dormant recesses of the soul..

... (sole) of the wearisome leather

shoes constricting the toes. OH&S signs recommend toe-wiggling and half an hour breaks but what is the point if the pain is perpetual? Another pesky salad sits in front except it has to be eaten inside, inside the small, toilet-like room beside eight other members of the team all plugging along and trying to stay plugged in. Some float optimistic thoughts like the consumption of alcohol once it's all done but it falls on deaf and air in the room mingle and dust settling

Art by Janina Osinsao.

被淹没的人也可以写诗

Words by Lei Yao

羞愧

只有惊蛰天能唤醒我 其余时间都在沉睡 春夏假装成绩斐然 秋冬继续一场迷醉 没有一个日子比我更羞愧

南国与我 缱绻与千千万万 许是白马非马 一条河流倾倒而下 我被滚滚的红尘清洗 决定

你决定离家出走 把午后的午夜的心事搁置 呼吸声漫过梦中的浪潮

望着门的缝隙 缝隙回望着你

失望或悲哀藏在行李箱 沉默比话语和月光美一些

我的夜

不谈论政治与自由 万物枕着诗的柔软入梦 偏爱风雨云 微妙细节于泥土的呼吸声

说声晚安开始重生 感官和思绪编织另一种现实 每晚的连续剧才刚刚开始 我永远风情又乖张 即使死于一桩饱受非议的谋杀

Driving at dusk

Words by Genevieve Couvret

There were no stars in the sky, but there was rain Like shards of glass caught in two tunnels of light The wind held the car like a coin it could flip Across lonely lanes of endless highway.

Time races and resists with bold indifference: Thoughts linger, like breath caught by cold air Songs you've never heard before fill eternities Hours blur like the wipers on the windshield

The trees are shrouded in darkness that echoes Like a dream brought to life where sense loses meaning And space is more metaphor than something between us We learn the madness of going forever in a straight line

We promise Elton we won't break his heart And tell our parents we'll get to the church on time Silences between songs as warm as heated conversation And whatever we are is now infinite

It would have been so easy to break down or get lost, That to keep going is enough. Those nights where you can't see past the high beams And the only reason you're not scared is because you're not alone.



Art by Shania O'Brien.

18

SRC REPORTS SRC CASEWORKER HELP —

CASEWORKER

APPOINTMENTS

ARE NOW

AVAILABLE

PO Box 794 Broadway NSW 2007

President

Liam Donohoe

The comprehensive repression of the August 28 National Day of Action Friday's protest cast a long shadow over what was a comparatively quiet week. Angered by the brutality of the NSW Police, the defence against the Liberals' attacks on higher education was, unsurprisingly, the week's theme. Solidarity rallies raged across campus, organising meetings were well-attended, and plans were put into motion for further new campaigns which address police repression specifically. But while education activism was the focus, the week was not without its usual mix of committees, operational challenges, and new initiatives.

Fresh off the heels of the August 28th fracas, on Monday I attended a speak out in front of F23 on Monday organised by USyd staff and NTEU members to condemn the police's heavy handedness, demand greater protection from USyd management, and, of course, condemn the savage attacks on our sector. It was incredibly encouraging to see the large display of solidarity at such short notice—many thanks to the staff who organised and attended the speak out for your solidarity.

Not to be outdone, student activists continued to build our campaign against the attacks, with the Education Action Group's organising an Open Forum on Fighting Campus Cuts, which I attended on Tuesday night. Political Economy tutor Joel Griggs and

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

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

SRC Education Officer Jack Mansell spoke in what was a really informative session. It was particularly encouraging to see a bunch of new faces, and the compelling discussion served as useful reminders and motivation for the coming months. I encourage all students to attend the Student Strike assembly THIS TUESDAY (the 8th) at 6pm to contribute to planning around a mass student strike, and encourage everyone to stay tuned for further actions in the coming weeks.

Unsurprisingly, police repression was a recurring theme of both events. But instead of merely complaining about the repression, student activists have gotten work to ensure it's not repeated. At a general level, this week saw the new "Democracy is Essential" campaign launched. This campaign, which has been spearheaded by USyd's own Vinil Kumar, draws attention to the anti-democratic double standards of the NSW government's health orders, and demands the restoration of the right to publicly protest. I am really chuffed to have been asked to play an organising role in the campaign, and excited to build for a campaign with such high stakes. Stay tuned for more information about this campaign, which will be of central importance to other interrelated fights, like the fight for our education, the fight to guarantee that Black Lives

Matter, and the fight for climate justice. On a more local level, I raised the SRC's concerns about the Police's presence and conduct at the NDA at

Tuesday's Safer Communities Advisory Group meeting, seeking assurances that the University did not call the Police on protestors. While the members of the committee were critical of the Police's conduct, and sympathetic to students who had been fined / brutalised, the reality is that high-level decisions about interactions with the Police are beyond their remit. I will raise these concerns with the Vice-Chancellor and senior management to clarify USyd's involvement and ensure steps are taken to prevent further repression and brutality

But while the cops may have cast a long shadow, we still managed to shine some light on some important non-activist initiatives. The inaugural SRC Informs session took place on Tuesday, with SRC caseworker Mel de Silva pre-recording a session on tenancy. The useful session covered topics like recovering one's bond and dealing with landlords, and is available on our Facebook page (and, soon, our website) as a permanent resource. There will be further SRC Informs sessions in the coming weeks about a range of topics—I encourage all students to attend the sessions, which will take place live over Zoom.

Beyond that, I also chaired a Mutual Aid program meeting, which hoped to be the first step towards reinvigorating the program throughout the second semester. Among other things, a working bee has been organised for Monday the 7th in order to throw away



perished goods, sort new bags, and move all supplies / equipment from Gosper to the Women's room. Over the next week we intend to deliver all remaining packs and clear out our backlog of requests, before developing the program into a more sustainable and permanent longterm service. I look forward to seeing some of you at the working bee, and hope you stay tuned for the next round of Mutual Aid offerings.

The week would not be complete without the usual operational concerns. I have been working with the University and our Workplace Health and Safety Officer, Mel de Silva, to ensure our in-person activities—including our elections—are authorised / permitted. We have made a number of changes to the office, including new limits on people per room, sanitation stations, and hygiene reminder signs. Aside from that, I have also been working on some HR matters and continuing to offer minor logistical assistance with

While not nearly as historic or eventful as the week which preceded it, the second week of semester two has set the groundwork for a serious escalation in the defence of our education. And given growing talk of strikes and sitins, there will certainly be a lot to report back to you about in coming weeks.

Vice Presidents

Charlotte Bullock and Felix Faber

The campaign for a quality education has seen some notable events over the past several weeks. The August 28th NDA saw an incredibly excessive deployment of police to disrupt student activists, and the government's university fee package passed the House of Representatives. While these events have been demoralising, there is still chance for the package to be voted down in the Senate, so long as we keep up the fight. In this time, Felix and Charlotte have both been working hard to advocate for

This fortnight Charlotte has primarily been working on a review of the new curriculum. This review has been a goal of hers since she began her term as VP. She started work on it at the beginning of the year, but decided to put it on hold at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic,

when more pressing student welfare issues became apparent. Although the situation with COVID is far from over, given that students who started the new curriculum will be coming to the latter part of their studies, now seems the right time to run a survey to understand their experience. Charlotte is working on drafting the survey ask us any questions about our work over and considering how to get the most detailed

and informative responses. Felix has been continuing his work with Clubs Against the Cuts, hosting a forum for STEM students to hear about the impact of fee changes, and discuss possible opportunities to combat them. He has also been working with other office-bearers to get the mutual aid program operational again after the winter break. If you would like to the past fortnight, send us an email at vice. president@src.usyd.edu.au.

General Secretaries

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

Welfare Officers

Charlotte Ainsworth, Madeleine Clarke, Amelia Mertha and Yilun Ma did not submit a report this week.

Environment Officers

Shaan Patel, Sofie Nicholson, Lily Campbelle and Prudence Wilkins-Wheat did not submit a report this week

Intercampus Officers

Kristina Sergi, Joanna Sheng, Michael Kallidis and Jiahui (Ethan) Zhai did not submit a report this week.



w: srcusyd.net.au

STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY



Health Care Card - Cheaper Health Care for Students



What is a Health Care Card?

A Health Care Card entitles you to receive certain discounts and services.

In NSW, this includes:

- Reduced pharmaceuticals
- Free ambulance cover
- Access to free dental care • Free prescription lenses and frames
- Discounts to most alternative

medical practices, e.g., physiotherapy, chiropracty, acupuncture; but this is through negotiation with your practitioner.

Who is eligible for a Health Care Card?

Anyone who is on JobSeeker (formerly NewStart) or a pension from Centrelink is eligible to get a Health Care Card. It is unclear whether JobKeepers are eligible

As a student, you may also be eligible if you are a "low income earner". This means about \$570 per week over an 8 week period. (March 2020). When in doubt, apply.

How can you apply?

If you have a MyGov account, you can apply online. Alternatively, you can call 132 490. Please be aware that the wait times on Centrelink calls can be as long as 2 hours.

Speak with a caseworker

SRC caseworkers are professional and experienced staff who can assist undergraduate students at the University of Sydney with issues that affect them, by providing advice, advocacy and support. The service is FREE, independent and confidential

If you do not have a Health Care Card, the cost of getting an ambulance is between \$392 and \$6,424. Private health insurance for hospital care includes ambulance cover, or you can buy ambulance only cover from about \$45 per year.



Ask Abe about **Online Exams**



Dear Abe, one of my Units had online ProctorU exams last semester.

I found these very uncomfortable. I felt that people were looking at me but not like in a real exam. It was creepy the way they took over my computer too. I was very stressed with this part of the online experience. Added to that I have had problems with my computer and was worried about how I had to upload answers etc. What should I do this semester?

Over Proctored

Dear Over Proctored,

You are not alone. Many students have concerns about ProctorU. It does seem reasonable you be treated the same

way you would in a normal exam which are stressful enough. It might be possible avoid these Units - the census date to drop a unit is 28 September. If you have to do them you should get together with other students and lobby the lecturer to try change assessment methods. If a problem arises with your computer make sure you communicate with the lecturer at the time.

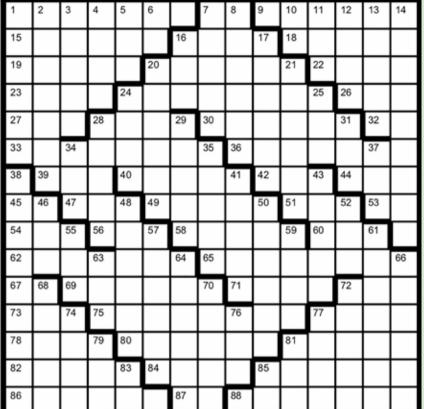
You can even ask the Exams people, in special circumstances, to do the exam in person. Talk to a caseworker at the SRC about your options.

Finally, write to the SRC President about the problems you face and he will continue lobbying the University to get a better system.

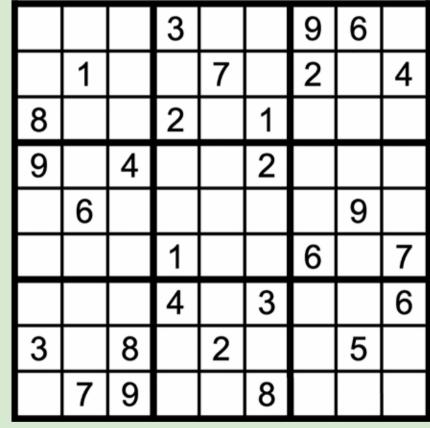
Contact an SRC Caseworker on 02 9660 5222 or email help@src.usyd.edu.au

21 20

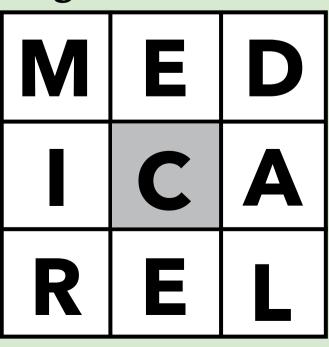
Barred Crossword



Sudoku



Target



DOWN

- 1 If you had this, would you capture it, or just let it slip?1 Fairly good fast food restaurant2 Certainly
- **9** People who are objectively better than **4** Fibre made by various insects
- **15** Small horses
- **16** Not easy
- **18** Native Áustralian bird
- **19** Strangely
- 20 The man who, exiled by fate, first came from the coast of Troy to Italy
- 22 Not rich 23 Sits in the corner
- **24** Outsider
- **26** Prominent British record company
- 27 A wild goat native to the Caucasian mountains
- 28 Happens every morning
- **30** Bird found in Australia 32 India domain
- **33** State of being unknown
- 36 Snag
- **40** Type of grease
- **42** Button on a camcorder
- **44** Popular beverage
- **45** Comes in sets of six **47** Native Australian tree
- **49** Jesus liked to heal this person
- **51** Definite article
- 53 Original gangster
- on one's person at all times
- **60** 52 Down backwards
- **62** State of being well-known
- 65 Same thing as torque, I think
- 67 And in French
- **69** Capital of Lebanon
- **71** Undersized
- 72 Insurance company that used to sponsor Manchester United **73** 7Network?
- **75** Shrieked
- 77 Commonly littered item 78 Priam ruled this city
- **80** Found in churches and supermarkets
- **81** Electromagnetic wave with a low **76** What doctors study at university frequency
- **82** Mistake
- **84** Charles Foster Kane's prized possession **81** Regret 85 Strict observance of tradition
- **86** Mark Twain's real first name
- 87 Iceland domain
- **88** Object of Cold War anxiety

Puzzles by Cloudrunner

Rules: Minimum 5 letters per word 5 words: unhealthy 10 words: getting better 15 words: in good shape 20 words: fighting fit!

M	s	1	ᄶ	n	d	σ	Э	٦	S	æ	0	В	В	3
0	1	а	A	Я	s	3	٦	s	1	A	٨	0	В	T
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-	v	_	c	2		M	v	-	c	\neg	-	M	\sim	-

ACROSS

- **3** Home of the Ewoks
- **5** 5 Call for attention
- **6** Operating system
- **7** Defunct US Airline
- **8** Stadiums
- 10 For example **11** Many jumpers bear this brand
- **12** Genus of succulent plants
- 13 Watts her name?
- 14 This might occur if you were in the
- **16** 2013 film directed by Spike Jonze
- **17** Short blade good for stabbing
- **20** At one's pleasure 21 A musical group of seven
- **24** Ctrl+S
- **25** Eve was made out of this **28** Opposite of 66 Down
- 29 Inventor of dynamite
- **31** Consume
- 34 Fall behind **35** Mexican cactus
- **37** High ranking corporate title
- 38 Cartridges containing a strip of magnetic tape
- **41** Unit of magnetic flux
- **43** Graph
- 46 Implement used in cricket and baseball
- **56** A useful implement that should be kept **48** Medical trade fair this year taking place in Düsseldorf
 - **50** Theatrical shows popular at universities
 - **52** 60 Across backwards
 - **55** Controversial dance move
 - **57** US actor and martial artist, Chuck
 - **59** Loan
 - **61** Self-centeredness
 - **63** Latin thing
 - **64** A mixture of grains, fruit, and nuts
 - **66** Opposite of 28 Down
 - 68 Land
 - **70** Stories or anecdotes **72** 72 Sound
 - **74** 74 Custom

 - **77** Thorn
 - 79 It's not me
 - **83** Found in an email subject line
 - **85** Measure of acidity

Solutions

Target: Reclaimed

6 9 1 2 5 9 8 7 8 9 2 8 8 6 7 7 8 1 |6|2|1**|**3|6|

2ndoku

		_		_		_	_	_	1	_			_	_
M	S	1	$\boldsymbol{\pi}$	n	d	а	3	٦	S	æ	0	В	Ы	3
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3	ອ	A	α	3	٨	3	٦	Z	0	а	Я	٨	Τ	s
3	т	Я	A	г	3	8	A	٦	z	3	Р	a	A	s
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Barred Crossword

RODENT NEWS INC.

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

Which Osama Bin Laden relative are you?

Are you an ardent Trump supporter like Noor Bin Laden? Or a trendy socialite like Wafah Dufour? Perhaps you're the disillusioned rocker, like Omar Bin Laden? Or were you killed in a drone strike in 2009, like Saar Bin Laden? Take this quiz to find out!

1. What's your ideal first date?

- A. Drinks in your penthouse, then hit the where would you go? dancefloor at New York's hottest club.
- B. Cuddling up with boo to watch Fox News. C. A vegan meal followed by a death metal B.
- drone strike in 2009.

2. What's your ideal meal?

- A. An elegant sushi meal.
- B. A burger and fries.
- C. Lentils.
- D. You don't eat, because you were killed in a B. drone strike in 2009.

3. If you could go anywhere in the world,

- A. Berghain. Sven always loves to see you at the door.
- Washington, to salute President Trump!
- C. Rishikesh, to visit your ashram.
- D. You don't date because you were killed in a D. You can't go anywhere, because you were killed in a drone strike in 2009.

4. You turn on the TV after a long day at work. What do you put on?

- A. Owning a TV is so 2008. You're getting the ladies together and going out on the town!
- A classic Clint Eastwood movie.
- C. Anime D. You can't watch TV, because you were killed in a drone strike in 2009.



Mostly A's: Wafah Dufour

You wouldn't be caught dead anywhere except the hottest clubs, where you're always on the list. You're a free spirit, and are always looking for even when you're surrounded by hundreds of people in the middle of the dance floor.



Mostly C's: Omar Bin Laden

You're the family black sheep, and have a You were killed in a drone strike in 2009. particularly rocky relationship with your father, to say the least. But over the past few years you've began to find yourself, and refuse to apologise for who you are. Some people might not like that, but that's their loss. You're absolutely one of a kind.



Mostly B's: Noor Bin Laden

You're a free thinker who refuses to cow to mainstream beliefs. You're fascinated with politics, and are always looking to learn more a way to express your creativity. But sometimes from unbiased news sources which all happen to you can't help feeling no one really knows you, be owned by Rupert Murdoch. You're sick of the liberal establishment telling you what to think; you'll never hide your beliefs.



Mostly D's: Saar Bin Laden

In this issue:

Mysterious ball in Siberia discovered as portal to Carslaw Bathrooms / p. Bagillion

"Schoolies cancellation a tragedy" says Gold Coast Young Liberals cameraman / p. 1

Film buff takes 5 days to analyse cinematography in leaked Charlie Kaufman sex tape/ p. 69

Study finds 75% of Women's College girls marry a Paul's boy, who is also their cousin / p. 69

Law students yet to realise no one else has returned to campus / p. 19

Returning studernts find corpses of SASS exec, who starved to death in Courtyard during campus closuer / p. 101

Inspired by Professor Krug, entire cast of *Mulan* comes out as white / p. 88888888



Police Commissioner promises to stop violently enforcing limits on gatherings if someone hangs out with him

Nina Dillon Britton, Dudes Rock Editor.

NSW Police Commissioner has promised to stop violently halting gatherings of people more than 20 if someone promises to hang out

"To be honest, when I first heard of the new limits on gatherings, I assumed they'd never be enforced," Fuller told Honi. "In the academy, we learnt that only terrorists would ever hang

out with more than 20 people." "And up until now, that's made sense. Like any good, law abiding citizen, I have three friends: my friend from my local who never talks to me, my second child, and my uncle Geoff."

Fuller rejects claims that he is arbitrarily enforcing Public Health Orders to target protests (while sports stadiums welcome audiences of up to 10,000 people) for political reasons.

"Oh, it's not political at all," Fuller tells *Honi*. "I just simply don't

buy that any 20 people would gather for a reason that isn't a violent,

terrorist act on our beautiful NSW." "It's not because I'm really fucking and lonely, and jealous of everyone else. Definitely not."



Restore the right to protest in NSW. Democracy is essential.

We call for protest gatherings to be granted an exemption under the NSW Public Health orders.

Protests have effectively been banned, indefinitely, in NSW. This is the situation as it currently stands, following the NSW Police's recent interpretation and enforcement of the COVID-19 restrictions. Any public gathering of more than 20 people, for the "common purpose" of protesting, no matter how distanced the participants or large the area, is deemed illegal. The crackdown began in earnest with the Black Lives Matter rally on 28 July, which saw 5 arrested and the rally broken up by police before it could begin, then was followed by 2 arrests at a student demonstration at Sydney University against job cuts on 31 July, and again at another rally at Sydney University against job cuts and education fee hikes on 28 August, which saw 10 arrested. All those arrested have been issued \$1,000 fines, and protesters at the most recent rally reported that police had lists of known activists to target and were threatening to charge people with multiple offences. The maximum penalty that can be applied is an \$11,000 fine and 6 months imprisonment. To all those who value democratic rights, this situation is outrageous and intolerable.

The crackdown on protest cannot be justified on the basis of legitimate health concerns. We, along with the majority of Australians, support the various restrictions and lockdowns that have been in place in recent months to control the spread of the deadly Coronavirus. Indeed, many of us have argued that they should go further. But at the moment, protests are being singled out in an absurd and hypocritical way. In NSW, up to 10,000 are new allowed to cal way. In NSW, up to 10,000 are now allowed to attend NRL matches, and 50 in a single corporate box. 300 can be in a casino, pub, or restaurant. Schools are not closed. Thousands are once again flocking to beaches. 500 can attend community sporting events. And yet 21 protesters, socially distanced and wearing masks, is deemed illegal.

Furthermore, not a single documented case of Coronavirus spread has occurred at a protest in Australia. We now know that outdoor activities, combined with mask-wearing, are one of the safest things you can do, and we are committed to organising protests in the safest possible way. The virus is overwhelmingly being spread in indoor, enclosed environments.

Some will say that protests should be put on hold for the moment, given the danger of COVID-19. The problem with this is twofold. Firstly, we don't know how long this ban on protests could last. If a vaccine can be developed, it could still be 12 or 18 months away. The case numbers in NSW are currently very low, and yet this ban is in place. We are not willing to accept a ban on protests for such a long and indeterminate period.

Secondly, the injustices and urgent causes about which we are protesting have not been put on hold. Black deaths in custody and racism in the criminal justice system continue. continue to be imprisoned on Nauru and in city hotels. The climate of rolls on, with the Morrison Government green-lighting a further expansion of the fossil fuel industry. The working class faces an unprecedented crisis of mass and attacks on wages and conditions in the coming months. We need the right to protest

We therefore demand that protests be exempted from the NSW Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order, in order to preserve our democratic righ This would be an incredibly easy step for the NSW Government to make. They have already granted exemptions to ski resorts, recreational vessels, places of worship, and netball

We call for the end of the over-policing of demonstrations by NSW Police and an end to the use of move on orders to break up public assemblies.

sign this statement at www.DemocracyNSW.com/statement