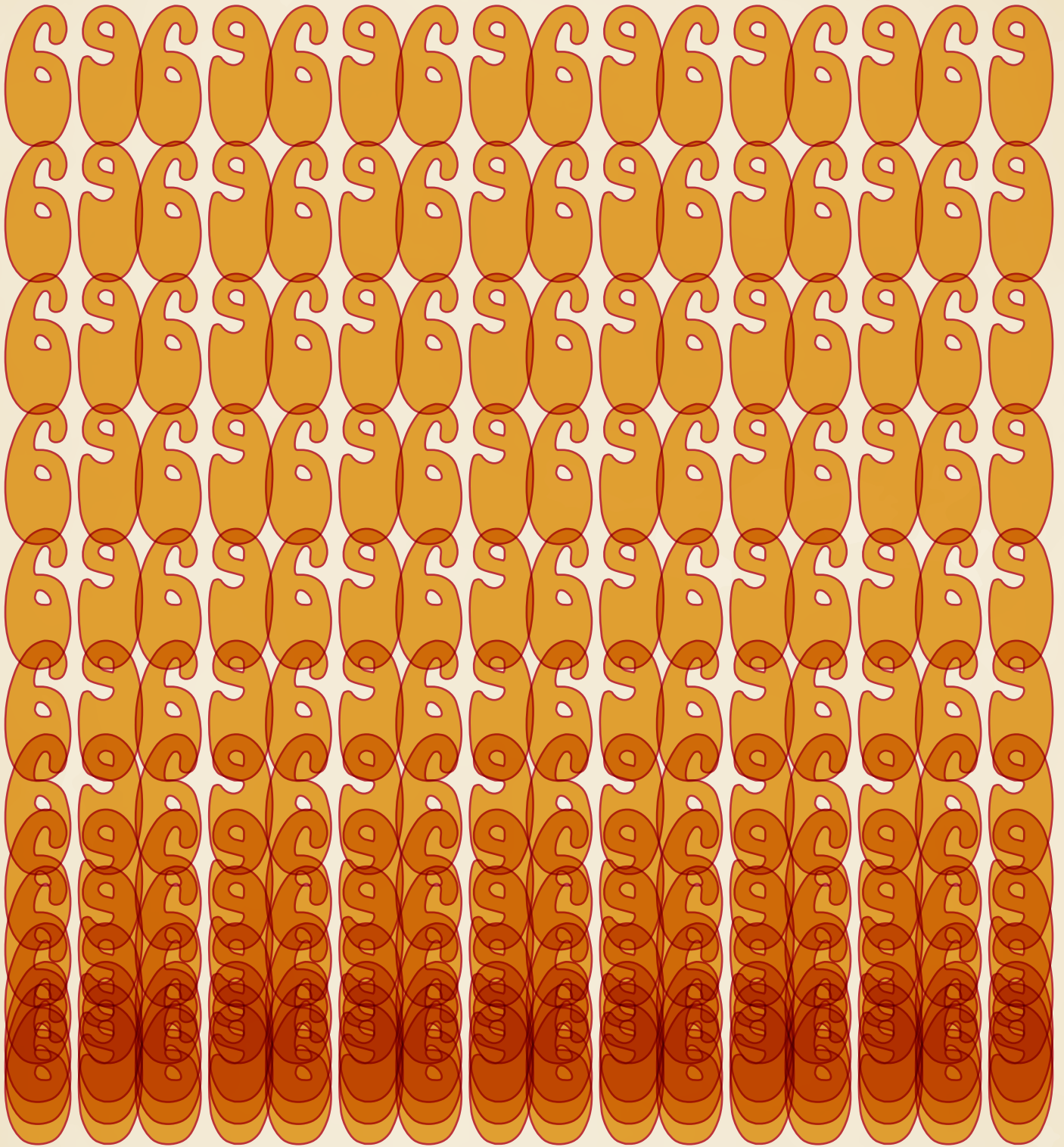


Tharunka gives you 69 years

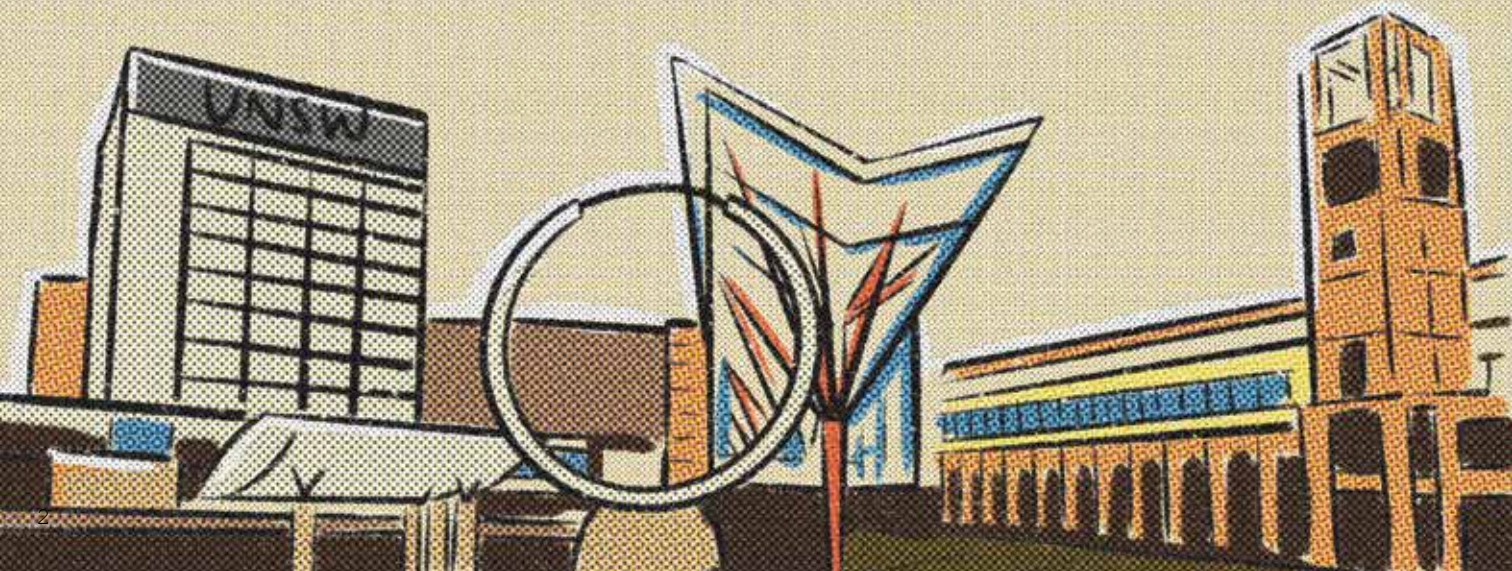


UNSW spends
\$3.6 million to renovate
staff-only venue

Highest and lowest
ranked courses according
to myexperience

Students outraged as
their degrees are cut
with no consultation

Tharunka acknowledges the traditional
custodians of this land, the Cammeraygal,
Gadigal & Bidjigal people of the Eora nation,
on which our university now stands.



Welcome to Tharunka

Established in 1953, Tharunka is UNSW's longest running, and spiciest student publication. While we started as a student newspaper, we have since expanded our scope to include different styles of art and writing that capture the UNSW student experience.

In all of our past and current issues, you'll see student opinion, personal reflections, comics, digital art, short stories, and poetry. And on our website, you'll find our juiciest articles, including student journalism, university critiques, current affairs, and political and cultural opinions. Like our Facebook page and follow us on Instagram (@tharunkaunsw) to stay updated.



Nadia Maunsell
Managing Editor



Alex Neale
Features Editor



Harrison Leckenby
Lead Reporter

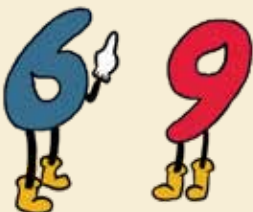


Katelin Jaegers
Lead Designer

Interested in contributing?

Is there anything you think the university should change? What makes you angry about the world? What is going on right now that everyone needs to hear about?

Tharunka is edited, designed, and written by students, so we thrive on student submissions. If you're interested in contributing to Tharunka's journalism and opinion section, or just looking for an outlet for your creative non-fiction, art, essays, poems, stories, reviews, or anything else that comes to mind, send a two-sentence pitch about your idea to: tharunka@arc.unsw.edu.au



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UNSW spent \$3.6 million to renovate staff-only venue

By Abhramil Hazra



A Tharunka investigation revealed UNSW spends over \$3 million in 2019 to renovate The Lounge, a staff and alumni only restaurant.

The Lounge opened in May 2019 after a four-month renovation period between November 2018 and February 2019. The restaurant was designed by architectural firm Bates Smart and construction company Growth Built.

Located on the 11th floor of the UNSW Main Library tower, The Lounge features a bar and restaurant with semi-private spaces and sliding doors, a private dining room and terrace with a view of the Sydney skyline.

According to documents obtained via the Government Information (Public Access) 2009 (NSW) Act, UNSW management spent \$3,499,163 (excluding GST) on the main contractor.

The agreed services included demolition, carpentry, tiling, painting, electrical communications, fire and security services, flooring, ceilings, carpet, kitchen equipment and furniture.

UNSW management also spent an additional \$96,400 hiring architects (excluding GST), and \$88,609 hiring consultants and inspections (excluding GST).

According to the document obtained, the creation of a staff and alumni lounge had been a long-coming and desired project by the University.

In response to Tharunka's request for comment, a UNSW spokesperson said:

"The Lounge at UNSW Sydney is a space for staff, alumni, and their guests to socialise, engage and network over a coffee or a meal. Guests can include UNSW partners, students, family members and friends. The Lounge also plays an important role in hosting corporate and fundraising events to promote the work of the University".

In an interview with Bates Smart, Greg Currie, the former Head of Hospitality of UNSW, said the purpose of The Lounge was to provide "A space for staff to unwind and focus on themselves...and is away from the activity on campus."

Greg stated that the only thing he would have done differently for The Lounge if he could was to "make it bigger". Tharunka reached out to Greg Currie for comment but received no response.

The Lounge's website only allows customers who are staff members to make online bookings and denies student access to the booking mechanism.

The document obtained states The Lounge is part of a broader refurbishment effort undertaken within UNSW Library tower from Levels 11 to 14, along with upgrades to base building infrastructure for increased population density.

Bates Smart is an award-winning architectural firm in Australia founded in 1853 by Joseph Reid. They were involved in the design of notable Australian landmarks such as Federation Square in Melbourne and Mid-City Centre in Sydney.

Growth Built is a construction company whose partners include Westpac and the City of Sydney. They were involved in the construction of the UNSW Law Library and Rydges Hotel at Sydney airport.

Abhramil is a final year International Studies/Media (Journalism and Communications).
He loves cricket, food and writing about social issues.



THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST RANKED UNSW COURSES ACCORDING TO MYEXPERIENCE

By Nadia Maunsell, Alex Zihao Song, Isabella Lee and Jack Nivison



Illustration by Katelin Jaegers

UNSW has publicly released myExperience survey data for the first time. Based on data from 1,843 courses, 30 received a perfect 100% approval rating and, of these, the highest number could be found in the Arts, Design and Architecture faculty and Business School.

MATH3411 (Information, Codes and Ciphers), a Science course, had the highest student satisfaction overall, with a whopping 85.5% of students strongly agreeing that they were satisfied with the course.

Out of the 30 lowest ranked courses, the highest number appeared in the Engineering faculty, followed by the Science faculty. COMP4920 (Professional Issues and Ethics), a postgraduate course, appeared as the lowest ranked course overall. Only 24.5% of students agreed that COMP4920 was a quality course, whereas 45.3% of students strongly disagreed.

When asked about MTRN4010 (Advanced Autonomous Systems), one of the lowest rated subjects in the Engineering faculty, Master of Engineering Science student Neeraj Krishnan said, "The content felt a bit disorganised, with inconsistent file names, poorly formatted slides and assignment specs".

But he praised the faculty for splitting MTRN4230, another of the lowest rated courses, into two separate subjects following student feedback on the heavy workload.

Of the 60 courses we ranked, four are no longer being offered. MARK5825 (Product Analytics) was last offered in 2021, CVEN2401 (Sustainable Transport and Highway Engineering) and BIOM9551 (Biomechanics of Physical Rehabilitation) in 2020 and MMAN2100 (Engineering Design 2) in 2019.

The average satisfaction rate across all 1,843 courses was 96.1%, a very high percentage.

The myExperience survey dashboard was sent to every student's email inbox on June 3rd and it allows you to view survey data for all courses taught at UNSW between Term 1 2021 to Term 1 2022. The survey data includes students' ratings of course quality, learning community, course resources, instructor feedback and assessment quality based on the myExperience surveys students are asked to fill out at the end of each term. Tharunka analysed responses to the statement 'Overall I was satisfied with the quality of the course' as a measure for overall student satisfaction in each course. We did not include any course with fewer than 50 respondents.

The full Excel spreadsheet can be found on our website, which you can access through the QR code.

Arts, Design and Architecture

Highest rated

1. SOCW1001 (Introduction to Social Work) – 100%
2. MDIA5021 (Advertising and Creativity) – 100%
3. ARCH7214 (Architecture and Politics) – 100%
4. MODL5107 (Translation Technology) – 100%
5. ARCH1161 (Building Environment I) – 100%
6. INTA3003 (Critical Perspectives 3) – 100%
7. ARTS1032 (Literature Laboratory) – 100%
8. ARTS1631 (Introductory Japanese B) – 100%
9. BLDG1022 (Building Structures) – 100%
10. ARTS2816 (Global Politics of Inequality) – 100%

Lowest rated

1. BENV1012 (Parametric Design and Digital Fabrication) – 53.9%
2. DDES2102 (Design Professional Practice) – 70.5%
3. INST2003 (Research Methods) – 70.6%
4. ARTS2821 (Comparative Politics and Colonialism) – 71%

Business School

Highest rated

1. MGMT3721 (Negotiation Skills) – 100%
2. ACCT5906 (Financial Literacy Business) – 100%
3. ACCT5919 (Business Risk Management) – 100%
4. MGMT5602 (Cross-Cultural Management) – 100%
5. ACTL1101 (Intro Actuarial Studies) – 100%
6. ACCT5996 (Management Accounting and Business Analysis) – 100%
7. FINS5546 (Toolkit for Financial Market Decisions) – 100%

Lowest rated

1. ECON2103 (Business and Government) – 52.4%
2. COMM1190 (Data, Insights and Decisions) – 68.2%
3. MARK5825 (Product Analytics) – 68.3% (Last offered in 2021)
4. MARK3085 (Digital Marketing and Web Analytics) – 71.5%
5. FINS2622 (Asia-Pacific Capital Markets) – 73.3%

Engineering

Highest rated

1. COMP9044 (Software Construction) – 100%
2. CVEN4402 (Transport Systems Part 1) – 100%
3. MECH3610 (Advanced Thermofluids) – 100%
4. GSOE9510 (Ethics and Leadership in Engineering) – 100%

Lowest rated

1. COMP4920 (Professional Issues and Ethics) – 24.5%
2. MTRN3500 (Computing Applications in Mechatronics Systems) – 49.5%
3. MTRN4230 (Robotics) – 63.8%
4. CVEN9405 (Urban Transport Planning Prac) – 65.6%
5. DESN2000 (Engineering Design 2) – 65.7%
6. CVEN3303 (Steel Structures) – 66.4%
7. SENG4920 (Ethics and Management) – 68%
8. COMP3411 (Artificial Intelligence) – 68.4%
9. COMP2511 (O-O Design and Programming) – 68.9%
10. COMP3141 (Software System Design and Implementation) – 68.9%
11. CVEN2002 (Engineering Computations) – 69%
12. CVEN4050 (Thesis A) – 70%
13. MTRN4010 (Advanced Autonomous Systems) – 70.1%
14. CVEN2401 (Sustainable Transport and Highway Engineering) – 72.% (Last offered in 2020)
15. MMAN2100 (Engineering Design 2) – 72.2% (Last offered in 2019)

Science

Highest rated

1. MATH3411 (Information, Codes and Ciphers) – 100%
2. MATH2521 (Complex Analysis) – 100%
3. MATH2111 (Higher Several Variable Calculus) – 100%
4. PSYC3121 (Social Psychology) – 100%

Lowest rated

1. MATH2901 (Higher Theory of Statistics) – 46%
2. DATA1001 (Introduction to Data Science and Decisions) – 57.9%
3. MATH1041 (Statistics for Life and Social Sciences) – 63.2%
4. PSYC3051 (Physiological Psychology) – 64.5%
5. MATH2859 (Probability, Statistics and Information) – 69.1%

Medicine

Highest rated

1. BIOM9551 (Biomechanics of Physical Rehabilitation) – 100% (Last offered in 2020)
2. PATH2201 (Processes in Disease) – 100%
3. PATH3206 (Cancer Pathology) – 100%

Lowest rated

-

Law

Highest rated

1. CRIM2021 (Criminal Law and Justice) – 100%
2. TABL5551 (Taxation Law) – 100%

Lowest rated

1. JURD7155 (Legal Research and Writing) – 59%



Online News Recap

U.S Supreme Justices strike down Roe v. Wade

By Nadia Maunsell

The Roe v. Wade decision that protects a woman's right to abortion in the United States was overturned on June 24th. The day before, a New York law which would have restricted gun carrying was also overturned.

UTS' 'unprecedented' slashing of student journal budget

By Harrison Leckenby

UTS cut student journal Vertigo's budget by 50% as the University reports a \$29 million surplus in 2021.

After 700+ job cuts, UNSW reports \$305 million profit in 2021

By Nadia Maunsell

In the last financial year, UNSW cut 1 in 10 full-time jobs. Now the University has \$305 million in profit.

NSW Transport chaos as industrial action limits Sydney trains frequency

By Harrison Leckenby

Transport NSW is warning commuters of ongoing industrial action this week affecting all Sydney train lines. The action is likely to cause delays and cancellations of services throughout the final week of June

Energy crisis on Australia's east coast

By Andrea Bunjamin

Since June 13th, the east coast has been at risk of blackouts due to massive electricity shortfalls. Households have been urged to limit power consumption to avoid outages.

WSU and UTS follow suit from USYD staff strikes

By Jack Nivison

Another strike over staff working conditions has occurred at one of Sydney's most prominent universities mere weeks after USYD's 48-hour staff strike.

From buddy to bestie:

First friendships at UNSW

By Isabella Lee

How did you meet your first friend at UNSW? For Dalena, she had met her friend previously in primary school but then moved. Finding her in a class they shared at UNSW was "mind-blowing" and she is now the "one person" who can get Dalena through university.



Her Voice

By Laura Wilde

Now that I'm grown, dare I ask for this, ask for this?

Or has it grown in my wild dreams too tall?

When I once tried, you fast took me to task for this,

Saying you weren't by me tempted to fall.

I've been conversing with you in my head again,

All this time waiting to meet you once more.

Smiling, warm face, as I've dreamt up thy bed again,

Rose-eyed and closed-eyes I've walked to thy door.

While I believe I'm suffuse with new cheeriness,

Breath burns my lungs, liquid wells in my throat.

Why, when we parted, did you give off weariness?

Seeming to know I'd learned my lines by rote.

Counting between light and thunder,

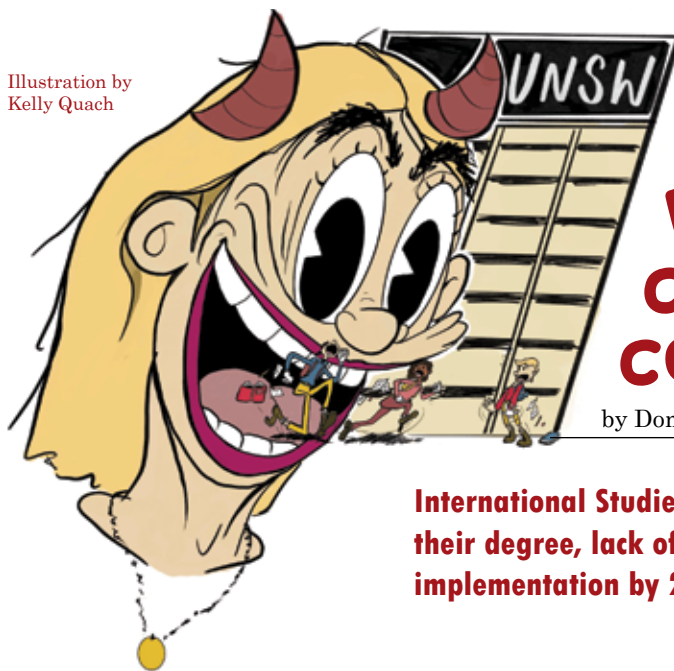
My childhood like leaves fallen.

Streetlamp lights leaf-tops which shudder in wonder.

Won't you hear me callin'?

Illustration by Jelena Xu

Illustration by
Kelly Quach



STUDENTS ANGRY THEIR DEGREE HAS BEEN CUT WITH NO CONSULTATION

by Dominique Lakis



International Studies students were left shocked by changes to their degree, lack of open consultations and the timeline for implementation by 2023.

UNSW students enrolled in the Bachelor of International Studies were invited to a last-minute information session hosted by the Arts, Design and Architecture (ADA) faculty in May. But it raised more questions than answers about degree changes.

Fifth-year International Studies and Media student Holly Heng said:

"I feel as though the faculty either dismissed student concerns or sidestepped questions and the absence of honesty from the ADA faculty management is disappointing."

First-year International Studies and Media student Laura Veasey is strongly considering dropping the International Studies component of her degree due to the changes.

"At this point, the easiest thing to do would be to cut the extra two years on top of my Journalism major, save up to learn a language and travel externally," she said.

During the information session, fifth-year International studies and Media student Violetta Katsaris asked "what would make UNSW stand out from other universities in Sydney [if the proposed changes go ahead]? I believe we are one of, if not the only university, that offers straight International Studies and the ability to pair it with a number of other degrees."

In response, an ADA executive staff member said, "the new Bachelor of Social Sciences will equip students with the necessary qualifications for any government job."

On April 15th, Tharunka revealed the removal of the Bachelor of International studies at UNSW. Following this, on May 4th, International Studies students were invited to the online information session. In the email invitation, International

Studies Course Convenor Nikki Beaumont wrote:

"You may have heard from students involved in consultation or working with our academic staff that UNSW Arts, Design & Architecture is currently reviewing its undergraduate programs, including the Bachelor of International Studies.

"The purpose of this review is to update our UG offerings to increase choice and flexibility, make our degrees structures easier to navigate, and improve your experience."

This was the first official communication sent by the faculty about the changes.

The changes have been in the planning phase since February 2022 and were recently approved to be implemented from 2023.

Following Tharunka's article, UNSW's Education Collective organised a meeting to strategise in opposition to the degree changes. ADA Deputy Dean Bruce Watson and Senior Strategy Manager Jennifer Perkins unexpectedly attended, sparking tensions.

In response to an Education Collective question about whether the faculty would cut any courses or staff, the Deputy Dean said:

"I have worked here for 20 years, and I have never sacked anyone. I don't know anyone that has been sacked."

Under the changes, the Bachelor of International Studies will be merged into the existing Bachelor of Social Sciences from 2023. The mandatory overseas exchange and 24 units of credit in a language will be removed, which ADA executive staff state "will reduce the complexity of the degree rules."

Eleven other degrees in the ADA faculty will be affected by the changes and merged into just four degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Design, Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Media.

To date, the ADA faculty has not held any further student consultation sessions. A Student Feedback Form has been opened on the ADA website where students can give general feedback about their courses.

An Access and Equity Ambassador anonymously informed Tharunka that UNSW began advising high school students as early as mid-May to be aware of the new changes when enrolling for 2023.

"[UNSW is] telling high school students to hold off on putting ADA subjects on UAC once it opens because of these changes," they told us.

"[We were told to] advise students to keep an eye out on official communication and wait until after Term 3 when there's more clarity."

According to the ADA faculty's timeline, Term 3 is when they will begin to market and launch the new degrees.



Dominique is studying a Bachelor of International Studies and Media (Communication and Journalism) at UNSW. She has been reporting for Tharunka since the beginning of 2022. She is passionate about women's rights, human interest stories, and the environment.











Illustrations by Katelin Jaegers

After Dark

By Conor Carroll

The quiet time, we lie entwined,
Our shallow breaths a murmur,
I can hear your wonder
Tremble on your lips,
As carefree dreams flit
Behind your closed eyelids,
Lost faces drawn
In permanent print,
And you spend Time's
Timeless gift in a dreamland
You could never resist.

In this pause between days,
Where even cicadas
Are frozen in pitch,
As all sound rescinds
I fall in the abyss
Where lost thoughts live
In their transitory shift
Between real and imagined,
I never quite managed
To remember that moment
When sleep came at last.



SRC Report

The Student Representative Council (SRC) have been working tirelessly to make sure your concerns are heard and responded to. This can include any issues you might have with academic support, social and welfare support, or requests to have more support services at UNSW. The UNSW SRC has several collectives that work under our umbrella to help students who may fall within specific intersections and need targeted assistance. We strongly encourage everyone to join the SRC and the collectives by scanning our QR code below.

The current list of projects includes:

1. Supporting students who may be experiencing difficulties and amending the special considerations procedure to eliminate exacerbated response delays.
2. Addressing the ADA faculty restructure and ensuring student voices are heard.
3. Improving information and access to support services for students. This is to support you through emergencies or long ongoing issues that have an impact on your academic or social interactions at uni.
4. Addressing the National Student Safety Survey (NSSS) on campus sexual assault and ensuring there is a Gendered Violence Research Network strategy with students co-designing and delivering the strategy.

If you would like to be involved and volunteer in SRC campaigns, email us at src.president@arc.unsw.edu.au to submit an expression of interest. You can also contact us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn for all your student welfare, academic, social, and other needs.

The SRC will be on-campus in Term 2. You can find us at our stalls and pop in to say hello or via social media.

Website: arc.unsw.edu.au/voice/src
Twitter: @unsw_src

Facebook: UNSW SRC

Instagram: unswsrc

LinkedIn: UNSW Student Representative Council



PGC Report

The Postgraduate Council (PGC) provides a broad spectrum of advocacy and representation, as well as social, professional and academic opportunities for all UNSW postgraduate students.

Some examples of our work so far include:

1. Working collaboratively with UNSW to increase the Research Training Program (RTP) stipend base rates without reducing future allocated numbers in the years to come.
2. The President has been working to reintroduce concession parking which is especially important for postgraduate students who need to drive to campus or due to lab work, or are on campus at unusual times during the day and night.
3. As a result of the National Student Safety Survey results, the PGC is looking to hold more events, contribute more resources, and campaign on the issue of campus sexual harassment.
4. PGC is also working hard to design events and programs which support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

We held various social and upskilling events throughout the term, with a new focus on engaging more students during their upcoming postgraduate week events. From our research officer, a Higher Degree Research (HDR) needs survey was launched with over 420 responses to date (10% of all HDRs across UNSW). The results were presented to UNSW's Graduate Research School (GRS) and will be presented to the University Higher Degree Research Committee and potentially the Academic Board. Further work with the GRS team will be taken regarding next steps.

For all things PGC, don't forget to follow us on Facebook.
Facebook: Postgraduate Council UNSW



MEET THE CO

WRITERS AND EDITORS



Conor Carroll



Amanda Lee



Andy Sambar



Dominique
Lakis



Abhramil
Hazra



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Scott Huang



Jekyll Chau



Nina Maric



Madeleine Lim



Sashka
Wickramasinghe



Avani Ram

CONTRIBUTORS

ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS



Jelena Xu:

Jelena is someone you often see at the train station looking put together but is internally a hot mess. She enjoys being at home most of the time exploring different hobbies. Recently she has been self teaching herself to play ukulele. It's not going so well but oh well. If you see her around campus, don't be afraid to say hi.

Find me on LinkedIn:
Jelena Xu



Kelly Quach:

Kelly is a second-year interior architecture student who loves to experiment with different mediums to produce her meaningful arts. The medium she used in her practice ranged from pencils, pens, colour pencils, paints and digital tools.

You can follow her creative journey on Instagram, where she posts her process works, inspired precedents, and relatable memes as a fellow artist. @K.Q_Design



Bhavi Jariwala:

Bhavi is a first year MPRA student and a graphic designer. She enjoys working in publication and photography. You can follow her Instagram page @loremipsumdolor_ at the risk of not seeing content regularly..



Stephanie Ung

Stephanie is a fifth-year Commerce and Design student, majoring in graphics and digital media. When she's not being a potato snuggled up in bed, she loves drawing, eating spicy food, and vibing to Keshi. Her current favourite artists are Audrey Kawasaki and Huang Po Hsun.

Instagram: @faniefairy



Hana Thomson:

Hana Kinoshita Thomson is a 3rd year Design student, specialising in illustration & graphic design. She is passionate about mental health, sustainability, the Japanese language and culture, picture books, and rabbits. She always aims to make work that is colourful, playful and engaging, that puts a smile on your face.

You can see her drawings on Instagram @hanaunderthetree



Yanti Peng:

Yanti (彭妍纓) is an emerging interdisciplinary designer in her 4th year studying Commerce/Design. Currently focused on 3D visualisation, AR filters and photography. Hybridity is key for her, collaborating those mediums and experimenting forms the foundations of her practise. Investigating like a documenter is how she frames her approach.

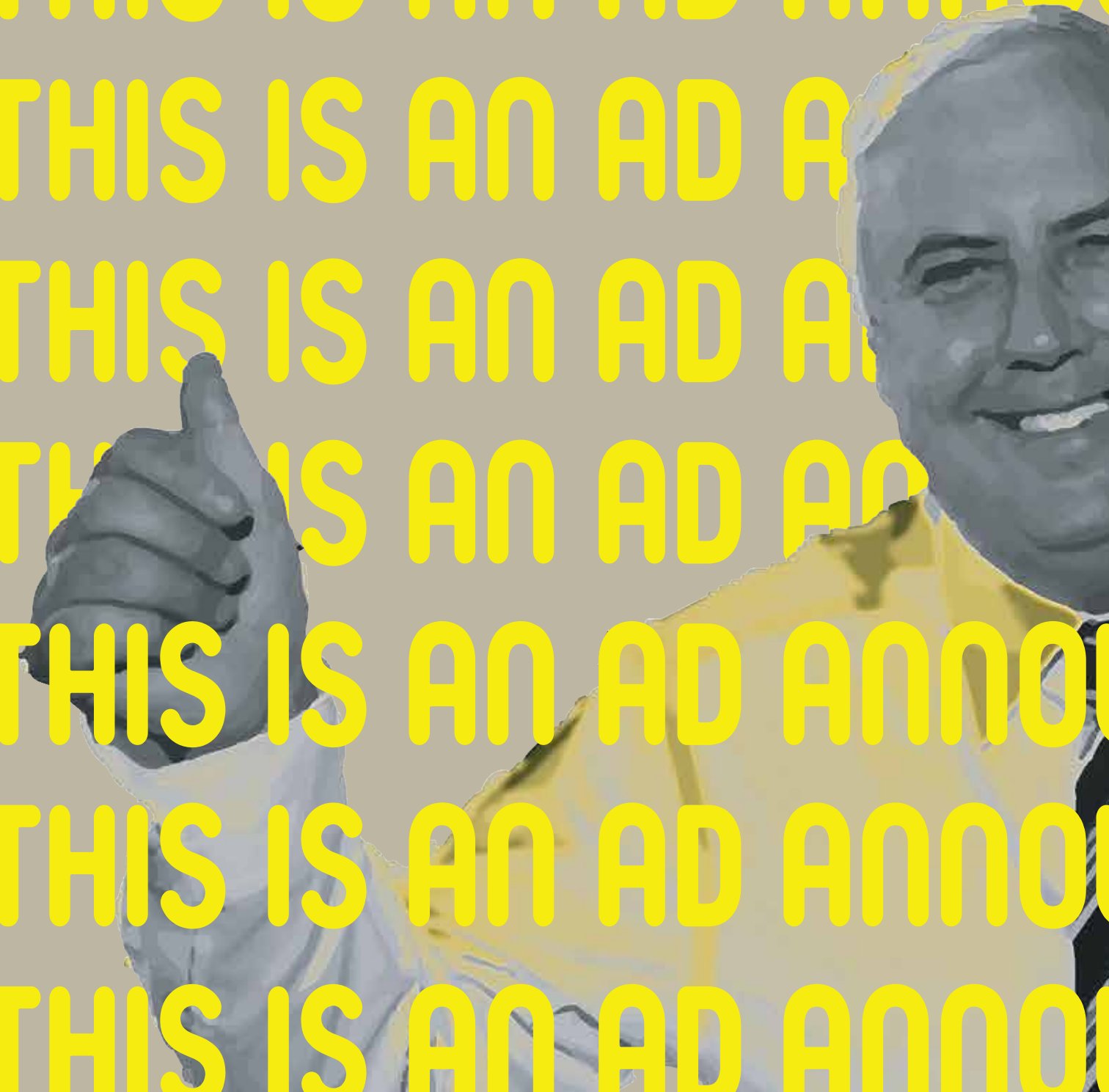
To explore her work further find her at @anti.peng



Casey Yu:

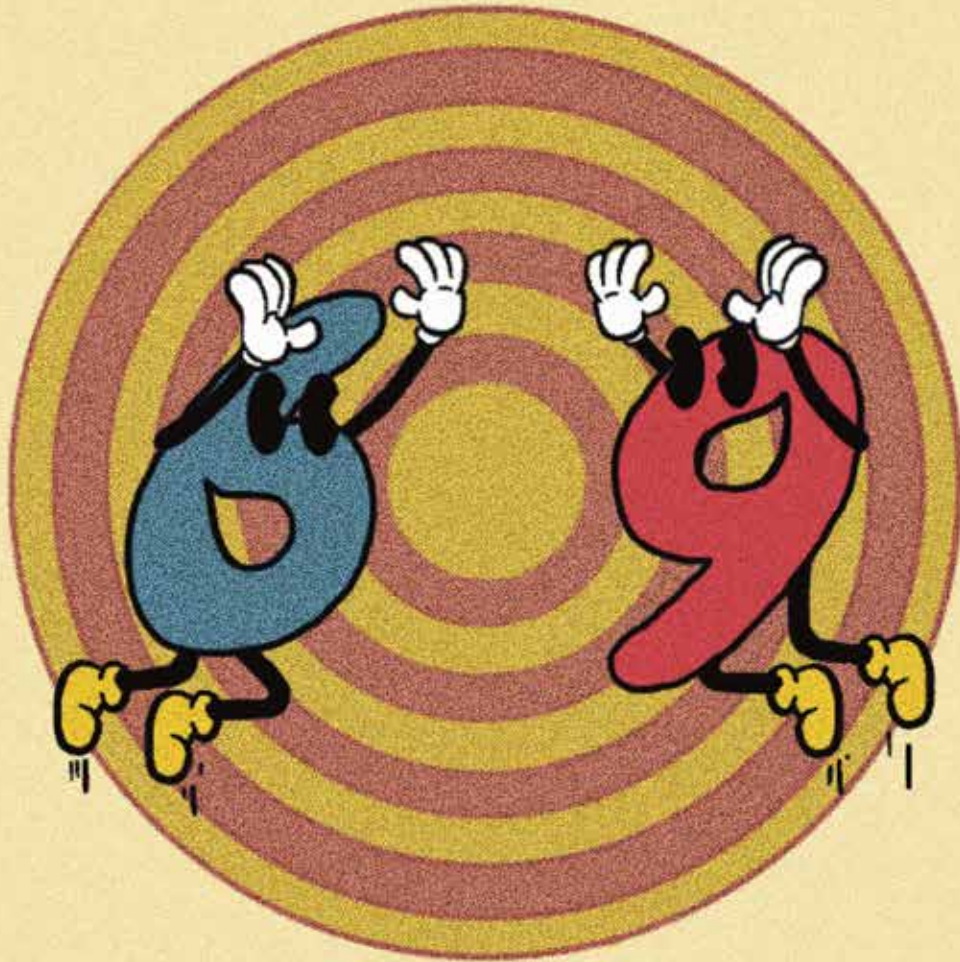
Casey is one of the sub designers this year. She is currently in her third year of the Bachelor of Media (PR & Advertising) degree.

THIS IS AN AD ANNOUNCEMENT
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Tharuunka got 69 problems



but you ain't one!

We at ASS strive to tackle the Asian racism, discrimination and xenophobia that has permeated throughout our society.

With the support of our large team of volunteer staff, we provide a nationwide safe space for Asian people to share whatever they may be going through.

This brochure contains information about the programs we have available to help you assert your identity and compassion to those who surround you.



Visit us:
123 Noplace Avenue
Sydney 2000
Tues to Sat | 9am to 4.30pm

Call us: 6743 6825
Tues to Sat | 9am to 4.30pm

For more information, visit our website:
asiansupportservice.org.au

Asian Support System

Helpful, Obliging, Loving, Encouraging



A Program Guide
for Asians

Ph: 6743 6825

Programs and Events

Our free ASS programs are aimed to help develop your identity and your self-esteem. Read on to learn more about some of the events ASS runs:

- Self-Worth Sessions
- Values Seminars
- Socialising Workshop

Self-Worth Sessions

Attending this program will give you the confidence that you might have lost in day to day life. In these sessions, you will nurture your self-esteem, and finally be the centre of attention. Whether it be your medical degree, musical talents or academic skills, we guarantee that you'll quickly feel like the success you really are. We also can help you bury parts you dislike about yourself (like your short stature), so they won't ever resurface!

Values Seminars

You, like many others, are stuck between opposing Eastern and Western values that mix together like oil and water. Our seminars will help you finally come to terms with the values you actually want to uphold. We will outline the differences between western and eastern cultures so you can best commit to the true culture of your choice.

Socialising Workshop

If you have trouble communicating to your fellow Asian brethren, this workshop will leave you with many ways to start - and continue - a conversation. For example, joking is a good way to start! Joke about your inability to do an Asian squat, the parental disdain that occurs whenever you get a mark below 90, or the alienation you suffered from your family because you lack in fluency in the Asian language supposed to know.

Additional Information

The nearest ASS to you is open from Tuesday to Saturday, 9am to 4.30pm.

Some other programs and events that we host are:

- Cultural Exchange Sessions
- Bi-Monthly Lunch Gatherings
- Therapy Sessions

If you are interested in attending our programs and events visit asiansupportservice.org and book a spot.

Please also consider volunteering to help other Asian people in need.



Suddenly, we are the ones on the hot seat. By the time the chorus plays again, it feels more distressing than funny. Newman's masterful sleight-of-hand has replaced our smugness with shame and our amusement with discomfort. Disarmed by the song's melodic brilliance, we're wholly unprepared for the daggers concealed underneath. In a Shakespearean sort of way, Newman humanises his villains, never settling for the simplicity of a black and white narrative. The irony in this 'Newman-ian' satire carries with it deeply unnerving truths, illuminating reality as much as it is making fun of it.

Good satire, after all, needs to upset and provoke. Its value lies in its unique ability to tell it like it is and speak truth to power. It strikes us with hard and bitter facts when our guard is down. Perhaps that's why Newman's lyrics make us so uncomfortable; they take hold of those ugly, unspoken realities lingering in the air and flaunt them, brazenly waving them about. Unlike much of today's political satire, his songs subvert our moral superiority rather than appeal to it, intent on reminding us of the lies, wrongs and injustices that we are mired in.

The Randy Newman songbook isn't limited to the caustic and fictitious. Die-hard fans know all too well that he is more than capable of producing genuinely touching classics, of writing breakup go-tos and wedding-day gems. Few artists in the pantheon of great Western songwriters can match the acute sensitivity and tenderness of tracks like 'Feels Like Home', 'Lost Without You', 'I Think It's Going to Rain Today', 'Marie' and 'Losing You'. Newman, despite his wry and sardonic manner, is profoundly in tune with the nuances of the human experience. He understands better than anyone the intricacies of our nature, what makes us smile and what makes us cry. He knows our capacity for love and affection as well as our tendency for cruelty and hate. That insight is nestled in the heart of each and every one of Newman's songs, imbuing them with the undying relevance and beauty that all art aspires to attain.

Even if I knew which way the wind was blowing

Even if I knew this road would lead me home

Even if I knew for once where I was going

I'm lost out here without you

(Lost Without You)



Hello! I'm Scott and I'm a 2nd year Arts/Law student majoring in history. In my spare time, I like to play guitar and listen to music (especially 60s pop and anything by John Mayer or Paul Simon). I also enjoy reading and playing basketball - fun fact: I used to want to be an NBA player, but then I stopped growing after year 10 :(

It's easy to brush aside these songs as cheap satire or to criticise their insensitive and callous handling of such delicate subject matter. However, to do so would be to miss their point entirely. Newman's music, upon closer examination, is much more than pure ridicule and derision. It sets out not only to make us laugh, but also to elicit discomfort, unease and deliberation, and to make us feel something underneath the laughter. The subversive genius of his lyricism, as Rolling Stone critic Bruce Grimes aptly describes, "comes at you from corners".

His songs deftly articulate those uncomfortable truths that no one else dares to say but should be said. Newman's satire gives voice to the darker sides of human nature and paints an unfiltered portrait of our world, the likes of which — in an era of political correctness and hypersensitivity — have become difficult to come by.

One the best examples of this is 'Rednecks', the opening track of Newman's iconic 1974 album 'Good Old Boys'. The song's narrator is a proud Southern bigot, unashamed of his prejudice and heritage and not the least bit afraid to preach his racist worldview. While watching a late-night program hosted by some "smart-ass New York Jew" (Dick Cavett, who isn't even Jewish), he is taken aback by the heartless way in which the segregationist Georgia governor Lestor Maddox is ridiculed on stage. Sickened beyond belief, he sits down on a park bench and writes a highly offensive and self-satisfied ode to his fellow countrymen:

We are rednecks, we're rednecks

We don't know our ass

From a hole in the ground

We're rednecks, we're rednecks

*And we're keeping the n*****s down*

(Rednecks)



Backed by jaunty piano lines and a buoyant horn section, he sings it over and over again, almost as if he's daring us to sing along. The New Yorker's Ian Crouch wrote of the track's dangerous charm, "... the song is dangerously catchy, and that's part of the point. Racism is insidious ... [it] lives in the collective American mind a lot like a pop song does." 'Rednecks', from this perspective, isn't about causing offence for the sake of humour or publicity. It's about taking away all the pretence and sugar-coating, about stripping us of our rosy filters, and opening our eyes to those disturbing realities that we often choose not to see.

But Newman's narrator isn't done there. Just as we think we've heard all he has to say, he pivots and turns the song around. Launching a surprisingly well-founded and perceptive attack on the deplorable hypocrisy of the North, he lists every impoverished African-American slum in every major Northern city:

*Now your northern n*****'s a negro*

You see he's got his dignity

Down here we're too ignorant to realise

*That the North has set the n***** free*

Yes he's free to be put in a cage

In Harlem in New York City

And he's free to be put in a cage

On the South Side of Chicago

And the West Side

And he's free to be put in a cage

In Hough in Cleveland

...

They're gatherin' 'em up from miles around

*Keepin' the n*****s down*

(Rednecks)

Older fans might associate Newman's name with a different brand of music entirely. To them, he's the singer-songwriter behind some of the most provocative and remarkable records of his era. Throughout the 1970s, Newman's unconventional approach to pop, rock, jazz and the blues garnered him consistent critical acclaim and a cult following. His self-titled debut album feels almost like a deliberate subversion of all that was cool and mainstream at the time. Released in 1968, when the gritty and fast-bopping sounds of the Rolling Stones were at the height of their popularity, Randy Newman is slow-moving, heavy on strings and light on drums. The record's opening track, 'Love Story (You and Me)' seems untouched by the sunshine pop and psychedelia that was taking the American music scene by storm. Meandering beneath orchestral swells, the song grapples with the humdrum of American life, and its final verse evokes in listeners either a sense of profound relaxation or pure existential dread:

When our kids are grown

With kids of their own

They'll send us away

To a little home in Florida

We'll play checkers all day

Until we pass away (Love Story (You and Me))



Much of Newman's music is characterised by cynicism and ambiguity. There is also a strange disconnect between the music and the lyrics. For example, he pairs delightful Americana-inspired chord changes with sharp, character-driven accounts told from the perspectives of various wacky personas. Newman's characters are shameless and narrow-minded, and they go on lengthy — usually derogatory — tirades about politics, race, bigotry and romance. The narrator in his biggest, catchiest and most controversial hit, 'Short People', for instance, unabashedly shares his disdain for the vertically challenged, rambling on for three whole minutes about how "short people got nobody to love":

They got little baby legs

And they stand so low

You got to pick 'em up

Just to say hello

They got little cars

That go beep, beep, beep

They got little voices

Goin' peep, peep, peep

They got grubby little fingers

And dirty little minds

They're gonna get you every time (Short People)



Newman's characters are never heroes or saints. Instead, they are crooked, unforgiving and proudly ignorant. 'Political Science', another irreverent classic, is a Strangelovian piece sung by an out-of-touch patriot who wants to nuke countries that don't like America:

We give them money

But are they grateful

No, they're spiteful

And they're hateful

They don't respect us

So let's surprise them

We'll drop the big one

And pulverise them (Political Science)



The understated brilliance of Randy Newman's musical satire

By Scott Huang

Artwork by Jelena Xu

Decades before he composed the Toy Story soundtracks that people know and love, Randy Newman was writing songs about American chauvinism and bigotry.

Randy Newman has always been an anomaly. Bespectacled, broad-faced and thin-lipped, he looks unusual in a way that teeters between comical and unsettling. His wry demeanour feels every bit as charming as an overcast winter day. Newman always looks as if he's silently laughing at the foolish absurdity of the world.

Don't you wanna see the sun come up each morning?

Don't you wanna see the sun go down each day?

Don't you wanna see that little girl who loves you so?

Her heart would break if you should go

(I Can't Let You Throw Yourself Away)

Now in his late 70s, grey haired and slightly plump, he hunches over his piano and warbles along in a signature nasal croak. His fingers thump out New Orleans blues progressions as he sways back and forth to the ragtime grooves for which he is known.



With twenty two Academy Award nominations, seven Grammys and an induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Newman is one of the most decorated musicians in American history. To modern audiences, he's the guy who wrote and performed the Pixar tunes of our childhoods. He's the voice behind 'You've Got a Friend in Me' (Toy Story) and 'If I Didn't Have You' (Monsters, Inc.). He also wrote the heartbreakingly beautiful 'When She Loved Me' (Toy Story 2) and composed countless scores for a seemingly inexhaustible list of classic films. Newman's oeuvre has become a gold mine for feel-good songs. Their deceptive simplicity and captivating lyrics never fail to remind us to 'appreciate the little things in life'.

So the years went by

I stayed the same

But she began to drift away

I was left alone

Still I waited for the day

When she'd say, "I will always love you"

(When She Loved Me)



THIS IS
A
FILLER
PAGE

DEAL WITH IT :/

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO FINDING THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE AT UNIVERSITY

UNSW LOVE LETTER #27608



1 ORGANISE TO GO TO A SOCIAL EVENT



2 MAKE SURE TO TAKE A FIT PIC BEFORE GOING

wow i look like such an alpha chad

let the females come and feast on this six pack



3 GO TO SAID EVENT



4 wtf is that guy's problem

wow what a hottie <3 i'm like catching feelings already



SPEND THE WHOLE TIME IN THE CORNER, THINKING "DAMN, HE/SHE/THEY KINDA BAD"

5 MAKE SURE YOU LEAVE EARLY (WE WOULDN'T WANT TO GET TO THE POINT WHERE YOU HAVE TO TALK TO SOMEONE)

let's Naruto run outta here and embarrass myself even more



7 CHECK LOVE LETTERS FOR ANY POSTS CROSS-REFERENCING YOUR NAME, OR INITIALS, HOWEVER, MOST LIKELY IT WILL BE YOUR FIT (AS YOU MADE THE WISE DECISION TO STAY IN THE CORNER AVOIDING TALKING TO OTHERS).

WAIT A FEW DAYS...



UNSW Love Letters

#696969

to the pervy dude who kept staring at me at Tharunka's Issue #2 Launch Party, you are a creep. Pls stay away from me thx

PREPARE FOR THE ROMANCE OF YOUR LIFE (THANK ME LATER)

THE POEM FOLLOWS TWO MALES, DEAD-EYE DICK AND MEXICAN PETE, WHO ENCOUNTER A SEX WORKER BY THE NAME OF ESKIMO NELL

For the next four months, Tharunka posted explicit images on the front page of the newspaper, doubling down on their stance against censorship laws. The Student Guild was divided and those opposed to the Tharunka editorial team moved a motion to dismiss the editors. The motion failed.

Opposition from conservative groups at the University grew louder. Backed by religious supporters, the Evangelical Union at UNSW stepped in and burned 1970's July edition in broad daylight on the main library lawn. A postgraduate student at the time who claimed to be a spokesperson for the group and an organiser of the public burning claimed Tharunka undermined society through its pornographic content and Marxist line.

Nine months after the publication of Eskimo Nell, police seized Tharunka copies from bookstores. In order to continue publishing the anti-censorship content, the Tharunka editors set up an alternative underground magazine called Thorunka and Thor between 1970 and 1973.

In 1972, Tharunka editor Wendy Bacon was convicted for her role and was sent to jail for over a week. Today, she is a prominent Australian journalist and currently works in Sydney's Inner West.

Tharunka's legacy began as a fortnightly newspaper in March 1953, with editors publishing its very first issue when UNSW was still called the University of Technology. Before the internet, students got all their campus information via Tharunka. Clubs and societies would advertise events, the SRC would announce policies, and sports clubs would publish their schedules.

* You can find the University archives at the basement level of the UNSW Main Library.

"Living in Australia's most marginalised electorate, Wentworth, is tough. Having to wait multiple minutes for a direct bus to where I need to go is infuriating. I get so annoyed checking my phone to find out when I need to leave. I expect to be able to leave my home when I want. What do I pay taxes for? Anyway, I like to write and hope one day I'll be a journalist. See you around."



The time a Tharunka writer was jailed for a pornographic poem



HARRISEN LECKENBY

Tharunka newspapers were burned and an editor jailed in 1970 after they published a raunchy poem.

‘Eskimo Nell’ was a poem printed on the back page of Tharunka’s second volume of 1970. The poem follows Dead-Eye Dick, who sleeps with approximately 40 sex workers, and Mexican Pete, who cheers him on. The two men eventually come across a sex worker called Eskimo Nell who sexually outperforms Dead-Eye Dick and emasculates him. Its details and language are quite graphic.

In 1970, while Tharunka was a fiercely student-led publication and looking to print pieces purely for shock value, NSW’s strict censorship laws prevented the editors from publishing anything pornographic or sexual.

The NSW Obscene and Indecent Publications Act specifically prevented Tharunka from publishing any material that “would tend to encourage depravity or would tend to injure the morals of the public”. Visible sexuality was also deemed a threat to public safety.

After publishing ‘Eskimo Nell’, Tharunka faced immediate backlash. The NSW police issued 40 summons and made multiple arrests over the publication’s contents. In response, Tharunka editors published a special edition, saying:

“Some politicians are upset [but so] far they haven’t gone any further than moralising.”

Following crisis meetings (available in the university archives*), UNSW administration claimed the decision to publish was unwise because it opened the paper up to criticism from NSW Parliament.

ED POWER

enhouse emissions amid plant outages

WE'VE BEEN
CONSUMING MORE
FOOD THAN FARMERS
HAVE BEEN PRODUCING
FOR MOST OF THE
PAST DECADE. WHAT
WILL IT TAKE TO
GROW MORE?

UTURE

sudden drop in the
missions gener-
alia's second-
ew data shows.
power giant
operator of the
power plant in
be Valley, the Mt
plant in NSW and
nationally - fell
per cent,

EnergyAus
second-big

"All of this emphasises the fact
that replacing coal with gas is
and more

TIME

GOD

WORLD

Anger overflows at decision

Some of his suggestions
adopted, fuelling the
of a government in
regulation industry.
story of his meet-
to prove that
d for a sus-
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quite the
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recent rains
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ear came down at



anned maintenance
its big generator
fall is also likely
AGL, the nation
or, after a unit at it
-fired plant in Vic

WAY

This Just In:

Rare sighting of all Barbie girls living in a Man's world!

By Nina Maric

A tidal wave of bewilderment is rocking planet men. An exploding number of men are questioning if gender inequality is as evident as some indicate. Lucky for you, this letter gives modest answers to your modest questioning, men!

Dearest male who stumbles upon my work,

Let me begin by saying it is mortifying that nowadays – in Australia no less – men are so unfortunate to have to compete with stay-at-home mothers. They cook, they clean, they raise children, and they get paid nothing! When I first heard about this scandal, I was shocked to learn that men's efforts to cook dinners, wash clothes and raise well-behaved children came at the expense of a fat paycheck, and that men were unaware of this.

At the risk of disappointing you, I'm going to have to say that having a uterus just makes women feel funny about money.

Take Barbie, a mother of two. After studying for years and graduating with a Bachelorette degree, she showed us that women succeed when they major in what they know best: fun, flirty, feminine and childrearing.

It's just so silly to think that the ratio of males to females could ever be equal. Thankfully, it's a quick fix to be thoughtfully reminded that men naturally hold the lead in the workplace.

Men get paid more because they choose to become politicians, doctors, and lawyers. Women only get paid less because they decide to become 'female' politicians, 'female' doctors and 'female' lawyers. Bravo! All the more reason to employ women everywhere!

In 2021, former Prime Minister Scott Morrison was utterly astonished to learn that a gender pay gap even existed. Who would have guessed that understanding why women and men who do the same job get paid differently was his last priority?

If you can understand Mr. Morrison's befuddlement, you'll be equally confused by Deputy Senate Leader,

Larissa Waters, when she said, "women have been fighting for pay equality for decades but the gulf remains".

Larissa is a 'female' leader working for The Greens, so take what she says with a grain of salt.

It makes sense that men get paid more. Women's childbearing duties and emotional tendencies just so happen to make them their own worst enemies. It's their own fault that they get paid less.

Take Australia's first female Prime Minister Julia Gillard for example. The moral of her story is simple: be emotional about sexism and misogyny or step aside and let opposition leader Tony Abbott get on with his job of leading the nation.

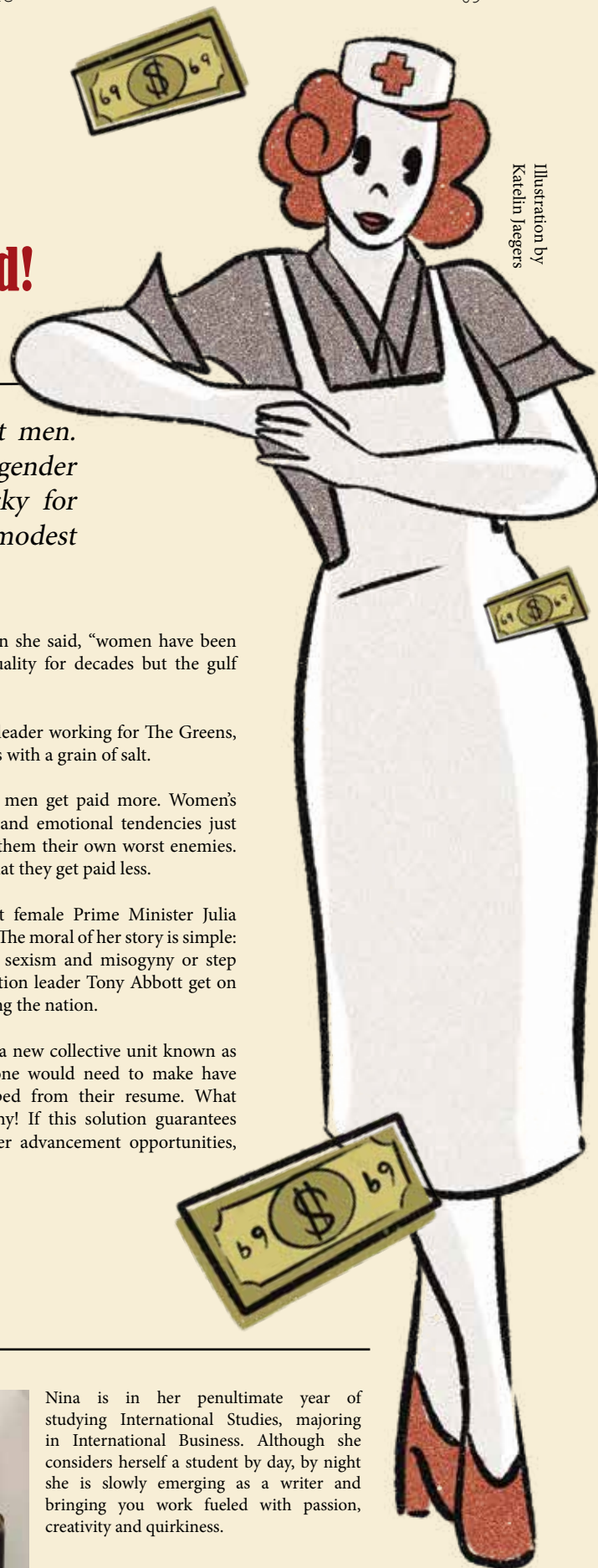
Imagine that under a new collective unit known as 'humankind', everyone would need to make have their gender scrapped from their resume. What comes next? Anarchy! If this solution guarantees equal pay and career advancement opportunities, I'll eat my uterus.

All the very best,

Nina



Nina is in her penultimate year of studying International Studies, majoring in International Business. Although she considers herself a student by day, by night she is slowly emerging as a writer and bringing you work fueled with passion, creativity and quirkiness.



Ahn struggles to find his footing in the complex rom-com universe. I remember when I too, thought love was simple. When I thought the world was full of endless possibilities. My love for my ex-wife Jennifer was like an eternal flame, and I was the dusty cupboard moth that flocked to its scorching heat.

The film explores what it means to truly embrace who you are, even if that means admitting that you've compromised aspects of your identity along the way. However, this adage is trite and frankly, delusional. No one should be who they truly are. Everyone is just holding up a façade to shield their true selves from ever being subjected to the unflinching cruelty of mankind. I bore my soul to Jenny and after 15 years, what do I get? Subpoenaed. A nondescript man came into my place of work and served me divorce papers. Imagine how embarrassing that would have been if I wasn't working remotely in the quiet of my gym-turned-home office. No more kids running up the staircase, giggling and screaming. No more whining to pick up my dirty boxers off the floor. Just me, alone, in my empty four-bedroom family home.

Also, for a film intended as a scathing critique of the gay community's toxic body standards, there sure are an inordinate number of close-ups of six-packs. Foreground and background. And there is no way the cast is that smooth and hairless in real life. Talk about CGI magic. But sometimes I do wonder, if I just did Weight Watchers with Jenny after years of nagging, would she still love me?

Fine, I'll admit it. I've let myself go since Jenny moved out with the kids, okay? I wish that whenever I wore a button-down my overgrown beer gut didn't peek through. Sure, maybe someone mistook me for a pregnant woman at the bus stop that one time I bent down after dropping my Opal card. Alright, three people thought I was "with child". But it's only because I don't know what to do with myself. Even though I never really talked to our kids, I still miss our silent, terse interactions. Like, when we would silently pray Jenny would come back faster with the green bean casserole so we could finally stop avoiding eye contact at the dinner table. She was the glue that held us together. She held me together.

You know what? I take it all back. I want all the "romance bullshit" Howie described to Noah that first morning. I want to stand in the cramped hallway outside her new condo blasting Al Green from an old boombox. I want to kiss her under a gazebo. I want her to run into my rather dainty, but shockingly hairy arms, as we hold each other's gaze and embrace in the pouring rain. Jenny, if you're reading this, let's try again, sweetie. This is my dumb, big, stupid finale. Let me be the Howie to your Charlie.

Love,

Your Silly, Little Action Man.

P.S. I change my mind, ★★★★★



My name's Maddy Lim, and I'm a third-year psychology major. I'm not sure what hobbies are and if they truly exist, so I'll just tell you some fun facts. I've been to a Nickelback concert, I met Jennifer Lawrence during a blizzard, and I have a boat licence (sans boat).

**TIRED OF BEING A
HOMOPHOB?**



LET US HELP YOU!

FIRE ISLAND:

The straightest review of the gayest movie that nobody asked for

Just like Scorsese... if he dunked all his 35mm film in coconut oil, inhaled too much self-tanner, and did poppers right before yelling 'ACTION!'

Written by Madeleine Lim | ★☆☆☆☆



As IndyyFilm's resident action film critic, I must admit, I picked this film because I assumed it was a gritty, survival/thriller/mystery saga documenting a lone man's battle against the elements, wild island beasts and, perhaps most lethally, his own mind. However, around the ten-minute mark when Charli XCX began to play and someone slinked into frame wearing basically nothing but heels and huge eyelashes, I realised there weren't going to be any grizzled action men or wild bears. Well, at least not in the way I thought. Still, being the professional I am, I proceeded to review this sorry excuse for a film as I normally would: objectively and definitively.

The bastardisation of fire continues. Fyre Fest. The 2020 Australian bushfires. Firework by Katy Perry (2011). When will this nightmare stop? Who can say? It's certainly not with the raunchy, new Searchlight Pictures rom-com Fire Island. Directed by Andrew Ahn, the film follows two, gay Asian-American best friends Noah and Howie who are determined to party with their chosen family on their last boozy, drug-filled trip to New York's "gay Disneyland". Noah pledges to abstain from sex until he finally finds a boyfriend for Howie but in his attempts realises that his hardened exterior is perhaps not as durable as he once thought.

Aside from the film's more obvious plot holes - like how two men could maintain a healthy friendship in their thirties - Kim Booster's most fatal mistake was to assert that love prevails. The moment Howie locks eyes with a rich, hot, paediatrician named Charlie, I spent the next twenty minutes clenching my buttocks in anticipation of inevitable disappointment. Oh, to be young and wear your heart on your sleeve like sweet, naïve Howie.

As a departure from Anh's more intimate ruminations on the queer Asian identity in his 2016 film Spa Night, Fire Island stretches into the rom-com arena. But



An alt rock and Aussie indie music lover, a vinyl collector, a radical feminist (Not like other girls).

AN OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF MALE POLITICIANS BASED ON CREDIBLE EVIDENCE

- Sashka Wickramasinghe

Women in politics endure scrutiny from their co-workers, the media, and the wider world on a daily basis, waiting for the day when their policies will take precedence over their outfits. This article flips the issue on its head and looks at what it would be like if male politicians experienced the same thing.

We could spend hours talking about all the successful political decisions men have made: starting unnecessary wars, destroying the environment, suppressing women's rights, the list goes on. And that's not even counting the failures. But let's analyse our fellow male politicians from a less explored yet just as insightful angle. As we know, a person's physical appearance is indicative of their political performance; Julia Gillard was obviously an incompetent prime minister due to her missing earring in a parliament speech. Today I present to you five of our most powerful male politicians, carefully ranked for your learning.

EMMANUEL MACRON

Coming in first place is Emmanuel Macron, French President and fashionista. Whether Macron belongs in the presidential office is a tricky question to answer, but his potential to walk the runway, that goes without saying! Well-known for his luxury suits and accessories, Emmanuel is always looking red carpet ready. His glamour and allure mesmerises and entrances, so much so that it doesn't really matter whether or not he's succeeding in his role, because he just looks so damn good doing it. How do you distract people from your Islamophobia? Wear a Louis Vuitton suit and stare down the camera with your best brooding gaze.

JUSTIN TRUDEAU

Moving onto the one and only Justin Trudeau, Canada's Prime Minister. Trudeau may have legalised the recreational use of cannabis, introduced the right to medically assisted dying, banned conversion therapy, and claimed to identify as a feminist, but what is that monstrosity of a beard? How are we supposed to trust a man who appears to have just re-joined civilisation after a six-month hibernation? What's he got hiding under there? Perhaps an apology to Canada's First Nation peoples? Yet, when the beard comes off, all our doubts fade away. Just like that. He is dependable. He is a man of his word. He is the ultimate politician. Because he is clean-shaven.

JOE BIDEN

Aviator Joe. One of my personal favourites. To witness possibly the world's most politically influential figure attempt to channel his inner Tom Cruise at the ripe age of 79 is definitely an interesting sight. Is it a last cry to appeal to the American youth from twenty years ago? To be cool or, dare I say, hip? It looks like he's treating his presidential role as a fun little mission. Almost child-like, Joe enters the Oval Office every day, a skip in his step, watching the gun-violence death toll rise by the second. He shoots finger guns as his secretary walks by. Cool as a cucumber. President Biden. Mr. Easy Breezy. Taking it day by day, one shooting at a time.

SCOTT MORRISON

Onto Australia's penultimate hero, Scott Morrison. When you think of Scomo, the first word that comes to mind probably isn't fashion. And that is my entire point. Scomo is so far-removed from the realm of decency that the human brain can't even recall the bland, tasteless suits he slaps on every day. And if we can't even remember what he looks like, how are we ever going to remember his policies? Well, we don't. We don't need to. We already know his disastrous competence levels just by looking at those hat god awful suits. It's the same suit. Over and over again. With a closet mimicking Spongebob's, we always know what to expect. Absolutely nothing.

BORIS JOHNSON

Last but not least, UK's Boris Johnson. I have just one word. Comb. You can get them from your local supermarket or chemist. I understand Johnson has a stressful job, but it might help ease the public mind if he didn't consistently look like he had just emerged from a lab experiment gone wrong, or perhaps an illegal lockdown rager. The pertinent sense of panic his hair creates is a danger to society and must be remedied immediately. Boris Johnson and a comb might be the only duo with enough power to save our planet.

And there you have it. Male politicians truthfully and thoughtfully ranked. Remember, there is no place for objectification or ridicule in politics, that would just be disrespectful.

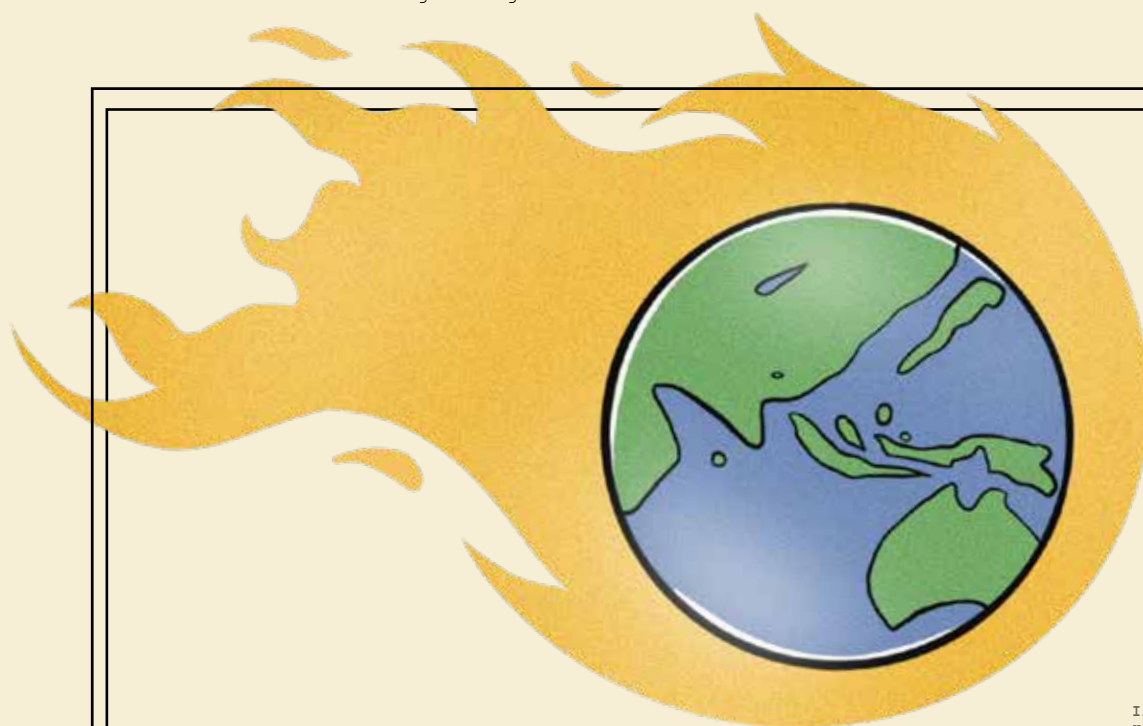


Illustration by
Katelin Jaegers

Meanwhile, season 285 of Australia has made no attempt to go in radical new directions, which is its biggest problem. It all started a few seasons back with the introduction of main character Scott, whose silly persona was an attempt to capitalise on the popularity and controversy of Donald (and justify Earth's creators' actions with him) whilst simultaneously working that character type into a more realistic story. But those attempts were in vain as Scott became more and more of a caricature as the seasons went on. Fast forward to this season and most of his story arcs are comedies of errors that only pander to hate watchers. It would seem we are expected to believe that this was their intention the whole time. I just do not buy it. We are a couple of episodes in following new protagonist Anthony, and I honestly don't have much will to see the season through.

He seems to be a carbon copy of Joe from Earth, who is in fact played by Spilchugoccl's younger sibling Blexx (as Spilchugoccl has 162 younger siblings, it appears we're in this for the long run).

This leads me to my hot take of the day: Australia needs a prequel series. That opinion is not original – in fact, it has been gaining traction recently. Ask yourself why the decision was made to create Australia? It was because, despite the beautiful and extensive world-building on display in the 1,787 prior seasons of Earth (by far the most criminally underrated aspect of the show in my opinion), fans were finally growing bored of the same old places. Ratings subsequently dipped, and the need for new and interesting content was apparent. When Australia was first introduced, we were greeted by a bizarre and sweeping setting that appeared alien to what we were used to, inhabited by an absolutely fascinating and mysterious culture that few could wait to find out more about. But instead of developing that, and creating the show fans actually wanted, we simply got a rehashing of what had been happening in Earth.

But once again, fans are crying out for a change of pace. To the writers I say this: give the fans what they want and put a pause on the current series that piques the interest of few. Create something that will be enjoyed by all. It's not like I'm calling for innovation – remember how I said Earth and Australia were experiencing their lowest ratings since season 928? Well if you recall, that season

was beaten out in popularity by prequel series Egypt, created to address the same problem way back then. There have been no more successful spinoff series in history, purely because it was so different. It offered a refreshing change of pace to Earth, while still staying true to the most popular aspects (i.e. war). But thus far Australia has appeared as a mere clone of its parent show, and it will garner no more popularity until that changes.

Alas, with all this war, switching of actors and alterations of lore – and I haven't even gotten to the number of natural disasters they keep injecting for shock value – the producers of Earth are so afraid of fundamental change they implement meaningless change to avoid it. They recycle old plots because they would let the show deflate into obscurity and be cancelled before they innovate. They make a conglomerate of rehashes from across the show's history, call it Volodymyr and Vladimir, and shove it down your throat, almost demanding that you enjoy it.

The creators of Earth seem blind to the wants and needs of the very fans that are invested in it. To viewers, the elements that need urgent attention are so glaringly obvious that seeing them turn up again and again is excruciating to the point of physical pain. I want Earth to get better. I really do. But it has given me few reasons to hope that it will.



Skluccxol Ballucattawol-Prignoshtigore is the foremost critic and analyst in the fantasy genre on the planet Glarg. At little more than 3,000 years old, Ballucattawol-Prignoshtigore burst onto the scene with a controversial and scathing review of much-loved series Mars, which led to its untimely end. In recent millennia, it has established itself as a titan amongst fellow critics.

Audiences Rate Newest Season of Hit Series Earth a Flop

by Skluccxol Ballucattawol-Prignoshtigore

A tired and angry fanbase hoped that the new season of the fantasy TV series Earth wouldn't be the utter disappointment the last few have been. Unfortunately, it was even worse.

So we are halfway through the 2,022nd season of the now stagnating, once hit-series Earth. I regret to inform you that the tirade of over-the-top storylines, poorly executed plot twists and preachy themes. Meanwhile, spin-off series Australia has entered season 245, and fans hope it will bring solace from the disappointment of its parent show.

"If season 2,020 gave us the most unrealistically high stakes, season 2,021 was the least gripping."

To recap recent seasons of Earth – after a disastrous four seasons of malignant anti-hero Donald, reaping the show's lowest ratings since season 928, there was hope for a fresh start with new protagonist Joe. But the writers vastly overcompensated for Donald's comical stylisation when crafting

Joe's mellow personality: one season with Joe revealed him to be a boring, lifeless and uninspiring hero. He had very few compelling motivations compared to protagonists of the past, and actor Quongzel Spilchugoccl just does not suit the role of a human (although at least the human suit actually fits again). Spilchugoccl's portrayal of Joe completely lacks energy, with the character inadvertently shrinking into the background of every scene he is in. Stick to the dinosaur reprisals in my opinion – Spilchugoccl's prehistoric performances are second to none.

There has been a clear diversion from the focus on America over the last hundred seasons or so. The first episode of season 2,022 appeared to follow the same old 'joe-centric' route, but we were also reintroduced to two characters. First, the simmering villain Vladimir, whose rise to the status of true antagonist has been foreshadowed for some 40 seasons now. Excitingly, it seems like that time is finally upon us. He has also come to the fore in an

unexpected but intriguing way: war. We haven't seen a focal war arc on the show since Adolf, the most compelling villain since the show began.

The show's new protagonist is Volodymyr (and although I'm a fan of creating meaning in character names, this is ridiculous – if you're going to explore a hero/villain dichotomy and signal that through naming, at least do it with a modicum of subtlety). It appears likely that we will be following him for the foreseeable future. Fans will remember Volodymyr from a stand-alone episode in season 2,019 where he, a silly and clownlike comedian, seized his country from the hands of evil leaders.

However, the new Volodymyr is portrayed not as a cynical clown but as a hardened war hero.

But this change is so abrupt that we're not really sure what's going on. The premise is great: a pure-hearted leader overcomes a tyrannical force that would otherwise crush them, but Vladimir's motives for invasion seem complex and unclear. It appears that there is too much of a focus on staying true to every small detail of lore out of fear of backlash from the show's most diehard fans. It would honestly be much more fun if Vladimir's goal was pure, unadulterated world domination; Volodymyr's heroism would then ring more true.

Vladimir's persona throughout the show has been one of heartless calculation. His actions throughout this season have been in total contradiction to what we've come to know of him. One of the great things about Adolf's earlier arc was that his extreme actions, while terrifying viewers, were totally explainable thanks to the roughly 30 seasons of setup. It seems like this season, the writers are trying to appropriate that model to a context that just doesn't suit, making Volodymyr's heroism tiring.

"Season 285 of Australia has made no attempt at such deviations but that is unfortunately its biggest problem."

Elon Musk establishes fifth successful space colony

By Guy Suttner



Illustration by Casey Yu

“What’s the deal with space jet food?”

“What’s the deal with space jet food?”

It was the last night of the Los Angeles Comedy Festival, and the Dolby Theatre was packed. Every actor, musician, TikTok star and crypto billionaire was in attendance. They had come far and wide to see the funniest man on earth. A voice continued in an accent that whiffed of Apartheid and civil rights violations.

“It’s so good that even zero-gravity won’t hide your weight!”

Laughter seized the cavernous auditorium. Elon Musk surveyed his adoring crowd and waited for the last lingering giggles to subside.

“Till next year, paedophiles!”

Elon walked off the stage to a standing ovation so enthusiastic it continued for almost 80 hours.

His assistant was standing backstage to give him a run-down of the next day’s schedule. Like any true #grinder, it started at 3AM.

“Your jet to the Jupiter colony leaves tomorrow at midday. Before that, you are addressing the UN General Assembly, you’re issuing judgements at the US Supreme Court, and you have a panel discussion on free speech on Twitter with @FurryNazi69.”

Elon nodded with approval. The next few moments were a blur, he was whisked away by security, through hallways and car parks, until he found himself in the backseat of Tesla’s latest electric marvel – the Amadeus, a car shaped like a bagel.

As he surveyed the Los Angeles streets on his way home, Elon felt content. He had achieved more than one man ever could. His life was a perfect decision tree. At every point, at every moment, he had made the right choice. If multiverses were real, as he often mused, that would mean there were a million other Elons out there. Less successful, less rich, less smart, less funny.

That last possibility was perhaps the most frightening. There was some universe out there, in the infinite cosmos, where he was possibly the least funny man alive. Where he had enough money to do literally anything but spent all his time trying to impress 14-year-olds on Twitter. Where he posted boomer memes. Where he uploaded incredibly blurry bathroom cubicle door ads to Jupiter. to Jupiter.



Guy Suttner is one of the foremost experts on the inner workings of Elon Musk’s mind, considering they are both a) South African b) have watched Rick and Morty and c) are about as mature as the average 22-year old.

Smut

by Conor Carroll

porn, smut, filth,
words with a whorish tilt,
panting, moaning, pulses
roaming, screaming, reaching,
all about finishing

before the deadline
one and only lifeline
for the struggling writer,
their dampened desire
and threadbare dreams.

Illustration by Katelin Jaegers



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 2022

Letter to the Editor

By Mick Unterborn

Dear Editor,

The other day I saw in the news that children in Australia are falling behind in school compared to the rest of the world. Some scientists tested elementary school kids from China and here in reading, math, and science, and the Chinese had us beat in every subject. I didn't think it was very fair because the Chinese have fewer words to read per sentence, but alas. Overall, it was a very depressing read, but it opened my eyes.

This is serious business because when our kids fall behind so early, they'll never manage to catch up. That's why every year, so many lazy international students come to Australia and take our university spots with their higher grades. I have two children of my own, and recently I've been given many reasons to be worried for their futures.

Instead of blaming this on the kids for staring at their phones all day (I can but I won't), I think we should talk about how our education system is failing them. From primary school all the way up to university, kids aren't being taught the right skills in the right way.

"If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you do, you're misinformed" - Mark Twain wrote this gem, as I found from simple Googling. In a lot of young people, I see the inability and/or unwillingness to do their own research properly, and I think that holds them back greatly. I tried to show my oldest son an article about a new form of therapy for cancer, and he just brushed me off because my source was "questionable". Instead of teaching critical thinking, teachers have indoctrinated kids into thinking that some sources of information aren't to be used, influencing their beliefs while shutting down dissent. It's a dangerous trend that's making the youth less open-minded, especially when the teachers are railroading kids into only using mainstream sources.

This lack of critical thinking is closely related to another weakness I see in students, which is their reliance on personal experience. Instead of using scientific methods to prove what they're saying, they put a lot of stock into their own stories, which they say everyone should respect for some reason. Maybe there is an obsession with feelings for the new generation that I just don't understand; no one ever pulled their proverbial and literal punches back in my day.

While observation is a big part of science, they shouldn't be so reliant on anecdotes. Just a few days ago, a junior co-worker arrogantly insisted that our company was performing certain tasks inefficiently as he claims our competitors do better. Us seniors shut him down with our combined 40 years of experience in the industry; we know for a fact that our methods are the best from trial and error, and it's the way we've always done things. He huffed and called us a bunch of names, which bothered some of my co-workers a bit. I guess young people are just like that nowadays, with the lax discipline in schools.

The way I see it, scientific methods are all about designing experiments; to do that, you need solid research and strong critical thinking skills. The other day, I decided to try out this new essential fertilizer I read about in an e-newsletter I get every month. According to the ad, the fertilizer would make vegetables grow twice as fast as long if the seed was not buried in soil. I deduced that it was likely because the seed needed more light to perform photosynthesis faster with the fertilizer. So, I dug out two holes on the side of my lawn next to the driveway, planting a seed in each and putting fertilizer in one but not the other. The next day, the seed I put fertilizer onto had sprouted, even after my wife backed our minivan into the ditch while heading to church. I'm certain I'm onto something, and will report back with more results in future correspondence.

I want the best for the youth of Australia, but I don't think the current education system is adequate for giving them an edge over foreign students. Unfortunately, I don't see education policies changing for the better in the next three years.

Regards,

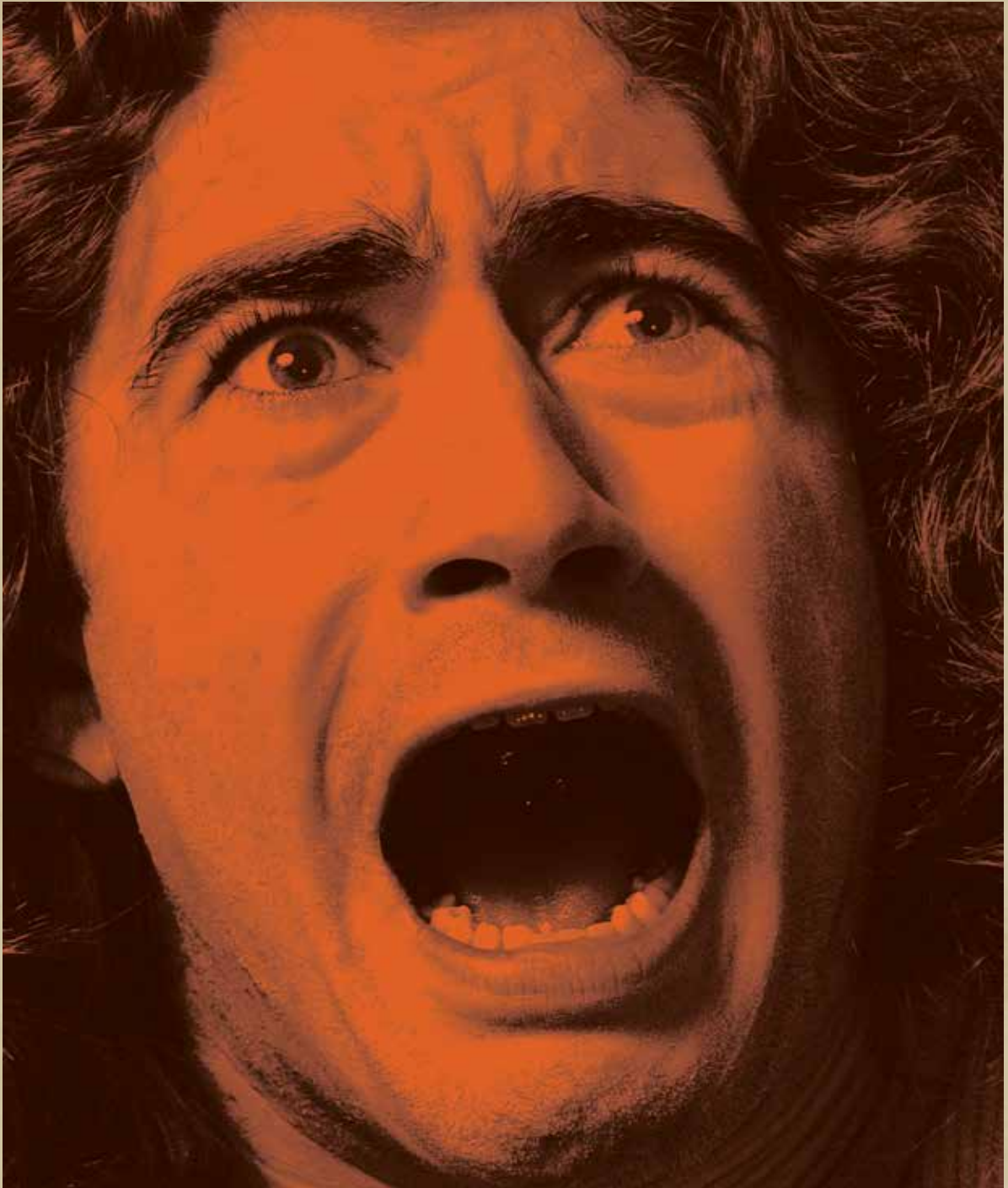
Mick Unterborn



Mick is a second-gen immigrant from southern Sydney. He has 20 years of experience in designing and creating premium pencils, and has won awards for the sharpest pencils in Australia. In his spare time, Mick enjoys sitting at his porch with a glass of unblended milkshake and his favourite book (singular).

THARUNKA

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69 YEARS