

ParkvilleStation.

YOUR WEEKLY INDEPENDENT CAMPUS NEWSPAPER

Ed. 18, 2016

parkvillestation.com

Week 5, semester 2

OLYMPIC WIN

Unimelb student Josh Booth took home the silver in the men's coxless four.

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The usual: the weekly quiz and the nine letter word. (We think we remembered to update them.)

PAGE 11

free
just
grab
one

LOGGED ON TO UNIWIRESLESS? YOU'RE BEING WATCHED.

If you have a phone or laptop set to automatically connect to UniWireless, then the University is recording where you go on campus and how long you spend in each place.

It's using this data as part of a "learning analytics" project, that aims to, according to the University's media statement on the matter, assess "how intensely and effectively the University's infrastructure is used" — that is, how much students and staff are using all of the spaces in the University, and how people are moving around campus.

This wifi tracking, or "wifi analysis" as the University puts it, is "particularly important as we plan for the lengthy construction period of

the Melbourne Metro Rail project, which will create disruption to access in and around the Parkville campus."

Nevertheless, the project raises obvious privacy concerns. The University is quick to point out that its projects that use the data are not looking at individual students, but rather "only at aggregate data, mostly at total building level" — and indeed, there's no evidence to suggest that the University is doing anything but that.

While the University's statement doesn't set out exactly what data is collected, data relating to individual students moving through campus was almost certainly collected and stored in the process of generating the aggregate data used for

the project.

Even if the University ultimately has no nefarious intention for the data, the last few years have seen a number of well-publicised data breaches, with attackers successfully accessing data from sources ranging from the U.S. Government's Office of Personnel Management, to the University of Sydney's online economics experiment database.

We asked the University to clarify what data was stored, how it was stored, how long it was stored for, and whether they intended in the future to share the data with any third parties, but they weren't able to provide a comment. We'll be

continued page 2

UMSU elections.

Seventeen tickets (student political parties) will be contesting the 2016 University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) elections.

The mega-deal reportedly being negotiated between four of the biggest factions has not worked out, and as things stand, we're in for a robust contest.

The elections will take place from the 5th – 9th September, 2016. In the meantime, check out our run-down of the parties contesting the election (pages 6 & 7) and watch our website for the latest updates.

See full analysis — pages 6 and 7.

"MAGNITUDE SIX, FOR INSTANCE, IN AUSTRALIA, IS FELT MORE VIOLENTLY AND MUCH FURTHER AWAY" PAGE 5.

FINE WINE WITH YOUR FINE FILM EXCLUSIVE RELEASES AND LONG SEASONS
EXPERIENCE MORE C I N E M A
CINEMA, CURATED
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Students & staff of UniMelb - \$7 to 4pm, \$9 after on Mondays & Wednesdays

Logged on to UniWireless?

sure to update the article online when they get back to us.

University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) President Tyson Holloway-Clarke told us that UMSU was “currently working with the University to fully understand” the current and future scope of the programme but that UMSU’s “understanding of the campus analytics program and the corresponding policies have not significantly improved since it became a matter of public interest and [they] are keen to know more”.

UMSU Education Academic Affairs Officer Tom Crowley thought the most important thing for the University to do was “make clear what is and isn’t being used”, as well as providing an option for “students who have concerns to opt out”.

The University, for its part, is confident that its disclosure and policy obligations are met, saying that “The University has clearly articulated terms and conditions for using its WiFi that all users are required to accept before full access is provided”.

While it’s true that the University’s enrolment declaration requires students to be “bound by the statutes, regulations, policies procedures and guidelines of the University”, we’re not aware of any requirement of consent in connecting to UniWireless other your central username and password.

Digging down into it, the University’s Privacy Policy requires the University to disclose what personal information is collected, how it’s used, and how it’s stored. The closest match to cover this particular case we could find is the

continued from page 1

“Provision and Acceptable Use of IT Policy” (MPF1314, if you’d like to look it up), which was approved at the start of June to replace the old Regulation 8.3.R2, repealed as part of the Uni’s policy consolidation project.

That policy contains a provision that “[p]roviders must maintain and retain for at least six months a record of users who have used facilities under their control and may use those records for purposes such as monitoring and managing the performance of facilities, cost recovery and load management”. We’re a bit sceptical that people would draw from that sentence that a project like the one described above is being carried out.

We haven’t exhaustively searched University policy — unfortunately the University was not able to direct us to the specific policy that covered this — but we think there’s a legitimate question as to whether the disclosures the University has made to staff and students are enough to enable the “voluntary, informed, specific and current” consent encouraged by the University’s own summary outlining “Our Privacy Responsibilities”.

Asking a totally-unrepresentative sample of the student population (check out the vox pops on page eight for some of them) supported the hypothesis that most students didn’t know about the project was correct. That said, most (although certainly not all) of the students we asked didn’t have a particular problem with the project, acknowledging the value that the campus analytics provided. (Not to mention the incentive to keep UniWireless in top-notch condition.)

Another University ranking, another good result for Melbourne Uni.

The Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities, released on the 15th August, showed another good result for the University of Melbourne, inching up to 40th place in the world (compared to 44th last year).

Predictably (and coming just before Open Day last Sunday), the University trumpeted the result, with Vice-Chancellor Glyn Davis saying the ranking was “a testament to the dedicated work by our researchers and staff”.

When looking at these results, however, it must be remembered that the number of recognised university ranking organisations is now in the twenties (it’s a lucrative and growing field because universities are forced to care by their need for recognition), and they all rank universities differently.

John Gill, editor of Times Higher Education, who produce one of the most well known set of university rankings, acknowledged this. “What makes the world’s best universities the best in the world? The answer is lots of things, some of them quantifiable, many of them not.”

Suffice it to say, the University of Melbourne does well according to those quantifiable things, as reflected in the table below, which compares the University’s rankings across the last nine years according to three major rankings - ARWU, Times Higher Education, and QS.

Most media coverage of the rankings focused on the fact that six Australian universities made it into the top 100 — the others are the University of Queensland (#55), the Australian National University (#77), the Great Enemy, uhh, Monash (#79), University of Sydney (#82) and the University of Western Australia (#96). (As an unashamedly parochial publication, we’ll return to our usual denial of the existence of other universities.)

Melbourne School of Engineering to repurpose 'the Pit' student club space.



According to an email sent by University staff to the committees of clubs associated with the Melbourne School of Engineering (MSE), including the Melbourne University Engineering Student Club (MUESC), the MSE will be repurposing their shared club space - affectionately known as the Pit - from early October.

This means that those clubs will be without a designated space for club activities until Semester 2 next year, when lockable storage space will be made available to them, according to MUESC President Lydia Paevere, along with “meeting rooms available for [them] to book”.

The University’s email stated that the repurposing was “due to lack of space being an ongoing issue throughout the University” and that there would be no alternative space provided for clubs and societies until Semester 2 next year. The email noted “the current MSE student club space being a gesture of goodwill”.

The University was not able to provide comment to *Parkville Station* in time for our print deadline.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
QS 1st	--	--	--	--	--	ANU	ANU	ANU	ANU
QS 2nd	--	--	--	--	--	UoM	UoM	UoM	UoM
THE 1st	--	--	--	UoM	UoM	UoM	UoM	UoM	UoM
THE 2nd	--	--	--	ANU	ANU	ANU	ANU	ANU	ANU
ARWU 1st	ANU	ANU	ANU	UoM	UoM	UoM	UoM	UoM	UoM
ARWU 2nd	UoM	UoM	UoM	ANU	ANU	ANU	ANU	ANU	UQ

ParkvilleStation.

... is a free, weekly campus newspaper for students, staff and the wider community at the University of Melbourne. It’s distributed at a number of distribution boxes and businesses, and also by our distribution team, throughout the Parkville campus.

Parkville Station is published each week during semester, with new copies reaching campus every Monday afternoon.

Our website is: parkvillestation.com

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NOTES

Parkville Station is published by Liz Peak and Patrick Clearwater (ABN 526 717 501 61).

Patrick Clearwater is a member of the GSA Council; and was previously a candidate for More Activities! in student elections.

Views expressed in articles are those of the

authors; views expressed in advertisements are those of the advertiser; and those views are not necessarily those of the publishers or the printer.

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Melbourne Arts  Students Society

FOR MORE DETAILS HEAD TO THE M-ASS FACEBOOK PAGE

Masquerade Graduate Ball

CARGO HALL
SEPTEMBER 8

\$110 MEMBER
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Science Festival goes off with a bang.

RAPH CANTY

Last Week was National Science Week, and to coincide with the celebration of all things scientific, the University's Faculty of Science ran "Science Festival" throughout the week. The celebration was described as a "jam-packed week of free events and activities", and as being "your chance to network with industry, meet academic staff, and celebrate science at the University of Melbourne and around the world". Among the events on offer were "The Mathematics of Juggling", "The Science of Earthquakes", and "The Future of Food", as well as museum tours, trivia, film screenings, and everyone's favourite liquid nitrogen ice cream.

One of the highlights was the opportunity to spend "six minutes with a scientist", a kind of speed dating activity involving academic staff and masters students who offered details of their experiences with science to anyone who came along. In six minute bursts, the scientists fascinated with details of their research, encouraged with advice for the future, and quashed some common misconceptions about science (-gasp- not all scientists are "nerds"). One aspect common to many scientists present was an enthusiasm about potential discoveries waiting to be made, and an excitement from the possibility of them being within reach.

The technological and mathematical sciences featured heavily in the Science Festival programme this year, including through Virtual Reality demonstrations, mathematics demonstrations and arcades, and a programming workshop where students learned how to give robots some dance moves with code. Rounding out the IT programme for the week was the Q&A panel of four industry experts and academics who discussed coding and why it's an important skill to learn.

Among the encouraging words were those of Keaton Okkonen from Black AI, who described coding as "a powerful tool that you can bend to do whatever you want". The experts discussed how knowing programming shapes your thinking and brings logical thought into how you work everyday.

The issue of women in tech was addressed by second year Bachelor of Science student An-



gie Hu, who described a "retention problem" of women who don't persist in the male dominated industry. The ratio of nine men to just one woman in tech was quoted, but the panel discussed how this is changing. Companies are aware of the imbalance and are actively looking to hire female talent. Bodo Billerbeck from Microsoft declared "It's a good time for you as a woman in tech".

Hu also described how the misconception of coding as a boring, mechanical process is "broken by how there is a place for everyone" in such a varied team-based workplace; tech is an indispensable part of so many different areas of society. It was noted that computing is "a very creative activity, much closer to art or creative writing than maths" and that while there are rules to follow in writing a program, there's plenty of scope for digital artistry as well.

However, Jey Han Lau from IBM also pointed out that while the often false stereotype of programming as a solitary activity may be seen in a negative light, it gives some people great satisfaction where true.

"It's not all about apps" was a strong message, and that the creative problem solving skills learned through programming can also be applied to analyse data and create simulations for scientific research.

Hu recommends UniMelb subject Foundations of Computing (COMP10001) as an ideal introduction to programming, as well as websites such as Code Academy and Grok Learning for anyone looking to discover what Computer Science is about. "The best way to learn is by doing it".

Cadmus goes national.

Cadmus, the controversial new anti-academic-misconduct tool first trialled at the University of Melbourne, has spread to other institutions, and is now being trialled at the University of Sydney, the University of Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology, according to Fairfax and USyd newspaper Honi Soit.

As reported in Parkville Station last semester, Cadmus is an online, Google-Docs-style assignment interface that tracks your biometric profile (i.e., how you type) to ensure that it's really you doing the assignment and not, say, someone you've paid to do the assignment for you.

When it was trialled at the University of

Melbourne, they were pretty explicit about it being a trial of a prototype — the system was being put through its paces rather than being used to catch cheating. And even so, the reaction from the student body ranged mostly from suspicious to incensed.

By contrast, the University of Queensland is inching towards using Cadmus in combat: while they say they will not use Cadmus for "new investigations into student behaviour [sic]", they will use it as evidence to "supplement any investigations that would otherwise have been launched". We are looking forward to the fireworks.

Olympic silver for Unimelb student.

The Summer Olympic Games are done and dusted for another four years, and we can all go back to ranting about things other than Channel Seven's terrible coverage. The 2016 Games have given to us in spades, from inspirational stories of sportsmanship, to athletes smacking down sexist and racist behaviour, to Fu Yuanhui — the new darling of the Internet. What it's given us here at Unimelb though, is a student silver medalist.

Josh Booth, a student of Medicine at the University, competed in the men's coxless four from the 8th to the 12th of August. His team came first in their heat and their semifinal, but passed the finish line in the finals just 1.83 seconds behind the team from Great Britain, who have taken gold in the men's coxless four in every Olympics since Sydney 2000. Italy came in third, 3.41 seconds behind Australia.

Though the Australian and GB teams never faced off in the heats or in the semi-finals, standings after the two stages put Australia ahead in both instances. It was only in the final that the tide turned.

Booth's teammate Alex Hill said after the race that they were "beaten by a better crew today", but while they were "obviously hoping for gold", he was really proud of the team regardless.

Rio is Booth's second Olympic Games, having competed in the men's eight crew in the Lon-



Photo credit: rio2016.olympics.com.au

don 2012 Olympics. There, Booth and his team finished sixth overall.

Including Booth, three current students of the University competed in Rio: Booth in rowing; Joel Baden in high jump; and Regan Lamble in walking. Baden ranked 41st in the qualifiers of the men's high jump on Day 9 of the Games, with a 2.17m jump. Unfortunately only the top 15 contenders from the qualifiers moved on to the finals, with a cutoff jump height of 2.26m. At 20 years old though, this is Baden's first Olympic Games, so there are many opportunities ahead of him.

As at writing, Regan Lamble had not competed in her event - the Women's 20km walk - but by now she will have. Make sure you look up the results of her Saturday event - we hope you've done well, Regan!

New club applications.

The University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) Clubs and Societies (C&S) Committee met last week to consider 23 applications to affiliate new clubs to the student union.

We're told that nine of those applications were granted "initial approval", the first stage of the process to formally affiliate. A further eight were deferred pending further advice.

We're unable to report on exactly which applicants were given the nod and which were not, because the C&S department declined to provide us with the list as they had not, as we went to print, had the opportunity to inform all the groups of the outcomes of their applications. Your intrepid reporter was offended—transparent meetings of bodies accountable to the stu-

dent constituency and all that—but did not push the issue as we are also drastically behind on our Open Day preparations.

Initial approval is just the first step in the affiliation process: the groups that have been successful will now have to draft their constitutions, attend training, and hold their inaugural general meetings (at which they elect their committee), before the C&S Committee will formally affiliate them.

Affiliated clubs, of which there are just over 200 at the moment, receive a number of benefits, including insurance, grant funding and the ability to book rooms in Union House and through the University.

While we're on elections.

Just in case you haven't had enough of elections for this year (a federal election, and now a student election!), Victorian local Council elections are coming up.

Traditionally a small-time affair, most local Council elections are done by post, so you won't even have to get up and walk to a place. Before you get excited, though, there are still a small number of local Councils that are having regular "attendance" elections: in particular, Moreland,

Port Phillip City and Yarra City are some of the Councils in that basket.

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) advises that the deadline for enrolment is 4.00pm this Friday (26th August), and that voting is compulsory for all Australian citizens resident in Victoria.

More information can be found at the VEC website: <http://vec.vic.gov.au/>



2016
Spring
Graduate
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Friday 2 September

8pm at the Plaza Ballroom

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gsa

COMMENTARY.

Q&A

Theatre Help.

During semester 2, Parkville Station will take questions asked by reader (that's you), and find you an answer.

Ask a question by:

- emailing questions@parkvillestation.com
- or texting 0402 084 468.

Kate asks:

Lots of the theatre productions at Uni say 'we're open to anyone who wants to get involved', but I've found them to be quite cliquey and intimidating. Is there a way past this? Or a more general way to get involved in theatre?

We asked **Erin Adams**, Theatre Administration & Development Officer, Union House Theatre, for advice:

At Union House Theatre we are incredibly lucky to have a large and diverse range of student theatre groups to choose from. Last year we had over 1500 students involved in actually putting on student theatre productions - as cast members, backstage crew and creatives. That is a lot of people. You can totally be one of those people.

If you really want get involved in student theatre you should come and say hello to me in the theatre office (near the Food Co-op on Level 1 of Union House). I can help you work out which theatre group you might be interested in working with (we have over 20 of them!) and introduce you to the students running that group

- they really aren't that scary and EVERYBODY needs ushers.

All of the groups put their open callouts for auditions and production teams in our weekly enews - Followspot - so make sure you sign up to that. Be prepared to do the less glamorous roles - this can be onstage or offstage. I've seen students start out as Lighting Operator and work their way up to Production Manager.

Lastly, if you don't like any of the groups (or they don't like you) then START YOUR OWN. It is really easy to do. Make your own theatre.

More info: <http://umsu.unimelb.edu.au/what-is-on/theatre/getinvolved/>

Uncomfortable Uncle.

Now that there's a newspaper on campus, UMSU elections are at risk of being ruined by alarming rates of transparency and accountability. To counteract this dangerous effect, Uncomfortable Uncle! is seeking to appropriately muddy the waters, so that the long proud University of Melbourne tradition of the average student neither knowing nor particularly caring about who these various vaguely named, and punctationally challenged, political parties are.

(For any UMSU Returning Officers reading, please be assured that UU does not proclaim to speak for, endorse or in anyway actually care about any candidates running for UMSU, and the following is to be taken no more genuinely than the friendly greets given out to random strangers by campaigners during election week.)

Uncomfortable Uncle! therefore presents the main candidates and their platforms:

Activate: Staying true to their official campaign slogan, 'Why can't we all just get along like we did in middle school?', Activate are the touchy feely lefty types. They are non-politically aligned, and the fact that they all like Adam Bandt is just a coincidence. Their key policies include cheaper textbooks, better UMSU representation for students, and fighting against fee hikes.

Create: Create, otherwise known as 'DEFINITELY NOT THE LIBERALS', have key policies such as cheaper textbooks, better UMSU representation, and fighting against fee hikes, especially those from that nasty Tony Abbott, who they totally hate.

Left Focus: Lefties unfocused see control of UMSU as just a tool in the eventual destruction

of the capitalist system, but in the meantime they'll settle for cheaper textbooks, better UMSU representation for students and fighting against fee hikes.

Liberal: The Liberals, otherwise known as 'Hey look! We're those nasty Liberals. No one else, because we are!', have key policies such as cheaper textbooks, better UMSU representation, and locking up children on geographically remote islands. Gosh that's not very nice, makes that Create ticket look pretty nice hey.

More!: More!, previously known as More Hacktivities! are a proud non-factional faction that wants more! beers, bands and BBQs. Recent elections have seen them succeed by entering into non-factional non-deals with other factional factions. Their policies are more! beers, bands and BBQs, oh and also cheaper textbooks, better non-factional UMSU representation and non-factionally fighting against fee hikes.

Stand Up!: Stand Up!, otherwise known as 'Good Labor', have a strong proud tradition in UMSU politics of standing up! For cheaper textbooks, better UMSU representation, and fighting against fee hikes.

Whigs: The Whigs are a new player on the UMSU scene, seemingly based on a difficult to google political movement from the 1800s that has possibly the most hilariously terrible website in modern politics (seriously check out whigparty.com.au). They will presumably have a policy position on the price of textbooks, the current state of UMSU representation and fee hikes.

Letters to the Editor.

SEND US TEXTS AND EMAILS.

TEXTS

29/07

Whats with the low as res picture on the front page is this 2005

Nah good issue

We're trying to break into print journalism, I think giving us 2005 might be a bit generous. I'd go for somewhere in the 90s.

12/08

In fact, the grievance tribunal actually met last in 2014 to hear a complaint after Sam Donnelly (then General Secretary) failed to issue proper notice for students council but the meeting was held anyway. The grievance tribunal declared the meeting invalid and the motions had to be ratified at the following meeting.

Justin says it also met in either 2009/10.

Many apologies for our ineptitude. We will check with more care in future. You don't mind if we message you for fact checking, right?

(But for serious, wanna be our UMSU correspondent? You sound like you know your Labor Left-Rights from your Labor Right-Lefts!)

EMAILS

Hi there,

Just like to point out that a carbon atom has 6 protons rather than 8 (which was given as the answer to the Science trivia question).

Cary

[Hi Cary,

Thanks for the email. I shit you not, somebody doing a BSc in Chemistry wrote that question. Lesson learnt - don't trust scientists!

Cheers!]

BUSINESS

Money and the Olympics.

CASSIE LEW

So the 2016 Olympics have come to an end and while the adrenaline of the games will be missed, I, like many Australians, am very happy I won't be forced to watch 'Sunrise' anymore. The Olympic season is one of excitement and pride, but beneath medals and the flags and the yelling-at-the-television there is one major driver: money. The common fallouts of any transaction are profit and loss, so who is really winning and who is losing?

Brazil. Brazil is losing. According to Robert Barney, director of the International Centre for Olympic Studies at the University of Western Ontario, "there has never been an Olympic Games that has made a profit." That's right; all the arguments about increasing tourism and awareness are total crap.

The 2016 Olympics has cost Brazil an estimated \$USD4.6 bln. 60% of this comes from private sources and the other 40% comes from the government. Brazil is in the worst recession it has had in over a century, and the government just spent \$USD1.85 bln on the Olympics.

Both Beijing and London had fewer tourists during the Olympics in 2008 and 2012, respectively, than the same periods in 2007 and 2011. Where is the upside there?

It seems like other countries are catching on. Only five cities bid to host the 2020 Summer Olympics. Beijing beat the only competition to host the Winter Olympics in 2022: a city called Almaty in Kazakhstan.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has strict rules that push up the cost of the Games. One involves forcing host cities to build new infrastructure for the Olympics rather than using existing facilities. If the IOC wants to see the Olympics continue these rules will need to be rewritten.

Let's go to the brands. Olympic advertising is big business and it comes with a big price

tag. It can cost between \$250,000 and \$USD5 mln to become an official Olympic partner, and \$USD250 mln to be a worldwide sponsor.

So is it worth it? Some research shows that the Australian Olympic Team is the most powerful sporting brand in the country; however Forbes magazine argues that the same rules apply to Olympic ads as normal commercials. If your competition is more creative, you're screwed.

Telstra is not an official Olympic partner, but their ads are clever enough to have lots of allusions to sports and Australia, without showing Olympic footage, Rio or the Olympic Rings.

Optus, who paid that whopping fee to be an Olympic partner, are pretty cut. I wonder if they'll cough up again in 2020.

There is one real winner in all of this, one person who walks out of Rio with pockets full of cash. His name is Michael Phelps and he has racked up of \$95.8 million USD in his career. According to the Telegraph, if Phelps himself was a country he'd rank 39th in all time gold medal winners.

Katie Ledecky, Phelps' fellow American world record holder (and straight up machine/freak of nature) has earned about \$1 million USD in endorsements every year since 2013. By Phelps' fourth year, he was on \$3 million per annum. While all American athletes, male or female, get the same prize money for winning gold, it's all about that sweet sponsorship cash. And sorry ladies, but advertisers still think male athletes make better mannequins.

The Olympics are awesome, but there are losers. Not just athletes who go home with broken hearts, but a whole bunch of stakeholders who either leave with nothing or end up in the red. If you really want to make money at the Olympics with little risk, it seems you've got to be a male world record holder with arms that extend four inches longer than you are tall.

"There is one real winner in all of this, one person who walks out of Rio with pockets full of cash."

MARK QUIGLEY, EARTHQUAKE GEOLOGIST.

Associate Professor Mark Quigley is a lecturer in the School of Earth Sciences and an active research scientist. *James Ferguson* sat down with him to chat after a Science Week event on earthquakes.

As a first year student, it's always a hope that you will be blessed with excellent lecturers and demonstrators. People who are ready to take your hand and lead you headlong through what is, in their eyes and subsequently your own, an engaging and enjoyable university subject.

You could believe a prospective engineering student to be pleasantly surprised by the idea of being taught the function of Geology within engineering; especially by a guy who worked directly on the after effects of the earthquake that infamously shook the city of Christchurch in New Zealand to its very core. Dr. Mark Quigley has worked across the world in the pursuit of Geological research and it has led him here, as an Associate Professor in the School of Earth Sciences at The University of Melbourne.

On Monday Evening, Dr. Quigley participated in the Science Faculty's Science Festival, by heading a presentation titled "The Science of Earthquakes". (The amended title of "Free Pizza and...The Science of Earthquakes", born from a joking inclination from mine and my classmates' appreciation for free dinner.) The presentation discussed the nature of earthquakes and the relationships they have with other phenomena, their effects on the layout of the land, the number of deaths arising from a number of these catastrophic events, the behaviour of earthquakes, the increasing scientific data surrounding earthquakes, and finishing with an incredible example of engineering within Alaska to overcome the troubles with earthquakes.

The 45 minute presentation seemed quite short. An 18 year old, in a room packed with what can only be assumed to be older intellectuals, scratching their wiry beards and what were once full heads of hair, felt much like he was in a full scientific forum. It seemed to have ended rather abruptly, a passionate Dr. Quigley cut short by the time limit he imposed on himself, not able to talk about this other amazing thing that earthquakes can do.

Then there was the promised free pizza - what was in some sense the highlight of the night - before returning to a showing of "When a City Falls", which documented the effects of the 2011 February earthquake in Christchurch. It was quite a novelty seeing someone who was just speaking before you not 20 minutes ago appear in a quality documentary describing the nature of sloping hills about the city of Christchurch. With the movie closing out the night, everyone soon shuffled off, having been happily taught about earthquakes and having learnt the direct impacts that they can have on people's lives. Eager to have a sit down with the Associate Professor from The University of Melbourne, and my own lecturer, I ended up learning a bit more about him as I hope you will too.

If you wish to find out anything else about Dr. Mark Quigley, he has his own website at <http://www.drquigs.com/> and he can be contacted in his own office within the school of Geology at the McCoy building.

James Ferguson (JF): *What is your role in the University, and how did you get there?*

Mark Quigley (MQ): I'm an associate professor in the School of Earth Sciences. I was an associate professor at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand for the last seven years before that. My wife is an Aussie and so she was quite keen, after we'd gone through New Zealand, to think about moving back, and because I was an alumni from the University of Melbourne and I've got some good colleagues and friends here, I mentioned to them that it would be a possibility that I could come back.

The right opportunity arose, and the University of Melbourne created a position for me.

JF: *What's the position involve?*

My main role here is to play to my strengths: I'm known for my science communication, so I do a lot of media work, I write a lot of articles, with the goal of trying to increase the scientific literacy that we have as a society.

I'm basically trying to increase our collective knowledge of the earth, and improve the way we interact with it, which is not always good.

JF: *You talked a lot about hazards during your National Science Week "Science of Earthquakes" presentation on Monday night. What was your motivation for that presentation?*

MQ: As I talked about, Australia does have an earthquake hazard. It's not nearly as high as a lot of countries around the world that live on plate boundaries, but what I emphasised in the talk is that we do have a higher vulnerability in some places.

Our built environments, for instance — we have a "legacy issue": a lot of our buildings were built long before we thought about earthquakes in the building code. We have a lot of vulnerable unreinforced masonry structures around Australia, and our earthquakes get felt more strongly at great distances than they do in a lot of plate boundary settings.

Magnitude six, for instance, in Australia, is felt more violently and much further away than a magnitude six in New Zealand.

JF: *How "inland" is Melbourne compared to the plate boundary?*

MQ: Our closest major earthquake hazard plate boundary zone is the South Island of New Zealand, where the Alpine fault goes through there. It's 1,000 kilometres or more away. But we get an average of one magnitude six every ten years or something like that in Australia.

It's a bit like we're living on a seismic dashboard: the distribution of seismicity is not well understood, which makes it very difficult to say "we think this area versus this other area is going to be the next area that gets affected by a strong earthquake".

JF: *So it could happen anywhere? It could happen in the CBD of Melbourne?*

MQ: Yeah. There's no geologic reason why we could not have a similar scenario play out to Christchurch.

JF: *What would be one of the most dangerous buildings that we have in Melbourne?*

MQ: I don't necessarily know that I could say. I think places that have unreinforced masonry,



old buildings that have not been looked at. It's not going to be one building in particular, but you can walk down one of our beautiful, cultural streets — for example, Smith St and Brunswick St — and you can see big cracks in all these buildings.

So you know that there's a lot of these older masonry structures. They're the sort of buildings that fall over and kill people in earthquakes.

As to what we should do about, that's a whole other issue — it's more of a question for society. Do we want to invest in that, or do we want to go: well, it's better investing in water security, or thinking about ways to deal with climate change?

These things are coupled: for example, most of the dams in Australia that we have are built very close to, or basically right on top of active faults. So we need to understand which our most vulnerable structures are, and how we deal with that in that context.

In places like New Zealand, where you're living on top of a plate boundary and the earthquake rate is ten times that of Australia, it's much more ingrained in the psyche that things need to get done with urgency.

JF: *You were directly involved in the February 2011 earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand. How did it affect you personally, and as a geologist?*

MQ: We were living in Christchurch since 2008. We were personally affected — we owned a property in Avonside, which is one of the suburbs that was really badly affected by liquefaction during the earthquakes. Our property was actually "red zoned": the house itself was liveable, but the land had experienced such severe damage and the underground facilities like sewers and water system were badly damaged. The earthquake sequence just continued to go on.

It was sad, and it certainly became more sad with time — when you're in the middle of these things, you're just trying to keep on keeping on.

That said, we had the opportunity to do some amazing science throughout that time period, and it was fantastic for my profile: when I moved to Australia from New Zealand, it made national news in New Zealand. It was a very

sad moment for us to decide to shift back. But we love New Zealand, and there's no saying we wouldn't go back.

JF: *You're still quite involved in the geology community — what are the next big things?*

MQ: There's a lot of really great stuff being done around the modelling of earthquakes, and understanding patterns of deformation rapidly, understanding what controls the characteristics of ground motions, trying to better understand earthquake hazards.

I guess what I'm most driven by is at the science/communication/policy interface. I think just like the science of climate change, we're getting to a stage now where we know a lot of things with a fair level of certainty, and the problem's breaking down where we're either not communicating well enough, or it's not being taken up well enough in the way we operate as a society.

For an example, land use planning: we know we're building things right on top of active faults around the world. The science is known, and we know there's hazards — it's not even so much convincing people as getting it acknowledge and implemented. Some countries do that better than other: places in Chile and New Zealand, where there's a really well-characterised hazard.

It's becoming less of a science problem and more of a "what do we do about it" problem.

JF: *Do you think the University of Melbourne could be a key player?*

MQ: We could be, but we have to resource it. The School is very small — we don't have a lot of continuing academics, and so I think the University of Melbourne should ask itself: this environment they're creating - is it conducive to interdisciplinary, cross-school and cross-faculty partnerships and engagements? Or are we basically competing for students and competing for dollars? And if that's the way that we're going as a university, then it's a deterrent to collaborations, if you're trying to set up schools and faculties as a competitive model for students.

JF: *Thanks!*

UMSU ELECTIONS.

The University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) is recognised by the University as a representative body for all students. It's an organisation with an annual budget of over \$5m, it employs about 30 staff members, it's responsible for an array of campus activities, and a leadership spot in the organisation is a good

buff to the résumé in many circles. It's run by students, and there are a number of spots up for election annually.

Tickets, and the odd independent, will be on the hunt for: paid officebearer positions, positions on the Students' Council (unpaid; but with responsibility for managing the whole

union's budget, policy and strategy), committee positions (again unpaid; with responsibility for a particular area of interest) and a handful of miscellaneous positions that don't fit neatly into those categories.

We think you should vote, and that your vote should be an informed one.

The vast majority of candidates contesting the election are organised into tickets: roughly, the student political equivalent of political parties. This year, there are seventeen tickets contesting the election: the largest is running candidates for 83 positions, the smallest is running just a single candidate for a single position.

As well as candidates running on tickets, there are four candidates not running on any ticket. (There are also a number of such candidates running for positions at Burnley but, well, Parkville is in the name of the paper.)

We've compiled this list of the tickets — and the one independent candidate for President — and produced the list below, which is based partly on our thoughts about the tickets and rather more substantially on their responses to our questions. We're pretty sure everything we've written below is either a true fact (as of printing), or our honestly-held opinion, but we welcome corrections to letters@parkvillestation.com.

We've categorised the tickets into four groups: those running for multiple contested officebearer positions, other tickets running for officebearer positions, tickets which are running multiple candidates (but none for officebearer positions), and tickets running just one candidate. Otherwise, we've listed tickets in alphabetical order, and are looking forward to seeing "111AAA for UMSU" next year.

ACTIVATE

Activate are a "group of independent, grassroots-left student activists committed to creating a student union that is inclusive of all students and provides the best possible services." Their focus is on positions for specific constituencies — while they have run presidential candidates in the past, their focus this year is on the Creative Arts, Queer, Environment and Disabilities Offices (or so we surmise from their nominations).

Alston Chu, the ticket's authorising officer, told us that as "Activate's structure doesn't really lend itself to being embodied by single people" he could speak only for himself, but "Activate strives to allow people to be included in what the union does, be that student representation, art, activism, or recreation", particularly through being "conscious of who doesn't normally get the chance to be included".

At printing, Activate had not yet made a decision to endorse any particular faction: Chu told us, "[t]here are still collective meetings to be planned and consensuses to be formed".

CREATE

Create didn't respond to our request for comment.

New (or at least, newly-christened) last year, Create managed a respectable volume of campaigners although ultimately had little to show for their efforts, snagging only a small number of committee positions and no officer positions. Nonetheless, they're back this year, running candidates for a respectable 42 vacancies.

There is always one ticket accused of being "the Liberals", although none will admit to it (except, of course, the ticket called Liberal). Create have plenty of candidates aligned in various ways to the Liberal Party, but as they have not taken the opportunity yet to provide us with comment, we're hesitant to brand them the "Liberal ticket".

LEFT FOCUS

Left Focus is "a left-wing activist ticket. We stand for a student union that campaigns for a higher quality of education and student rights, campaigning for instance against university funding cuts and fee deregulation. We also

take an openly progressive stance around social justice issues, such as refugee rights, LGBTI rights, Indigenous rights and the environment."

The ticket is associated particularly with Socialist Alternative, with many of its campaigners associated with Socialist Alternative. Authorising officer Jade Eckhaus told us, though, that the ticket was "open to all students who want to increase the level of progressive activism in the student union" and that "[s]ome of our campaigners are members of Socialist Alternative, some are members of other campaign groups and others are independent activists."

Left Focus has not yet decided to whom it will direct its committee preferences, but is endorsing Stand Up!'s candidates for Education (Public Affairs): "One of [those candidates], Anneke, ran on our ticket last year, and after talking to Stand Up! we agreed that her and the other candidate, Dom, would be best for the office."

While the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) has traditionally been a VCA stronghold, this year the ticket is fielding no candidates there.

LIBERAL

The Liberals didn't respond to our request for comment.

Despite contesting a number of positions up and down the ballot, there are only two candidates (Nathan Bachetti and authorising officer Michael Sabljak), and the generally left-wing views one finds as common currency on a campus such as the University of Melbourne's means that they're relatively unlikely to poll well.

MORE!

Previously known as More Activities!, More! is this year rebranded to "reflect our whole-of-UMSU whole-of-issues focus, as well as our new commitment to political change and openness." They believe that "the student union should be based on collectives and clubs as grassroots organisations, not on what national political party subfaction you're aligned with".

The faction has traditionally run and gained support on the back of fighting for more activities and clubs and societies, to the purposeful exception of other areas of the union. Before this year the only Officebearer positions they had run for were President, Activities, and Clubs and Societies. Their open-slasher attitude towards this year's election reflects a departure from this base, but More! told us that they haven't abandoned their roots. "It's about making sure that every part of the union is based on those roots, while addressing every part of the university". They added that they think "every part of the union should be based around engaging with clubs as grassroots organisations".

For committee positions, they will be directing their preferences towards "other progressive independent people/groups first". They "won't be directing preferences to candidates from the Liberal Club-dominated Create ticket or Socialist Alternative-dominated Left Focus ticket - or their candidates running on Stand Up!".

STAND UP!

Stand Up! are a "group of left wing, progressive students who aim to ensure an inclusive and accessible UMSU". They are running to continue the fight against deregulation and the University's attempts to restructure courses to the detriment of students, and to create a safer and more inclusive campus and union. They are committed to "ensuring that UMSU is for everyone", demonstrated this year by the constitutional changes moved by their members.

Based on past performance, Stand Up! are

likely to be the strongest or second-strongest ticket in terms of number of campaigners during election week. They intend to use those campaigners not only to win the election but to "listen to the issues and concerns" of students. They have not decided where their preferences will flow.

Rightly or wrongly, Stand Up! are traditionally associated with the Left faction within the Australian Labor Party. We put this to ticket authorising officer (and presidential candidate) Adriana Mellis, who told us the ticket "does not require any of [their] candidates to have any particular political affiliation", and this year "more of [their] candidates are...independents from various collectives", than from Labor.

WHIGS

Core Whig policies include, among others, reintroduction of the pound-sterling, converting Union House's rooms into "alehouses" and are "extremely serious about both maintaining the monarchy to ensure the stability and continuity of the state, but we do feel strongly about the supremacy of parliament. We are in this election because we see the absolutist, monarchist French circling above us and we fear for the future of our parliamentary system." As always, we'll let you judge the policies for yourself.

Although, as "the natural party of Government from 1688-1773 [they] do expect to win by an overwhelming majority", their authorising officer Lee Ellison told us they'd consider preferring "tickets that will take up the mantle of implementing our welfare policies. These policies are primarily of free cheese and wine, the creation of a Whig choir in the English choral tradition and saturnalia for all."

Our judgement is that their optimism of overwhelming victory is probably misplaced, but a ticket with suitably funny policies can nevertheless attract enough votes that their preferences might be seen as valuable.

INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Independent Media have already achieved what is probably their main goal: retaining the Media office, which they've done without opposition. Their goal now is to get "one or two councillors elected to the student council". In keeping with previous years, the ticket is running around the triad of Farrago, Radio Fodder and Farrago Video.

This year they've been sure to stress the importance of "keeping student media free from political alignment or bias". In relation to directing preferences: "While no official decisions have been made, it is unlikely that we will be preferring any other tickets"

THE BIGGEST, BLACKEST TICKET

The BBT didn't respond to our request for comment.

It focuses almost exclusively on indigenous representative positions (the only exception is Tyson Holloway-Clarke contesting a byelection for the position of 2016 President, a position he currently holds on a temporary basis). By all accounts they've been successful at this, with the vast majority of their candidates provisionally elected unopposed.

HARD MEMES

Hard Memes didn't respond to our request for comment. They have only two candidates, both running for a variety of committee positions.

Depending on exactly how hard their me-

Disclaimer: Parkville Station does not endorse any particular candidate or ticket; opinions below are those of the editors. As you can imagine, the ideas are not endorsed by the Returning Officers in charge of running the election.

Parkville Station co-editor Patrick Clearwater was a candidate on More Activities! in three UMSU elections.

mes are — particularly if they're vote-grabbing ones — the ticket's preferences might prove valuable.

CHEAPER TEXTBOOKS

Cheaper Textbooks were not able to respond to our questions in time for our print deadline.

The ticket's only candidate, Anna Morrison, was elected as Education (Academic Affairs) Officer and MU Student Union Ltd Board for the 2012 term, on the 2011 Stand Up! ticket.

HALAL SNACK PACK

Halal Snack Pack did not respond to our request for comment.

The ticket's only candidate, Jamiel Sabbagh, was implicated in last year's printing incident, in which Left Focus fliers were found to have been printed on an UMSU-owned printer - a breach of election regulations.

MORE POKÉMON GO ON CAMPUS!

More Pokémon Go On Campus! were not able to respond to our questions in time for our print deadline. That's all we know.

SMORE!

Smore! did not respond to our request for comment.

Their sole candidate, Akira Boardman, is one of UMSU's current Education (Public Affairs) officers, elected on last year's Stand Up! Ticket. (In that election she achieved the rare feat of also being elected an NUS Delegate on a different ticket — More Activities!) Nonetheless, the ticket has been active in the elections already, filing a complaint against the ticket More! on the basis that the latter's name was confusingly similar. The Returning Officer dismissed the complaint.

STUDENTS AGAINST HANSON

Students Against Hanson did not respond to our request for comment.

As best we can tell, the ticket's only candidate, Alastair James, has not appeared in the minutes of any previous UMSU meeting.

UNIVERSAL

Universal did not respond to our request for comment.

The ticket's only candidate, Ezgi Bridger, was elected as the Disabilities Representative on the Students' Council, and to the Disabilities Committee, for 2015, on the 2014 ignite ticket.

ARUN BHARATULA

Although not running a ticket, Arun Bharatula is running for President as well as a number of positions further down the ballot.

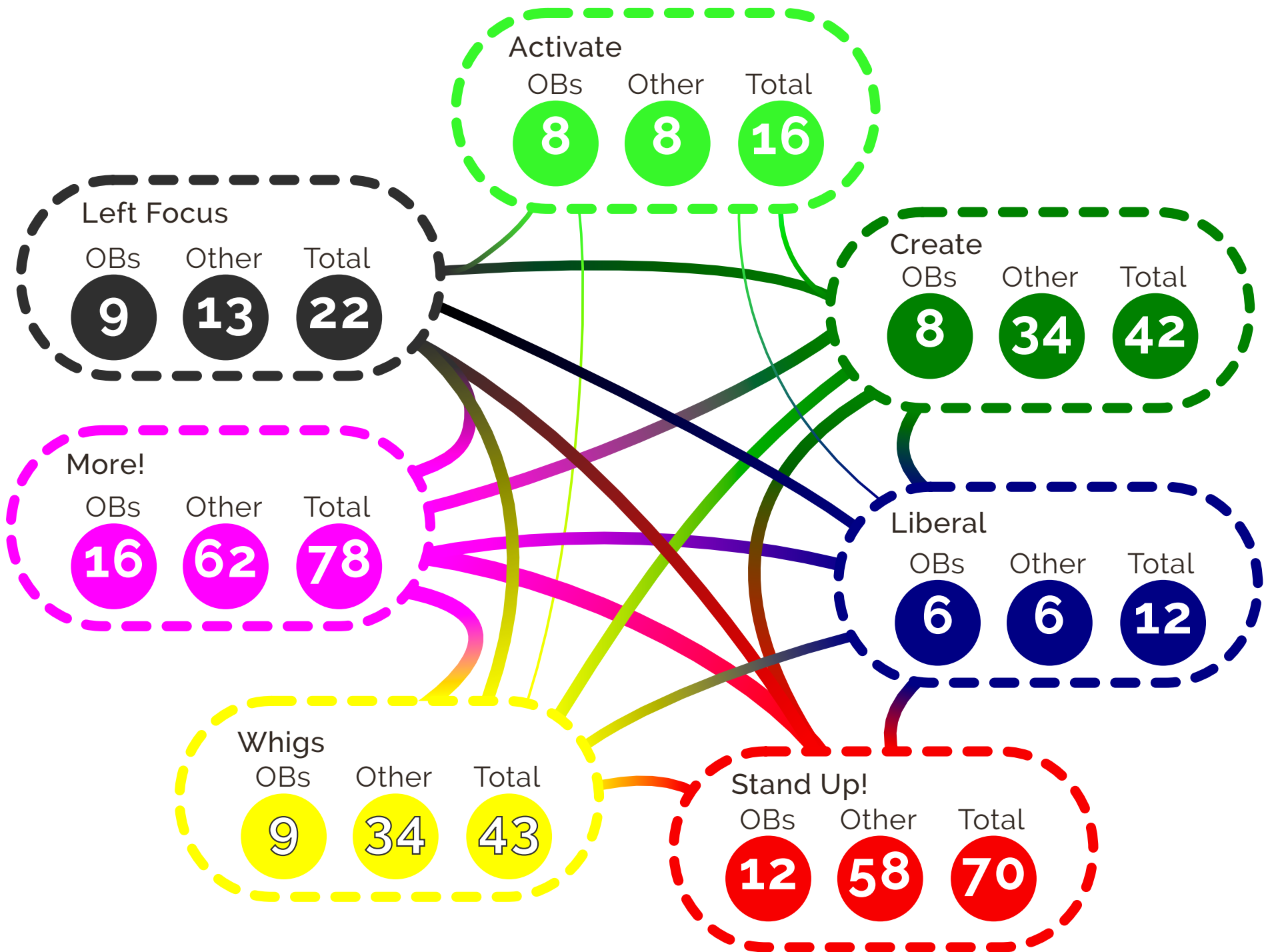
He told us that he has "no strong preferences for one position over another", but was running to "offer students an alternative to the clubs/societies and political party tickets". His policy promises were mostly procedural — committing to "review the evidence and carefully formulat[ing] policy positions while sharing his "conclusions for feedback and to be personally accountable", but not providing any specific policies.

WHO ARE THE CANDIDATES?

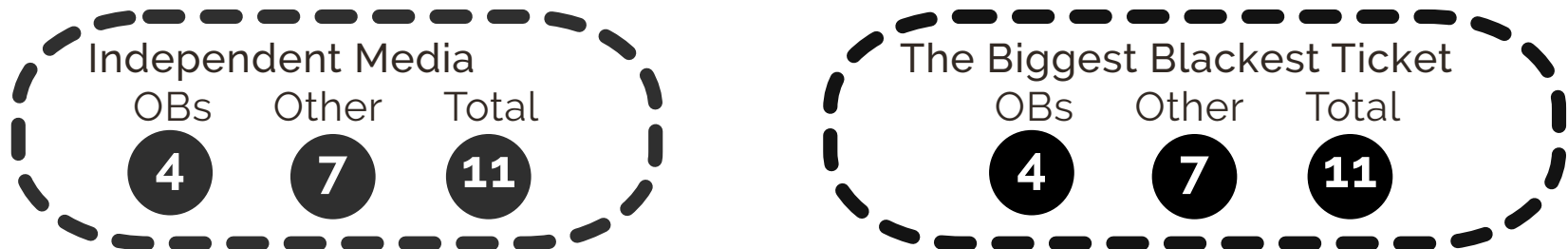
The full list of nominations is on our website here: parkvillestation.com/2016-noms
 We've used this page to summarise which slice(s) of the pie each ticket is looking to win. The lines between tickets contesting multiple OB positions show the number of positions in common each ticket is contesting – the thicker the line, the more contests in common.

The "OBs" and "Other" show the total number of candidates each ticket has put up. Note that a candidate running for multiple positions is counted twice.

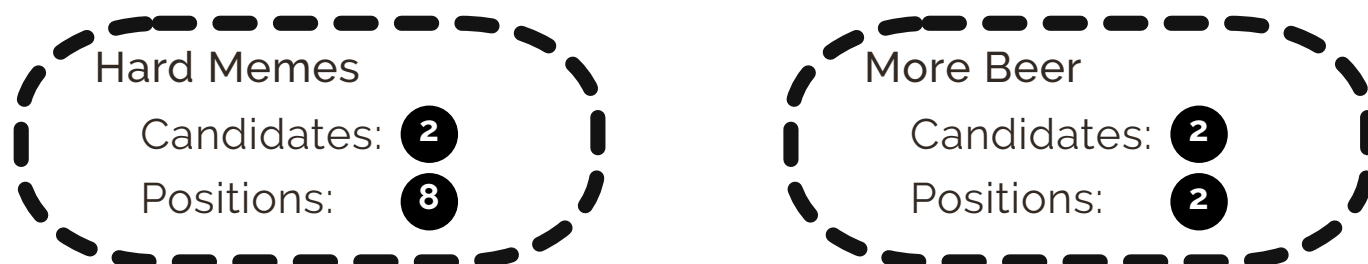
TICKETS CONTESTING MULTIPLE OPPOSED OFFICER POSITIONS



TICKETS CONTESTING OFFICER POSITIONS



TICKETS RUNNING MULTIPLE CANDIDATES (BUT NO OBs)



TICKETS WITH A SINGLE CANDIDATE

- Cheaper Textbooks (2 positions)
- Halal Snack Pack (3 positions)
- More Pokémon Go on Campus! (3 positions)
- Smore! (4 positions)
- Students Against Hanson (1 position)
- Universal (9 positions)

CAMPUS STYLE.

DANIEL

Spotted at: Behind Redmond Barry

PhD PHYSICS

I am wearing a gorgeous coloured floral shirt, which makes it look like I have muscles, and as an added bonus it'll induce an epileptic fit when I give a twirl. Today's jeans are the only ones that fucking fit me after a thirty hour flight of Hell back from Europe, on account of their low-fibre meals and the fact that Sicily has maliciously destroyed my physique with its irresistible food. My shoes were purchased out of spite because I felt that they summon the image of salmon and somebody once said that I have terrible taste in clothes. The belt is the only piece of clothing that I own that has lasted more than three years.

I usually wait until I travel overseas to get new clothes: I save up, make a big budget for it, fly overseas, and then waste it all at a mass-consumable conglomerate threadery that is also available at home, such as H&M -- but because I philosophically agree with their idea of the "medium" size compared to our own.

I love this shirt because it tells people ahead of me to get the fuck out of my way, and it gives me just the right number of buttons for maximum chestiness. (Basically my life goal is to become a male Jennifer Coolidge. If you don't know who she is, I don't like you. Stop reading now.)

The perfect number of buttons to have undone on a buttoned shirt is one for casual/formal events, which say "fuck you, you're not important enough for a fully buttoned shirt" (and it also says that my neck is too Neanderthalic to do

up even if I wanted to), and then two is a party-button that can be undone for most purposes, including tutorials, to the dismay and constant ridicule of my students.

My favourite item of clothing is a difficult question. I have a ladies' headband that I like to mince around in at the gym, and then squat with at least 10kg more than the fully sick muscle bro next to me -- headphones loudly blaring some throwback Spice Girls as I go. I also own a sweater which adequately veils my birth-giving hips and magically turns my breasts into pecks.

I would describe my style as very mix-and-match. If anything, my body is like one of those books you read when you were young, in which the head, body and legs can all be mixed up -- so I have to dress accordingly. I'd be lesbian mountain goat at the legs, Greenpeace surrounding a beached whale in the middle, and I'd be something of a flamingo with self esteem issues from neck up.

I think style is important because it lets me know whether I can manipulate and walk all over a person or not. If they're wearing yellow, they're too happy in life, and probably quite naive as well. These people are easy to push into oncoming traffic as I walk to whichever very important meeting is next on the day's schedule. If they're wearing black, it tells me they're sombre and unhappy -- I have no quarrel with this. If they're wearing pink, I either like them or hate them, depending on my mood and their attractiveness.



VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

VOX POPULI.

Did you know about the tracking being done by the University through UniWireless logins? Thoughts?

Damon

Bachelor of Science
Second Year



I didn't know about it. Thoughts on it? I don't know. I don't have that many thoughts on it. I'm not particularly worried about it if it's just around uni, no.

Belle

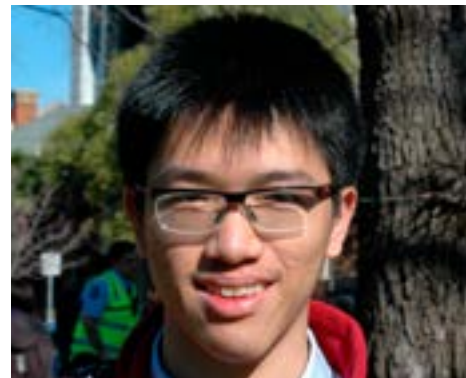
Management
Exchange Student



I didn't know about it, but if I did know I think I would talk about it with people because I think it's an interesting subject and I think it's going to upset people because it's a bit of a violation of privacy I think. What does the University want to do with it? What's the purpose of it? Do they want to control what I'm doing?

Soon-Keat

Bachelor of Commerce
First Year



I didn't know about it but I thought it might be happening. I don't have a problem with it. I mean, it's fine.

James

Bachelor of Arts
Third Year



I have heard about it and read about it. How I feel about it? I don't really care - I don't care whether they know what I'm up to at uni. It's nothing illicit. It's pointless data in my opinion, so I don't care if they're taking it.

OUT & ABOUT.



The Smith Street Band playing to a truly magnificent volume to a truly humungous crowd.



M-ASS BBQ moved off South Lawn b/c Open Day.



Olympics Trivia! Credit: Raph Canty.



Science Week event from the School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences.



Science Week had some really cool shit.
Credit: Raph Canty



Science Week exhibit? Or even more renos?



Chilling on South Lawn while Open Day is being set up.

EVENTS.

Note: we usually do the events frantically at 3am while the printer gets progressively angrier at us. So it'd be a good idea to double-check we got the date and time right, and check if you need tickets. Also send us your events: tips@parkvillestation.com.

FREE BAND AND BBQ

WHEN: Tues 23 Aug, 12pm
WHERE: North Court

Get a free sasuage and beverage while listening to Perth band The Verge Collection, and get there early to see support band Osaka.

SELF-PROTECTION WORKSHOP

WHEN: Tues 23 Aug, 2.30-6.30
WHERE: Grand Buffet Hall,

Learn basic self defence from instructors of the Melbourne Uni Taekwondo Club and the Martial Arts Academy - event is free!

FORENSIC MORTUARIES

WHEN: Wed 24 Aug, 12.15pm
WHERE: Theatre 2, 207 Bouverie St

Learn what happens in forensic mortuaries, including how victims are identified after mass disasters like the 2002 Bali bombing and the 2009 bushfires.

SCIENCE & PSEUDO-SCIENCE

WHEN: Wed 24 Aug, 6.30pm
WHERE: Laby Th, Physics
Learn to distinguish science from pseudoscience in regards to pop-psychology - from extrasensory perception to belief in UFOs.

GENDER & SEXUAL DIVERSITY

WHEN: Wed 24 Aug, 6.30pm
WHERE: PLT, Old Arts Bldg
Examine the nature and extent of hostility towards queer people, and what we can expect international law to do.

TIM FISCHER AC TALK

WHEN: Thurs 25 Aug, 6pm
WHERE: Junior Common Rm, International House, Royal Pde
Hear former Deputy PM Timothy Fischer speak about the World Trade Disconnect: rebranding and revamping before renewed protectionism destroys all.

SPRING FASHION

WHEN: Fri 26 Aug, 5pm
WHERE: Melbourne Central
Update your wardrobe for Spring at this annual city-wide shopping event. Hundreds of offers and exclusive events available.

ASEAN STREET FAIR

WHEN: Sat 28 Aug, 9am
WHERE: Queen Vic Market
Celebrate the close ties between ASEAN nations by eating street food and viewing cultural performances.



I recommend the dystopic universe of JG Ballard's High-Rise¹ and I'm holding my breath until you go and see it.



I don't think you need special glasses to watch A Hologram For The King², but I wore them anyway.



The Tickling³ goes way too far. Beyond normal community standards. My wife has been permanently disturbed. Or excited, I can't tell.



I recommend Indignation⁴. Before I became cool it was one of my favourite emotional responses.

1. Class divisions within an English apartment block erupt in Ben Wheatley's adaptation of J.G. Ballard's dystopic novel. "Wheatley and screenwriter Amy Jump have energized JG Ballard's parable of class warfare with a daring approach that will touch a nerve" Rolling Stone
2. A businessman with IT ideas that fail in America seeks backing from a Saudi royal in a dramatic comedy by Tom Tykwer. "You never know quite where it's going, and in an era of so much cinematic predictability that's a welcome attribute" David Stratton, The Australian
3. Documentarian David Farrier sets out to investigate an online male tickling endurance video. He encounters a criminal world that threatens harm to those who participate. "Opens a dangerous 'can of worms' of stranger-than-fiction journalism" Minneapolis Star Tribune
4. James Schamus directs Philip Roth's story set in 1951 which follows Marcus from New Jersey to college in Ohio where he has conflict with authority, encounters anti-semitism, and tries to rise above sexual repression. ★★★★★ "One helluva compelling film that presents us with several of the very best performances of the year" Chicago Sun-Times

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REVIEWS.

This week, **Jon Krikstolaitis** looks at genre spoofs and absurd comedies.

Sausage Party

dir. Greg Tiernan, Conrad Vernon
IMDb: 7.2
Rotten Tomatoes 82%
Parkville Station: 8.0

Comedy is a matter of taste. My taste is varied but there is something about Seth Rogen comedies that really speaks to me. This movie is stupid, smart, funny, witty, disgusting, juvenile and mature. I don't think I have ever said a movie is a mixed bag in a positive way before but that is exactly what this is. *Sausage Party*, as an ambitious genre spoof of what Pixar have been doing for years, hits all the notes it wants to hit and hits them hard. And it is about time someone did it. Its biggest crime is that everybody involved was just a little too proud of themselves.

Genre spoofs died with the *Scary Movie* franchise. They became lost in the shuffle with each successive movie made on the cheap and slowly strangling the life out of the genre. But this is how it is meant to be done. I don't want to spoil the movie too much as a lot of the humour is derived by the premise, but the central storyline is this: Frank (Seth Rogen, a hot dog sausage) is attracted to Brenda (Kristen Wig, a hot dog bun) and their life goal is to be chosen by the gods (shoppers) and taken to the great beyond.

The teen in me loved the juvenile humour and the adult loved the depth of the message that the movie was able to achieve in a nuanced genre spoof of something we have seen before from Pixar. A strong message mixed with jokes that would shock most parents makes this worth a watch.

A Million Ways to Die in the West

dir. Seth MacFarlane
IMDb: 6.1
Rotten Tomatoes 33%
Parkville Station: 4.5

The movie is self-aware, so aware in fact that the two main characters know exactly where they are - the Wild West (which is a terrible place). Their attitudes and thinking are modern without actually being knowing about the future. Most of the humour is derived from this, a very limited look at "haha, weren't they all stupid back then" or "wasn't this place filthy".

It is 1882 and Albert (MacFarlane) has a nice girlfriend that leaves him for the owner of the moustachery store. So, he goes back to his old life of trying to avoid the many ways you can die in the Old West. When a new girl comes into town he tries to impress her against his nature and becomes a gunslinger.

Honestly, I think Seth MacFarlane has lost his edge in recent movies and he has done little in the past two years to recover. If you are a MacFarlane fan it could be worth a watch, but while it had giggles here and there, overall it misses nearly every mark.

Galaxy Quest (1999)

dir. Dean Parisot
IMDb: 7.3
Rotten Tomatoes 90%
Parkville Station: 8.5

In a world of Star Trek reboots, this movie is one you should pick up and watch again. Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver, Tony Shalhoub and Alan Rickman are a great cast for a comedy movie that is designed to spoof the corny era of Star Trek.

The movie follows the lives of past-their-prime actors who live off the convention circuit for the TV series *Galaxy Quest* that they all starred in. The captain (Tim Allen), doing a very good impression of what we all think William Shatner would be like, is taken by actual aliens after finding out his old cast mates hate him. The aliens have built a society around his old show believing it to be a documentary. He must assemble the old crew and take on real challenges in space. The story is very well put together, the characters are well developed, and it shows off enough of everyone to give a very well rounded picture.

Alan Rickman is the star here. His deadpan delivery of a man who truly hates the character he used to play is just fantastic and the film is worth a watch for this alone.

Naked Gun: From the File of Police Squad (1988)

dir. David Zucker
IMDb: 7.6
Rotten Tomatoes 86%
Parkville Station: 9.0

David Zucker is the father of the over-the-top style comedy films that became the 'genre spoof'. His style of comedy is smart of visually deceptive, and usually described as absurd or stupid. This is the movie that made Leslie Nielsen a star and turned him into the gold standard for deadpan humour in the face of the absurd.

Fresh off taking down a terrorist organisation in Beirut, Lt. Frank Drebin (Neilson) must chase down a gang that gunned down and killed his partner (Simpson) back home. The plot is always going to be loose in a movie like this as it is all just a vehicle to jam in as many jokes as they can in the shortest period of time. Its rapid fire style is part of its charm, however, and it throws in Abbot and Costello style wordplay, visual gags, and even a cameo from Weird-Al Yankovic.

If you have never seen this movie before, it is a classic. It defined a genre. Not everybody will like the humour and it is dated in all sorts of ways, but it is still a classic of the comedy genre and well worth the time.

PUZZLES.

TRIVIA

BACHELORS LEVEL

Arts: Who is the Merchant of Venice in Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice?

Science: Who wrote A Brief History of Time?

Biomed: Which of alligators and crocodiles tend to live in saltwater habitats?

Commerce: When calculating GDP, net exports are exports minus what?

Environments: Which country borders the most other countries?

Music: Which note comes after B on a piano?

MASTERS LEVEL

Arts: Which actor was fired from the show Criminal Minds last week?

Science: Which science fiction writer had a 'space burial', involving some of his ashes being sent to space?

Biomed: What family of animals do foxes belong to?

Commerce: Measured by total assets, which is the world's largest bank?

Environments: What is Switzerland's largest lake by area and volume?

Music: Who wrote "Never Gonna Give You Up"?

PHD LEVEL

Arts: What is the name of Abraham Lincoln's speech that begins "Four score and seven years ago...?"

Science: Which four elements make up ammonium sulphate?

Biomed: The ankle is made from three bones - the tibia, the fibula and the what?

Commerce: In what decade did Karl Marx die?

Environments: Also referred to as Stalinist Empire style, what is the name given to the architecture of the Soviet Union under Stalin?

Music: Who killed John Lennon?

NINE LETTER WORD

C	D	K
E	Y	E
A	N	H

Find words that are made up of a combination of the letters in the square above. The word must contain the centre (red) letter. Words must be at least four letters long, not be plurals ending in 's' and exclude proper names. There is a single nine-letter word... or are there more?

P: 10 words; H3: 12; H2: 15; H1: 18; our dictionary contains: 21 words.

No peeking at the answers until you've attempted the question. If you're playing trivia with a group of people around a lunch table, beware the person sitting opposite you can easily read the upside down answers. *Disclaimer:* doing well at this does not guarantee you'll do well at Uni — you'll definitely be popular at trivia nights, though!

Looking for answers? The trivia answers are below; answers to last week's nine letter word(s) are on our website: parkvillestation.com

HERE IS THE USUAL GUIDE TO WHERE TO FIND ParkvilleStation.

THIS WEEK YOUR TASK IS TO GIVE COPIES OF THE PAPER TO AT LEAST FIVE OF YOUR FRIENDS.

A TERRIBLE FATE WILL BEFALL YOU OTHERWISE.

(We haven't worked out what yet.)

