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Inclusivity should not exclude others

EVE FISHER

“CAN YOU HEAR THAT NOISE? IT'S THE WOKE FOLK COMING WITH THEIR PITCHFORKS, SCREAMING BLUE MURDER THAT I DARE DEFEND CIS GENDERED WOMEN.”

IF I hadn't been called transphobic on the socials recently, I wouldn't be wading into this argument.

But as it happens, I was, so when news broke during the week that a trans woman weightlifter had been cleared to compete in the female division at the Tokyo Games, I figured a little more derision wouldn't hurt.

In what may become the cornerstone in the dissolution of truly competitive women's sport, New Zealander Laurel Hubbard was cleared to compete in the 87kg category, much to the chagrin of her fellow competitors. No surprises there.

Women's sport is no place for trans women but it seems inclusivity is more important these days than competitive advantage.

People who were born male have higher bone density and muscle mass. It's simple science, yet sporting bodies only look at testosterone levels to determine if team inclusion is permitted. They don't look at mass and strength.

Trans hurdler CeCe Telfer has been disqualified from the US women's team for Tokyo because her testosterone levels are too high.

But Hubbard has been cleared for a sport where mass and strength are everything. Belgian

weightlifter Anna Vanbellinghen was straight to the point when she said if Hubbard were to compete in the female category it would be unfair to women and “like a bad joke”.

The problem is, where is a fair platform for trans people to compete and what is being done to address the competition vacuum?

The trans community has every right to compete on the world stage.

Only not at the expense of other sportspeople.

Their inclusivity shouldn't cause exclusion for others.

Sport is not about inclusion. Sport is about the blood, sweat and tears of the individual.

Popular TV show Ninja Warrior pits men and women together on

an obstacle course that challenges even the toughest competitors.

I don't think I'm going out on a limb here when I say there will never be a female Ninja Warrior.

But you don't hear complaints because female Ninjas want to compete against men. They know they don't stand a chance, but they like the challenge, and have shot down those do-gooders demanding there be a female competition included.

International professional sport is not the same. At that level, like most compete against like.

Women have the right to compete against women born as women.

Can you hear that noise?

It's the woke folk coming with their pitchforks, screaming blue murder that I dare defend cis gendered women.

If you think that's loud, you should have heard the wailing when I said trans drugs were not suitable for children.

A few weeks ago I shared a report about puberty blockers in children and teenagers causing bone density loss.

Of course an argument started and it's transpired that because I strongly oppose kids being given puberty blockers, I'm transphobic.

Because I believe that children

should not be allowed to alter their bodies until they're 18, I'm transphobic.

I mean, they can't drink, drive, vote, get a tattoo or own a gun, but they can decide they're in the wrong body.

Last time I checked teenagers could barely look up from their TikTok routines long enough to decide what gender they should be.

Call me old-fashioned but life-changing decisions should be left for people with proven emotional maturity.

All the pitchfork waving in the world isn't going to change the fact that teenagers are still simply teenagers.

Support them. Encourage them to learn self-love. Give them space to explore.

But block puberty?

I think I'd rather be called transphobic than ever support something as crazy as using experimental drugs on young people, with no idea about the long-term effects.

We were all young once but we are not talking about tattoos or hair dye.

We are talking about the human body and human psychology, and nobody has any idea what could happen down the line.

LETTERS & TEXTS

QUARANTINE VILLAGE COSTS NEED EXPLAINING

HAS anyone looked at the numbers being quoted in the press re the proposed quarantine station at Mickleham and in other states?

I'd like to congratulate the lucky, lucky architects who won the secret tender to design the new quarantine village.

A design fee of \$20m must have them dancing around the firepit in celebration.

Perhaps they have all gone out and bought a new Mercedes-Maybach each as a special reward.

Or have I got it wrong? Has that \$20m gone to a US development company that built a village up north, which in some eyes makes them the masters of, and the only people capable of, designing and building a quarantine village?

If the latter is the case, then I would like to see a letter come from the CEO of the Institute of Architects to the Prime Minister, and the states' premiers who appear to be handing out and wasting huge sums of our money.

She could inform them that there are professionals called architects in Australia, many of them capable and enthusiastic towards designing and project managing quarantine villages at a

fraction of the costs being quoted publicly. For example, we would be dancing too if we got the design engagement for a fee of \$500,000, not \$20m.

We do have a small advantage because we have already designed the accommodation units for another purpose (holiday accommodation for hunters in the US and Canada at a cost of \$15,000 for a two-bedroom house).

We can have all 500 of these houses at \$12,000 each delivered to site within 4½ months from a single order, or 2½ months if supplied by two manufacturers.

Each house will take half an hour to assemble on site. That's a total cost of \$6m plus \$30,000.

I have no idea what service facilities/buildings are required but let's allow \$20m.

Then roads and services as well as fruit trees along the nature

strips so guests can pick fresh fruit for breakfast is the biggest cost.

Say \$40,000 per house lot equates to \$20m. Then the builder needs to make a profit of say 15 per cent, which equals \$6,979,500.

Total cost: \$53,509,500. But we are being told the village is going to cost \$400m.

And it won't be finished until 2022! How come?

Geoffrey Fulton, Architects Fulton and Salomon, Torquay

DANNY BOY, IT'S YOU MUST GO AND I MUST BIDE

AFTER listening to his remarks on returning as Premier, I was extremely disappointed that Daniel Andrews' arrogance has returned.

His contempt for views other than his own is still too prominent and it's the same Danny Boy.

I appreciated his

acknowledgments of doctors, ambulance people and nurses, but Dan Andrews it is time to ride off into the sunset.

We Victorians have had enough of you!

Theo, Clifton Springs

CONFUSION OVER USE OF SWABS BY MEDICAL STAFF

TO swab or not to swab?

Hopefully someone can clear this up for me.

In the last month, I have had two blood tests. Both times the nurse used a swab (wipe). I have also had the flu jab at my GP and my first Covid jab at Barwon Health, both without the nurse using a swab. I'm interested in getting this sorted out!

John Ward, Hamlyn Heights

TEXT TALK

I DON'T see any money allocated from the City of Greater Geelong budget towards any restoration of our magnificent aqueduct.

What a stunning construction it is and what a valuable tourist asset it could be if only someone had the foresight and brains to see that.

Is it too late? \$142m for an extra 4000 seats at Kardinia Park seems a poor comparison to me.

Leonie B

ADDY ONLINE POLL

Have you experienced ageism?

YES 55% | NO 45%

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DRIVING US ALL POTTY

IT'S that time of year again when wet weather and general wear and tear on our roads can lead to the emergence of dreaded potholes.

While these crevices in our roadways may seem insignificant, they are far from it to those drivers and cyclists who find themselves tackling damage to a vehicle, or even personal injury, after unexpectedly coming across one.

The danger is even more magnified at high speed which, when considering the pothole that has opened up on the Princes Highway near Colac in recent days, would probably explain the reported damage to several cars over the weekend.

Potholes are more than just an unsightly pain.

They can be a costly expense for those who are brought unstuck by them and, as Motorcycle Riders Association of Australia spokesman Damien Codognotto outlines in today's story, there is rarely any compensation for the damage caused.

This is despite the hefty vehicle registration fees Victorian motorists pay each year, as well as the ever-increasing revenue the government receives through traffic infringements — the revenue from both of which is purported to be reinvested into improving the safety and quality of our roads.

Motorists have the right to expect major roads such as the Princes Highway are effectively maintained to avoid such hazards.

ON THIS DAY

350 The usurper Nepotianus, who ruled Rome for 28 days, is killed by forces loyal to rival usurper Magnentius.

1859 Watched by 25,000 people, Jean-Francois Gravelet, aka Charles Blondin, is the first person to walk across Niagara Falls from the US to Canada on a tightrope.

1908 A comet fragment crashes into Tunguska, Siberia, destroying 2000sq km of forest.



1915 Anzacs repulse an attack by the Turks at the Nek at Gallipoli, at the cost of 372 casualties.

1934 Hundreds of Nazi Brownshirts stormtroopers are arrested and murdered on Adolf Hitler's orders in the Night of the Long Knives.

1974 Alberta King, mother of the late US civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr, is shot dead during an Atlanta church service by black gunman Marcus Wayne Chenault.

1997 Hong Kong is handed back to China after 156 years of British rule.

2020 Argentine footballer Lionel Messi scores his 700th career goal.

WRITE TO US

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