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Pricked by needle discrimination

EVE FISHER

“MY FRIEND IS NO ANTI-VAXXER. WARY AT THE MOMENT, SHE MAY IN FUTURE GET THE JOB. SHE'S RIGHTFULLY CAUTIOUS OF SOMETHING FAR MORE SCARY.

IT'S easy to feel hopeless in these wretched times.

Sometimes, though, a beacon of light sends a wee glimmer of sunshine into the darkness.

For me it was my friend's fury-laced remark on the burgeoning and discriminatory issue of mandatory vaccinations. "If any restaurants refuse to serve the unvaxxed, then I'm going to start booking huge tables every weekend and never turn up."

And there you have it. Someone ready to vote with their feet. Driven to vindictiveness by the writing on the wall.

Someone who can see a two-tiered society forming before their eyes and is ready to take a stand.

Someone who knows all the health advice in the world doesn't stop a descent into fascism.

You see, my friend is no anti-vaxxer. Wary at the moment, she may in future get the job.

She's rightfully cautious of something far more scary.

Segregation. Division. Alienation. Exclusion.

It's already happening abroad and the "totalitarian tiptoe" is happening here.

In France, you can't go to a supermarket without a vaccine passport.

In Israel, students can't finish high school unless fully jabbed. A moot point if you consider the country, with its 80 per cent vax rate, is now having another viral wave.

Never fear. Just force more injections on the population.

This is called medical apartheid.

In Australia last week, SPC became the first employer to make vaccines mandatory for workers.

A NSW rugby team declared unvaxxed fans should be kept out of stadiums.

Our PM encouraged restaurants and pubs to institute their own bans since the legalities are hamstrung at national policy level.

Those of us who don't want a vaccine for a virus that has a 99 per cent recovery rate are being told that we can't work or be social.

We are being ousted.

No more restaurants. Going to gigs. Or travelling. The true freedom fighters aren't outlying crackpots.

They are people like my friend, who will boycott businesses that discriminate.

Or worse. They will be disobedient and vindictive.

They will support businesses who respect a person's right over their body, without being refused

goods and services.

Smart people know censorship is only the start of tyranny. Stupid

people don't know what censorship is.

Or tyranny for that matter. "But it's a public health issssssssue," they all scream.

It makes no difference. Once you start removing a person's autonomy over their body, society as we know it is over.

And if you don't stand up and fight now, you will always be consigned to the wrong side of history.

In my book, anyone supporting mandating is now a persona non-grata, an "unwelcome person" who is a danger.

This is not an "agree to disagree" situation.

This is no longer about a virus or lockdowns or restrictions. This is about the right a person has to live as a sovereign being. Without being penalised for it.

Now is the time to choose your future.

It's mandatory injections at the moment.

What is next? A licence to breed.

The world is watching. There has never been a more important battle.

Us unvaxxed heathens know what we stand to lose. The question is, do the rest of you?



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LET THE GAMES BEGIN

THE opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games was held in Tokyo last night.

Anyone who got excited and inspired by the Olympics earlier this month should tune into this spectacular event.

As Australia's most well known Paralympian, former wheelchair marathon racer Kurt Fearnley, observed on Tuesday, the Games are about more than sport.

"I don't just love the Paralympics because they are the greatest sporting event, which assault your senses and blow your mind. I love the Games because they are also a catalyst for social change," Fearnley said.

The Paralympics have played an important role in changing perceptions of disabilities and those who have them.

The physical and mental strength of the competitors is awe-inspiring, and their personal stories are moving. But the greatest upshot of the Paralympics is that, in the public eye, they empower people who might previously have been viewed as victims.

Australia's 2021 team is the largest ever sent abroad to a Paralympic Games. Among the 179 wearing green and gold will be wheelchair athletes Sam McIntosh, Jason Lees and Marty Dunn – all from the Geelong region.

We wish them the best of luck, and will be barracking for them all the way.

LETTERS & TEXTS

TOO MANY LOCKDOWNS, TIME FOR A DIFFERENT APPROACH

ONE definition of stupidity is doing the same thing twice and expecting a different result.

It is obvious our state leaders are not familiar with this saying, but they continue to prove its truth.

Our only approach to slowing the spread of Covid is lockdown followed by lockdown, interrupted by a brief interval accompanied by much self-congratulation.

Given the evidence that this approach is a failure, our leaders revert to the old and tried saying: "If some is good, more is better", and so make the lockdowns longer and harsher.

Have any of them tried a different approach?

Did even one of them think that the outbreak in Shepparton provided an opportunity to test the efficacy of other drugs?

Not likely. Our leaders will continue to promote vaccines which have proven less than effective and will continue their only path: lockdown.

Unfortunately it will take a long time for them to accept that this path is failing and another approach is needed.

David Oswell, Corio

DOUBLE STANDARDS AS CLEAR AS A HD TELEVISION

HAS there ever been a clearer example of one law for the rich and another for the poor than in the overpayment of JobKeeper?

On the one hand, we have billionaire Gerry Harvey being overpaid \$6m and Scott "I Don't Hold A Hose and This Is Not A Race" Morrison saying it is OK for him to keep the money.

Surprise, surprise, Gerry is keeping the money. However, a young woman in Melbourne who was overpaid the princely sum of \$1100 is being pursued to the full extent of the law.

At the next election I hope people remember which side Morrison is on.

Marinus den Dryver, East Geelong

PRaise FOR COGG JOINING CLIMATE ALLIANCE

CONGRATULATIONS to the City of Greater Geelong for being about to sign up to the South West Barwon Climate Alliance (GA, 24/8).

This will be an important step in acknowledging the need for serious co-operative action against climate change.

Rosemary Kiss, Rippleside

STRANDED GREY NOMAD FEARS RIGHTS ARE LOST

I AM one of thousands of Victorian grey nomads stranded in New South Wales because our right of entry to Victoria has been removed.

The Andrews government appears to have abandoned us and the Department of Health

and Human Services (DHHS) has no plan to change our status.

Paul Bellizia, Indented Head

FOCUS ON MELBOURNE LEAVES US TO OWN DEVICES

WITH regional Victoria now the same as Melbourne, we can now travel anywhere in Victoria with no one to stop us.

Dictator Dan and the police don't care. They don't check anyone.

They are all in Melbourne wandering the streets.

Gary Saxon, Grovedale

DON'T JUST BLAME THE COACH, CATS FANS

RE: "Supporters blame coach for Cats' fade-out" (Letters, 23/8), the coach always seems to get the blame for game losses.

It's about time the Geelong players took some responsibility for their poor performance.

P. Ward, Highton

DID Butters and Keating (23/8) miss the error by Guthrie to kick the ball out of bounds on the full, or Stanley's inability to keep up with Gawn allowing him to take an uncontested mark and kick the winning goal?

P.Lowe, St Albans Park

ADDY ONLINE POLL

Do you think the Cats will make the grand final?

YES 45% | NO 55%

Register your vote at geelongadvertiser.com.au

ON THIS DAY

1270 King Louis IX, St Louis, dies of dysentery in Tunis in North Africa while on a crusade.

1942 The Battle of Milne Bay begins in New Guinea. It will result in the first defeat of the Japanese on land in World War II.



1975 Australia's Little River Band releases its first single (Curiosity Killed the Cat) on the way to global fame.

1981 Nine people die in an early morning fire at the Rembrandt Apartments in Bayswater Rd, Kings Cross. Firemen say the building's fire systems were inadequate, causing a general outcry against lax fire safety laws.

1995 Helen Darville (aka Demidenko, now Dale), author of The Hand That Signed The Paper, admits to having faked her name and ancestry.

2012 A team begins excavating the site of Greyfriars Abbey in Leicester in the search for the burial site of Richard III. In the first trench they dig, the archaeologists discover bones that turn out to be those of the king.

2018 War hero, US senator and one-time presidential hopeful, John McCain dies, aged 81.

WRITE TO US

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