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Ted Pelkey for British PM

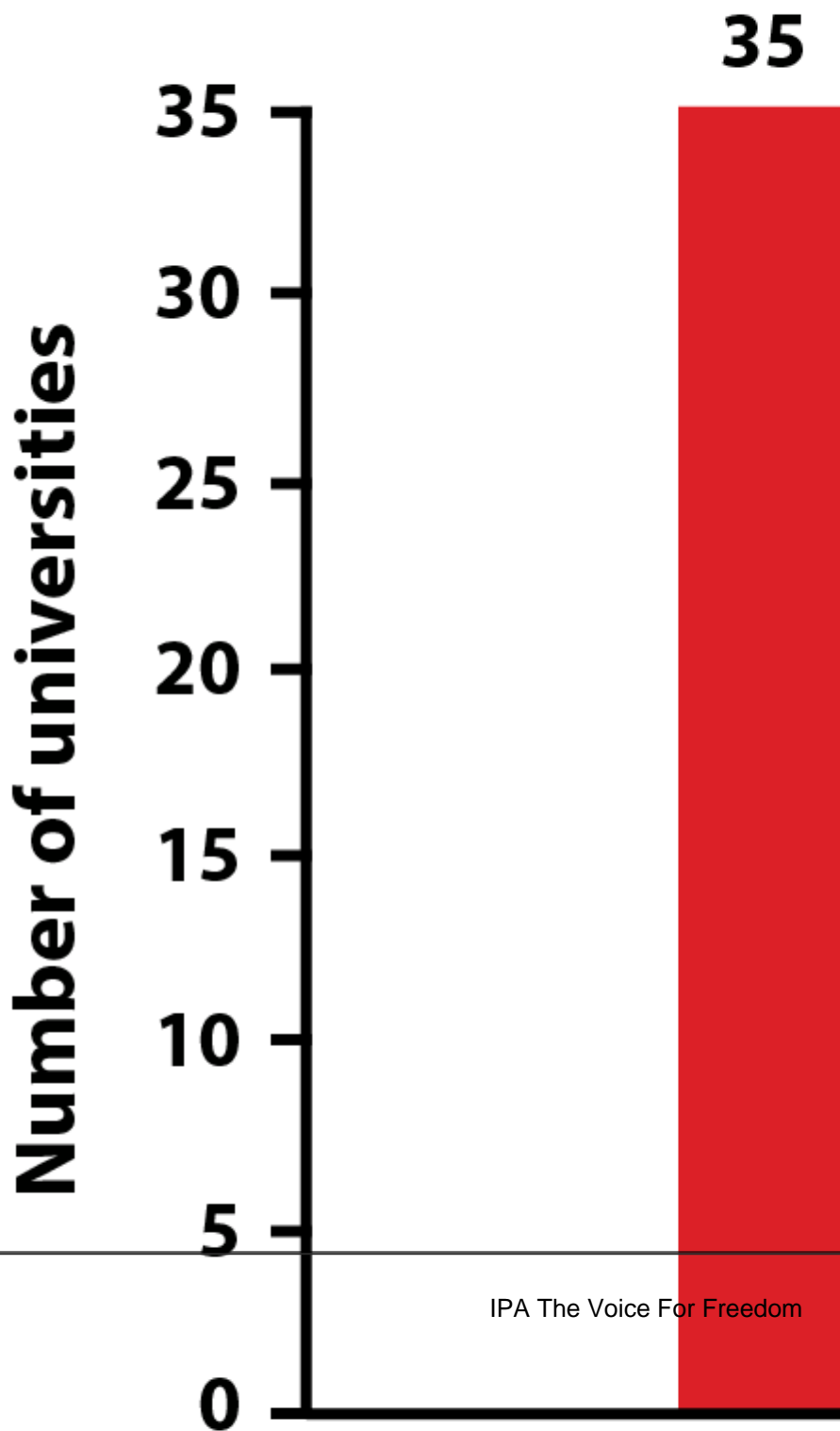
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Thirty-five of Australia's 42 universities have policies or actions that are hostile to free speech on campus:



Free Speech on – Rating





That was one of the key takeaways from Matthew Lesh's [Free Speech on Campus Audit 2018](#), although my favourite bit is where Matthew lists the Australian universities that ban sarcasm! The report was featured on the [front page of The Australian](#) on Monday:

THE AUSTRALIAN

WWW.THEAUSTRALIAN.COM.AU | THE HEART OF THE NATION | WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12, 2018

Free speech audit names the universities as the 'most ho

JULIE HARE

The Institute of Public Affairs' third annual audit of free speech on Australian campuses has found a decline in university performance just days after the previous audit's methodology and intent were publicly savaged at a summit at the Australian National University.

The new audit of "over 190 policies and actions" found that the number deemed as "hostile to free speech" increased by 82 per cent from 2016 to this year.



["You can't solve the problem of anti-discrimination laws by passing more anti-discrimination laws"](#) says Morgan Begg, in response to the Prime Minister's announcement today of the introduction of a [Freedom of Religion Commissioner](#) for the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Last night UK Prime Minister Theresa May held on to the Conservative leadership with a vote of [200 to 117](#). Andrew Lilico wrote in *CapX* yesterday that she must go anyway because of her ["catastrophic capitulatory deal with the EU"](#).



“[Congratulations, Australian government! You’ve just destroyed the world’s data privacy](#)” wrote *Reason* last Thursday. The *Assistance and Access Bill* 2018 that was [rushed through parliament](#) last week will make it easier for “hackers, thieves, officials from authoritarian governments, and all sorts of dangerous people” to access our data.

Twitter’s sinister suppression of dissent continued this week with the removal, and then reinstatement, of [Titania McGrath](#) – a popular spoof account that [mocks woke culture](#). And this comedy night looks like an absolute hoot – the University of London is making comedians sign a “[safe space agreement](#)” before appearing on campus.

If you think there’s nothing wrong with a singing cartoon crab urging a young man to grasp the nettle then you’re part of the problem. An a capella group at Princeton has axed *The Little Mermaid* classic “[Kiss the Girl](#)” from its repertoire after a student wrote in the university newspaper that it was “[misogynistic and dismissive of consent](#)”.

The latest figure in the crosshairs of the #metoo movement? God. A Minnesota professor [last week tweeted](#) that God did not get the Virgin Mary’s consent before impregnating her and acted in a “predatory” way.

God Bless America. Vermont man Ted Pelkey has erected a [700-pound wooden sculpture of the middle finger](#) directed at the local municipality for not allowing him to build a garage on his property. While the local government has denied applications to build the garage for a decade, the new structure is considered to be public art, and is therefore protected by the First Amendment.

THE YOUNG PEDESTAL PODCAST



Featuring Brendan O'Neill, *Spiked*, and Dr Zachary Gorman, IPA

“The bizarre thing about the liberal elite and the political class and all the rest of them is that the less racism there is in Britain, the more they see it everywhere...I’m interested in the way in which accusations of racism or this kind of desire to discover racism everywhere really speaks to a political elite which is so removed from ordinary people that it doesn’t know in fact the vast majority of them are not racist.” – Brendan O’Neill, *Spiked*

Article of the week:

Tuesday was the 100th anniversary of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s birth. Daniel J. Mahoney wrote in *City Journal* that Solzhenitsyn was “[the century’s greatest critic of the totalitarian immolation of liberty and human dignity](#)” in this excellent 1,500 word piece.

IPA Staff Pick:

Each week an IPA staff member shares what they have enjoyed recently. Today: James Bolt

“[Believe in something. Even if it means sacrificing everything.](#)” That was the copy of Nike’s ad with ex-NFL Quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who is out of the league in part because of his political beliefs. Well, they might need to add on to the end “unless you don’t want to” after it was revealed Nike refused to sign New York Knicks basketballer Enes Kanter to a shoe deal due to his [outspoken opposition to Turkish President Erdogan](#). As Andreas Vou said in *Spiked* last week in this fantastic article, “[Kanter’s story shows that campaigns like Kaepernick’s have nothing to do with principle](#)”.

Here’s what else the IPA said this week:

- John Roskam, [The new divides in Australian society](#) – **The Bolt Report**
- Matthew Lesh, [Free speech under threat at Australian universities](#) – **Sky News**
- Andrew Bushnell, [We still need right to privacy](#) – **Hardgrave**
- Professor Bradley Bowden, [A capital idea: Modern management in a free society](#) – **IPA Review**
- Gideon Rozner, [Inside the intellectual dark web](#) – **IPA Review**
- Daniel Wild, [Work is essential to alleviating poverty and providing dignity](#) – **Media Release**