

# Meta Puzzle

—Corey Plover

The last five days had passed in a blur. The villainous activity you'd first encountered on Monday had got progressively more miscreant throughout the week; by Tuesday, students had cottoned on that something was amiss; by Wednesday, panic had set in, especially once it had dawned on them that the strange beasts roaming campus weren't just stragglers from a particularly raucous party; by Thursday, classes had been cancelled out of fear for student safety; and by Friday, the campus had descended into anarchy, with villains roaming, looting and pillaging as they saw fit.

As the chaos unfolded, you'd slowly and reluctantly come to the realisation that, with the Vice-Chancellor gone, you alone could save Melbourne University from destruction. Naturally, you'd immediately donned the red-and-blue lycra suit that you'd found in the Vice-Chancellor's office, because crime-fighting would surely prove easier in a highly-conspicuous, movement-restricting, non-breathing one-piece suit. And, you would get the opportunity to wear your underpants on the outside.

But as it transpired, wearing the suit alone didn't seem to magically give you any abilities... though it did restrict the airflow to your lower limbs. So instead, you turned your focus to the information compiled by the Vice-Chancellor in his notebook, in an attempt to discern a means to stop the villains. Unfortunately, while much of the information was self-explanatory, the key information about the powers and abilities of the villains had been cleverly encoded, and to extract it had required all your puzzle solving skills.

Thus had begun a long and puzzling week...

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Now, four stressful, coffee fueled days later, you'd finally managed to make sense of the Vice-Chancellor's notes. Well, almost all of them...

Your thoughts turned to the last page of the notebook, slightly different from the rest. For, instead of providing a description of a villain, it was simply a list of objects. But what were they, and how would they help you to stop the villains?

Then, all of a sudden, all the pieces fell into place: you knew exactly what you would need to save Melbourne Uni and, what's more, precisely where to go in order to find it.





**HOLY PAPAL ASSEMBLY**  
AN EPISCOPALIAN SYNOD WITH THE ABILITY TO REFORM NON-BELIEVING MASSES.

**LEAD REBOUNDER**

ANTI-RIOT POLICE SHIELD CAPABLE OF REFLECTING SMALL LEAD PROJECTILES.



**STARMIE**  
STAR-LIKE WATER/PSYCHIC POKEMON USEFUL FOR WATER TRANSPORTATION AND FIRE-FIGHTING.

**IRON ROD ROTTER**

LIQUID THAT CAN CORRODE IRON BARS AND GIRDERS MAKING THEM HIGHLY BRITTLE.



**BAD GRINNING PIGGY**  
PORCINE SIDEKICK WHO RUNS AWAY, DISTRACTING AND OCCUPYING THE ATTENTION OF FURIOUS AVIANS.

**SOPORIFEROUS FLOOR**

FLOOR COVERING THAT SAPS THE ENERGY FROM ANY ACROBATIC ASSAILANT.



**'FEAR OF GREEN' GRENADE**  
EXPLOSIVE THAT INDUCES VERTIPHOBIA ON ALL WITHIN A 10M BLAST RADIUS.

**LIABILITY BUBBLE**

RAPID INCREASE IN INSURANCE WHICH RENDERS ALL UNCERTIFIED GADGETS FINANCIALLY NON-VIABLE.



**FLAMMABLE BLAZER**  
SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTING JACKET. USEFUL FOR KEEPING THE WEARER WARM ON COLD WINTER DAYS.

**ACE LEGAL EAGLE**

HIGHLY SKILLED LAWYER, CAPABLE OF SPRINGING ANYBODY FROM INCARCERATION.



**SUPER SOUSAPHONE**  
LOUD MUSICAL INSTRUMENT THAT DISRUPTS THE THOUGHT PROCESS OF ANYONE IN AUDIBLE RANGE.

**ENGINEERING GURU**

ABLE TO MANUFACTURE A DEVICE THAT THROWS OFF THE HEAT-SEEKING ABILITY OF HOMING PROJECTILES.



**SILICON MECHANIC**  
HIGHLY SPECIALISED CRAFTSMAN, SKILLED IN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING.

**DUNLOP GOGGLES**

HIGH GRADE, UV-RATED SUNGLASSES. STYLISH. BLACK.



**TIMBER GATE REPAIRMAN**  
EXPERT CARPENTER, CAPABLE OF REINFORCING WOOD DOORS TO MAKE THEM IMPENETRABLE.

**WET WEATHER WEAR**

WATERPROOF RAINCOAT, DUH. IF IT WASN'T WATERPROOF IT'D JUST BE A "COAT", WOULDN'T IT?



**BEIGE DIDGERIDOO**  
INDIGENOUS MUSICAL INSTRUMENT WITH THE POWER TO PACIFY NATIVE AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS.

**ONSET TIREDNESS**

ABILITY TO HYPNOTICALLY INDUCE MUSCLE FATIGUE AND DROWSINESS.



**ADROIT TRAPSHOOTER**  
HIGHLY SKILLED RIFLEMAN, CAPABLE OF SHOOTING DOWN FAST MOVING DISCS FROM THE SKY.

**PROWESS**

THE OLD ADAGE OF "BRAINS OVER BRAWN".

