





Brett Lethbridge

Role Model

The Courier-Mail, 22 July 2023

Female role models were in the news in July 2023 with the release of Greta Gerwig's patriarchy-challenging Barbie movie, and with the early success of the Australian women's soccer team (the Matildas) in the FIFA Women's World Cup. Brett Lethbridge sees the Matildas as role models for this day and age, with a 1950s-style Barbie figure stepping daintily into a football boot, in which she can finally put her foot firmly on the ground.

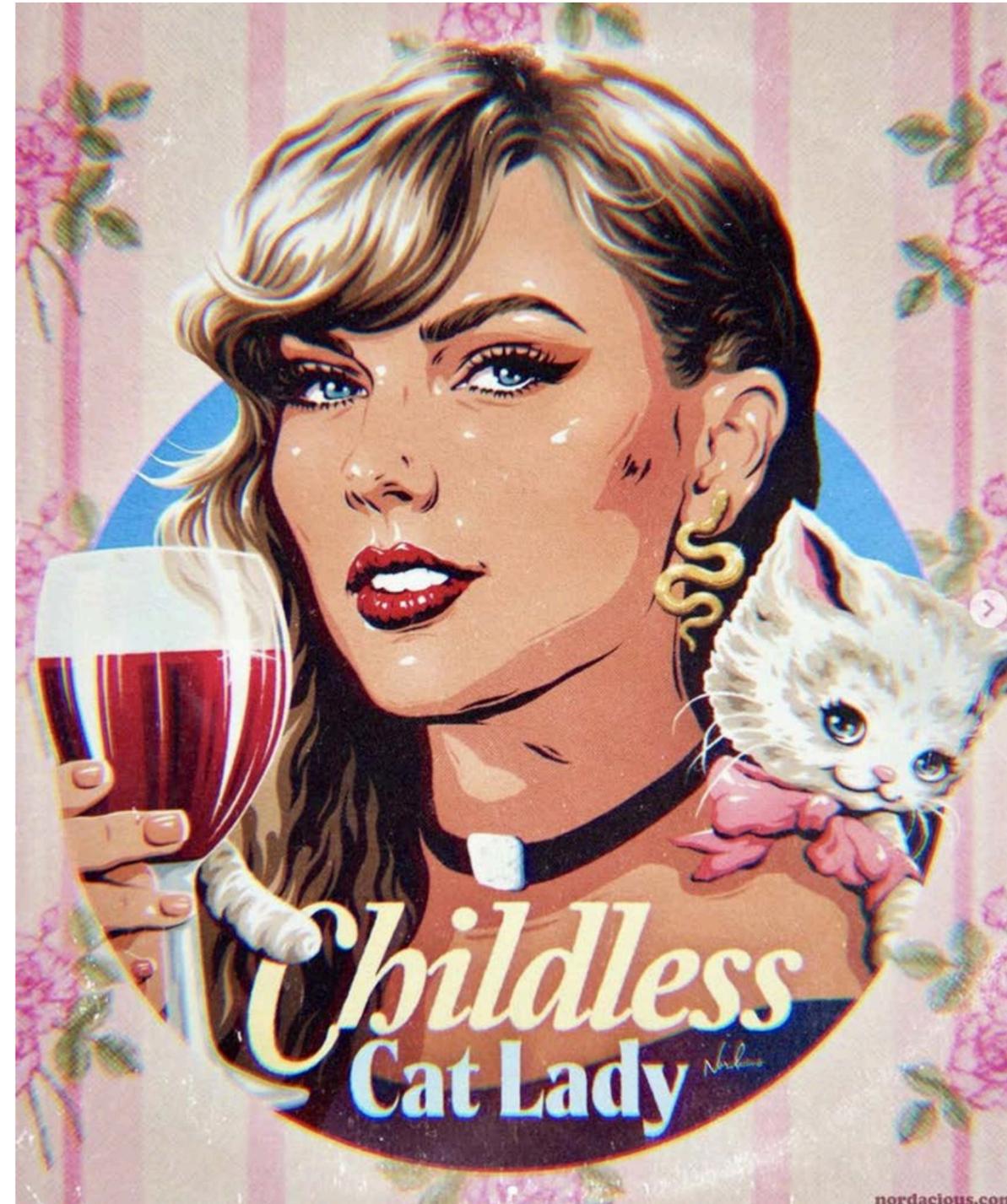
Behind the Lines 2023

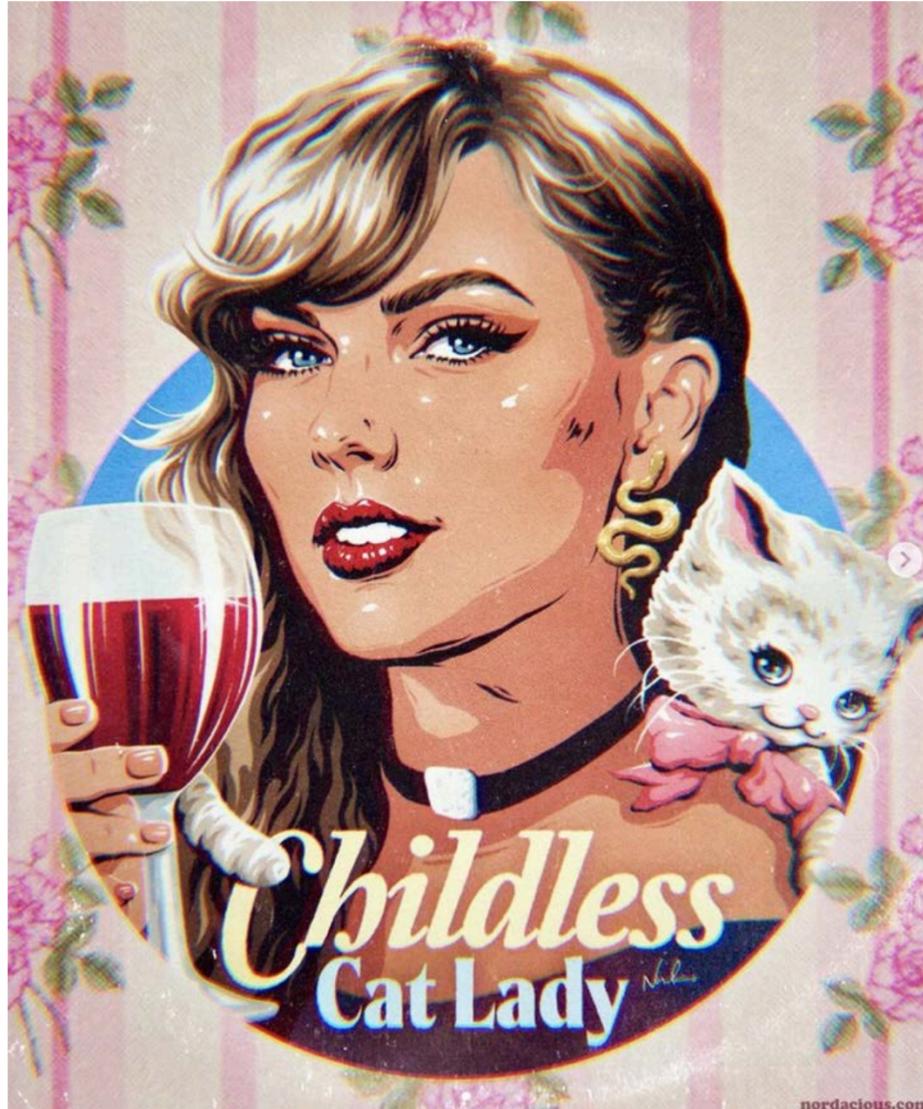
Take a look at this piece of media:

- What stands out to you? Describe what is happening.
- What message might the cartoonist be presenting to us? What techniques has the artist used to highlight this message?
- What connections can you make with issues you already know about?

Dig Deeper: How might the techniques used in this piece be intended to support the cartoonist's message? What impact does this have on us as readers?

Take Action! Create your own piece of media to present your point of view on this topic.





Nordacious
Childless Cat Lady
Instagram, 25 August 2024

In August 2024 Republican vice-presidential candidate JD Vance called leading Democrats 'a bunch of childless cat ladies'. A month later, Taylor Swift, the world's most famous pop star, posted her endorsement of Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris on Instagram, encouraging her fans to register to vote and signing off 'Childless Cat Lady'. Voter registrations spiked after the post.

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Cathy Wilcox

Prehistoric

Nine Papers, 6 June 2025

In the weeks after the election, Liberal Party figures called for the party to consider quotas for women. NSW Liberal Senator Maria Kovacic said it was 'about removing entrenched barriers and making space for talent we have long overlooked'. Former Liberal party president Alan Stockdale, however, told a NSW Liberal Women's Council meeting that women were 'sufficiently assertive now' and wondered whether instead there was a need to 'protect men's involvement'.

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Cathy Wilcox

Role Model

The Sydney Morning Herald, 20 January 2023

Cathy Wilcox's cartoon paid tribute to outgoing New Zealand prime minister Jacinda Ardern, when she resigned as PM and leader of New Zealand's Labour Party in January 2023. Ardern was succeeded by Chris Hipkins. Ardern was the world's youngest woman head of government when she was elected at age 37. In October Labour suffered an electoral loss and a National Party–ACT Party coalition took power. Behind the Lines 2023

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Megan Herbert

Fresh Air

The Age, Sydney Morning Herald, 21 February 2022

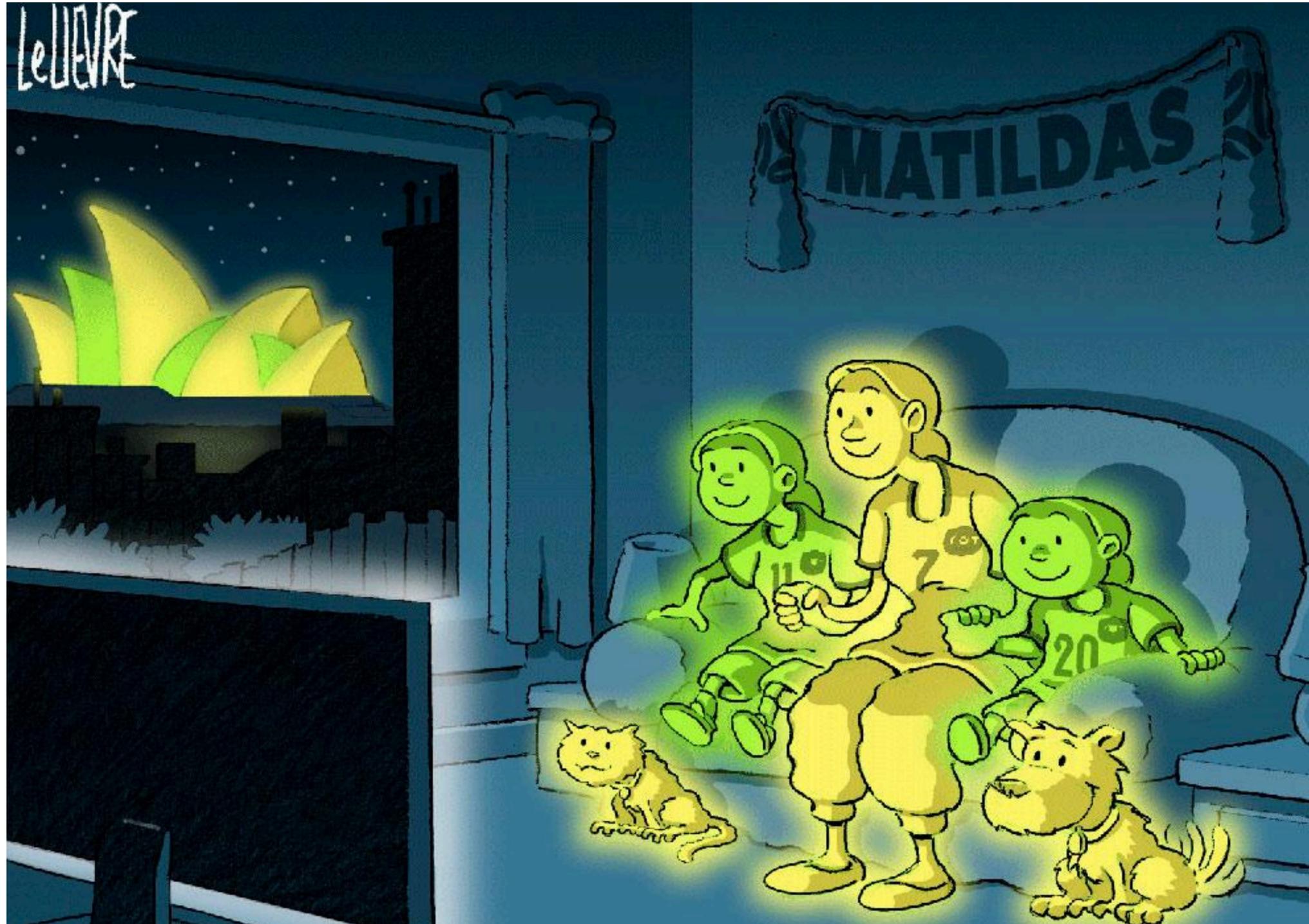
Megan Herbert suggests change is in the air for Liberal moderates Trent Zimmerman and Dave Sharma, who held the Sydney seats of North Sydney and Wentworth respectively. Herbert's women candidates take flight thanks to a breath of 'fresh air' (climate action), community engagement and qualities such as honesty and integrity. Zimmerman and Sharma both lost their seats to 'teal independents' in the election.

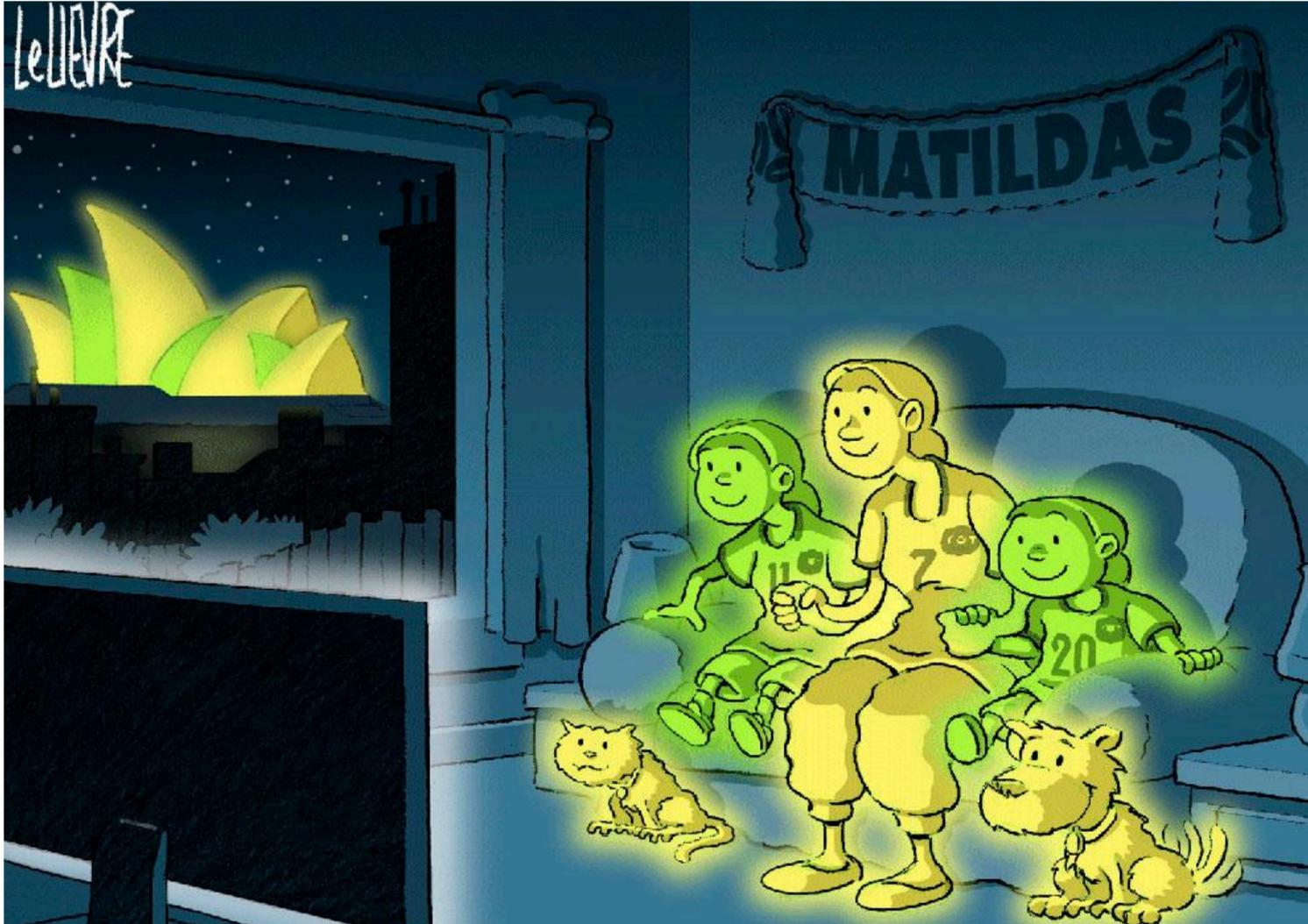
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Glen Le Lievre

Girls Light Up

Self-Published, 12 August 2023

Animation adds vivid new qualities to Glen Le Lievre's cartoons: movement and surprise. In Girls Light Up, a family excitedly watches the Matildas play Denmark as elements of the GIF light up in sequence. The whole nation was caught up in the match. Even the Sydney Opera House was illuminated in green and gold for the occasion. The title is a twist on the 1980s rock song, 'The Boys Light Up' by Australian Crawl, but this time it is the women's soccer team's time to shine.

Behind the Lines 2023

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Megan Herbert
International Women's Day
 Self-Published, 8 March 2023

International Women's Day is a global celebration of women's achievements in the social, economic, cultural and political fields. It is also a day for recognising gender inequality and striving for positive change. Megan Herbert's cartoon for International Women's Day 2023 draws on her personal life. It describes the experience many women have of being pulled in all directions – and the difficulty in finding time to take part in a special event, even one meant for them.

Behind the Lines 2023

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