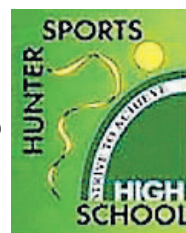
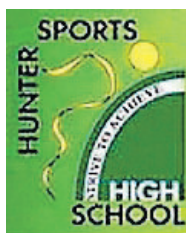


Secondary entry #1: Hunter Sports High School



Hunter Sports Spectator



MONEYBALL: Sports gambling is on the rise. Picture: Daniel Caban

Playing fair now against all the odds

By MITCHELL SCOTT

GAMBLING has been an integral feature of Australia's social history.

From when the Anzacs tossed the coins into the air just last week across the country, that great gambling tradition continues.

Australians undoubtedly love to have a punt, love to challenge the odds, to beat "the man". But increasingly, significant concerns are being voiced about the expanding relationship between sport and gambling.

Respected former Newcastle Knights first grade player and now NSW Aboriginal gambling service director, Ashley Gordon, commented about the proliferation of sports gambling.

"We seem to be a culture that proudly endorses ourselves as gamblers," said Mr Gordon.

"New forms of gambling are being introduced, although pokies are still the worst for people with gambling problems, betting on sports is on the rise in terms of addiction."

The Australian public spends around \$20 billion a year on gambling, with over 80 per cent of adults engaging in the "hobby".

When asked about the increase in sports gambling advertisements, Mr Gordon said, "it is widespread... you can't even relax at home without being reminded to go gamble, and it is even more detrimental to those with gambling problems."

A bitter pill to swallow

By ELODIE DAGG

IMAGINE a world where a common chest cold could kill you.

Well, this world did exist – prior to the discovery of antibiotics in 1928 – ordinary illnesses and injuries, from flesh wounds to diarrhoea, were often fatal.

But according to numerous health professionals, such as England's chief medical officer, Dame Sally Davies, we could be a mere 20 years away from re-entering this medieval-type world.

In a recent report by British Health, Dr Davies warns that antibiotic-resistant bacteria are on the rise, and pose "a catastrophic threat" to people worldwide.

Statistics have indicated that in the European Union, 25,000 people a year die from infectious untreatable bacteria.

Even more worrying is the threat of deadly CRE bacteria, which are almost completely resistant to antibiotics. Alarming, such bacteria have a 50 per cent fatality rate.

This form of bacterium is commonly known as a "gut bug", which is most infectious to the elderly, people in developing countries, premature babies, those undergoing cancer treatment, people with deflated immune systems and those taking antibiotics regularly.

Scientists have always known that the overuse of antibiotics will



REDUNDANT: Current medicines may soon be useless as bacteria evolve.

Picture: Emily Mors

eventually lead to bacterial resistance. But in today's world, antibiotics have increasingly been seen as a remedy for everything.

In Australia we have reduced the use of quinolones (broad spectrum antibacterial drugs) in small cases of bacterial infection and as a result these antibiotics are working well for larger bacterial infection cases.

While the looming threat is much larger in the United States and

Britain, Australia has developed its own methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, or "superbug" strains, as well as picking them up from around the world.

Dr Davies says that "the pipeline has dried up" when discovering new forms of antibiotics. Pharmaceutical companies are focusing more on the drugs for chronic illness which make billions each year, compared to antibiotics

which have a reduced income stream.

Dr Davies believes that the situation needs to be put on the national risk register and the World Health Organisation "needs to take this threat seriously".

The irony that the drugs that treat our infections may also be causing them is very confronting.

It seems a return to our dark medical past may be just ahead.



THE TIMES: Despite changing trends in technology, readers still get the news. Picture: Emily Mors

From paper to pixels for the press

By PAUL BOARDMAN

SO, there you are, on the 100 bus in Hunter Street, the *Newcastle Herald* on your lap, the feel of a newspaper in your hand, the tactile sensory experience you know so well.

Or maybe you're reading at your kitchen table over breakfast, the paper wide open, covered in crumbs and milk – it is part of the routine, part of a tradition.

But if that is you, you are part of a dwindling few.

Digital newspaper sales have risen over the last year with sales for major national newspapers up 13 per cent.

But these increased sales have come with negative consequences, as print editions continue to fall.

This slump in sales is shown by the average national sale of print papers down 8.2 per cent. These

figures will have negative implications on local newsagents as they depend on newspaper sales.

However, the poor print sales have prompted the *Sydney Morning Herald* to reformat to a compact edition – a move aimed to increase sales and reinvigorate print against digital versions.

Time will tell, and we'll no doubt read all about it, somewhere.

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