



THE ENVIRONMENT ISSUE

Issue 13 – 30th May 2011

CRITIC

OUSAs By-Election Coverage: Blurbs, Questions, Rampant Punditry
The Global Warming "Debate" | Clean Green Costa Rica
Ways to Be Kind to Mother Nature | News, Reviews, Opinions

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THE ENVIRONMENT ISSUE

Issue 13 – 30th May 2011

Critic – Te Arohi

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Josh Hercus discusses how corporations have actively suppressed evidence for climate change.

Georgie Fenwicke interviews Hollie Fullbrook, the girl behind music scene newbie Tiny Ruins.

20 tips to do your bit for the world. Planeteers eat your heart out.

Is Costa Rica really as clean and green as it claims? Phoebe Harrop thinks so.

Music, Food, Fashion, Art, Books, Theatre, Games, Film

Apathy. Meh.



It's presidential election week at OUSA, and we've gone all political-bonanza on this issue. Inside, we offer full election coverage: from the forum (pg 7), to Qs and As with the candidates (pg 12), to election analysis with our pundits (pg 16). Read it. Ask the candidates questions on the OUSA Facebook discussion thread. And, most importantly, don't forget to vote!

A prominent theme during the forum was student apathy. "How do we get people to engage with OUSA politics?", pondered the candidates to a room of around 50 students. But apathy isn't just restricted to

the realm of student-politics. When it comes to environmental issues, as good as people's intentions may be, sometimes the enormity of the problem frightens people into, well, inaction. The problems associated with global warming are so vast and overbearing we often turn the cold cheek to poor old mother nature and try to pretend the problems aren't there. Rising sea levels, melting glaciers, extreme weather events: it can all seem a bit much. When it comes down to it, it's much easier to watch *Beauty and the Geek* in your spare time than to save the world.

Of course, our environmental apathy isn't helped by the lack of action and understanding about environmental issues from our leaders. John Key, for instance, seems to be confused about what environmental issues actually entail. In an interview with a British journalist, Key defended the "100% pure" slogan to the bitter end, despite clear evidence undermining the statistical veracity of the slogan. Pollution in the rivers? Nope, we're still 100% pure. Species nearing extinction? Still 100% pure aye. Good stats bro.

Like addressing student apathy, saving the environment isn't a walk in the park. Failing some sort of greenie genie appearing, we'll probably need to make some changes ourselves. Luckily, there are things that we can do, even if they're not on the grand scale of international agreements or conferences (turn to pg 24 to find some enviro-friendly tips).

So vote, stay warm, and be sure to pick up our last issue of the semester next Monday!

Have fun,

Julia Hollingsworth

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE
WITH YOUR LECTURER,
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LANDLORD,
FLATMATES,
FINANCES,
LIFE IN GENERAL...

TALK TO OUSA STUDENT SUPPORT
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OUSAC | Student Support Centre

Letter of the Week

The letter of the week wins a \$30 book voucher to spend at University Book Shop.



University Book Shop

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DUNEDIN SOUND REVIVAL

Dear Critic,

The Eagle and James Meager should start a rightwing noise-rock band called The Eager Meagle. The Eagle can play the same, repetitive rhythm, and James can provide large amounts of feedback. Can you please get Sam Valentine onto this. Thanks!

Yours Sincerely,

A music fan

COUNTING THE WORDS IN CRITIC? U REALLY MUST GET A HOBBY.

To whom it may concern

I wish to express my deep concern regarding the number of words in your publication. At my last weekly count, you managed to tally up an obscene 50,560 words, 214 punctuation marks and 36 numbers. Clearly, you cannot expect the readers to swallow this absurdity unquestioningly. Well I, for one, am not one of your mindless monkey slave things that will obediently dance around at the slightest whim of King Julian Hollingsworth, the Crypto-fascist/imperialist/corporate robot-cyborg. Anyone who is with me, meet at the 'Critic' headquarters (or 'the dragon's lair' as it is commonly known) at 4:30 pm on Wednesday, 1st June and together we will start the new month succinctly with a magazine that better reflects the interest of the student populace it supposedly represents, and also more cat photography. As Oscar Wilde once said, "Too few words, and a man is deemed simple. Too many, and Critic shits out its own integrity".

Yours gratuitously,

Disgruntled Reader

COOL KIDS SAY "DANG"

Dear Critic

The magazine is really good- one thing you could do better is to edit out some swearing, as after a

while "f****" starts to shock us as little as "dang", and there is little point.

Swearing, believe it or not, also still offends some people. Call us too sensitive or old-fashioned, but its true. I still cringe inwardly whenever I read a swear-word, and they do nothing for their authors except make us think they're cool. Why can't you think of a more cultured way to express yourselves while still packing a punch and communicating your enthusiasm? Because swearing is the opposite of intelligent, even though so many intelligent people do it. I think Critic should be all about showing university students how they can still be cool without swearing.

Love ya,

A secret admirer [abridged]

READER HOSPITALISED DUE TO MISOGYNY

Dear Critic,

just letting you know I will not be reading your magazine anymore. Regularly I find the articles are laced with misogyny that is making me feel quite sick. Last week, Lozz reduces the woman who served him at KFC to a 'thing' because she fails her duty on this earth to provoke an erotic response in him. I think I speak for at least half the world's population when I say it would be most appreciated if men could construct a masculine identity that is not dependant upon the debasement of women.

Sincerely, Jasmine

OOPSY DAISY

Dear Critic,

You call this a food issue? It's nigh on 11am Monday morning and I'm already disappointed. Don't get me wrong I rate Nigella Lawson as much as the next aspiring sex symbol but your issue gave us a grand total of ONE recipe which I will only ever consider making if under the influence of Nigella's luscious curves. And as for the Double Down "feature" - 4 pages on existing on nothing but takeaways? This merely is describing the majority of Otago freshers who as we know do not offer much in the way of interesting material. Not really cutting-edge journalism. What about a trip the to Otago Farmer's market that attracts thousands every Saturday? Or, like, some recipes (plural) that we'll actually make? Or a holla at ya boi to all the Union Food Court workers who have to look ridiculous while pretending to enjoy serving ungrateful skuxes their \$6.00 fajitas on Mondays?

Your fashion issue had 6 pages of modelling op-shop clothes which we cannot even buy, yet there is only one shitty recipe in the food issue?! Wtf?!

Yours Sincerely,

The Real Domestic Goddess

OOOOH SHIT (LITERALLY)

I was of the understanding that people who went to university were smart. Wrong. You only have to hear the comments of freshers to see this clearly isnt true however we can all get over it as we were dirty smelly freshers once upon a time. I was also of the understanding that people who attended university were toilet-trained. Wrong again. To the disgusting individual who left shit on the toilet seat in the girls ground floor toilets by lifts in the central lib you should be ashamed of yourself. Whilst on the toilet the stuff that comes out goes IN the toilet bowl not ALL OVER THE SEAT. Not sure you should be at university if you cannot even aim in the bowl, my heart goes out to the cleaning staff who have to clean up the disgusting mess.

April Swenneker

GOD GIVE US STRENGTH.

Dear (not so) calm and peaceful theology student, Your language is revolting, and so is your attitude.

What does your \$1300 pay for? Well this magazine for a start. You are complaining about having to pay OUSA fees, yet you are reading and writing to the publication produced by this very association. It is not the Otago University's fault that you do not live in Dunedin - their fees are structured around those who live locally, most of whom will access some sort of OUSA support at some stage in their study. If you don't benefit from these resources then why not study in Auckland? It is also not the responsibility of the University of Otago to ensure that you get student fries from another island.

Your comment about sucking Jesus' dick made me feel sick and quite frankly, you are an embarrassment to the Theology department,

Fellow Theology Student

NO MORE EDITORIAL PHOTOS

Dear Julia,

"Although the statement I'm about to make creeps into obsessive-compulsive/sad old-woman territory, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say food is my bestie." Seriously?! You actually think obsessive-



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compulsives make friends with inanimate objects? I get enough idiotic comments about my OCD without you fueling the ignorance that gives rise to them. If I knew what you looked like, I would make a mental note to swish a corner of red shantung linen at you in a vaguely menacing way at the next available opportunity.

Love,
Capegirl

P.S. On the other hand, ups to Josh Hercus for the whole 'carrying smokebombs under a cape' idea. :)

Dear Capegirl,

I'm sorry that my comment came across that way. I certainly didn't mean to imply that those suffering from OCD befriend inanimate items.

Yours apologetically,
Julia

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

Dear Critic,

Let me start by saying that your insight into scarfie life makes my Mondays worth living. Last weeks issue did however leave me with some questions... The main one being, what actually happened on the summer loving date? Usually its just the guy twisting things to make it seem better but, the only two things that seemed to match were the initial location and the fact Speedy walked in. I NEED TO KNOW.

Lozz Holding you legend, 21 double downs is one hell of a feat, but did us readers really need to know the precise details of your faecal matter? Love the interesting metaphors you managed to slide into that article and I too question the staff in KFC North Dunedin.

Keep up the good work,
Chili.

CAN'T HAVE A FOOD EDITOR WHO WON'T EAT COCA-COLA CAKE

Dear Critic,

Your food issue was absolutely horrendous. I normally do not read Critic as it generally pretty shit - but today I thought, "Hey, a food issue, I like food, surely this will be a bit of alright", but I was mightily disappointed. Who the FUCK in their right mind would eat a coca cola cake anyway? What is even slightly appealing about that? In fact I think I just vomitted a little on my copy of the critic. While we we are on the topic - last weeks "three ways with mince" was diabolical for two reasons: a) who wants to have a three-way with mince? and b) I have already have a good Spag bol recipe, thanks. In fact would you like me to submit it next week?

Anyway, Sort your shit out.
Lots of love,
Next years food editor.

I'M A SURVIVOR, I'M GONNA MAKE IT

Dear Critic,

It's increasingly disheartening for a distant OUSA supporter like myself (now based in Wellington, more than a decade departed from Dunedin) to read the news coming out of OUSA these days. So, if I may, I'd like to offer some advice to my successors.

Saving OUSA will, in the end, have nothing to do with securing its assets, or signing a service agreement with the university, or instituting lean-mean governance structures over Critic and Radio One. Trust me. We tried to do all those things too, the last time VSM was a threat. The only way OUSA will survive is if its first and foremost concern is advocating and campaigning for students. You don't need resources to do that, just a belief that what you are doing matters. You don't need a seat on council, or a Clubs and Socs Building or even an Orientation to make people listen to you. You just need, as the saying goes, to speak truth to power. That's where the heart, the pulse of OUSA resides - students organising together to have a voice on issues that matter.

Everything is cyclical - VSM's time will come and go. But don't wait for it, rip into it. You have got a few months left that will decide what happens next. Even if you fail you will have done so while campaigning to make things better for students. But you won't fail. OUSA will be stronger if you dedicate yourselves full-heartedly to campaigning and advocacy.

Stephen Day
1999 OUSA
President

EACH TO THEIR OWN

Dear lovers of
Capping Show,

I'm curious...were you high when you went to the 2011 capping show? Like really really fucking high? Because this is the only way I can figure out how anybody would find the show funny. Last year when you went to watch the show were you fucking blind and deaf? Because this is the only way I can see

how you can think that this years topped off the last 5 years! Apart from the over-acting and the awkward lame jokes, do you not think its a bit sad that people were actually clapping on the Sextet and Sexytet? (Who by the way, were the best part of the show "Kapai, Pakipaki all round".) Seriously Capping Show, sort your shit out, this was the biggest waste of TWO AND A HALF HOURS!!! Oh and as for the token black guy "who could dance AND sing" - Soulja Boy (Which by the way was released about 5 years ago, get up with the play) - is not 'good' dancing, its outdated and embarrassing.

Sincerely
143

Notices

NEW ZEALAND MODEL SECURITY COUNCIL

The NZMSC is an annual United Nations Youth event. As part of a team of four, you will spend three days debating UN resolutions, meeting new people, going to dinners and attending a ball! August 27-30, Dunedin. Cost: \$100-\$160. Registration now open at www.unyouth.org.nz. Close July 21.

Bradley Russell FOR OUSA PRESIDENT



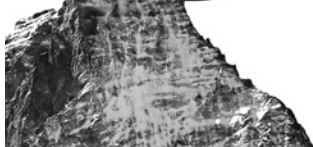
HAVE YOUR SLICE

**Voting at voting.ousa.org.nz
VOTING OPEN 1 - 3 JUNE**

This ad paid for by Brad Russell. Critic does not endorse any candidate



TOP 10



TEN CRAZIEST PREDICTED EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING

- 01) The Great Barrier Reef gone in 20 years
- 02) The Amazon Desert
- 03) Sahara goes green
- 04) Hurricanes more devastating than Katrina
- 05) London totally flooded by 2100
- 06) Miniature animals
- 07) 2,000 Indonesian Islands disappear
- 08) Global Warming increases terrorism
- 09) The Alps melt completely
- 10) The Maldives – gone!

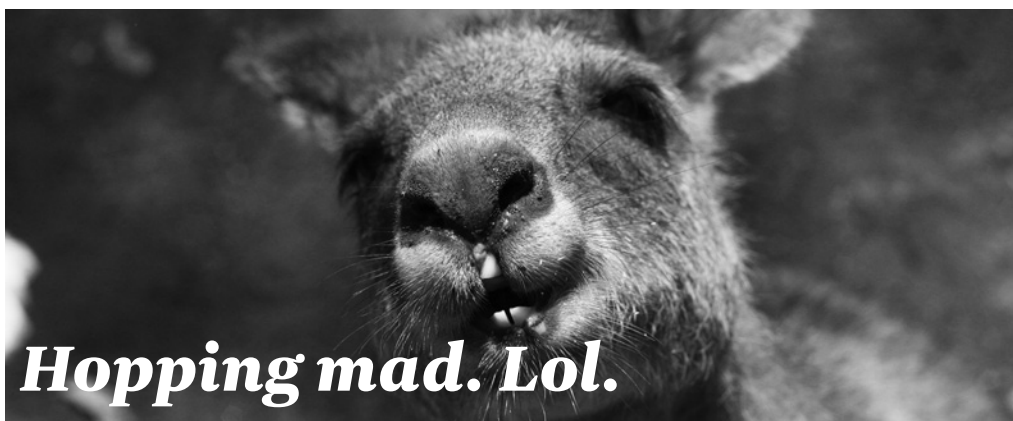


Discipline is important

A teacher in the US has been suspended after local parents discovered that the woman had been forcing all students who went to the bathroom during her class to clean the toilets for over two years.

Apparently the art teacher made any student, even those who just needed to wash their hands, get down on their hands and knees and scrub the floors and toilets with bleach if they wanted to access the bathroom. She was only discovered when one child had an allergic reaction to the bleach and told his parents about the teacher's bizarre practices.

The school's principal claims he was unaware that the practice was taking place. Sure.



Hopping mad. Lol.

A clinically depressed Oklahoman woman is currently battling city officials in an effort to keep her mentally subnormal pet kangaroo Irwin. Christie Carr, native to Broken Arrow City, came across the brain-damaged marsupial when volunteering at a local animal sanctuary upon instruction from her therapist.

The couple quickly fell in love, and within a week had moved in together. However the Broken Arrow Council are not altogether keen on the pairing, and have been doing their level best to turf the retarded roo. Christie has argued that Irwin is more like a furry

son than a pet. Irwin rides in a car seat, is dressed in a shirt, tie and pants each day, and accompanies her almost everywhere, including restaurants. Spoilt little prick.

The council has expressed concern that great red kangaroos can grow up to weigh more than 200 pounds and even occasionally disembowel people, but Irwin's veterinarian doesn't expect this retarded hopper will grow more than 50 pounds in his lifetime, and said neutering has lessened any chance of the roo murdering someone.

RETURN SCREENING

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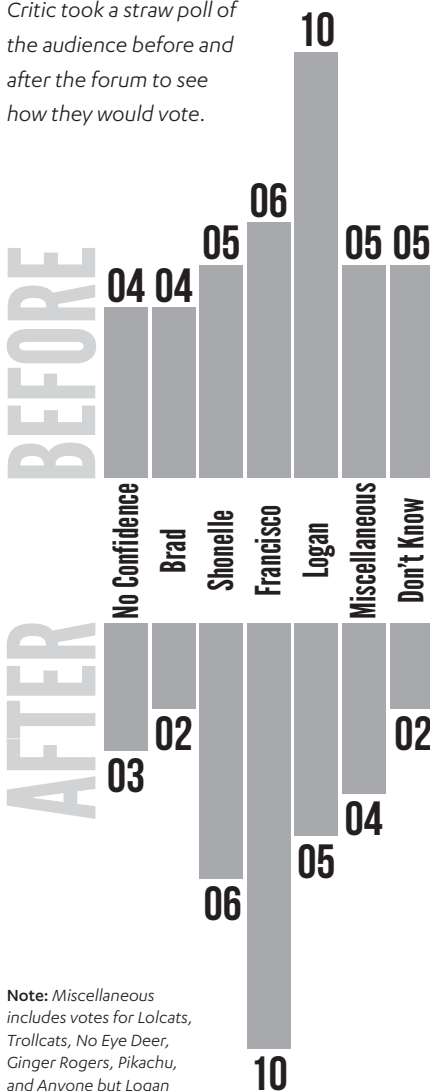
Screening this week at Rialto cinemas:

Tuesday 31st 10:50 am
Wednesday 1st 1:45 pm

Presidential Candidates Debate: Showdown of the Century

0.25% of Students Listen

Critic took a straw poll of the audience before and after the forum to see how they would vote.



The campaign period is officially underway for the four candidates running for the role of President of OUSA in the upcoming by-election.

Candidates are current Acting President Bradley Russell, Welfare Officer Shonelle Eastwood, Colleges and Communications Representative Francisco Hernandez, and Commerce student Logan Edgar, self professed "People's President."

OUSA held a Presidential Student Forum on Thursday May 26 at 5pm for students to ask the candidates questions about "the big issues." At the height of attendance, *Critic* counted 50 people present in Burns 2, which fluctuated throughout the forum as people walked out before it finished. It become apparent that this was poor decision-making on their parts as the pizza arrived at 6.30pm.

The four candidates fielded a variety of questions from MC Julia Hollingsworth and students, both in the audience and via the chat function from the online streaming of the forum. Russell wondered whether the questions had come from ChatRoulette. Clearly this was not the case- people had turned up to see presidential candidates, not the rotting infected penis of someone in Eastern Europe.

OUSA's sustainability in a VSM environment, transparency and communication with students were among leading issues. While the forum debate was difficult to follow due to mumbling and general incoherency, *Critic* picked up the general gist of the candidate's policies as being VSM = bad, wanting to be President = good. For what the candidates actually want to achieve if elected President, see page 13 for their campaign blurbs.

In one of the more interesting answer rounds of the evening, Edgar said that if he got to pick an animal to be, he would be a house cat, because they're "so chilled. You look at their food and it's yuck, but they think it's yum. That'd be awesome." Hernandez decided he would be a sponge, at which point an audience member highlighted that he had managed to pick something without a brain. Less imaginatively, Eastwood picked a pony and Russell picked a liger, though at least both of those have the ability to think.

Critic took a straw poll at both the begin-

ning and end of the forum. Out of a total of 39 votes at the start, Edgar got ten votes, Hernandez got six, Eastwood got five, and Russell got four. By the end of the forum only 32 people were around to vote, and Hernandez had shot up to ten votes, Eastwood got six, Edgar was down to five, and Russell only got two.

As *Critic* went to print, only Edgar seemed to have a Facebook campaign - with a whopping 415 followers before voting has even opened. By comparison, Russell's group for Administrative Vice President from 2010 has 84 members. Hernandez's Facebook campaign for Colleges and Communications Rep has 30 people "liking" it, and Eastwood's campaign, which she encouraged "friends/flatmates/all other gremlins :)" to join had 25 people attending. By-elections traditionally have a lower following and voter turnout than elections, so 393 followers is relatively impressive. With policies like "No more natural disasters," Edgar could be about to take OUSA by storm.

In some of the more lolsy moments of the night, Edgar tried to take a "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" style lifeline when asked a tricky question - no 50/50 on this one, sorry champ. Hernandez managed to make mention of the Communist Party of France owning shipping ports, while Russell and Eastwood were forced to spend a good portion of the forum defending (or not, as the case may be) the recent actions of the OUSA Executive.

Critic also spluttered and choked through Hernandez's suggestion that *Critic* reporters be sent along to OUSA Committee meetings. Our budget doesn't quite cover having someone running around full-time whenever one of the multitude of OUSA Committees is meeting, nor do we have the funds to pay for a straightjacket to drag an unsuspecting reporter along to any of those. Soz.

Candidates will be around campus all week campaigning, and voting in the election is open from 9am Wednesday June 1, til 4pm Friday June 3. See ousa.org.nz for more details.

– Aimee Gulliver

Want more election coverage?

Presidential blurbs – page 11

The big questions – page 12

Critic pundits – page 16

Cagey Issue.

Eggscellent bad pun potential.

A motion requesting that food outlets on campus stop using factory-farmed products has been included as part of the OUSA referendum, which has been open for voting since May 23 and closes on June 2.

However, some students have expressed doubts about whether the motion, ostensibly supported by most students, will result in any substantive changes in food policy on campus, as well as questioning the appropriateness of using OUSA as a vehicle for such change.

Though many students support the use of free-range products, some are sceptical about the impact the referendum might have. Second year Geology and French student Harris Anderson questioned whether the motion will really “accomplish anything.”

Others suggested the referendum question is simply a case of animal welfare groups pushing their agenda via OUSA. Kurt Purdon, a second year Economics and Business student, stated that he saw the referendum question as “animal rights groups using OUSA as a tool to advance their cause”.

However, the Student Animal Legal Defence Fund (SALDF) on campus disputed this, noting the “overwhelming student concern about the sale of cruelly-produced factory farmed products on campus.” They said this was evidenced by the several hundred signatures collected from students for their free-range petition. SALDF stated they recognised that whilst the motion was not binding on decision-makers, they hoped students would appreciate the importance of voting for it, as the numbers of students voting would be “the main factor management will base their decision on”.

Although the university has no formal position on the matter, they

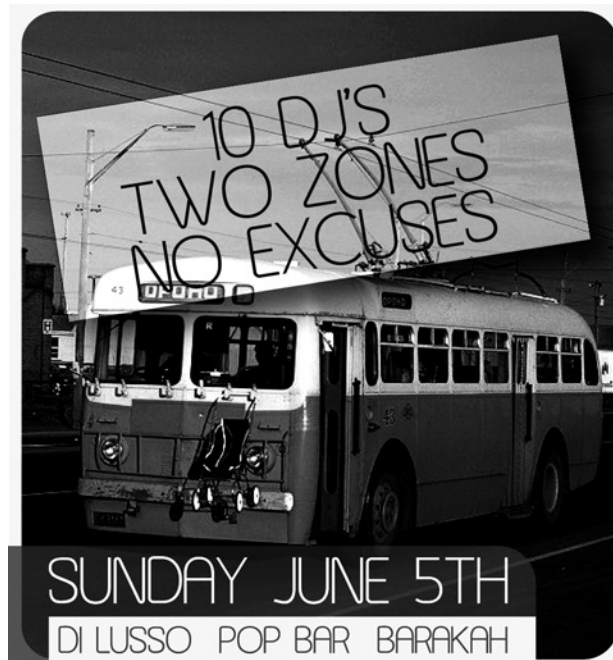
are currently investigating options, with key considerations being “product availability, cost and whether customers would be prepared to pay an increased price for these products.”

Education Officer Katie Reid indicated that OUSA would be unlikely to subsidise the cost of such free-range products, also noting that OUSA has “no influence at all on what people who run [the food union] do.” In this way Reid saw OUSA as acting as more of a “support” for this cause, rather than a “driving force.” However, she went on to note that this is at least a “discussion we should be having.” As to whether further action from students could accomplish the feat of free-range on campus, Reid stated that “students can absolutely achieve that if that’s what they want to achieve...the companies have to listen. It’s not easy, but it’s achievable.”

The background statement in the referendum discusses the practice of factory farming, as well as noting that Food Management at Otago has already indicated support for such a transition. It also notes the success of Canterbury University in being “cage-free” since 2008.

Free-range eggs typically cost up to twice as much as their factory farmed counterparts, with chicken costing approximately a quarter to a third of the cost more. The university provided no comment as to whether it would be willing to subsidise these costs increases.

– Kari Schmidt



RADIO ONE PRESENTS

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OUSA wants a share of the COC?

A motion is being put to students in the current student referendum that would see the 2006 motion that OUSA officially opposes the Student Code of Conduct (COC) rescinded, and would also void the referendum result of 2005 wherein students voted that OUSA should be in opposition to the Code.

In 2006 OUSA lost its court battle with the University when it tried to prevent the introduction of the COC. Since then, no students have been allowed on the appeals board when it has dealt with disciplinary appeals due to a 'conflict of interest'.

The appeals board is made up of members of the council and deals with both disciplinary appeals (i.e. if you throw poo at someone during a parade) and academic appeals (ie. if you didn't get into a professional course due to a traumatic event before exams and you think you should have). Currently, one of three student representatives from the University Council can be on the appeals board when it faces academic appeals but not when it faces disciplinary appeals.

This means that when a student does something really bad and faces expulsion or serious penalties from the University, no student representative is allowed to judge the merits of the case and provide an independent voice.

Currently the three students eligible to sit on the appeals board are the OUSA President, Education Officer Katie Reid and Student Representative for the University Council, Jono Rowe. *Critic* spoke to Rowe to find out about the new motion he is pushing to get passed in

the current referendum. The referendum question asks 'Should OUSA recognise the existence of the Code of Student Conduct and work with the University to ensure that students' best interests are taken into account in its application?'

Rowe made it clear that students are free to oppose the motion, but stressed that "the reality is that the COC is now here to stay and it is really important that OUSA adopts a neutral stance to the COC so we can get back on the appeals board and make sure the COC is applied fairly."

"We need students on the board to even out the age demographic as well as providing a fairer decision on disciplinary outcomes." Ex-OUSA President Harriet Geoghegan agreed, adding "as far as representation goes, this is probably one of the most important issues facing us".

Graduate James Pearson questioned the motion, "Surely students can still be represented on the appeals board and opposition to the COC in general be maintained? I'm not au fait with the particulars but the COC is fucking ridiculous to be fair."

A Facebook page titled "Vote to give students back our COC appeals" has been set up to explain the issue and is already gathering strong support.

Voting in the referendum is open until June 2 and can be done online at <http://voting.ousa.org.nz/>

— Lozz Holding

VOID CLOTHING PLAYTIME REPORT



mon
30/5

**ReFuel: ReFuel Unplugged Presents
NZ Music Month Open Mic Night**
w/ Matt Langley. Gold coin entry from 8.30pm.

tue
31/5

**Dunedin Public Library, Ground Floor:
NZ Music Month Gig Night**
w/ Logan Valentine, Ash and The Matadors and Robert Scott. Free 5.30-7pm.

wed
1/6

ReFuel: Soul Train
A night of funk and soul tunes from Radio One's own Mr Aaron Hawkins. The night that dare not speak its own name just got funky. Free entry from 9pm.

thur
2/6

Carey's Bay Hotel: The Rusty Strings Sessions
Featuring Hana Fahy and the Low Tones, Robert Scott, John White Inge Andrew. \$10 entry from 8pm.

sat
4/6

**The Dunedin Musos Club: Edisons Hoax,
Scurvy Dogs, Amoeba**
\$5 from 8pm.

None Gallery: Predilection
Audio/video installation and performance. Followed by turn-of-the-century electronica from Variant. 8pm doors, 9pm performance, Variant at 10pm.

sun
5/6

**Pop Bar and Di Lusso: Radio One Presents:
In The Neighbourhood**
Featuring DJs Dave Boogie, Jimmy Fresh, Fracture, Vinyl Ritchie, Dal Boy, Nixon & Nui, JGA, Contra, Stevie G & hosted by MC Beau & Max Dad E. \$8 w/ 91card or \$10 without. First 100 on the night get a free Smirnoff vodka and Mother energy drink.

1
91 FM

see the full gig guide at r1.co.nz



Police institute highly realistic plan to arrest 30,000 for standing up at rugby game

Many students are outraged, and frankly a tad bewildered, after hearing that the Dunedin police force are planning to clamp down on Mexican waves at rugby games in the new Forsyth Barr Stadium.

The configuration of the new stadium means that in certain places the crowd will be less than six metres from the playing field. As a result, police will be strictly enforcing good behaviour at the two build-up games in August, in preparation for strictly enforcing good behaviour at the World Cup games later in the year.

Police area tactical response manager for Dunedin, Inspector Alastair Dickie, made it quite clear that the Mexican wave was not being banned, as has previously occurred in Australia. However Dickie said, "We have to minimise and discourage [fans] from doing [Mexican waves] because it could lead to problems of objects being thrown on the field."

Dickie's main concerns were preventing players and fans getting injured by flying SoGo cans during the wave, as well as avoiding embarrassing moments in front of international media. "We don't want to spoil

everyone's fun but it is important that we maintain the city's credentials".

Dickie admitted that police cannot arrest 30,000 people participating in a Mexican wave. However, they can target those instigating trouble and under the Major Events Management Act 2007, causing a raucous could land you with a \$5000 fine or up to three months behind bars in the Milton Hilton.

In an online poll conducted by the venerable *Otago Daily Times*, 77% of people were opposed to the Mexican Wave crackdown.

— **Lozz Holding**

Postgraduate Committee (Division of Science representative) Candidates

Voting starts 9am on the 1st June and closes 4pm on Friday 3 June. Vote online at ousa.org.nz.

Adam Beissel

If elected to the Postgraduate committee, I pledge to bring a unique blend of enthusiasm, experience, and progressive thinking to the Otago postgraduate community. Having previously volunteered on the Otago Postgraduate Committee this year, and having served as a University Senator at my prior academic institution, I am confident I possess the necessary leadership qualities and experience to collaborate on future postgraduate programmes. With the newly increased OUSA postgraduate budget, it is the responsibility of committee members to offer new, innovative programming that is highly inclusive and reflects the evolving needs of postgraduate students. I am ready for this challenge.

Sourav Paul

During my short stay at Otago I have noticed that postgrads are not up to date with OUSA activities. They complain about the present state of sundry fees and demand restructuring (amount and/or tenure) of scholarships. PhDs with families and who's scholarships are ending before they complete their programs are struggling with present scholarships. I have also noticed significant disparity in interdepartmental research funding which in turn affects postgraduate research quality. I have decided to bring these issues to attention of the University. If elected I would try to engage postgrads more with OUSA and begin open discussions with the administration on issues such as scholarships, sundry fees and postgrads with families.



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OUSA Presidential By-Election Candidates:

What they have to say



Brad Russell

Hi I'm Brad your elected Vice President and your interim president at OUSA. Over the last week since Harriet's departure I have stepped up and taken over some of the responsibilities as president. In this time I have seen many flaws within OUSA as an organisation. These include isolation from outside help. Many ex OUSA members have approached OUSA offering help in relation to a range of internal matters. If I became president I would encourage these members to get back involved with OUSA, and make it easier for them to do so. This is my first year on the executive and I am witnessing the troubles OUSA is facing in regards to VSM. I believe with my management degree and experience that I am the best person to go into negotiations with the University to save our services. I can't promise you a zombie apocalypse plan like the other contenders, but I can promise you I will work hard to save our service and strive to provide excellent representation for students.



Francisco Hernandez

This election will determine the future of OUSA for years to come as it tries to face the twin challenges of VSM and Student Apathy. I'm the best candidate to deal with these because I have a vision and the experience to implement my vision. I'm standing for president because of my plan and vision for a better OUSA, because I've fully prepared for the task by preparing three budgets to deal with three contingencies and because I believe that OUSA can be better.

If elected, I'll create an environmental officer to lead on campaigns like fair trade and a cage-free campus. I'll establish a Student Volunteer Movement to help students help students and the community. And I'll protect *Critic* from any attempts to interfere with their structural/editorial independence. I believe that OUSA's focus next year must be on attracting members. Students are the greatest assets of OUSA and we must realize this.

A vote for me is a vote for a better OUSA – led with plan and vision. A vote for me is a vote for a President who listens. Find out more at www.fran4prez.blogspot.com



Logan Edgar

To ask who I am is to ask the scarfie population that inhabit this great city who they are, as we entwine as one.

But all that shit aside, I'm a Southland boy, born and bred. I grew up on the family farm in the untouched virgin landscape of Fiordland, raised with honest beliefs and a hard-working nature. I went to school in the small rural community of Te Anau with a very choice bunch of mates where we often spent our afternoons tending to injured farm animals. I was honoured to be appointed deputy head boy at my high school, a position I juggled with an illustrious sporting career in cycling in which I rode for NZ. (I'VE REPRESENTED NEW ZEALAND AND NOW I'M GOING TO REPRESENT YOU).

I am standing for President of OUSA as I feel this fine organisation is in desperate need of a fresh face and a whole new outlook. Enough of these far left-wing fruit cakes and their iPads. The students need a leader that they can relate to and, at the end of a hard day's work, sit down and play a game of scrumpy-hands with. Vote Logan Edgar for OUSA President. It'll be funny.



Shonelle Eastwood

Hey all, I'm Shonelle and you should all vote for me. And not just because I aspire to be a Pokemon trainer but because I have the experience and institutional knowledge required for a position like this. I've been involved in OUSA in various ways since my first year and more recently I was Women's Rep in 2009 and Welfare Officer for 2011. OUSA needs a leader who can work with the Exec and Staff to ensure that we are an efficient, effective and transparent organisation. I will be a President who focuses not only on external issues but also on internal issues, making sure that the Exec and Staff always work as a cohesive unit. In a VSM environment, OUSA needs someone with institutional knowledge, with the skills to ensure that OUSA continues to be a fantastic organisation in the future. I am that person. OUSA is like a living breathing family for all members. It exists to provide help and support for students. Sentimental sentences aside, in simple straight up terms: I am the best person for the job and I have the commitment to follow through. Vote Shonelle, vote someone to help lead OUSA in the future.

Critic Quizzes the Candidates

Critic asks the four presidential candidates the big questions: from VSM, to the role of the president, to the key issues for students. Read their answers below. Voting opens on Wednesday, 1st June at 9am, and closes on Friday, 3rd June at 4pm. Vote online at ousa.org.nz.

Bradley Russell, 22

Degree and year of study: BCom Double Major Marketing Management and Management

Hometown: Wellington

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Amish

Who is your political hero? Gareth Hughes (only MP who campaigns against shark finning)

How did you vote in the last national election?
Two ticks blue

Who is your main competition in the Presidential race? Shonelle Eastwood (but we are really good friends)

What are the main things you'd do if you're elected President? I want to secure as many of the vital services that OUSA provides when VSM comes in. Make OUSA open to support from previous members. Create better links between staff and executive. Other than that keep on doing what I'm doing now.

In your opinion what are the most important services that OUSA provides? What would be the first services you would cut? In my opinion all services that OUSA provides are valuable and contribute to the student experience. However,

it is unlikely that we will be able to fund such services under VSM. In terms of cutting services I believe we have to look at making some services cost neutral. I believe *Critic* and Radio 1 must continue as they are the voice and outlet for students to be heard. I do, however, believe we have to look at our stake in University Union Limited and Unipol.

In your opinion what is the role of the President? In my opinion the President is the face of the association and is responsible for maintaining good relationships with the university. They are also responsible for managing paid staff as well as an executive. The President always has the students' best interests in mind as well. A President lobbies against local and national policies that affect students.

What do you think students want from OUSA? There are two aspects to what students want from OUSA. Students want good social and recreational outlets as well as a good welfare system. The O/ReO-Week we provide in my opinion is the backbone to university social life, along with other great events such as capping show, battle of the bands, market days, robot

wars, DJ competition etc. These events bring the student community together. But students also are becoming more demanding of our welfare services. Restrictions on student loans and high living costs mean more students are seeking the services of our Student Support.

What do you see as the key issues for students, and how would you seek to address them? The key issues for students are restrictions on access to education and funding, poor living conditions in flats and high living costs.

What do you intend to do to prepare for VSM? I believe to get through VSM we need to engage old Exec members and life members, some of whom were around when VSM was last on the books. I hope I have your support.

Why do you think you would be a good OUSA President? I believe I would be a good President because I have been the interim President for a week, and I see that I can make a difference. I have forged strong relationships with key OUSA and university staff over the last week, I have seen the problems that exist between ex-OUSA members and have started trying to repair the relationships.

Second Semester Course Advising and Approval

Advisers of Studies will be located in the Union Building and The Link on Thursday 7 July 2011, 9.30am - 4.00pm

Change of Course forms will not be issued during the period Wednesday 8 June - Wednesday 6 July (inclusive). From Thursday 7 July Change of Course forms will be available from the **University Information Centre**.



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NEW ZEALAND

Francisco Hernandez, 20

Degree and year of study: Politics (Honours) - 4th Year

Hometown: Auckland

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Dream: All Black, Reality: Manager at McDonalds

Who is your political hero? In OUSA: Art

Kojarunchitt, in New Zealand: Michael Joseph Savage

How did you vote in the last national election?

Not old enough.

Who is your main competition in the Presidential race? A. Pathy

What are the main things you'd do if you're elected President?

I have a full list of my plans at fran4prez.blogspot.com. But here's a sneak preview:

1. Protect *Critic's* structural and editorial independence
2. Guarantee Zero Cost membership option
3. Establish a Free Shop on campus
4. Create an Environmental Portfolio Officer to work on campaigns like fair trade and a cage-free campus
5. Draft a Zombie Apocalypse Contingency Plan

In your opinion what are the most important services that OUSA provides? What would be the first services you would cut? I've drafted

three budgets on fran4prez.blogspot.com to deal with three contingencies. All OUSA services are important but some are more than others. I would protect Student Support Centee from any cuts. I believe that cuts must fall equally after that but I would make the steepest cut in % terms to the Exec Pay, particularly the Presidential salary which I would reduce by 66%

In your opinion what is the role of the President? To serve students by providing leadership to OUSA to ensure that OUSA is an association listens to, advocates for and serves the student body.

What do you think students want from OUSA?

Students are a varied group. But most students would agree that OUSA needs to listen to their concerns, advocate for them and serve them.

What do you see as the key issues for students, and how would you seek to address them? The

truth is that the key issues for students at this time of the year are (a) how to pass/do well in exams and (b) how to pass/do well in end-of-

semester assignments. But as a group, the key issues for students are the rising cost of getting a degree, the high rates of unemployment and the large student debt. As President, I'll make sure that students get the support they need in these tough times by guaranteeing zero cuts to Student Support and by establishing a Student Volunteer Movement to unleash the spirit of student altruism.

What do you intend to do to prepare for VSM?

The full "Fran Plan" for VSM is at fran4prez.blogspot.com.

In short, we need to prepare for VSM by fully funding Student Support, creating a free membership option for students and by activating a Student Volunteer Movement to help students and the community.

Why do you think you would be a good OUSA President?

Because I have a fully-costed and fully prepared plan to lead OUSA through VSM and I have the experience and vision to implement it.

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Logan Edgar, 19

Degree and year of study? 2nd Year Commerce Student, Marketing Major

Hometown? Manapouri

What do you want to be when you grow up?

The dude who makes balloon animals in the children's hospital.

Who is your political hero? Colonel Gaddafi seems to be hot at the moment.

How did you vote in the last national election?

The Bill and Ben party was the only party with any respectable policies

Who is your main competition in the Presidential race?

At the end of the day I am only competing against myself.

What are the main things you want to do if you're elected President?

A more approachable OUSA that all students can relate to. Putting a stop to caged/factory farmed animal products being sold on campus but keeping food affordable. Looking to extend library hours from 11pm to midnight.

Removing the loud and quite frankly rude closing alarm in the library and replacing it with a more student-friendly option such as a recorded message from Morgan Freeman. Sorting the vulgar sewage problem lingering around Forth St. No more natural disasters. Make girls in Dunedin 90% more promiscuous.

In your opinion, what are the most important services that OUSA provides? What would be the first services you would cut?

OUSA is here to provide support to students from all walks of life. O-Week is dear to my people's hearts. I feel OUSA put on an okay event but I feel I could improve it greatly. Hyde St Keg Party, Paint Party and the organised concerts are all landmarks in student social calendars. I think these need OUSA's full support. Feeding the hungry, housing the homeless and all that kinda shit. The first thing I'd cut would be the no fun policy.

In your opinion, what is the role of the President?

To represent his people, not just himself. Although my succulent good looks are

important.

What do you think students want from OUSA?

They, like what all people want out of their governing bodies, want transparency and a place where they can voice whatever they feel needs said.

What do you see as the key issues for students, and how would you seek to address them?

More Scandinavian exchange students are needed to raise the standard around campus, working with uni flats and the Kiwihost scheme regarding this issue. Gay rights - organise a Brazilian-style street parade.

What do you intend to do to prepare for VSM?

I am going to use financing from the Edgar Centre as well as the Mad Butcher to not only get OUSA through VSM but to come out the other side in a euphoric wave of pleasure.

Why do think you would be a good OUSA President?

Because Manapouri needs a success story.

Shonelle Eastwood, 23

Degree and year of study: 6th year. I finished my Law degree and am partway through a BA in Classics (Hons).

Hometown: Wellington

What do you want to be when you grow up?

A Pokemon trainer! But if that fails, I would love to work within a Ministry department or somewhere within the public sector.

Who is your political hero? Our world is full of politicians, I can't name just one.

How did you vote in the last national election?

I think it's pretty irrelevant because the President should be politically neutral. I voted Greens/Labour last time but unsure if I'll vote that way in November.

Who is your main competition in the Presidential race?

Everyone is competition but I think Brad will be tough competition

What are the main things you'd do if you're elected President?

Given it's a by-election it's difficult to come in half way through on

campaign platforms of major changes. I want to make sure there is continuity with the change in leadership and to continue to foster strong ties with the University and wider community. Most importantly, I want to make sure that OUSA is focused on two-way engagement with students.

In your opinion what are the most important services that OUSA provides? What would be the first services you would cut?

I think the Student Support Centre is one of the most important services that OUSA offers. In terms of cutting services, I would first sell underutilised assets like the Mojo's activities hall, rather than cut actual services.

In your opinion what is the role of the President?

I believe that the President's role is not about making plans or over-the-top promises. It is about committing to action and being the face of the student body. There is also an onus on the President to facilitate communication.

What do you think students want from OUSA?

Students want an organisation that will stand up

for them and will give help when needed.

What do you see as the key issues for students, and how would you seek to address them?

Voluntary Student Membership will obviously have a huge impact on students but this is not the only issue that students are currently facing. For me, important issues include student housing and changes to Studylink policy.

What do you intend to do to prepare for VSM?

I intend to continue negotiations with the University that began last year with Harriet and to continue the structural review that is currently being undertaken at OUSA.

Why do you think you would be a good OUSA President?

I would be a fantastic President because I have the experience and institutional knowledge to ensure continuity in leadership and I have the passion and commitment to get things done. The President's job is about getting out there in the student community, getting involved and giving back to the students.

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Robots to invade link

OUSA and the University of Otago's Applied Science Students Association (ASSA) will be hosting their inaugural Robot Wars on Tuesday July 12.

The remote-controlled battle-bots will be pitted against one another in a duel to the death for a winner-takes-all prize of at least \$250, according to ASSA President Anthony Riseley. Riseley told *Critic* he was expecting at least ten groups to enter this year. "A robot can be whatever you like as long as it's within the rules; most people are using remote-controlled cars with added defences and weapons attached. To win a battle, you either have to push your opponent out of bounds or immobilise them by crushing or flipping them."

Rules and registration forms are available for download from the OUSA website.

– Andrew Oliver

New cancer research from Otago

It is possible that a new anti-cancer therapy could be developed based on research coming out of the University of Otago. The research builds on the University's earlier discovery that PAX genes, important in embryonic development, also allow cancer cells to grow and divide in adult tissue. By "silencing" the gene expression of PAX2 in ovarian and bladder cancer cells, and of PAX3 in melanoma, the researchers found the cancer cells rapidly died out. The approach also has a dramatic effect on tumour cells. "The cells were essentially stopped in their tracks through the failure of multiple mechanisms and pathways crucial to their cell division cycle," Professor Michael Eccles told the *Otago Daily Times*.

– Lauren Enright

Best result in a decade for Polytech

The Otago Polytechnic has achieved its highest operating surplus in a decade, climbing \$2.26 million into the black for the last operating year. The surplus comes despite a difficult economic climate and a reduction in core government support for polytechnics in recent times.

Chief Executive Phil Ker told the ODT that the surplus was the result of "necessary, but very difficult decisions" made in the last few years. These difficult decisions included a series of staff redundancies, with approximately 23 staff losing their jobs in last year. The Polytech's financial fortunes have varied across the last decade, with the current large surplus contrasting with several years of deficits.

– Staff Reporter

"It was only a dream to work for Pixar.
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Alexis Angelidis, Computer Science graduate

Upon completing a PhD in computer graphics at Otago, Alexis has worked in some amazing places – including Animation Research Ltd, Character Animation Technology and as technical director at Pixar Animation Studios in California.

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The Eagle

Columnist of *The Eagle of Liberty*

On Thursday, the Eagle swooped down from his perch in the hills, soaring fearlessly into the socialist fortress of OUSA. Only the Eagle's love for *Critic* could tempt him into a task so unappealing as covering the OUSA Presidents' Debate. The four candidates spent two hours making vague promises, evading questions, and mixing it up with an occasional worthwhile comment. There was a disappointing lack of diverse viewpoints – all three of the serious candidates were socialists, although some had the disease worse than others.

Before the Eagle passes judgment on these candidates (and the Eagle's decision is final), it's worth clearing up a few things about OUSA. Firstly, OUSA in its present form is harmful to liberty, forcibly taking levies from students every year. If OUSA wants the Eagle and his beloved eaglets to voluntarily join, it needs to clean up its act. Cut the "political representation" rubbish. Cut the foodbank, you're not a charity (and neither is Greenpeace now, enjoy paying full taxes you oil-hating hippies). The new President should focus OUSA on providing a good "package deal" for students.

Shonelle Eastwood

The Good: Probably the most in touch with reality. Acknowledged that Voluntary Student Membership (VSM) was happening, wanted to plan for it. Prepared to sell some assets to keep OUSA alive. Didn't directly hate on liberty. Seemed competent. Overall, probably the best candidate (but still a socialist).

The Bad: Wants to keep most of the worst parts of OUSA, like "advocacy" (i.e. demanding more taxpayer cash for students) and the Student Support Centre (welfare). Supports wasting \$80,000 per year on NZUSA (national student union) membership.

Logan Edgar

The Good: Due to his utter lack of competence, voting for Logan could be good if you want OUSA to crash and burn. The Eagle will certainly consider it. He also has cool hair, and supports better living conditions for birds.

The Bad: Doesn't know anything about OUSA. Blunderingly incompetent. Doesn't support OUSA becoming voluntary.

Francisco Hernandez

The Good: Cool name. Very organised and motivated. Has set up a website with budget ideas for OUSA. Gave a very passionate opening speech, complete with fist-shaking. Showed good self-awareness in saying the animal he identified with was the sea sponge (socialists love to sponge off other peoples' money).

The Bad: Militant socialist. Member of Young Labour. Wants universal student allowances, and probably universal free unicorns too. Quoted Obama and the Communist Party of France. Seems to be in denial about VSM, wants OUSA to spend *more* money rather than less.

Brad Russell

The Good: Accepts that OUSA is going to become voluntary, wants to prepare for it by cutting costs. Is studying Management so would probably make a competent President.

The Bad: Made ominous comments about *Critic* costing OUSA too much money. Thinks OUSA should strike up a friendship with Labour Party MPs. Hated on the ACT Party.

Their Tv

Critic sent the Creme-da-la-Creme of OUSA

James Meager

mydeology.co.nz blogger,

2010 OUSA Finance and Services Officer

The OUSA Presidential debate was, in a word, bumbling. Whichever fool convinced OUSA to run the Presidential by-election in the first semester should be taken out the back and shot. But what's done is done, and here is a quick run down on tonight's winners and tonight's commerce students.

Shonelle Eastwood kicked off the festivities by declaring her unrepentant commitment to subsuming the debate moderator and her editorial team under the control of the OUSA Executive. An interesting tactic given the relatively pro-editorial independence nature of the crowd. Her favourable stance towards confidentiality when it comes to any plan for OUSA's future seemed to be at odds with her disappointment in the lack of transparency currently kicking around the Executive. The solution to all of OUSA's troubles: increased engagement, communication, and listening. Praise be.

Logan "Young And Fun" Edgar, who appears to have assumed the annual role of joke candidate, affirmed his position as "the students' student" by demonstrating absolutely no knowledge of anything that OUSA does. Aside from not appearing to know the difference between the words "financial" and "political", Edgar quickly became the crowd favourite with his razor-sharp wit and love of partying, committing to a policy of better events for students. Along with easily being the best dressed candidate, Edgar was also the most honest in admitting he had no real ideas, unlike the other candidates who preferred to remain in the incompetence closet.

Francisco Hernandez started strongly, with his "I believe" rhetoric and list of achievements (which strangely included a potential breach of the election rules when he organised polling booths in residential colleges), meaning he easily rode out his entire five minute opening speech. This quickly dropped off as his policy ideas seemed limited to the creation of a Student Council (what about the Committees you already have?), provision of a free shop and then agreeing with what the other candidates had already said. In fairness to Hernandez, he appears to be the only candidate actively campaigning for the student vote, with a candidate blog page, several posters and three different draft OUSA budgets amongst his communist propaganda.

The final candidate Brad Russell broke the record for shortest opening statement, using a whopping 1m 30s of his 5 minute limit. During that time he managed to inform the audience that after six months on the Executive he finally sees some flaws, and they're all due to his former President/current flatmate (he thinks). After he was finished throwing his BFF under the bus, Russell admitted he "sucks at numbers", and was gutted he couldn't talk to the media about the fruit stall.

I really wish I was making this up.

Niki Lomax

*Politics Honours student, Critic Food Editor**

I am the least qualified pundit. I have almost no knowledge of or opinions on any of the issues discussed in the debate. It is probably fair to say I'm just like you. Well not quite like you; I have been subjected to two hours of boring, confusing, semi-impassioned "debate". Unless of course you are a candidate, OUSA member, *Critic* pundit, *Critic* staff member, Logan Edgar fan boy/girl or a total crazy.

You would think after two hours I might have some idea who I plan to vote for, but honestly I don't think I will vote at all. This is OUSA's biggest problem; student apathy. The perception of the organisation is that they care more about internal politics than students and nothing I saw tonight greatly challenged that perception.

My general impressions of the candidates are as follows:

Brad – Middle-management material. Likes bacon and his mum.

Logan – Uninformed scarfie outsider with an unfortunate hair cut.

Lots of friends which could prove his key advantage.

Shonelle – Stern and battle-weary.

Fansisco – Martin Luther King-cum-Hitler style delivery of opening speech. So intense. Seriously stressed me out. Thankfully he soon calmed down and came across more like an opposition backbencher.

Lots of problems with OUSA were discussed, few solutions were presented. Often, candidates talked around the questions or just confirmed that the problem was in fact a problem.

Fransisco will dispute this and probably send me a personal copy of his manifesto "Fran's Plan" which he says outlines his solutions in detail. His key idea is turning the class rep system into some kind of student council. Okay, what? Pretty sure people only volunteer for class rep because of the free drinks. If it meant actually doing anything, I doubt people would be so keen. On the whole, good for you that you wrote a manifesto but it all seems highly unrealistic. Also, quoting statistics is unimpressive if the statistics are unimpressive.

Logan was, well...points for wearing a suit. His main campaign point was his fresh face. At least his presence made things slightly entertaining and his fan club boosted the attendance numbers.

I know I should be able to separate Brad and Shonelle, but I kind of tuned out and the notes I took are pretty illegible. They both knew lots, which is positive I guess. I liked when Brad said that he thought that political advocacy needed to be more intertwined with social aspects of OUSA. I also liked when Shonelle said that she liked ponies. I didn't like when Shonelle said that she thought it wasn't the president's job to "make promises or plans", implying they should instead just keep an average organisation average.

I was unimpressed, uninspired and my apathy has been reinforced. Not an ideal outcome from OUSA's perspective.

*LOL

Sam McChesney

Two Left Feet columnist

The candidates' debate was a sad and listless affair, alleviated only by the arrival of pizza after over 80 mind-numbing minutes. Unfortunately, the pizza was neither gluten-free nor vegetarian, causing me to both fart and feel guilty. Bad, bad night.

Francisco was full of sound and fury at first, but quickly ran out of steam. The most policy-specific of the four, with numerous references to "Fran's plan" and a student council composed of class reps (because it's not already hard enough to get people to volunteer for *that!*), Francisco's greatest selling point was his track record in motivating students, disproving all those nasty rumours about intractable student apathy. Incredibly, he has managed to raise the student voting rate in the halls by five percent. Five fucking percent! BOOM!* Biggest gaffe: comparing OUSA to the French Communist Party.

Shonelle added a touch of realism to proceedings, pointing out that the President's role is more facilitative and that grand election promises were largely irresponsible, especially at this point in the year. Refreshingly, she also emphasised the importance of delegation and teamwork. The safe option: utterly uninspiring, but she certainly wouldn't embarrass us.

Bradley demonstrated his adeptness at pwning people, but little in the way of substance. His clear-mindedness about the cuts that OUSA will likely need to make under VSM next year was a big positive (Shonelle talked rather unconvincingly about simply reallocating resources without making major cuts), as was his reaching out to disenfranchised postgraduates. But unfortunately his passive-aggressive demeanour, his general lack of ideas, and his anecdote about being forbidden to talk to the media about a fruit stall, indicated a lack of charisma and backbone.

Logan's key selling points were his lack of knowledge of OUSA (shot bro!), and the fact that he's a "fresh new face" (of which he reminded us at every opportunity). That his greatest skill appeared to be repeating what the person before him had said, but slowly and with worse diction, and that the question on which he really shone was "what sort of animal would you be, and why?" was perhaps indicative of his overall merits as a candidate. One person to succumb to his scarfie charms, however, was *Critic* editor Julia Hollingsworth, who got all bashful when he made a pass at her ("I'm young, and I'm fun!").

My endorsement: Logan. I mean, fuck it, whoever wins is just going to be a makeweight until the end of the year, particularly when it's hard to want any of these candidates to run again for 2012. Plus I got twenty bucks on him.

* I forget, what's 5% of fuck-all?



(H)RONICLES OF CASTLE

As exams draw nearer, more and more residents are being forced to join the fashion parade that is going to the library in Dunedin. The library is traditionally more hated by blokes than the fuckwit who invented the dildo. However, this year is different as residents don't have the comfort of halls to study in, so they are forced to make the trek into the awkward silence of the library. The warm temperature and abundance of eye candy encourages even the most unlikely of library-goers to go and do nothing at the library.

A typical routine is checking email, followed by Facebook, followed by a brief study of the Poppa's Pizza sign, followed by the Stuff quiz and finally just a "real quick" look at Stumbleupon. By now you're pretty hungry so it's time to head back to the flat for lunch. But that's okay because most Castle Street boys are repeating first year anyway.

The Dub C (Wellywood College) reunion

two Sundays ago meant there was a constant stream of drunkards wandering back to their flats throughout Dunedin, one particularly intoxicated (and generous) old boy got on the shouting buzz at KFC. He had such a fantastic day with his Dub C mates that he thought he'd buy them all Double-Downs, so he spent over \$150 on the artery-clogging burgers. Unfortunately for him there weren't many Dub C boys with him to gorge in the burgers so he ended up shouting a whole bunch of strangers; what a good bloke.

At one Duke Street flat warming, things got a bit loose as they tried to work on the indoor/outdoor flow of the house by smashing seven windows. One poor dude didn't use any window-smashing implements for his part in the destruction and managed to cut his arm quite significantly, meaning he's now off work and has been forced into drug-dealing to put food on the table for the whanau.

The boys in the Pink Pussy keep making plays, continuing to prove how pussy they definitely are not, with brawling on Cumberland Street becoming as common as freshers wandering up and down Castle Street looking for flats. The influx of giggling groups of girls and shy/embarrassed-looking guys has been noted by all along Castle Street, with welcoming committees being assembled to scare the fuck out the wee ankle biters.

Monkey Bar continues to take no prisoners with one ginger kid having a pretty savage night and one not-so-smart girl taking a tumble on the banisters, managing to break a rib; good commitment. That's all for now, but with another lock-in and a few red cards on the agenda we should have some scandal for next time.

– Sam Reynolds

PROCTOLOG

The Proctor had some words of wisdom to impart this week about "planking", a recent fad that involves lying down with your arms by your sides in weird public places and photographing it. In short; don't do it.

There have apparently been some students planking around campus recently, "finding out what it's all about." The Proctor wouldn't tell *Critic* any more details of who these plankers (wankers?) are, or where they were doing it, for fear of encouraging others to follow their example, but he did call the whole idea "crazy," and recommends that people not do it "in stupid places". Especially not on seventh floor balconies.

If you need help resisting the planning phenomenon, *Critic* recommends the Facebook group "Not planking cause your [sic] a normal cunt". Despite the grammar-fail in the group title, they've generally got the right idea.

If looking for something to do in study-avoidance mode that doesn't involve planking,

bear in mind that certain forms of procrastination aren't legit. This includes having a flat BBQ in the Botanical Gardens over an open fire that you've lit. Luckily Campus Watch was close on hand for this one and managed to "tromp out" the fire before extinguishing it with one of the group's own beers. *Critic* hopes that one of the local wildlife specimens wasn't on the menu; roast duck à la Gardens is bound to be laden with some class of disease (although those ducks are grain-fed these days, which we must admit does sound kind of appetising).

At least things didn't get any further out of hand, with the Proctor speculating that the group could have made themselves "internationally infamous" from the incident if they had managed to set alight an urban garden and burn those parrots that live up the hill. Somehow the culprits were only fined \$300 for their poor judgement; hopefully they can still afford the flat shop this week or those ducks might be making a reappearance on the menu.

DUMB ARSES OF THE WEEK

Red cards are also providing a bit of a headache at the moment, with pissed-as second year scarfies heading back to their old halls of residence to relive the glory days of first year. A mission to revisit your old room would probably constitute a nasty shock for the person living in it this year, especially at this time of year, have some sympathy for fuck's sake – they've probably got a HUBS test on this week that will determine their entire future.

Also as a public service announcement the Proctor would like to remind all students that laptops do NOT belong on a bench, in front of a window that faces onto the street, in full view of large volumes of passing foot traffic. You're asking for it to get stolen, and for the lucky recipient of your computer to discover your kinky YouPorn fetish that you didn't wipe from the history. You've been warned.

– Aimee Gulliver

Scott

NO MORE BURYING OUR HEADS IN THE SAND

What do tobacco and global warming have in common? Josh Hercus investigates how scientific research is often suppressed for corporate gain.



Contrary to what many of you might think, scientists were well aware of the connection between smoking and receiving a nasty form of cancer as far back as the 1930s. Even the Nazis ran major anti-smoking campaigns after German scientists found smoking to cause lung cancer. Over the years this evidence continued to strengthen and we now know the plethora of negative effects that are caused by smoking cigarettes. Yet it's only in the past twenty

years that any substantial efforts have been made to curb smoking.

Climate change has experienced a similar progression. We've known for at least fifty years that the earth is warming up far more rapidly than it should do naturally. Of course, along the way there have been some exaggerated predictions and contested theories but it was around the 1960s that consensus on made-man climate change began to be reached. Spot quiz: guess how many national and international scientific bodies deny human-influenced climate change? The answer is – not a single one.

So, how is it that the scientists have known all this for such a long time, yet we've done barely anything about it?

Uncertainty stalls change

In their 2010 book *Merchants of Doubt*, scientific historians Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway argue that action against scientific issues such as climate change, tobacco smoking, ozone layer depletion and acid rain has been obstructed by a small group of scientists, conservative think tanks and corporations. Their tactic is to raise scientific uncertainty and doubt around these issues. This makes it difficult to “settle” public debate and effectively stagnates any progress. It works so well that they've got it down to an art form.

Oreskes and Conway explain that after a piece was published in the *Reader's Digest* in 1952 linking smoking and cancer, the presidents of the four largest tobacco companies teamed up with one of the largest public relations firms to try to “convince the public that there was ‘no sound scientific basis

for the charges [made by the *Reader's Digest*]' and that recent reports were simply ‘sensational accusations’ made by publicity-seeking scientists hoping to attract more funds for their research.” As the tobacco industry actively sought to confuse and deceive the public about the negative effects of smoking, in 1954 they established the Tobacco Industry Committee for Public

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Information to “supply a ‘positive’ and ‘entirely pro-cigarette’ message to counter the anti-cigarette scientific one.”

The tobacco industry managed to maintain this doubt through a number of ways. They funded their own research units which arrived at medical conclusions that contradicted established views as well as forming powerful lobby groups to prevent the regulation of tobacco. Many of the tobacco industry’s advertising campaigns actively misinformed the public on health issues.

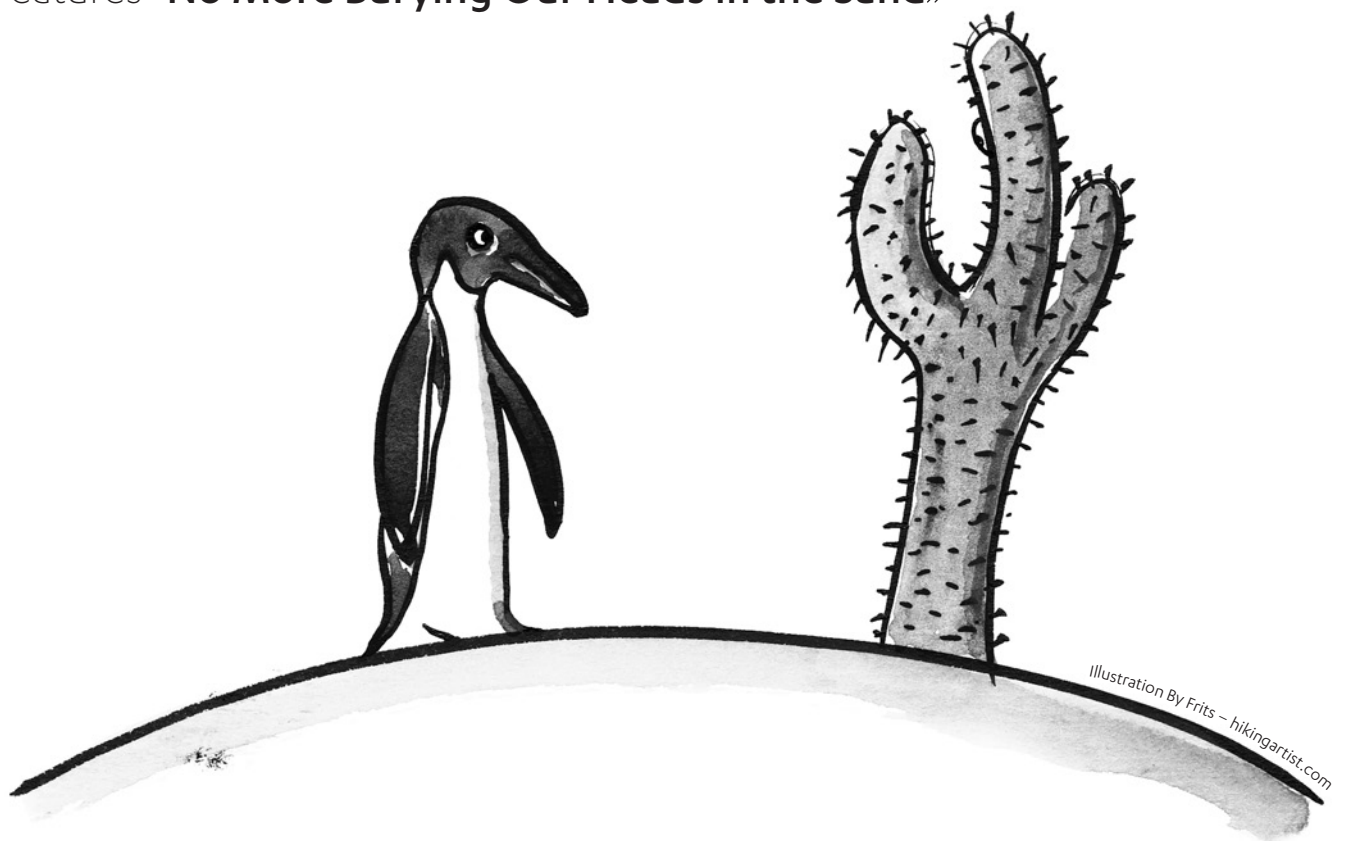
The alarming link between tobacco and climate change is that some of the same scientists have been doing the same thing.

Dr. Fredrick Seitz, a prominent physicist, was elected president of the US National Academy of Sciences from 1962 to 1969. In 1979 he began to work as a consultant for the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company where he advised their medical research programme. None of the studies under the direction of Seitz found anything that suggested that smoking cigarettes was harmful. In 1984, he helped found the George C. Marshall Institution, a conservative, right wing think tank that has actively lobbied and create a false public perception surrounding the effects of second hand smoke and smoking tobacco, the relationship between CFCs and ozone depletion and the existence of anthropogenic (human-made) climate change. Up until 2008, gas and oil giant ExxonMobil funded the institution.

In 1998 a letter signed by Seitz was sent to thousands of scientists that implied that the National Academy of Science was ambiguous on the science of climate change. The letter included a document that mirrored the format of a peer-reviewed scientific journal article which backed Seitz’s claim, a strategy not entirely dissimilar to the one he used with the tobacco industry. In response to this, the National Academy of Sciences released an unprecedented statement which said “[The] National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is concerned about the confusion caused by a petition...[and] a manuscript in a format that is nearly identical to that of scientific articles published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.” Despite being debunked, Seitz’s attempt at confusing the science on climate change has been highly successful.

Unsurprisingly, the same tactic has been used by climate change deniers more recently. Frank Luntz, a professional political consultant and pollster, used to work as an adviser for the Bush administration. In an interview with PBS, he states that his specialisation is “testing language and finding words that will help his clients sell their product or turn public opinion on an issue or a candidate.” Translation: he’s a spin doctor.

In 2003 *The Guardian* reported on a leaked confidential memo from Luntz to the Bush administration which stated that, “the scientific debate is closing [against us] but [is] not yet closed. There is still a



window of opportunity to challenge the science,” adding that “Voters believe that there is no consensus about global warming within the scientific community. Should the public come to believe that the scientific issues are settled, their views about global warming will change accordingly. Therefore, you need to continue to make the lack of scientific certainty a primary issue in the debate.” Luntz also suggested that the administration use the term “climate change” rather than “global warming” because it sounded less disastrous and frightening to voters.

Confusing the public on climate change isn’t just exclusive to the US. New Zealand has had its fair share too. In 2010 the climate sceptic lobby – the New Zealand Climate Science Coalition – prosecuted NIWA over its data accuracy. Basically, this all stemmed from the fact that some of the data was slightly adjusted to account for the small differences in the temperatures due to the location of the measuring stations (i.e. some of them are higher than others, which means that the temperatures are slightly different, but the fluctuations in the temperature are the same). This is common scientific practice. It’s possible that the intention wasn’t actually to sue them, but simply to perpetrate that NIWA was doing something wrong and raise doubt among their findings to add to the public confusion surrounding the facts on climate change.

After all this, the question remains; why has so much effort gone into distorting what most scientists are telling us?

It’s always been an ideological battle

The thing that ties together both of these plagues on our society is that it has never been a scientific debate – rather it’s an ideological debate. Scientific uncertainty has been used as a tool to confuse public

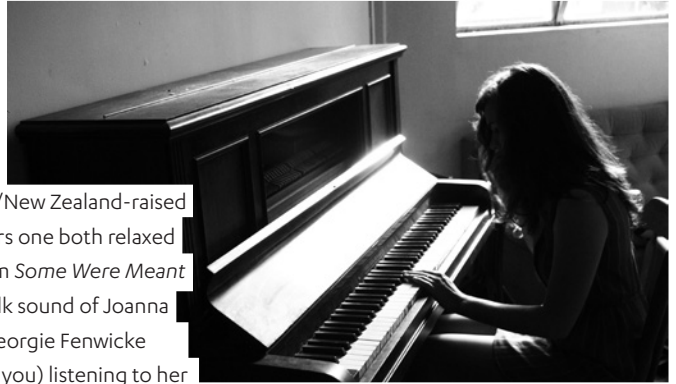
perception, hinder progress and to protect the interests of businesses who damage society and the environment. There’s a lot at stake. Seven out of the ten top earning companies in 2010 were oil and gas companies. They’re not going to give up their profits without a fight.

Right wing ideology believes that individuals should be able to do what they want and to take responsibility for their actions. A problem arises in the instance of climate change (and to a degree, smoking) where the actions of individuals collectively harm everyone. Just as a smoker causes damage to another person with their second hand smoke, our current way of living is indirectly contributing to the destruction of glaciers, animal life and the homes of those in low-lying countries. Most importantly, it is damaging the lives of the future. Yet it appears that rather than acting like mature, responsible adults, climate change deniers will do anything other than admit what’s blatantly in front of them because they don’t like being told what to do. Worse still, they fuel the misinformation that is being spread to the public.

It’s taken fifty years to finally begin to release the stranglehold that tobacco companies had on our society. Unfortunately, we don’t have the luxury of time with climate change. I’m not blaming anyone in particular for climate change. We’re all contributing in our own way. But it’s time to take up our moral responsibility and do something about it rather than sticking our heads in the sand. Be a part of the solution rather than the problem.

Thanks to Matt Heard for helping with the researching of this article.

Tiny Ruins



Tiny Ruins is the artistic pseudonym of Hollie Fullbrook, an English-born/New Zealand-raised up-and-comer. Her eerie, haunting melodies have an insistence that renders one both relaxed and pensive at the same time. Eat your heart out Runga and Moa! Her album *Some Were Meant For Sea* is released this week and is a must-have if you like the alternative folk sound of Joanna Newsom or Cat Power. Take **Georgie Fenwicke's** advice and check it out. Georgie Fenwicke spent a lovely evening cooking dinner (spinach and pumpkin risotto, thank you) listening to her beats, and wasn't stressed once.

I hate misrepresenting styles of music and I couldn't put my finger exactly on a definition of your work, so would you mind describing your sound to us here in Dunedin?

When people ask what type of music I play, I usually say "alternative folk"...the songs are quite delicate, quite lyric focused [with a bit of] acoustic fingerpicking guitar. They are quite simple. It is hard trying to describe your own music; I find it is better to play something.

And let the music speak for itself in that regard?

Yeah, I mean I think genres are a good way of helping people see where [music] sits.

What got you into music and this particular style?

It was around three, four years ago. I had written songs as a hobby for a long time and I had grown up playing the cello and the guitar, but I was actually studying theatre at Vic Uni in Wellington. Because I am not that confident an actor, I convinced my lecturer to let me do the music for a particular production to try and focus on what music was going to be accompanying the play. It was a production of *Twelfth Night*, so I ended up writing a song for the play called "The Bird and the Play" and it's on the album. When I played that to people and got a good response to it, I decided to focus a bit more on my song writing.

Your grandfather encouraged you to pick up your mum's guitar at a young age; do you come from quite a musically-minded family?

My granddad taught me my first chords on the guitar and I have always loved hearing him play because he has this beautiful, deep voice – even though he is from Devon, he sings with a deep American accent, Johnny Cash-esque. So as a child I always loved hearing him play the guitar. When he came over for a visit, I took to it really quickly after he had shown me a few chords. But generally speaking, the family is not super musical. Actually, no, I guess you could say it is. My mum plays the cello now. She has had lessons for maybe three years.

You recently recorded Tiny Ruins' debut album, *Some Were Meant For Sea* in a little school hall in rural Australia, why did you choose to record there?

I wanted to record quite a raw sounding album in the same spirit as the demos that Samuel Patton recorded in Wellington. I talked to the

record label, Spunk, and Aaron suggested Jay Walker who lives down in South Gippsland mainly because he is renowned for doing quite raw-sounding records. He likes to do things quickly and without too much analysis beforehand. I just tried what Aaron said and went with Jay Walker. I just turned up in rural Australia about an hour south of Melbourne. We got straight on to it and we were done in about a week and a half.

The one and half week's work you spent recording your tracks sounds like it came out of a year of travel and touring overseas. Tell me about the twelve months you spent before recording your debut album.

The album was the result of more than twelve months, some of the songs had been rattling around for about four years and the demos had been recorded about two years ago. But last year was definitely quite a busy one. I graduated in January and then as soon as I graduated, I shifted myself back to Auckland from Wellington and worked on an EP that still hasn't been released but probably will be at some later point. I went on an OE where I recorded and did a bunch of shows with a friend of mine in Barcelona.

Cool! How was that?

It was just a really fun five weeks. There was another girl, Anna, who was also involved in the tour we did. I hadn't been to another country that I was completely unfamiliar with before. I was surrounded by another language and it was great being with someone who was local who could show me the little alleyways. It was during the World Cup so there were lots of crazy football games to watch in these tiny bars. The music was just a part of this big experience and I can't think of a better way to see a country than playing music and travelling around with your guitar. You meet interesting people and you just see a country through a different lens than if you were a tourist or if you were just travelling on your own.

Gonna Take Pollution Down to Zero

You don't have to buy a hybrid or deck your flat out with solar panels in order to save the world. There are many inexpensive ways that students can minimise their impact on the environment. **Students for Environmental Action Otago (SEA)** present twenty tips that will both make the planet a better place to live and save you money.

01 Print double sided whenever possible:

Unfortunately most of the computer labs on campus still do not offer the option of double sided printing, but the Print Shop and Commerce 315 computer lab do.

02 Reuse paper for notes:

Use the blank side of scrap paper left by most printing stations around campus (and don't forget to recycle your notes at the end of the year).

03 Don't smash your glass beer bottles – recycle them!

On "blue" weeks you can recycle unbroken glass bottles and jars in your blue bin. On "yellow" weeks you can recycle paper, cardboard, plastics 1-7, tins, cans, aluminium trays, foil and aerosols using your yellow wheelie bin. Recycling collection is on a Monday in North Dunedin. Alternatively, save your bottles up for the OUSA bottle buy back and earn 10c for every bottle you bring in.

04 No more takeaway trash:

Bring your own container or plate when buying takeaways, and skip the paper napkin. Napkins release methane and chlorine gas (if bleached) as they break down in landfills.



05 Carry a coffee mug:

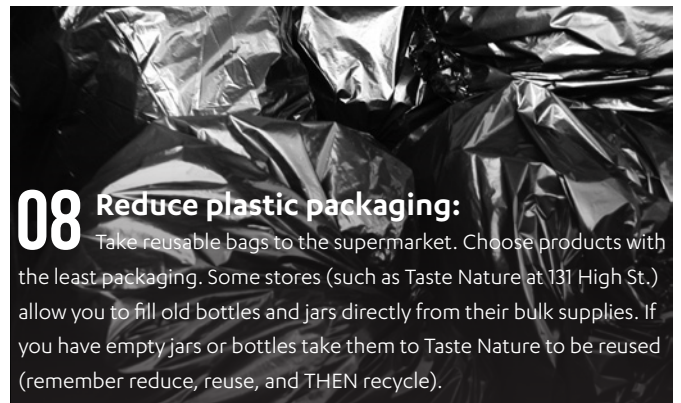
Bring your own coffee mug rather than using a disposable takeaway cup. Some retailers will even give discount, such as the Strictly Coffee Company at 137 Frederick St (\$0.50 off).

06 Become a hoarder:

Come up with clever ways to reuse things rather than throwing them out or recycling them. Those old plastic spindles used for packaging blank CDs make great bagel holders.

07 For the ladies:

Try out the "moon cup". It's comfortable, more practical (you can leave it in all day, unlike tampons), cheaper, and less wasteful. Also consider switching to cloth pads.



08 Reduce plastic packaging:

Take reusable bags to the supermarket. Choose products with the least packaging. Some stores (such as Taste Nature at 131 High St.) allow you to fill old bottles and jars directly from their bulk supplies. If you have empty jars or bottles take them to Taste Nature to be reused (remember reduce, reuse, and THEN recycle).

09 Start a compost bin:

if you're really lazy, start a compost "pile".

10 Make a veggie garden:

This month plant garlic. Plant the outer cloves of organic garlic bulbs (supermarket garlic is treated with growth inhibitor) or purchase "seed garlic". Now is also a good time to start growing onions in trays to overwinter so that you can plant them in spring. Check out www.urbanorganics.org.nz for information about growing veggies in Dunedin. If you're worried about moving flats and leaving behind your precious plants, you can grow herbs and veggies in pots and take them with you.

11 Have a "Meatless Monday":

The livestock industry is one of the largest contributors to environmental degradation worldwide, causing air and water pollution, land degradation, loss of topsoil, climate change, the overuse of resources including oil and water, and loss of biodiversity. Producing animal-based food is typically much less efficient than the direct harvesting of grains, vegetables, legumes, seeds and fruits for human consumption.



12 Buy locally grown food:

Visit the Otago Farmers Market on Saturday morning from 8am-12.30pm at the Dunedin Railway Station. Buying locally cuts down on fossil fuel emissions from transport and supports your local community.

13 Drink organic beer:

"Traditional" agriculture use synthetic fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides. Support sustainable agriculture by buying organic. The Green Man Brewery at 9 Grange St wash and reuse their bottles so you can take along your empties after a big night to reduce landfill waste (for every dozen empty bottles you can get a \$5 discount off your next dozen). You can learn how to brew your own organic beer at SEA's brewing workshop on Tuesday May 31 at 6pm in the Clubs and Socs kitchen, or come along to SEA's annual Organic Festival (late July) to sample some tasty organic beers.

14 Reduce the amount of dairy in your diet:

It's no secret that New Zealand's rivers and lakes are fucked. They have been nutrient enriched and degraded by nitrogen fertiliser, animal faecal matter and eroded sediment associated with dairying. Most of New Zealand's lowland waterways are now unsafe for swimming and there have been huge losses of biodiversity. Buying New Zealand dairy is also contributing to tropical rainforest and peatland destruction by importing huge quantities of palm kernel for cattle feed from Indonesia and Malaysia. Last year 1.4 million tonnes of palm kernel was shipped to New Zealand, representing almost a third of the global trade in palm kernel. If you can't give up cow juice with your cereal, try watering it down.

16 Save water:

If your toilet has a large cistern, put a brick or filled drink bottle in it. The brick displaces an amount of water, so it takes less water to fill up your toilet cistern. Another (funner) way to save water – shower together!

17 Start cycling:

Why go to the gym when you can cycle to uni? Buy an old bike and learn how to fix it up with the awesome volunteers Crooked Spoke for Koha in the Corso building carpark 111 Moray Place on Wednesdays 2-6pm and Fridays 4-8pm (ph: 477 8546).

18 Save power:

If everyone from your flat is going away for the mid-year break (or even a weekend), make sure that everything is left turned off and unplugged. Consider turning off your hot water cylinder while you're away.

19 Take it up a level:

Turn saving power into a game. Every time you catch your flatmate leaving their light or computer on while they're out they get a strike against their name. Three strikes and the rest of the flat can choose an entertaining punishment. Alternatively, have monthly inter-flat power saving competitions using your electricity meter. The flat that saves the most electricity gets their power bill paid for them.

20 Keep informed:

Come to one of SEA's meetings (6pm every Tuesday in Room 2, Clubs and Socs), e-mail seaoatago@gmail.com, or come along to one of the FREE monthly movie screenings (cheap date night?). Check out the screening of "A Farm for the Future" tomorrow night (May 31) at 8.30pm in the Evison Lounge.



15 Don't be a fashion victim:

Let's face it – most of us have wayyyy more clothes than we need. Only allow yourself to buy something brand new once every six months, that way you will be certain that you need it. Satisfy your urge to splurge by hunting around op-shops, the OUSA Market Day (the next one is on July 14), or sell on behalf stores (Recycle Boutique, Collectibles, Refind Rig and Trademe).

Clean'n'Green Costa Rica *a True Tropical Paradise?*

Lucky **Phoebe Harrop** spent her summer in Costa Rica, and looked Costa Rica's own environmentally friendly image.


Bill is the man. He can only be described as a real-life Costa Rican Rafiki, down to his Jamaican-esque lilt, missing-a-few-teeth grin, Dairy Milk chocolate skin and the wisdom that comes with 87 years of jungle adventuring. He's living *The Lion King* dream, surrounded all day by incredible and exotic animals, sharing his knowledge of the Costa Rican wildlife in his home, Tortuguero National Park, with curious tourists like myself.

Tortuguero wasn't always the veritable Garden of Eden for animals that it is today. Bill's forefathers were some of the first people ever to live on Tortuguero Island, named for the influx of giant sea turtles onto the small island each November. His parents cleared jungle, planted the first coconut trees, and observed with curious caution the jaguar tracks that appeared around their settlement. They didn't consider the wildlife so much of a treasure as a threat, and indeed a source of income: from a young age Bill and his siblings hunted jaguars, manatees and crocodiles, variously prized for their furry, slimy and scaly skins. Killing and selling precious animals was the only way for Bill and his family to support themselves.

Others also hunted animals all over the country, their skins exported to make shoes for creepy middle-aged men and ugly handbags. Rainforests were felled, minerals were torn from the ground. Paradise found was becoming paradise lost.

For all its beauty, Costa Rica doesn't have a great track record when it comes to caring for its other assets either. In the early 1990s, the country had one of Latin America's most atrocious rates of deforestation. Once upon a pre-colonisation afternoon, Costa Rica had a forest cover of around 99%. But since the 1940s and the advent of that pesky thing called progress, the forest has been burned, slashed and bashed to about 35% cover today. That destruction was perpetrated to make way for coffee and banana plantations, which admittedly supply some pretty delicious treats to us back in New Zealand.

“Instead of continuing to exploit its bountiful natural resources, Costa Rica now prides itself on its environmental savvy and its clean green image – much like New Zealand actually, but arguably with more justification.”



Luckily a lot has changed. In his lifetime, Bill has seen a monumental shift in both the Costa Rican psyche and his own approach to his environment. Instead of continuing to exploit its bountiful natural resources, Costa Rica now prides itself on its environmental savvy and its clean green image – much like New Zealand actually, but arguably with more justification.

Forming as it does a landbridge between South and North America, Costa Rica is one big fiesta of flora and fauna. It is home to 12,000 species of plants, 1,239 species of butterflies, 838 species of birds, 440 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 232 species of mammals. The country is ranked third in the Environmental Performance Index - the top rated country in the Americas - it is rated first in the Happy Planet Index, and has plans to be the first entirely carbon-neutral country in the world by 2021. Rainforest is the most productive CO₂-eating, O₂-pumping forest there is, and Costa Rica has been able to “sell” oxygen to the world by being paid to maintain its rainforest as national parks. As a result, more than 10% of the country consists of protected rainforest. This of course doubles as a fantastic tourist attraction, which is one of Costa Rica’s most important industries.

Bill, my new jungle friend, is still going strong after three snake bits and decades in the jungle (the mighty jungle). His transition from dastardly poacher to jungle custodian reads a bit like a Disney script, and indeed this country looks like it was taken from the animation storyboard of that cartoon classic, *El Dorado*. Today Bill roams Tortuguero National Park in pursuit of exciting creatures, tailed by camera-toting tourists, grumbling all the while about new regulations that prevent him from leaving the path to bash around in the bush for snakes.



Another convert to the eco-conscious way of life is Alex, who runs a B&B in Puerto Viejo, inland from Tortuguero. His particular piece of paradise is just off a busy road but is a genuine oasis. This place is called home by various toucans, sloths, woodpeckers, freaky spiders and a green parrot he rescued (it's unable to live in the wild because someone sliced its toes off – sadface). Brightly-striped hammocks hang from the rafters of wooden bungalows; one room is a treehouse, complete with interior trees and real-life creatures, some of which you don't really want to share a bedroom with. Birds fly down to feast on papaya and pineapple, eating breakfast next to lucky camera-toting guests. And Alex makes bread by hand every day.

As well as giving people a taste of Costa Rican paradise, Alex has a farm nearby where he looks after other creatures at various stages of rehabilitation. Each has a sad story: there's a scarlet macaw which had its wing broken by a kid with a slingshot. Thanks to Alex it has healed and can fly again, but even though it has other macaw buddies in the surrounding forest, it always comes back to him. There's a toucan which Alex found in a home in Puerto Viejo. It had been kept in a cage so small that it had never learnt how to spread its wings. Now it can fly too.

Probably the most exciting critter is an eight-month-old, white-faced Capuchin monkey, one of the four kinds of monkeys found in Costa Rica. It's mother was shot by poachers, and one of them took the baby as a pet. Alex was able to rescue it and rehabilitate it, first having to put it on a diet: apparently people tend to feed cute animals all sorts of stuff that they would never get in the wild. So it was a seed, nut and grasshopper diet for the little monkey who had been raised on salty,

processed food. Unfortunately, the monkey can't return to the wild because of the exclusive family groupings and male dominance that make up the species' social hierarchy. Apparently the local alpha male sometimes comes down from the trees that surround the monkey's cage to intimidate him. He does get to run free under supervision though, and could potentially have a future in television, since he was pretty much a real life Marcel.

Alex admits that, like Bill, he used to hunt species that are now protected. But, as Alex put it, he had to change his mindset or become extinct "like the dinosaur". Unfortunately not everyone has evolved to adopt an environmentally-conscious approach to life. Whenever he's in the jungle Alex carries a shotgun and bow and arrow to scare off poachers, and he sees far too many of them.

While there are a few individuals who are clearly set in their devious poaching ways, for the most part Costa Rica has begun to earn a clean'n'green image. Its environmental savvy, particularly reflected in the fact that it can trade carbon credits for rainforest protection, is an attitude for the 21st-century that will hopefully go on disseminate around similar countries in the Americas. Costa Rica has been lucky enough to have a settled democratic government (a rare beast in that part of the world) and extensive foreign investment, giving it the resources to make the right environmental decisions. Things get better every year: through education, tourism, and the literal bright-eyed and bushy-tailed vivacity of Costa Rica's rainforest.

Opinion



- 30** Diatribe | **31** Debatable
32 Two Left Feet, The Eagle of Liberty | **33** Man vs Awkward, The F Word,
34 Let's get out of this country | **35** Sex and... Celebrities, ODT Watch
36 Summer Lovin' | **37** State of the Nation



DIATRIBE

Race relations in New Zealand is delicate discussion territory. I don't pretend by any means to be an expert on the subject. I'm not a law student, I have never studied the Treaty outside of fourth form social studies, I am not Maori, I'm as pale and pasty as they come and I am originally from Christchurch.

Despite this deep, expansive ignorance I do have some reasonably passionate beliefs when it comes to the way our nation approaches the issue of indigenous rights. New Zealand is distracted and incapable, it seems, of moving past these distractions. I have two major rant-worthy gripes.

Firstly, I find it incredibly annoying when people complain about "Maori privilege". Paris Hilton is privileged. Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, is privileged. John Key, with a \$9 million mansion in Parnell and a \$3 million holiday home in Hawaii, is privileged. A few scholarships here and a few treaty claims there do not, I believe, make our indigenous people privileged. Considering our ancestors slaughtered them, took their land and then used that land to acquire wealth and privilege, a scholarship is probably the least we can do.

The question should not be is it right that Maori get "special treatment", it should be is the kind of special treatment we currently offer effectively addressing significant health and poverty issues in New Zealand? Ethnic-based funding certainly has its problems, but we should support/oppose it on the basis of its effectiveness, not because it allegedly constitutes "reverse-racism". Man, I hate it when people say that.

The way the debate is framed in the media and around four-burner barbeques in Epsom makes it sound like Maori get more than they deserve. And considering that Maori are significantly overrepresented in poverty, health and crime statistics that is, quite frankly, a ridiculous proposition. Propelling this viewpoint encourages bigotry. And Don Brash.

Second major gripe: the Treaty.

How is that in one corner you have Mr Harawira claiming that the Treaty was a partnership between two peoples and in the other Mr Brash scoffs at the word "partnership" and bleats something about one law and one nation? Two people reading the same document and reaching diametrically opposed conclusions. It's not really ideal that 170 years later we still don't know what that piece of paper means, particularly considering that the principles (whatever they are) of that piece of paper theoretically underpin our entire society. This contention gets in the way of real discussion about the place Maori hold in New Zealand society.

Talking about privilege and interpretation are distractions from the real issues facing Maori today. It's a complete waste of time and yet the debates continue. We talk around, beside and over the point but rarely do we talk about it. Politicians don't enjoy navigating this discussion because it's tricky. They either sound racist or "reverse-racist"; they just can't win. Instead it is left to radical and polarising figures, exemplified brilliantly by Don and Hone, who once again fail to move past the distractions and have a real discussion about Maoridom.

– **Amelia Pond**

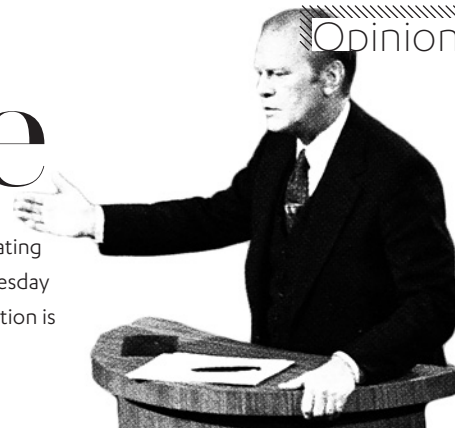
Want to get your voice heard? Write us a 500 word diatribe on whatever grinds your gears, and it could be featured on this page. Send it to us at critic@critic.co.nz by 4pm Wednesday.



Debatable

Debatable is written by the Otago University Debating Society, which meets for social debating every Tuesday at 7pm in the Commerce Building. This week's motion is "Southland lignite should stay in the ground".

Tarsh Turner argues the affirmative while **John Brinsley-Pirie** argues the negative.



Affirmative

The development of Southland's lignite deposits represents a major threat to the global climate, and will not bring sustainable long-term economic gains for New Zealand. Solid Energy has access to an estimated 1.35 billion tonnes of lignite. They plan to convert this into a range of products including briquettes, urea fertiliser and diesel fuel. Due to the significant impact of these plans on NZ's emissions profile, if we are serious about halting anthropogenic climate change then we must not develop these deposits. Furthermore, the short-term economic benefits will be dwarfed by the long-term economic costs.

Under the Copenhagen Accord, NZ has made a "politically-binding" commitment to reducing national greenhouse gas emissions to 10-20% lower than 1990 levels by 2020. Making diesel from lignite emits 2.7 tonnes CO₂ per 100L of fuel *more* than making it from conventional crude oil. One lignite-to-diesel plant alone will increase our national emissions bill by 20% – that is an extra cost to NZ of \$275 million per year at current "best guess" estimates of a future carbon price of \$50/tonne.

In 2008, the Government introduced our Emissions Trading Scheme, with the purpose of "assisting NZ to meet its international obligation... [and] reducing NZ's net emissions below business-as-usual levels." It is clear that using Southland's lignite will be inconsistent with this goal, resulting in a significant increase from our current emissions profile, which is already on track to be 30% above 1990 levels by 2020. Also, some industries are given free carbon credits from the Government under the ETS to help them meet their carbon liability. It is possible that in 2020 up to 80% of the emissions liability of lignite users could be met as free credits, meaning that large scale lignite developments are likely to receive subsidies of millions of dollars per year from the taxpayer (Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, 2010).

What's more, the true cost of lignite is not imbedded in its current price – it is future generations who will pay the cost of mitigating the effects of climate change. Global climate responds slowly, at least initially, to natural and human-made forcings of the system, meaning that the effects of our current emissions are yet to be seen. To ignore the future consequences of lignite use is to allow a tragic intergenerational injustice to occur.

Plans to use Southland's lignite deposits make a mockery of NZ's clean green image. This will have consequences for our tourism and export industries which capitalise on this brand. As top NASA climate scientist James Hansen recently remarked, "We just *can't* go down this path of developing the lignite coal."

– **Tarsh Turner**

Negative

My opposition raises three questions.

First, are the initial costs of mining sufficient to warrant mining? This is easily answered. If mining were such a waste of money, there would be no company who would want the contract. Indeed, why would the government risk costing the country so much debt to Kyoto? The fact that there are companies who are interested in diving into our soil shows that there is some value there. The government is willing to stimulate competition (and I'm guessing they know about our political agreements) because they see a benefit to the country.

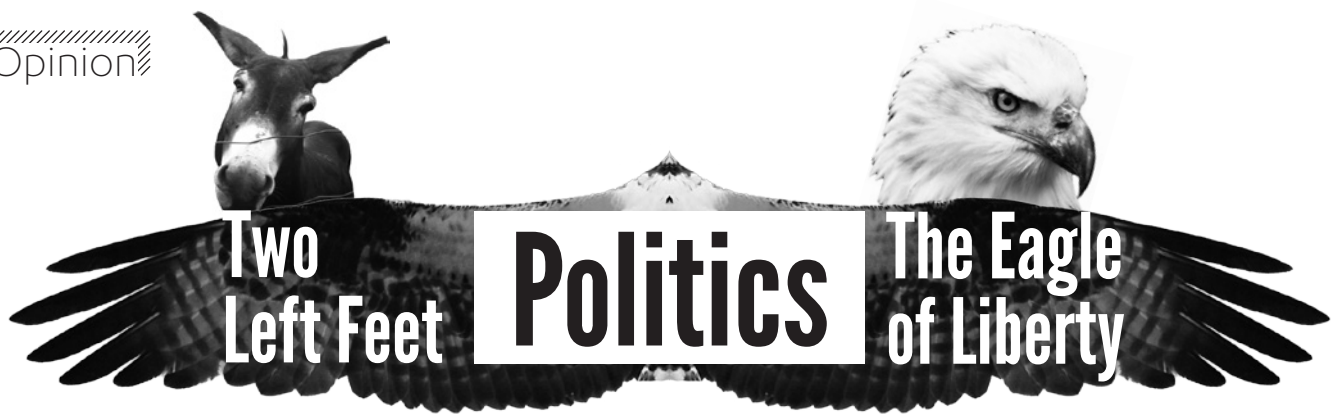
Companies want the contract because massive economies such as Germany base a lot of their energy on lignite coal (about 25% of their net energy production) and are still demanding it.

Now that we can assume value from mining, we should look at the wider effect that mining will have on the NZ economy. As NZ has a fairly large mining sector anyway (for anyone in Dunedin, go no further than Logan Park), it seems fairly logical that any company who began mining would indeed hire NZ workers. While it may not have the \$100 billion benefit the ACT party claims it will, there is a significant benefit of overseas companies such as BHP Bingham hiring NZ miners, who then spend in NZ. So we have value of the minerals and benefit to NZ.

Will this exponentially increase our debt under the Kyoto protocol? No. The key fact that the affirmative failed to realise is that NZ will not be mostly using this lignite. We will be selling it. So there is a simple free market fix. Basically because the government has supreme power to hand off the contract, they can take the external cost of the debt and internalise it within the cost of the tender for a company, or even the company could internalise the cost into the price of the coal. Free market win, Kyoto win, NZ win. Oh and as for the processing plant the affirmative referred to, as places like Germany base so much of their energy on processing this, I'm sure they would be happy to buy the unprocessed product.

Thirdly; Will there be harm to the environment? No. Lignite is one of the cleanest forms of coal, it doesn't release any of the harmful toxins such as sulphite like regular coal does. This is a benefit because as there is such high demand for lignite, not using it simply means that big consumers of lignite will turn their attention to less clean sources. By allowing them time and access to lignite, you better the chances that they will phase out coal use and focus on cleaner and greener energy production, like nuclear energy.

– **John Brinsley-Pirie**



Whatever one's views on climate change specifically, it is undeniable that our planet faces some form of man-made ecological crisis. This crisis is mainly attributable to the effect of externalities and the tragedy of the commons. It has been brought about by naïve economic models, lax regulation and humanity's seemingly unlimited capacity to believe what they want to believe.

Externalities are social harms (like pollution) or benefits (like aesthetic beauty) related to a good, which are not passed on to the consumer in the form of a respective mark-up or discount. This means that goods involving negative (harmful) externalities will be too cheap, and goods involving positive (beneficial) externalities too expensive. Therefore, harm will not be adequately contained, nor benefits adequately spread, by the operation of the free market.

In the 17th and 18th centuries when classical economists like Adam Smith were writing, there was seemingly no limit to the global commons of land, air and water. We now know that there is, and that negative externalities stemming from the operation of the free market have severely damaged the global commons. Despite this, many have stuck stubbornly to the idea that Smith's theory of the "invisible hand" continues to apply. Governments, wary of capital flight, have imposed insufficient taxation on polluting activities. The damage caused will sooner or later reach an extent which is quite literally unsupportable, and levels of production and consumption will collapse dramatically. This is most likely to come about through health and nutritional problems stemming from a lack of fertile land and a shortage of clean air and water.

If there is one positive upshot of this sorry state of affairs, it is that it may lead to a more egalitarian society. The political right will no longer be able to use the argument that "a rising tide lifts all boats" to justify massive inequalities under capitalism. The tide will not rise; it will fall drastically. If there is clearly no benefit to be gained by permitting existing inequalities to continue, then future sacrifices must come from the wealthy. The wealthy not only can afford to tighten their belts, but have been the chief beneficiaries of the policies which have allowed the environmental crisis to deepen.

Calling this a "positive" is not mere *schadenfreude* on my part. Studies show that greater equality (in wealthy countries) and a focus on welfare and civil liberties (in all countries) are the best predictors of a high quality of life for all citizens (but that's another column). While the destruction of the environment is a horrible and tragic thing, there may still be cause for some optimism.

– Sam McChesney

The Eagle Denies Climate Change

It isn't happening, folks. To be more precise, it's not being caused by humans (or eagles). Climate change has been happening naturally since before the Jurassic Era, when the Eagle's glorious cousin, the pterodactyl, soared through the socialism-free skies. Everyone just needs to chill.

Thankfully, the NZ public appears to be doing so; a 2010 poll showed that just 46% of NZers believe climate change is caused by humans. Scientific opinion is equally divided. But interestingly, socialists are roughly twice as likely as normal people to believe humans are causing climate change. Why is this? Luckily the Eagle's famous investigative skills are here to sort it out.

The first thing the Eagle can rule out is a global conspiracy. Your garden-variety socialist isn't smart enough to pass BSNS104, let alone sneakily meet with scientists to deceive the world's eaglets. No, the climate change myth is simply a convenient overlap of interests between socialists, the media, and some scientists. Socialists love to raise taxes, punish the nasty capitalist businesses, and give more power to the UN; climate change provides an "urgent" excuse for these socialist policies. The media love to write scary doomsday stories, preferably accompanied by pictures of floods and fires. Fear sells newspapers (remember the swine flu hysteria?) and "climate change" is perfect for whipping up fear. Meanwhile, most of the climate change scientists are employed by governments to study climate change – if they admitted it wasn't real, these scientists would be out of a job!

Believe it or not, socialists genuinely do believe that humans are causing climate change. Psychology studies have shown that people, when asked to pick the most convincing of two pieces of conflicting evidence, tend to choose the evidence that supports what they want to believe. Socialists really want to believe climate change is real, and hence ignored the leaked email evidence of systematic deception by an English climate change research unit. Really, climate change is like a religion, with socialist "believers" labelling non-believers (atheists/agnostics) as "deniers".

Remember the Iraq War? In the USA, Republicans are much more likely than Democrats to support military action against dictators, and conveniently more Republicans believed that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. This gave the USA an urgent reason to depose him. The Republicans genuinely believed these weapons existed, but their desire to topple Saddam blinded them to the truth. Socialists have likewise been blinded by their desire to see the fall of capitalism.

The Eagle will put his money where his beak is and build nests near the shoreline. Panicking socialists will soon be selling coastal property on the cheap! You are the wind beneath my wings,

The Eagle

Editor's note: Be sure to read our feature on page 19 to gain a wider perspective on the global warming.



So my dear children, I've been writing for you for a good few months now, giving you tips to surviving the excruciating and embarrassing social awkwardness you can encounter in your everyday life. But however useful and life-changing my advice has been, I can't honestly say I've been in a situation where I've had to put my knowledge into practice. I'm what some people would call a "cool customer", usually shit-talking my way out of a situation with the gift of gab inherited from a father who spent many years dealing with many drunks

when he ran a pub.

But now I can proudly say that I too have a sorrowful story filled with shame, and I have no doubt that many of you will share my pain. Let me set the scene for you. Being a poor student, I need moneyz because the government and university hate me and want me to suffer. So I went out and got myself a new job! Yayness for me. So second week in, I'd say I'm doing pretty swell. My new boss has my next assignment for me, and I'm left to my own devices to clean the entire floor of an office building. It's huge, but I'm the only person there, which was fine by me. I reach into my pocket for my iPod, and the lil fucker isn't there! After a few expletives, I get started. And what do I do as I work to pass the time? I sing. Not just gently hum, I fully belt it out like I was singing to a bustling crowd of thousands. I even threw in a couple of dance moves. So here I am, having the time of my life, singing a range of songs from *The Lion King*

through to classics like "Ice Ice Baby". I was on fire. Those pussies from *Glee* would've been totes jealous. About twenty minutes in, I hear the familiar tap of typing on a keyboard and I see a man still at his desk, avoiding eye contact with me BECAUSE HE'S BEEN THERE THE WHOLE FUCKING TIME, listening to me singing, sounding like a cat being punched in the face.

My face has never turned a brighter shade of red. To say I was mortified doesn't even come close to how I felt. So if you ever find yourself in this situation kiddies, there is one option and one option only – pretend like it never happened, because at this point you're so deep in shit it's the only thing you can do! Even though I was dying a thousand deaths on the inside, on the outside I acted like I didn't just get caught. I even bid him goodnight when he left!

I survived the awkwardness, but the scars will be forever raw.

– **Chloe Adams**



On Rape

You may have heard of Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the Head of the International Monetary Fund, having recently been accused of sexual assault. Resigning as a result of the charges, DSK firmly denies the accusations. So we are faced with the same question which always arises in these situations: who do we believe? The media tends to focus on cases where women have lied about being raped, when in reality the number of false complaints is thought to stand at around 3%, the same for most other crimes. Given that, it is technically 97% likely that this woman is actually telling the truth. But of course we must refrain from passing judgment, the basis of our legal system being that DSK is innocent until proven guilty. Still, the fact of how we view women and rape reveals itself in moments such as these, with one French magazine asking "What do we know about the chambermaid?"

A 2005 Amnesty poll revealed that 26% and 30% of people thought a woman was at least partially responsible for being raped if she respectively wore revealing clothing or was drunk. Such opinions drastically fail to understand the actual psychology behind rape. Sexual gratification in terms of rape is largely secondary. What is overwhelmingly seen as motivating the act is a desire for power and domination over another human being. It is a deeply masochistic and deliberate act, not simply a confusion over whether or not one person actually wanted another's sexual advances. It has nothing to do with whether or not a woman is seen to be a "tease", or "asking for it".

In recent months women have rallied over such attempts to blame the victim. In response to a Toronto police officer's comment that women should "avoid dressing like sluts in order not to be victimised", women took to the streets, some attired in explicitly promiscuous dress to further emphasise their point, thus the aptly titled "Slutwalk" movement. Like the gay activist movement's adoption of the word "queer", women are attempting to reclaim the word "slut" so it can no longer be used against them.

Perhaps the word "slut" is beyond salvation, steeped as it is in a history of negative attitudes towards female sexuality. But the movement raises interesting points about female sexuality regardless. On the one hand, beauty is posited as an important trait for women, from movies, advertising and TV to literature and art, this has remained true throughout history. Much of a woman's worth has been regarded in such narrow terms. It is also true that such beauty is deeply and inextricably intertwined with sexuality. So on the one hand beauty/sexuality are seen to be things women are obliged to aspire to. On the other hand, you can't ever be seen to look like a slut while doing so. This stereotypical Madonna/whore complex is a delicate balance that the vast majority of women are implicitly aware of. We see this stereotype in terms of dress also - on the one hand women dress provocatively as they subscribe to society's notions of beauty/sexuality; on the other hand they are blamed for being raped because of doing so.

Perhaps the issue is not so much one of "reclaiming" words such as "slut" but of moving beyond them to a point where women, like most men, are able to feel sexually free without feeling guilty and without the fear of their bodily integrity being compromised. In order to achieve this we need to recognise the slut and Madonna/Whore stereotypes as damaging, limiting and unnecessary and reject them accordingly, both for ourselves and in terms of others' sexual practices and dress.

– **Kari Schmidt**



Edinburgh

If you have a hankering for an even more awesome version of Dunedin, why not visit its namesake, Edinburgh? It has all the Scottish traditions and novelty of Dunedin, plus the buildings are consistently old (and pretty) and the people mostly have cool, *real* accents – none of those impostor Scotsmen like you find in Dunedin.

But for all the history and culture you find there, you just can't go past the food and booze. We all know that eating is a prerequisite to living, so why not have haggis for breakfast? It's full of all sorts of good (and bad) stuff that will get you through a day of history/culture/sport in Edinburgh. A large number of people would probably only eat

the stuff if they didn't know what it was, so skip this paragraph if this includes you. To make haggis, take an impoverished Scotsman and his pet sheep. He will quickly devise a plan to make the most of the sheep (this is where NZ/sheep jokes originated). Once you've had your roast dinner, take all the icky bits – heart, liver, lungs – and mash 'em up with spices, onions, oatmeal and stock. Simmer this in your sheep's stomach and serve it with neeps, tatties and a dram. This is part of who we are as Dunedinites, so embrace it!

End product: a hot, rich, sausage-like meal packed full of vitamins, minerals etc. to fill your tummy so you can fill your day. You'll love it, and the Scots will love you for giving it a crack. Vegetarians can join the fun too: you can even get meat-free versions!

Perhaps you won't like the haggis as much as you'd hoped for and will be relying on the dram (or several) to get you through the experience. Well you're in luck, because Edinburgh excels in producing good Scotch whiskey (that's what a dram is, if you weren't sure). Whiskey noobs might mistake Jim Beam for such a product, but you can be sure the Scotchies won't have any of that shit (it's bourbon, among other things). This stuff has been aged in an oak barrel for upwards of three years, it can be up to 98% alcohol and it's a matter of pride in Edinburgh. Hell, the Scotch Museum gets more visitors than its next-door neighbour, the Edinburgh Castle. Regardless of what you do in Edinburgh, degustation will take you straight to the heart of the place, so sit down and do it.

– Bridget Gilchrist

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From untouched beaches to barren tussock, New Zealand has it all – including a coterie of local celebrities whose wit and good looks never fail to thrill, be it on our television screens, newspapers or anti-smoking ads that caress my eyeballs every time I deign to take the bus (which is never because one thing we don't have is a public transport system more evolved than that of Mogadishu but whatever). What sets us apart from lesser nations (other than our unique ability to consider turds in aural form to be worthy of appreciation and bestowing upon them the moniker "Mt Eden Dubstep productions") is the sheer accessibility of these remarkable supernova-like celebs in the glittering constellation that is the New Zealand media. I know, because I fucked one of them almost a year ago to the day.

It was Grad 2010. I ended up chatting to an arrogant 34-year-old wanker in a vinyl jacket (apparently New Zealand TV doesn't pay enough for real leather) who repeatedly expressed surprise and disbelief that I didn't know who he was. Too drunk for pleasantries, I rudely insulted him to his face several times. He apparently interpreted this as me wanting to sit on his face several times, for within 20 minutes I was being invited back to his Standard Room at the Mercure Dunedin. Like the celeb, the hotel was a faded relic constructed in the Seventies with sad attempts to "remain current", including broadband internet at only \$2 per half-hour and analogue Sky TV.

We entered the room. Instead of entering me, he generously indulged me in mind-blowing foreplay for half an hour. The foreplay consisted of whipping out a MacBook Pro and showing me his "show reel". Meant for prospective employers, it consisted of him saying witty things in a diverse selection of scenarios. I started to feel a whole new sympathy for the New Zealand media industry's casting agents.

I'm not going to lie. The penetrache was good. And possibly even dirtier than a UniCol slut's vag on a Sunday morning. But such memories inevitably pale next to remarks like "So, see this tattoo? Tiki Taane has the same one! Did I ever tell you he's one of my best friends?" and "Isn't John Campbell such a great guy?" and "Isn't Antarctica sick? Wait... Prime TV never sent you there all expenses paid?" My personal favourite, however, was "Hey, want to go to the 2-4 and buy us some Vitamin Water and Bagel Crisps? Here's my platinum VISA card!"

That Monday I heard him presenting on the radio, blathering about him and his long-term girlfriend's upcoming trip to Sydney to check out some "sick beats". Fuck the national parks, this is the real Godzone.

– Mrs John Wilmot



Last week, ODT began the countdown to their 150th birthday. Unfortunately, rather than being a cause for celebration, this meant expanding the daily "100 years ago – from our archives" segment to a daily page full of stories from a year in the past. Yawn.



Although much of the page is filled with incomprehensible drivel, one story hinted that Dunedin's golden period (excitement-wise) may have occurred long ago. Monday's excerpts included a story on "A 'daring' offence" in which three men and a boy covered their faces with red cloth, fired a pistol, stole some money and ordered some hot whisky. Badass. By contrast, last week's front pages were covered with "stories" such as water balloon fights and plastic-coated parking tickets allegedly clogging up the environment.

Perhaps instead of dedicating a whole page to old stories, ODT should have just given "Memory Lane" columnist/treasured relic a whole page to ramble on in. The man is quality. Last week Gordon Parry, the columnist in question, began with a reasonable-enough – albeit slightly mistimed – topic of contention: burning flags at ANZAC parades. This soon descended into a nostalgic babble about primary school, light breezes and naval ships. Parry finished the column with a strangely irrelevant memory about this one time he was on a boat and the boat went through some waves. On second thoughts, keeping it to a column length is probably for the best.

Meanwhile, ODT's page 2 bizarre pseudo-comedy noticeboard-esque column "The Wash" is keeping old people up to date with all the text happenings. Last week, The Wash revealed to ODT readers what they had been pondering for some time: what their grandkids really mean when they say "lol".

Texting a laugh

A Dunedin mother sent a text to her young daughter, wishing her well on her travels and signed off with "lol", as in "lots of love". Daughter got the text and burst into laughter. Well, she would. I'm assured "lol" is text language for "laugh out loud".

LOL. When there's so so much to inform readers on, is it *really* a good idea to devote a page to the past?

Summer Lovin'

brought to you by:
TOAST

In *Summer Lovin'*, *Critic* sets up two lucky students on a blind date (courtesy of the lovely people at Toast), complete with a bar tab and positive vibes, in an attempt to prove that Dunedinites can date. The only catch: the love birds each divulge all the salacious details of their date in a short snappy article after the fact. If you want the chance to meet your very own Romeo or Juliet, or to at least get some free booze and *Critic* space, email your age/gender/interests/cell number/sexual orientation to critic@critic.co.nz.

Michelle

So prior to meeting my date at Toast, I had a cheeky double gin to boost my smalltalk potential. I ignored my flatmates' advice to "get fuckin' maggot" because I didn't want to bring my friends Skaney Janey and Mary the Slut.

My first impression was that he wasn't really my type, but he was very friendly and talkative so I hoped that we could have some good yarns and a bit of booze on the *Critic* bar tab. However, to my horror I knew instantly we were incompatible when he told me he doesn't like Monkey Bar!! It was never going to work. He was NOT worth shaving my legs for (irrelevant, really, since I wore tights anyway and those babies were not coming off). He was also NOT worth missing Grey's for (thank God for TVNZ On Demand.) A Monkey Bar fan is my type of man.

He also told me he only drinks once a month...kinda like a period, I suppose. This was obviously his time of the month because we downed a Long Island Iced Tea, Mojito and a Shaker (all delicious.) The bartender was the fucking man. My flatmates came along and thoroughly approved of his vodka-cranberry-making skills (secret ingredient: passion fruit syrup), as well as the physical appearance of my date (cute + friendly-looking). Then again, their usual hunting ground is The Break.

My date seemed to have an aversion to the usual questions – e.g. where are you from? What's your fave movie? – and chose to instead ask me somewhat obscure questions like, "What's your favourite memory on top of a mountain?" To break the awkward silence I ended up reluctantly answering this question with a "oh I had a good shag on one once".

Generally, he was a really nice guy. Yup, he was a really nice chatty guy. Unfortunately, a 70-30 conversation ratio is like having a debate with Hone Harawira about Maori rights.

The night came to an early close and I bounded back to the burrow and spent an hour in my lair with the Eclipse 7 Rabbitronic.

Barack

I guess it began on Sunday; new shirt, new shoes and a chance to prove decent guys exist. The day of the date, however, was a rush. From work to a terms test, I left both early to arrive on time. I was early, though some might say she was just fashionably late, so I started things off with a Long Island Iced Tea. The barman, who I learnt was actually one of award-winning skill, had no trouble giving the ingredients of any cocktail I could think of.

When she arrived, she ordered a Mojito (despite not actually being Cuban) and a Berry Shaker. I promised to avoid boring questions (though later a friend pointed out that by asking only unpredictable questions, I had actually become predictable). Two hours passed by, with little awkwardness, though also with little in common. I started to suspect that this was actually why people generally choose to avoid blind dates, not because they end up with fundamentally bad people, but because they end up with people who they have little or no chemistry with.

An 8am lecture called the Med student away earlier than I would have hoped, leaving me with \$20 left on the bartab and no other plans for the evening. Bored and discontent I texted a friend (and/or nemesis) requesting his immediate presence (which wasn't hard to attain, considering I was offering free drinks), and managed to strike up conversation with two charming girls in an adjacent booth. My friend arrived, having been called out earlier than expected (as he had plans for pool later that evening). I introduced him to my new acquaintances, we had some drinks and we decided to all go to Rock 'n' Pool for a more drinks and game or two.

In contrast with how the evening had started, conversation flowed and felt natural. After each imbibing a glass of beer (alcohol being an effective social lubricant), playing pool and getting more acquainted with the people I had found myself with (three of whom I had only just met) we left, initially heading towards Willowbank for food, though ultimately each going our own ways, satisfied with how our evenings had gone. All in all, it was a fun evening, though little of that had to do with the blind date. Cheers *Critic*.



State of the Nation

the environment edition

What do you do to be environmentally friendly?

Alec: I buy meat as little as possible, don't drive, I try to use little power...

Oliver: I try to not buy products off companies that blatantly hack our rainforests.

Feather: I hitchhike, I'm a vegetarian with a veggie patch

Jamie: I don't shower, I only wash in the rain.

Lily: I'd like to think by being a vegetarian I make a difference.

Are you in favour of the plans to drill oil off the coast of Otago, Bay of Plenty and Taranaki?

Alec: No

Oliver: No

Feather: No

Jamie: No

Lily: No

What's the best way to keep warm in Dunedin?

Alec: Get a really warm sleeping bag and live in it!

Oliver: 3 shirts, a coat, 2 blankets

Feather: Cuddle Puddles!

Jamie: With freshers with a fresher five!

Lily: Lots of layers!!!

How do you think National's budget will affect you?

Alec: I'm on kiwisaver but I don't think it'll affect me too severely.

Oliver: Negatively, cuts for the rich and bigger debt while cutting public services too...

Feather: I don't think it will, personally.

Jamie: I don't care I'm outta here in 6 months!!!

Lily: I don't think it will affect me at all!

How did you celebrate Saturday night, seeing as it wasn't the end of the world?

Alec: I was doing the 48hour festival with a film about the end of the world!

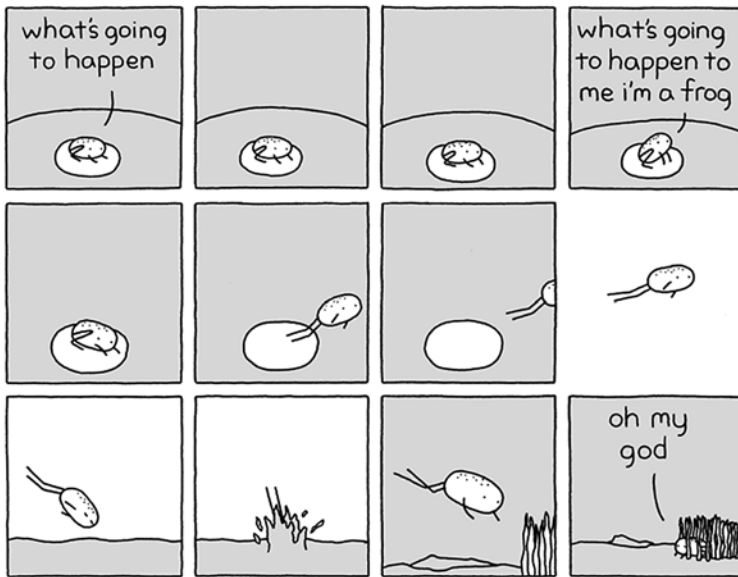
Oliver: It was V48hours so um... a lot of caffeine!

Feather: I didn't even know, went to a play and then partied.

Jamie: Refer to section 3.

Lily: I went out but didn't know!





Pictures for Sad Children by John Cambell <http://www.picturesforsadchildren.com/>



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Beastwars

w/ Operation Rolling
Thunder and Kahu

Chicks Hotel Saturday May 21

Photo by Hannah Herchenbach

With wild, possessed eyes and a gruff white beard, Beastwars frontman Matt Hyde is the living embodiment of his music. Possessing a guttural roar, akin to that of a demonic warlock, his dominating presence is impossible to ignore. Controlling the attention of the crowd with ease, behind his shamanic figure Beastwars matches his growl with sheer unbridled power. Producing a wall of primal, hypnotic and just plain fucking brutal metal, Beastwars' brand of sonic sludge heralded the coming of the apocalypse on the Saturday it was all supposed to end.

Filling the small Chicks Hotel to near capacity, the sense of expectation was suffocating. Although beginning life nearly five years ago, 2011 has proved the year of opportunity for this Wellington powerhouse. Following a typically leveling set during February's Campus A Low Hum, Beastwars has honed and distilled their sound into their debut album and subsequent tour. Released on gatefold vinyl and CD, *Beastwars (the album)* is a local metal classic. Filled with turmoil, low-tuned guitars and a lyrical palate of fury and fire, Beastwars' fusion of killer riffs and pounding grooves is thankfully no different in the live setting.

Opening number "Damn The Sky", with its searing guitar intro and the half-time to end all half time's, instantly captivates, its intensity to be feared and respected. With a receptive crowd already moshing in

unison, and an ear bleeding decibel level (courtesy in part of Dunedin's own sonic wizard Ian Sweetman), the impossibly tight Beastwars seem deservedly self-assured as they deliver their potent and precise set of furious moods and doom-laden dynamics. Experts in their field, Beastwars know their sound and its audience well, with their material never becoming repetitive given the commanding nature of its sound and delivery. When Hyde let loose in "Lake of Fire", his voice tearing itself in half during the tracks chorus, Beastwars sounded untouchable. Full of venom, snarl and swagger, and with far more to offer than the exclusive and often alienating "metal" genre tag implies, Beastwars are a devastating fusion of sight and sound.

An encore later, and the purely and utterly badass Beastwars have given one of the best performances in Dunedin's recent memory. Beastwars kindly suggest we "obey the riff", and if their set is any indication, I'd wholeheartedly agree.

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Hi, I'm Francisco Hernandez and I'm running for OUSA President. If elected President, I promise to protect Critic from any interference with its structural or editorial independence. As someone who used to write for Critic, I strongly value Critic's independence and will do my utmost to protect it. **Find out more about my campaign at www.fran4prez.blogspot.com**

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Aloo Gobi

Curry has always been our flat “go-to” meal when we are lazy and the fridge is looking sad. It’s ideal winter comfort food. Aloo Gobi (“aloo” meaning potato and “gobi” meaning cauliflower) is particularly ideal for winter as the more ritzy vegetables become rapidly less appealing both in appearance and cost. In addition to being cheap, potato and cauliflower are also excellent canvases for soaking up all the yummy Indian flavours. The only other veggies necessary for this are an onion and some peas if you’re of the pea persuasion.

The list of ingredients looks long because of all the spices. If any of your flatmates are into Indian food, you should have most of these somewhere in the pantry, or precariously balanced on an overloaded spice rack like at our house. The curry won’t suffer severely if you leave out the cloves or the mustard seeds, but the others are pretty crucial. All these ingredients can be found in New World or Countdown, but for the best spice deals in town I recommend heading to the Indian Food Market on St Andrew Street near Circadian Rhythm, across from the sports bar that keeps changing its name. They are really friendly and sell spices in bulk so they are much better value.

2 tbsp oil
1 tsp black mustard seeds
1 tsp cumin seeds
Half a tsp whole cloves
1 dollop of crushed garlic
1 dollop of crushed ginger
1 large onion
1 can chopped tomatoes
Chilli to taste
2 tsp garam masala
1 tsp turmeric
2 tsp salt
2 tsp honey
1 cup water
2 large potatoes, cubed
Half a cauliflower head, chopped
Half a cup of frozen peas

In a large frying pan, slowly heat some oil. Add mustard seeds, cumin seeds, and cloves – heat until they pop. Add garlic and ginger, then diced onion and cook until onion is clear. Add canned tomatoes, chilli, garam masala, turmeric, salt and honey and simmer. Add vegetables – it’s a good idea to slightly pre-cook the potato first – add water and leave to simmer for a good 30 mins until all the veggies are tender and the water has absorbed/evaporated.

While simmering, make sure you taste it. Needs to be sweeter? More garam masala. Needs to be hotter? More chilli. Etc. If you don’t have cumin seeds, ground cumin works too but add it with the garam masala and tumeric etc, rather than at the beginning. Also, some evaporated milk, or plain yoghurt could be added before serving to make it nice and creamy. Serve with rice.



The Fix

Location: Ground floor of The Innovation

Centre (opposite St Dave’s) – i.e. that glass building you check yourself out in as you walk past.

Prices: Flat White: \$4, Long Black: \$3.50, Mocha: \$4

Why I came here: I’ve been before; the coffee is perfect and right on campus.

Atmosphere: Trendy, relaxed and warm inside.

Service: A highlight! The cafe is operated by two fun and friendly twenty-somethings known to regulars as Jade and Dylan, who by my second visit had my coffee order memorised.

Food: I highly recommend treating yourself to a chunky piece of chocolate biscotti which arrives on a cute and eclectic china saucer.

Overall: If you are ever craving a coffee while at uni, you *have* to come to the Fix. The coffee is amazing and the service fantastic. On a recent visit I was asked if I liked marshmallows, and after nodding agreeably my coffee arrived with no less than ten or so marshmallows decorating my saucer. The place is perfect on a rainy day and packed to capacity, perhaps as a result of (among other things) the massive heaters dotted throughout the premises. The most unfortunate aspect of the Fix is that it is closed on weekends, however you can easily head to the branch situated beside Student IT for your weekend “fix”. I might not know what the Innovation Centre is, but I always emerge with a damn good cup of coffee.

– Pippa Schaffler



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Designers to Watch



Tis the season to be scarfie

Aren't these cosy numbers just so alluring? Bleemweaver is a bright, happy and imaginatively-woven textile range by Brianna Lee Martin. Combining her skills in weaving and design, this talented artist creates unique textiles entirely handmade in the Melbourne milieu of creativity. Each piece is individually handwoven by the artist using bright and beautiful Australian wools. Her fabulous new range includes scarves, neck warmers, hoods, shrugs, bags and throws. The perfect way to cheer up those chilly mornings of late. In fact, they almost make you want the thermometer to drop just an incy wincy bit more, just to justify your yearning for yarn.

Julia de Ville

Not since the plague has death been so in fashion. Admittedly, there has been a continuing obsession with skull iconography in both high-end (à la Marc Jacobs) and street fashion, yet Julia de Ville's jewellery label *Disce Mori* ("learn to die" in Latin) pushes this morbid fascination a lot further.

With de Ville being part NZ fashion school graduate, part shoemaker, part jeweller and part taxidermist, her designs draw much of their inspiration from the Victorian period. With pieces ranging from \$320 to a mere ten grand, de Ville works with a whole lot of, well, inert stuff. Vintage ivory, diamonds and rubies justify the larger-than-life price tags, while human hair and dead animal parts satisfy the macabre mood. Reminding us of our own mortality and challenging our perceptions of death in fashion, de Ville gives new life to things even though they are deceased. Potential collaboration with the Nom*D crew, perchance? Even if taxidermy's not really your thing, this Kiwi designer's peacefully dark pieces are definitely worth a look. Available at a *World* store near you.



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Selected Works from Quadrant Gallery



Photo courtesy of David McLeod

To enter Quadrant Gallery is to experience a serene, mesmerising atmosphere. Located on Moray Place, Quadrant showcases and sells jewellery, sculpture and other such objects. Immediately I was hypnotised by Nicole McLaren's apocalyptic sculptures, which are constructed from ceramic, plaster and textiles. McLaren's works engage with themes such as death and decay. Appearing textural and yet skeletal, deathly albatross heads emerge from heavily-draped regal cloaks with inserted panelling. *Passage 33* and *Passage 18* previously formed part of a larger exhibition, which included 24 other such sculptures. The panel on *Passage 33* appears to contain fragmentary remnants of pollution, with the drapery of the textile cloak appearing withered and as though it was a protective form of encasement rather than being purely decorative.

Apples is a series of ceramic apples covered in abrasions, as though they were rotting. Some are half-eaten, revealing a flowery texture and undesirable taste. McLaren thus subverts typical presentations of apples, for example the superficial glow of domestic fake apples and those presented in the supermarket. Devoid of "biblical temptation", McLaren presents apples as living organisms slowing rotting to death.

Paying homage to Hamlet's ill-fated love Ophelia, McLaren's *Chariot for Ophelia* serves as a *memento mori* with a ceramic funeral chariot carrying a wagon filled with intricately-carved flowers. Hidden amongst the flowers is the appearance of a skull. *Chariot for Ophelia* creates unease, as it is reminiscent of Sir John Everett Millais's haunting *Ophelia* (1851-52) and it gently entices the viewer to contemplate their own mortality.

Similarly to McLaren's apples, Blue Black's hanging sculpture *The Gap Between* investigates biological decay. *The Gap Between* deceptively tricks the viewer into believing they are seeing corrugated iron; it is in fact a ceramic. It's as if bold colours have emerged while the rust develops, adding a nice juxtaposition to the plain corroded springs attached to it. Faceless, distorted and frightening, Blue Black's *Winged figure* draw upon the strong but irrational fear of the monsters existing under our beds we have as children. The monster is highly textural, as though lacerations cover its body. The wings are made of bed springs, reinforcing the bumps-in-the-night figments of childhood fantasy.

Robert Rapson's *BMW Cabrio* and *Bently Brooklands* ceramic cars channel boyhood dreams while captivating the eye with their expressionistic use of line and colour. The

use of free-flowing lines, contour and colour creates an autonomous coarseness, yet is balanced by the use of figurative elements.

The jewellery of David McLeod also channels boyhood nostalgia. Producing work that is delicate, detailed and intimate, McLeod has rediscovered childhood toys, from simple small-scale bricks to matchsticks. Using Lego-like bricks marked "ADAMS", McLeod's brick series is extremely wearable, regardless of gender. Entwining twig-like matchsticks, some of which appear burnt, McLeod's extensive matchstick series is also somewhat textural, while also achieving simplicity and lightness.

Quadrant Gallery is only a small distance from the confines of North Dunedin, and with so many other great exhibitions recently opened, a visit would be an afternoon well spent and undoubtedly a good study break. Be sure to also check out Pieter Hugo's *Nollywood* at the DPAG, Motoko Kikkiawa's *Money you can't use here* at Rice and Beans and Andy Leleisi'uao's *The World of Erodipolis* at Milford Gallery.



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Pieter Hugo: Nollywood
an Institute of Modern Art touring exhibition

Machine of Death: a collection of stories about people who know how they will die – *Various*

“This book, unlike most others, started its life as an off hand comment made by a bright green Tyrannosaurus Rex”

The book is based on a comic from Ryan North’s *Dinosaur Comics* in which T-Rex describes a world where it is possible to know how you will die. The Machine of Death takes a sample of blood and then spits out a piece of paper giving a cause of death. No date, no context, just a word or phrase.

No one is sure how the machine works – they just know that it does. The machine seems to delight in being vague and ironic. Would you get into an aircraft knowing that the pilot’s card reads PLANE CRASH? Perhaps you wouldn’t hesitate, as you know without a doubt that you will die from CANCER. In terms of physical accidents, you are untouchable. But perhaps that is the pilot’s star sign? Perhaps his mind is not on the task at hand, as his daughter has just been diagnosed with leukemia? The idea that knowing the unknowable serves only to generate more uncertainty

is a common theme with which contributors have grappled.

The idea of a world in which everybody knew how they were going to die was so intriguing and thought-provoking for readers of the comic that in 2007 they were invited to submit short stories for a published collection. 34 were selected from nearly 700 submissions and eventually self-published after publishers doubted the success of a collection of authors that nobody has heard of. They were proved wrong; the book reached number one on Amazon on its release date.

The book kicks off with the comic that spawned it. The authors range from teenage nobodies to professional writers, and as such the quality and style varies from story to story. They are not all great, but none are long and some are gripping and original. I was excited by the concept, but found that instead of launching into a different world with every new story, the content appeared limited by the guidelines given.

Nevertheless the stories span a number of ideas and themes, considering the impact that such a machine might have on insurance companies, healthcare and society as a whole. The collection plays on our obsession with death and elicits reflection on the way we conceptualise mortality. Each story is accompanied by an illustration from a different artist, giving it a truly collaborative feel.

The best part is that the book is free! You can pay if you want a physical copy or feel that it is worthy of a financial contribution. Otherwise, the book is available as a pdf from its website. Additionally the editors have opened submissions for Machine of Death 2; if you are interested you have until mid-July to write your own MoD story.

It is definitely worth checking out this “morbidly interesting” collection if you have a spare moment.

Visit www.machineofdeath.net to download the free pdf or podcasts or for links to purchase.

Review **Art** Editor Hana Aoake

A GALLERY 393 PRINCES ST

The art of going over: VS

THE ARTISTS ROOM 2 DOWLING ST

Paperworks: V11

BRETT MCDOWELL GALLERY 5 DOWLING ST

Frances Hodgkins

THE COMMUNITY ART CENTRE, 300 MORAY PLACE

Painting exhibition and action painting performance: James Bellaney

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Beloved: various. Seat assignment: Nina Katchadourian. Te Putahitanga a Rehua: Reuben Paterson. A la mode: Early 19th century fashion plates. Radiant Matter part II: Dane Mitchell. Nollywood: Pieter Hugo. Fractus: Jeena Shin

DUNEDIN SCHOOL OF ART GALLERY, 19 RIEGO ST

Talk: Thursday June 2, 12.15pm - 1.15pm, P152, A Cultivation of Waste:

Marion Wassenaar . Ceramic Gravity and Levity: *John Paxie*

HOCKEN GALLERY 90 ANZAC AVE

Honey in the rock: Joanna Langford

MILFORD GALLERY 18 DOWLING ST

Encoded Whare: Peata Larkin, The World of Erodipolis: Andy Leleisi’uao’s

MODAKS CAFE 337-339 GEORGE ST

Mark Currie and Jackie Milford

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The Zoo Story

Written by: **Edward Albee**, Directed by: **Joel Rees**
Starring: **Lyndon Katene** and **Joel Rees**

Just a little bit of interesting information before we get into the review proper. *The Zoo Story* is American playwright Edward Albee's first play, written in 1959. What is most interesting is that almost 50 years later Albee wrote a prequel to *The Zoo Story*, demanding that no one could perform the play without first performing the prequel *Homelife*.

Luckily for little theatres like Allen Hall Theatre, Albee did graciously allow non-professional and college theatres to produce *The Zoo Story* all on its lonesome. Lucky us. This production of *The Zoo Story* was good, I am glad I didn't have to sit through the prequel because in comparison to *The Zoo Story*, *Homelife* sounds awful.

The set was lovely; quaint and simple yet very atmospheric. Three autumnal branches were suspended naked and jagged from the lighting grid, reminding me of some pictures of a very high-budget production of Tom Stoppard's *Travesties* I once saw. This play, however, was no such travesty; the genuine care and interest Rees put into this production was palpable as we sat for forty minutes watching a small yet not insignificant slice of the lives of Jerry and Peter.

Rees' performance was unerring. His portrayal of Jerry, a man with more problems than I would care to count, was powerful. His utter dedication to the quips and qualms of his character was amazing, although diverting his attention from inside his little bubble from time to time would have helped Katene really fine his place in the piece. Katene looked stranded; he worked hard but with so few lines he needed to assert his presence more potently. In saying, this Katene stole the show right out from under Rees' feet in the final sequence.

This was a sound piece of theatre, I was waiting for Rees to break the routine and I think that had the actors found a little more in the script to play with, move with and experiment with, the production could have been slightly more compelling. But as it is I really enjoyed the show – and the special effects.



Five Women Wearing the Same Dress

By: **Alan Ball**
Directed by: **Lara McGregor**
Fortune Theatre, June 3–25

Who's ready for another Fortune installment directed by the fabulous Lara MacGregor? I am!

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress is written by Alan Ball, who wrote *American Beauty* and created *Six Feet Under* and *True Blood*. Convinced it's worth seeing yet? Okay, I'll continue. It's a comedy about five bridesmaids hiding from a bride and an extravagant wedding reception, and it stars a wonderful cast of talented and beautiful women (and one man).

Not only is this play going to be funny but this play has been staged in collaboration with Christchurch's Court Theatre, which was unfortunately damaged in the February earthquake. After its run in Dunedin this play is travelling up to Christchurch for a short season and it will be first play staged in the theatre since the quake. So come and support the Fortune and the Court and see this play!

Oh, and if I still haven't convinced you it's worth seeing, the soundtrack will feature some fantastic music from the late Eighties. I'm sold.

bit of a
LOSER?

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Brink

Platforms: PC, Xbox 360, Playstation 3



I can't stress enough how much better *Brink* would have been had it had no cutscene-heavy story, or if it had even scrapped the single player entirely. The plot is fundamentally solid; an isolated idealised city called "The Ark" is collapsing under its own weight with perpetual battles between rebels and security forces. The style of the character designs, and the way they can be shaped by grizzled tattoos, stylistically elongated facial models and vibrant outfits could have combined with the kitschy premise and - here's the cool part - had you fill in the blanks yourself to imagine the in-and-outs of this strange place and its inhabitants. Instead the story is bland, forgettable and unnecessary in what is in all but marketing campaign a purely competitive multiplayer shooter, albeit a pretty good one.

Brink's gameplay is SMART (Smooth Movement Across Random Terrain

a *Mirror's Edge* style, though not on the same level, parkour system), borrowing from the roads less travelled in the multiplayer shooter space, but its design issues are divisive. SMART is a great idea. Not only does holding a single button to clamber over rubble in your path look and feel great, but the fact that different body sizes can free-run with different levels of proficiency creates a whole new stratum of strategic decisions related to mobility. Similarly, *Brink* offers a degree of character customization that's rarely paralleled. Want a heavily armored tank medic? What about a mobile healer that can take less damage? *Brink* allows that freedom. On the other hand, this ultimately means that there is very little definition between classes (between which you must constantly shift) and you never get the chance to master one specific, defined role.

A first level player can easily compete with a twentieth level (the cap) player. Again, this is divisive depending on whether you love the light but tremendously addictive RPG mechanics that advance your character's power quickly, or if you are like me and think that the competition should be determined by the degree to which one has mastered mechanics. It doesn't take long to reach the final level anyway, and is unlikely to leave the former brand of player satisfied.

Where most new shooter IPs draw inspiration from the insanely popular *CoD B/OPs* and *Halos* of the world, *Brink* nobly chooses to pick its design berries from a more obscure bush. Its class variety is lifted from *Team Fortress 2*, and its parkour from *Mirror's Edge* and I really appreciate that freshness.

Review Film Editor Sarah Baillie



If you're concerned that you haven't seen the first installment of the *Piranha* series, do not worry. You are not in any danger of missing any vital pieces of information.

As the film is about killer ocean dwellers, it is suitable that it begins with a dive into a shipwreck that goes awry and an underwater sex scene. It's mostly awkward and not very

sexy, and ends with the couple being eaten/mauled by unknown creatures/piranhas. Cut to Anne, who runs a dive course at the Hotel Elysium. She's about to take a group out for a dive in the ocean, but warns - with good reason - them not to go inside the shipwreck (cause that's where the sexy couple got mauled, remember?). Some idiot does not heed the warning, goes into the death trap and comes out...dead!

Thus begins a string of killings. We soon discover that the piranhas can fly when one flies out of the corpse of the aforementioned idiot and goes straight for the jugular of the morgue attendant. The rest of the killings are fairly similar in nature: piranha flies at victim, goes for jugular, flaps and gnaws, then flies away. The gore isn't too bad, probably on the

same level as feeding time on *True Blood* and, luckily, it's mostly funny and not very scary at all. Flappy-flap-flap.

You'll find this movie most enjoyable if you spend it laughing at the acting and making fun of all the silly outfits the people are wearing. Don't bother looking for any form of plot, or answers to any questions you might have. The underwater scenes are fairly well done and go a long way towards providing a much-needed element of tension towards the end of the film. The highlight has to be the annual fish fry, which sends all the hotel guests onto the beach in search of fish that have beached themselves as part of a mating ritual. Silly people, don't they know they're dealing with flying fish? Idiots.

— Ben Blakely

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As I sat through a barrage of historical drama trailers, I began to wonder whether *Tracker* would rise to deliver a captivating and original piece of film fit for Aotearoa's growing list of classics. Or would it fall into a formulaic category like so many other films of its kind? Maybe the movie was destined to hover somewhere between my two rigid projections in a sort of "oh yeah" limbo.

It's early 1900s New Zealand; the plans for the Panama Canal are going ahead, the Soviet seeds of Communism have been sewn and the British are flexing their colonial muscles around the globe. The story begins with Arjun Van Diemen, a hardened ex-Boer soldier, who chooses to emigrate from South Africa in search of greater prospects in New Zealand. Arjun finds himself caught up in tracking a bounty, Kereama, wrongly accused of murdering a British soldier.

The film begins on shaky ground with a fragmented set of scenes in some undefined port settlement. Perhaps it was the Anglo-Kiwi accent but the script seemed awkward and the sets felt threadbare. But when the hunt is on for Kereama, things pick up. The scene-scape and cinematography begin to impress as the two characters plunge headfirst in to the wilderness. A welcome respite breaks up the adrenaline when Kereama, in a Man-vs-Wild-meets-Masterchef feat, catches and smokes an eel. Bear Grylls take note. An uncanny Van Diemen continues to find clues and scrutinise the trail ahead and, as the tiring soundtrack languishes, the two characters come face to face. A riveting struggle for control plays out, and while both remaining completely aware of their own plights, they sympathise with the other's adversities.

You can't help but admire the effort put into shooting this film, pushing cinema deep into inhospitable environments. Despite some perplexing moments, the plot remains simple and effective until the "aww snap" ending. An alluring casting duo with Temuera Morrison and Ray Winstone (*Sexy Beast*) remained strongly convincing through most of the story. And now for some "couldn't be more off the mark" ODT bollocks: "[Winstone] played a character not dissimilar to Morrison's in *Once Were Warriors*".

– Theo Kay     



Previously responsible for such thrilling titles as *The Young Victoria*, *Gosford Park* and *Downton Abbey*, writer and director Julian Fellowes delivers his second feature film, *From Time to Time*. Based upon the novel *The Chimneys of Green Knowe* by Lucy M. Boston, this film is an emotionally charged yet logically askew period family drama.

The film centres on Tolly (Axe Etel), a thirteen-year old boy who is shipped off to stay with his estranged grandmother (Maggie Smith) while his mother attempts to locate information regarding his father who has gone missing in WWII. To entertain himself Tolly begins an investigation of his family estate, Greene Knowe, and finds himself suddenly entwined in the lives of his 18th century ancestors. Tolly realises that he can communicate with ghosts and thereby skip between two separate worlds, centuries apart. He witnesses apparitions of events from the house's darkest days in 1809 and befriends the ghost of his blind relative Susan (Eliza Bennett). Through his interactions with Susan and family history lessons from his grandmother, Tolly unravels a family mystery and deals with his father's predicament.

From Time to Time is overly sentimental, cheesy, somewhat tiresome and an altogether cheaper version of *The Lion*, *The Witch* and *The Wardrobe*. Sure, there are some really beautifully captured moments in soft focus and Maggie Smith is dazzling as Tolly's grandmother, but as far as period drama or children's films go, it's bottom-of-the-barrel bad. Perhaps its main problem rests in the presentation of the protagonist's trajectory. The story focuses upon young characters, but is designed for a mature audience. The only person I would recommend this film to is my grandmother, as the mere mention of period drama and family histories almost causes dear old Gran to have excitement-driven convulsions. Not even the inclusion of veteran actress Dame Maggie Smith could entice me to watch this film ever again.

– Hana Aoake     



**ALL CINEMAS FULLY LICENSED
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Your Highness

Director: David Gordon Green

Despite the terrible reviews this film received, I convinced myself to go and see *Your Highness* for the mere purpose of seeing Natalie Portman's ass. I was mildly amused by aspects of this film, although in saying this I am a person who is easily amused.

Your Highness centres on Thadeous (Danny McBride), a socially retarded, foul-mouthed and portly prince who spends his time chronically masturbating and smoking copious amounts of weed. Thadeous' efforts are forever being overshadowed by those of his heroic and dashing older brother, Fabious (James Franco). After his latest valiant exploit, Fabious returns with both the severed head of a Cyclops and Belladonna (Zooey Deschanel), a damsel in distress he rescues and then seeks to marry.

Unfortunately their wedding plans are spoiled by the evil wizard Leezar, who steals Belladonna with plans to utilise her virginal vagina as a dragon incubator so he can take over the world. Thadeous and Fabious then set out on a quest to destroy Leezar and recapture Belladonna. Along the way they encounter a badass sexy warrior named Isobel (Natalie Portman) who joins them on their quest. The inclusion of such an

inefficient, dependent female character such as Belladonna highlights the film's anachronistic writing and utter irrelevance; Belladonna barely utters three words throughout the entire film.

Co-writers Danny McBride and David Gordon Green have employed the use of an established genre (fantasy/action) and infused it with profanity and heavy drug use. It is clear that they are paying homage to the brilliance of 1980s fantasy films such as *Conan the Barbarian*, *The Sword and the Sorcerer* and *The Beastmaster*. The screenplay is somewhat lacking, as it continuously focuses on themes that are both cheesy and in bad taste (paedophilia, molestation, rape). The vast enormity of phallic references made me feel disappointed at the serious lack of articulation or wit in the film. Indeed, you could not smoke enough weed to make this flimsy, vulgar farce of a film funny enough to pay \$12 to see. I would recommend either pulling a "green" card before going to see this or watching *Your Highness* back-to-back with other such lowbrow, stoner films like *Pineapple Express* and *Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle*.

— **Hana Aoake**



Film Society Preview

Wendy and Lucy

Director: Kelly Reichardt

When: Wednesday May 25

Where: Red Lecture Theatre, located near the side entrance of the Scott Building, across the road from the Emergency entrance of the Dunedin

Public Hospital on Great King Street.

Michelle Williams stars as Wendy, a young woman who sets her sights on Alaska in the hope of starting a new life with her dog Lucy. Travelling with a budget of a little over \$500, Wendy faces challenges along the way.

See <http://dunedinfilmsociety.inzight.co.nz> for membership info.

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HAVE YOUR SAY, AND YOU COULD WIN A UNION GRILL



Referendum

The referendum is still cranking, this semester there's just 9 questions and all the background info is on the website here snurl.com/voteousa or scan the QR code to go directly to the site...

Robot Wars

The Applied Science Students' Association are having a wicked awesome Robot Wars competition in Re-O. There'll be some slick prizes up for grabs for the winning bot as well as all the robot glory you can imagine! Enter at OUSA main reception for just \$10. Get building and get battling! For rules and guidelines see snurl.com/robotz

Exam Love ♥

OUSA is providing you with a range of things to help make the study period a little bit easier for ya! You help pay for it so come in and enjoy what we have got going on:

\$2 taxis for those studying late in the library. Check the Poppas Pizza window for more info.

Pop in and grab yourself some brekkie from Student Support from 8.30am-10.30am every weekday from the 6th. Just bring a hungry tummy and we'll give you some GO fuel!

Clubs and Socs have heaps going on too, bring in your Student ID and get; Free guitar hire, pool and snooker, half price sauna (just \$2) as well as half price squash courts (just \$2.50)

For something a little different there's free Laughter Yoga, a sure crack up! Come have a chortle and some gentle stretches at the same time, June 8th 5.30pm and June 13th 12.30pm in the Dance Studio at C&S.

HALF PRICE sauna (just \$2) as well as half price squash courts (just \$2.50)

FREE guitars, pool & snooker at OUSA Clubs & Socs



\$2 TAXIS from outside Poppa's



FREE Stress-free study breakfasts at OUSA Student Support, from 8:30am weekdays



VOTE FLAT FEED!*

* 5 X BURGERS + CHIPS

OUSA ONLINE REFERENDA
23 MAY – 2 JUNE

PRESIDENTIAL BY-ELECTION
VOTING 1–3 JUNE

POSTGRAD COMMITTEE REPS
VOTING 1–3 JUNE

WWW.OUSA.ORG.NZ



PRESIDENTIAL COMMENT

Greetings my fellow Scarfies,

As OUSA's Acting-Acting-President, I've taken on the task of writing up this weeks column. First off, there's a referendum going on at the moment that you can vote in (and probably should). It features issues ranging from factory farmed products to interest-free student loans, and, notably, a referendum about referenda. There's also the Presidential by-election that you can vote in from Wednesday (and, again, you probably should) which features four different candidates all vying for the position recently vacated by Harriet Geoghegan. You can vote at elections.ousa.org.nz, with voting open from the 1st - 3rd June.

Meanwhile, on 19th May, Finance Minister Bill English unveiled the Government's 2011 Budget. It wasn't pretty for students. Not pretty at all. A little known fact: a quarter of Otago students are, mature students (aged 25+). There are probably a non-trivial number of you out there over the age of 55. Well, to cut a long story short, the Government has decided (part penny-pinching, part spite, part complete cluelessness) to cut off the over 55's from living costs and course-related costs.

God forbid that older people recently made redundant from the recession want to up skill themselves. Or that they want to take advantage of learning opportunities denied to them when they were younger (a disproportionate number of over 55 students are female). It's discrimination, plain and simple.

Of course, if you want the student voice heard in Wellington, 2011 is an election year. So get online to elections.org.nz and get yourselves on that damn electoral roll and make a difference!

Daniel Stride
Finance and Services Officer
OUSA

Presidential By-Election

This time we have four candidates to choose from:

Shonelle Eastwood

Logan Edgar

Francisco Hernandez

Bradley Russell

Voting opens 9am this Wednesday and closes this Friday 4pm.

Check out Critic's run down of the candidates earlier on in this issue!

Get voting now at www.ousa.org.nz



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