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Issue 06 | Apr 02nd, 2012



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Critic

Issue 06

Scarflies Give Street a Hyding | Page 6

In the aftermath of Hyde Street, students and authorities sing from different hymn sheets and doubt is cast on the event's future.

New Zealand's Dis-organ-isation | Page 18

Callum Fredric reports on New Zealand's dismal rate of organ donation, and examines the potential solutions.

Hyde Street Photo Gallery | Page 24

Critic would like to emphasise that this is, in fact, a gallery of photos from Hyde Street, and not pictures of the Zombie Apocalypse.

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Michael Neilson takes a look at the coup-tastic island nation and its prospects for the future.

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CriticTV

HYDE STREET

OUT THIS WEEK



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MY DAY AT HYDE STREET BEGAN BEFORE SUNRISE. CYCLING DOWN FROM the NEV I could already hear the DJs playing as I passed the Richardson building. It was an energetic pre-dawn beginning to what was going to be an exhausting day. I spent hours and hours filming and taking still photos. I was there when the police closed down access at 3pm, and was still there when they finally cleared the streets at 6pm.

To say it was a crazy day is an understatement. The estimated 5,500 who made it in before the street was shut filled every conceivable space, from rooftop to backyard, doorstep to gutter. It was a celebration, and possibly a farewell, of everything Scarfie. The very, very little violence amongst so many young intoxicated people spoke highly of the attitude of those that attended the event. It wasn't about breaking shit, or ruining anyone else's good time. It was about kicking back after working hard and enjoying ourselves at a huge event with all of our mates.

And yeah, it cost some money to put on. A dozen ambulance officers and 30 cops don't come cheap. But the grumpy old "ratepayers" who write letters to the ODT need to remember something: Students are the largest group of ratepayers in Dunedin; we just happen to pay our rates through our rents. Any event in Dunedin that had thousands of people attending would have taken up city resources. Why should students, who put so much money into the local economy, not be able to ask the DCC to help them run the biggest party of the year?

None of which is to say that the event was perfect. Property owners shouldn't have their shit broken, and we shouldn't undermine our position against the truly shit landlords by screwing over the good ones. People got seriously hurt – broken ankles don't mend quickly – and alcohol poisoning can cause serious long term damage to your brain, damage that you won't even be aware has happened. And no doubt some people woke up with regrets about who they may have been, ah, intimate with.

I sincerely hope that the party is allowed to continue. The things that go wrong at Hyde – excessive drinking, damage to property, and broken and upset young people – are symptoms of our greater drinking culture, not of one particular party. Hyde just brings it into one place, and into sharp relief. We need to work on these larger drinking issues, but simply shutting down an event so we can ignore it is not the answer.

A lot of you have already checked out our photos from Hyde on our "Critic – Te Arohi" Facebook page, (if you haven't, then you should). We also review the day's events in the news section, and Andrew, our Art Director and resident tech magician, has wrapped the entire magazine in an amazing panoramic photo. Carefully take out the staples and you can line the cover up with the centrefold spread to create a pretty pimping poster to chuck up on your wall. And of course, our Critic TV episode of Hyde Street will be coming very shortly.

Enjoy your break, enjoy Easter (and our Easter Bunny comic), and Critic will see you when you get back.

– JOE STOCKMAN

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Scarflies Give Street a Hyding

EVERYONE'S FAVOURITE KEG PARTY TOOK PLACE SATURDAY MARCH 24. CRITIC, ALONG WITH 6,000 OTHER PARTYGOERS, WAS THERE COVERING THE DRUNKENNESS AND DEBAUCHERY.

**CHARLOTTE GREENFIELD
AND JOSIE ADAMS**

THE GOOD

PROVING TO JOHN KEY THAT STUDENTS DO OCCASIONALLY get out of bed before 7.30 at night, a raucous though mostly friendly crew of partygoers kicked off around 5.30am on Saturday and partied on until 6pm that evening.

Spirits were high as a crowd of between 4,000 and 6,000 people (depending on which media outlet you rely on) flocked to Hyde St. Many partygoers came from outside the student population, from as far afield as Blenheim. *Critic* thought that was impressive until it found two tourists from Singapore wandering amidst the crowds. Oversized cameras in hand and practical shoes on foot, the pair seemed impressed by the event, admitting that such a thing had "never" been seen in Singapore.

Amidst the chaos, OUSA, the Police, University Staff, the DCC, Campus Watch, Red Frogs, St John's Ambulance Service and Student Health all pitched in to babysit the revelers. Any potential for mortal peril was narrowly avoided with a combination of sausages, plastic-tasting water, portaloos and a first aid tend.

As always, the costumes were one of the

day's highlights. "My favourites were Cookie Monster and Oscar the Grouch in his little bin," said OUSA President Logan Edgar, revealing himself to be a die-hard Sesame Street fan, "but I also really liked my costume." Edgar attended the event dressed as his self-confessed idol, Barack Obama. An abundance of Caucasian ancestry did not prevent our pale president from cultivating a chocolate-brown skin tone for the day in order to emulate his silver-tongued hero.

Thought not without mishap, the day was notable for the lack of fire and glass that has marred the Keg Party on previous years. This was the most impressive aspect of the event for Edgar, which he says shows that "students can

band together and get on board with positive initiatives like the glass ban. It was interesting, because a lot of people told us it couldn't be done and I think we showed that it could."

Vice-Chancellor Harlene Hayne, who spent most of the day on Hyde Street, agreed that the majority of students contributed to a positive atmosphere. "I was absolutely delighted by the students' costumes. Throughout the day I met literally dozens and dozens of bright, polite, and friendly students who were on Hyde Street to have a good time and who were genuinely grateful for the opportunity to participate in such an amazing event."



THE BAD

BUT, THERE'S ALWAYS A "BUT". ESPECIALLY WHERE scarfies and kegs are involved. "Like most things, however, it is always fun until someone gets hurt or something gets broken," Hayne said. "As the day wore on, the damage and injury due to severe alcohol intoxication started to climb. Some of the injured students that I dealt with were not particularly drunk; they were the victims of other people's drunken behaviour. Unfortunately, however, many of the students I dealt with were very, very drunk. Like so many others who assisted during the event, I held buckets while students vomited and covered people who were passed out on the grass or in parking lots."

A number of students were taken to hospital with 164 people presenting to the hospital's emergency department on Saturday, according to charge nurse manager Justine Moore. Although this figure is not limited to those connected with Hyde Street, Moore notes the department did have "a very busy weekend." St John's Ambulance were at the scene and, along with Student Health, treated 83 injuries. According to a spokesperson from St John's the majority of injuries were minor lacerations from trips and falls, but there were "a couple of nasty cuts requiring surgical review at the ED."

Police also had to step in on numerous occasions. As well as chasing people off roofs and checking suspected 17-year-olds for ID, according to Edgar the Police only made 10 arrests, and only one of those arrested was an Otago student, with the remaining nine arrests consisting of three non-student Dunedin partygoers and six people from outside of Dunedin.

AND THE UGLY ...

PREDICTABLY, THE MOST CONCERNING ASPECT OF A day dedicated to binge drinking, was binge drinking. The Vice-Chancellor told *Critic* that she and the police were concerned about the "... dangerous level of intoxication that occurred". "From where I was standing on Saturday, those students who were the most intoxicated ... did not have much fun. I watched severely intoxicated students hurt, insult, and annoy their friends, and many of them humiliated themselves."

Critic received reports that the local liquor stores may not have helped the situation, with the suggestion that intoxicated people were



Photo by James Parsons

served at nearby liquor stores contrary to their liquor licences. The manager of Leith Street Liquorland responded, saying security were on the door preventing anyone appearing drunk from entering. "The only ones who could have gotten through, were if they put on a really convincing [sober] face."

More diverse issues than mere scarfie intoxication emerged throughout the day as many partygoers decided it was the optimum time to test their roof-climbing skills. This came to a climax when one flat's roof caved in under the weight of approximately ten people. No injuries were reported. However, two people had already been taken to hospital earlier in the day with serious injuries after falling from roofs.

THE AFTERMATH

WITH TALK OF LIQUOR BANS AND DISGRUNTLED police and University staff, Hyde Street residents expressed fear that the event might be cancelled in future. "Obviously the roof thing was a bit of an issue, but it'd be a shame for it not to go ahead in the future, because it sets us apart from all the other unis" one Hyde St tenant told *Critic*.

The Vice-Chancellor was less certain. "It's far too early to think about the future of the Hyde Street Party ... Before we start to talk about another Hyde Street, we need to figure out how we can maintain the vibrant student culture

while also minimising the risks to students."

Logan Edgar is unashamedly "really keen to see it go ahead. It's the best student party of the year." However, Edgar wants some practical changes to ensure the event runs more smoothly and safely in future "We've got to make it a students-only event, perhaps where people have to register in advance if they're going. That will stop it getting too big and I don't think it's actually the students who are causing a lot of the problems. Just look at only one of the ten arrested actually being an Otago student."

If the event were limited to university students, Logan claims it would come under the Student Code of Conduct. "They just need to add in a rule, saying no students on roofs and we're covered."

Hayne seems, tentatively, to agree. "As the Vice-Chancellor, I can make more rules and hand out more punishments in an attempt to stem the tide, but I would prefer to work with students to find a more workable solution."

"All we need," says Logan, "is for someone to step up and have the balls to take responsibility. OUSA's in a position to do that."

For more photos from Hyde St, as well as the latest *Critic* TV episode, head to critic.co.nz or like "*Critic - Te Arohi*" on Facebook.

Hyde Street Galvanises Fun Police

GUS GAWN

BATTLE LINES HAVE BEEN DRAWN OVER THE MUCH-PUBLICISED NORTH DUNEDIN Liquor Ban proposed by the DCC.

The liquor ban proposal has been sitting on the table since the beginning of the year. The council's initial proposal was debated heatedly on campus early in the semester but it seemed to sit on the back burner in recent weeks.

But along came Hyde Street.

Caved-in roofs, unruly behaviour and public intoxication have brought the proposed liquor ban roaring straight back into the student spotlight. Locals see it as a potential solution for future mayhem. Students, not so much.

Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull has said that "this is not about control, this is about keeping people safe". The DCC has officially approved the proposal and the only thing standing in its way is the submissions process.

Vice-Chancellor Harlene Hayne added, "We have to do more than just

ban students from being on roofs." Landlords have called for tighter control and tougher penalties for people who misbehave and damage property. Police reportedly support the proposal if it can reduce harm.

OUSA submitted one of seven submissions regarding the liquor ban to the DCC. Their submission is accompanied by a petition which gained thousands of signatures earlier in the semester to form an unstoppable one-two punch to defend student freedoms.

OUSA cites recent improvements in student behaviour and a marked change in attitude against anti-social behaviour from the general student population, both of which make the ban unnecessary. OUSA's submission claims that "The 2012 Hyde Street Keg Party went as planned and the issues that remain can be remedied," and the association proposes a more proactive strategy for reducing anti-social behaviour rather than a blanket ban which may become unenforceable.

The 30-day period for making submissions closed on March 26 but if you have something to say on this one the DCC will still accept e-mailed submissions.



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DCC Plans Dunedin's Future

Godzilla Insurance Expensive, Debt Soars

CLAUDIA HERRON

THE DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL HAS DISTRIBUTED A DRAFT LONG-TERM PLAN inviting submissions for its proposed rate increases for the next decade. The DCC is setting its sights high, although its efforts are being marred by the city's debt and general apathy. The latter was evident in one first-rate citizen's response to an offer to provide information about the plan, "I wouldn't waste my time." To be fair, the Otago Daily Times reports that this consultation took place outside Pak 'n Save South Dunedin, which Critic suggests may not be the most strategic location to carry out a discussion of the city's future.

Council debt from community projects such as the Forsyth Barr Stadium and a 20-year upgrade of the city's water and wastewater systems is scheduled to peak in 2012/12 to \$270 million, giving rise to a proposed rate increase of 4.9%. The council initially projected rates to rise by 11.9% for the coming year but Mayor Dave Cull claimed in the long-term plan summary that this level of increase was "unacceptable to our community".

Councillors now propose rate increases of 5%, 4% and 3% over the next three years respectively. This will then stabilise to 3%, meaning the debt is targeted to gradually fall to around \$200 million in 2021/22. Critic has attempted to make these fundamentally extremely boring figures more palatable with a pretty infographic (see below).

While rates will continue to be spent on core infrastructure and economic development, the DCC has chosen to reduce the number of new initiatives proposed in order to minimise the overall rates rise. These initiatives range from redeveloping the St Clair Esplanade to prevent further sea damage, to re-opening the Caversham tunnel to encourage commuters to bike or walk between Dunedin and Mosgiel. This would allow both of the pedestrians who make the annual trip to Mosgiel to admire the wonders of this significant tourist destination to do so on foot.

Critic spoke with Dunedin City Councillor Lee Vandervis, who has in the past referred to the long-term plan as the "annual sham". Shockingly, Mr Vandervis had nothing inflammatory to say on the matter. Instead,

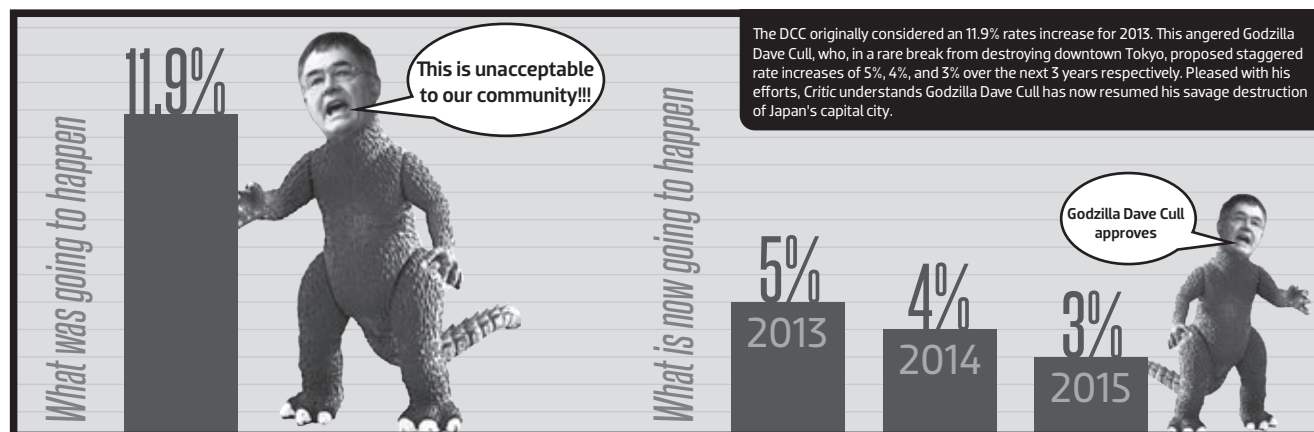


saying the current annual plan was a "more honest account" than previous plans, especially because there had been a "tendency to try to spin the reality of debt."

He then fell back on the tried and tested position of blaming Dunedin's problems on students. In regard to the Council's debt issues, Mr Vandervis said that ratepayers' money shouldn't be spent on cleaning up students' mess as there was next to nothing to spare. Mr Vandervis conveniently failed to mention that students are a significant proportion of ratepayers themselves, with part of their rent being passed on by landlords to the Council in the form of rates.

When Critic was asked if it had been down Leith Street recently, which it assured Mr Vandervis it had, he spoke of the eight holes in the road from couch fires and revealed that a quote for repair the damage was near to \$120,000. Critic suggested upping the fire lighting fine to \$15,000 ...

The submission process invites the general public to comment on how the Council proposes to prioritise their spending. Submissions close at 5pm on April 17 followed by a submissions hearing on May 9-11. The Council will confirm rates for 2012-13 and adopt a finalised long-term plan on June 25.





University deals with disaster

Fails to plan for Zombie Apocalypse

MARGOT TAYLOR

THE UNIVERSITY SEEMS TO HAVE DISASTER ON THE MIND, WITH ASSESSMENT and construction underway to address the risk of earthquakes and floods.

A year after the devastating 6.3 earthquake in Christchurch, Otago's Christchurch campus, which houses the School of Medicine, is undergoing repairs, which are reported to be "coming along well." The focus of the work is to make the medical school, which was built in 1972, "100% compliant with the new earthquake code". The buildings are expected to be re-occupied sometime in the second half of this year, with Otago researchers and scientists using a variety of buildings provided by the University of Canterbury and Lincoln University in the meantime.

Meanwhile back in Dunedin, the University is pushing ahead with its seismic strengthening of University buildings, with \$50 million set aside in a Priority Development Plan Budget to complete the strengthening work by 2019.

To rectify its sub-standard journalism the last time *Critic* reported on seismic strengthening issues, *Critic* would like to relay to students that the Alpine Fault line is not the closest fault to Dunedin nor is it likely to do little damage. It's fucking miles away and totes dangerous. Happy now?

There are actually 30 active faults between here and the Alpine fault, "three prominent ones within 15 minutes' drive of the University," according to one impassioned Geology student. Furthermore, "the one that poses the most threat ... is the Akatore Fault which runs parallel to St Clair beach. If that one goes like it has in the past, it'll displace Dunedin by maybe 5 metres vertically." *Critic* retracts its previous reassurance and instead advises students to be very afraid.

In other risk news, contractors of Otago Regional Council are carrying out flood protection works on the Leith. It is hoped that the work, which will take place over the next one to two years, will help convey flood flows down the Leith and reduce its annual tendency to wash away first-year Health Sci students attempting to get to St David's via the nearby bridge.



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Ding Ding Flings Off Exec Thing

Edgar wrings hands, but is fan of Fran

JOSIE ADAMS

DING YI DING RESIGNED FROM THE OUSA EXEC ONLY hours after winning the International Officer position in the by-election two weeks ago. She cited "personal reasons" for her departure.

Although this might appear to be a lucky break for Shane Corrigan, the Dream Team's losing candidate for the International Officer position, OUSA President Logan Edgar was quick to point out that there will have to be another by-election to appoint the new International rep.

Ding decided to relinquish power after realising that she may be leaving New Zealand to return to China for an unknown period of time. She made sure her enthusiasm for the position didn't go unnoticed. During her short term, Ding expressed her desire to hold a cultural event involving music, dance, food and other things made more exciting by a foreign influence. Critic has been told the event is likely to go ahead, despite Ding's resignation, and may take place during Re-O-Week.

Despite the loss of an exec member, Edgar expressed his confidence in the remaining exec

line-up, saying that "we were five people down before, and now we're one." He also mentioned that he's "been doing this for years" (despite having held his position on the OUSA exec for only ten months) and scoffed at the notion of confusion in the ranks. He was quick to point to Welfare Officer Francisco Hernandez as the port-of-call for the international community, calling him "the most international guy on the Exec", unintentionally proving the point that Ding's absence does leave the group looking a little flavourless.

Otago Greens Out

BELLA MACDONALD

OTAGO UNIVERSITY IS GETTING ITS GREEN ON WITH the appointment of Hilary Phipps in the role of Environmental Sustainability Co-ordinator.

The creation of this brand-new role was prompted by the recommendations of a Working Party in late 2008 to promote the environmental sustainability of the University of Otago's campuses. This led to the establishment of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee in 2009, and Phipps's role in the Property Services Division this year.

The role requires Phipps to work towards creating a sustainable campus. Asked whether a small provincial university at the bottom of the world can really make any difference in preventing climate change and saving lone polar bears on ice floats, Phipps pointed out that "students can be real drivers of change". As Dunedin is home to over 27,000 students and staff, "we need to ensure our campuses are sustainably and efficiently managed."

One of Phipps's main objectives is "to contribute to the development of an Environmental

Sustainability Plan that will identify targets for enhancing sustainability across the campus over the coming years."

Alec Dawson, an Otago student and co-chair of the Otago branch of environmental youth movement Generation Zero, told Critic that the creation of the role was a welcome change at the University. "Otago University has not been the most proactive at greening its campus. The environment you study in has a huge effect on the attitudes of the students. If the sustainability officer can use her role to make changes to the products the University uses, the layout of the campus, and the transport options people choose, then her role could have a huge impact on how students view Otago and the attitudes they take towards sustainability."

Phipps has started by suggesting that the basics such as "switching off lights, taking the stairs, using less water, using double-sided printing and recycling can go a long way." There are larger plans to create awareness of where our food, energy and materials come from and Phipps will look at systems in other universities, both nationally and internationally, to



see what strategies Otago can adapt on its campus. Phipps also pointed out that "over the medium- to long-term, sustainability initiatives can actually save the University money," which should really get those in charge of the University's coffers salivating.



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CALLUM FREDRIC

A NEW WEBSITE HAS TAKEN THE STUDENT MANTRA

"USBs get degrees" to a new level, with students now able to buy and sell notes for their courses online. University of Otago students Hayden Kerrisk (CEO), Mike Arthur (Programmer), and Paul Kibblewhite (Stylist) have created Studyspace, which is basically a TradeMe for study notes.

Kerrisk describes Studyspace as "an online tool where students can study together." After a summer of programming, the website was launched in mid-February, and already has over 500 users signed up.

The most significant feature of the website is the ability to buy and sell study notes, with Studyspace taking a 10% cut of each sale. Arthur explains the process: "Users upload their notes to the website. They're secure and private; no one can download or copy them."

Once the user sells his notes to another person, the buyer can only view the notes in

a secure PDF viewer. According to Kerrisk, "Anyone selling notes doesn't have to worry about someone buying the notes then flogging them off. You can't copy and paste, you'd have to literally write it out." The PDF viewer will also not allow the buyer to print off the notes. Buyers can give a rating to the notes they bought, so users can build up a reputation for providing high quality notes.

Arthur justifies the site as more than simply a way to avoid going to lectures. "Although the website started off with the goal of being a note buying and selling site, we've seen the website's potential to be a more collaborative study tool for students." Users can upload a practice question along with an answer to that question, and other users can rate the answer and provide their own answers. Kerrisk: "It's like a study group".

The company is still "warming up", with many features such as Live Chat still in development. The website has so far earned a single solitary dollar, although the IRD has

presumably taken a 28% cut of that windfall. At present, the website offers the practice questions facility, and the ability to buy and sell study notes.

It is unlikely Otago University will be a fan of the website, with a spokesperson commenting, "There would seem to be considerable risk for users of such sites under copyright law and from the point of view of acceptable academic practice."

However, Arthur points out: "People already sell notes, so it's nothing new, it's just hitting the digital era ... A reworded article taken from other sources isn't copyrighted."

The Uni spokesperson continued saying, "Students resorting to sites of this kind also need to recognise that there is absolutely no guarantee as to the quality or currency of any material they might purchase or access. The University considers that a student's academic prospects are likely to be maximised by attending lectures and taking their own notes."

Now more expensive than ever to escape Dunedin



CHARLOTTE GREENFIELD

THE PRICE OF FLIGHTS TO AND FROM DUNEDIN HAS RISEN BY UP TO \$4 SINCE last Friday after a surge in the Dunedin International (LOL) Airport's user charge. Air New Zealand claims it has been forced to raise fares after DIA hiked the user charge by 78% to a total of \$1.8 million a year. "We are

uncomfortable with such a massive increase, which we do not believe is justified," Air New Zealand's Australasia operations general manager Glen Sowry told the *Otago Daily Times*.

However this has not stopped Air New Zealand from raising fares by \$3 on Dunedin-Christchurch and Dunedin-Wellington flights and by \$4 on flights between Dunedin and Auckland. The rise comes on top of an average increase of \$5 to the cost of one-way airfares to Dunedin since last December, as a result of fuel cost increases. Air New Zealand claims that Dunedin is now the second most expensive airport in the country for

Air New Zealand planes, after Wellington.

New Zealand Airports Association Chief Executive Kevin Ward responded to Mr Sowry's claims, saying the \$3-\$4 increase was still "a very small proportion of the airfare". Ward claimed that the real issue was Air New Zealand's monopoly over flights to Dunedin, which results in "monopoly prices" and "no choice for passengers."



News in Briefs



JOYCE FREEZES THRESHOLD

STAFF REPORTER

BIG MAN ON CAMPUS TERTIARY EDUCATION Minister Steven Joyce has announced that the parental income threshold for access to student allowances will not be raised this year.

Joycie boy says, "Freezing the threshold at current levels is the first step in curbing the major expenditure increase in student allowances over the last few years as we look to better target this support to students who need it most ... Government expenditure on student allowances has increased from \$385 million in 2007/08 to \$620 million in 2010/11."

The freeze will affect approximately 1,500 students from families with incomes above \$82,000, who would have been eligible for a

partial allowance over the next four years if the threshold had continued to increase.

OUSA Student President Logan Edgar said in response, "We are probably going to see more of this from the National Government. Lots of nipping around the edges rather than big policy changes which would see them getting voted out. It's a real shame to see."

KFC BARBEQUES DOUBLE DOWNS FOR FRIED CREDITORS

WALTER PLINGE

KFC RETURNED THE DOUBLE DOWN TO DUNEDIN stores last weekend, just in time to help save the Otago Rugby Football Union's smaller creditors. The 180-odd small businesses that were left out of pocket following the Union's financial problems stand to have \$30,000 raised for their

cause, as KFC pledged \$5 from each of the 6,000 available double downs sold, which will go towards recouping their losses.

Retailing at \$9.90, the special BBQ variety of Double Downs were available from opening on Saturday morning, and Critic can only speculate on the future (having gone to print before being able to confirm) and proclaim that large numbers of scarfies were undoubtedly lining up to take advantage of the calorific treat.

Ex-Critic reporter and scarfie personality Lozz Holding, who famously ate only Double Downs for a week last year, told Critic, "It's weird. I haven't been able to sleep properly since I heard that the meal is coming back. I've even been unable to perform sexually. I thought that this chapter in my life was closed, but every time I think I'm out, KFC just pulls me back in."



BELLA MACDONALD

CRITIC WAS TOLD THIS WEEK OF A VENERABLE young man whose dismal attempt at self-defence landed him at the Proctor's office. When a wasp approached the chap, he grabbed a glass bottle and threw it in an act of pre-emptive protection from the mighty beast. He soon found that the body mass of a wasp could not stop the bottle mid-flight, nor would his accuracy

Proctology

allow for contact to be made with the intended recipient. The lad did, however, manage to hit a more venomous target, an infuriated truck-driver with a considerably larger body mass.

Upon arrival at the Proctor's office the wee chap provided the legitimate excuse that he suffered from a severe wasp allergy, such that his reaction to the insects may be a little more violent than the average citizen's. Despite this, compensation will be forthcoming to the truckie and the young man has been referred to a specialist to learn some alternative wasp-fighting methods.

An equally out-of-touch student, with a less impressive excuse, has been dealt with by the Campus Cop after being caught stealing an iPad from the Link. The thief was tracked down due to the iPad's locating device, which is a feature of most modern technology these days, a fact the behind-the-times thief was obviously unaware of.

The celebration of St Patrick's Day this

year seemed to inspire some partiers to go too far when getting amongst the greenery. Tree-hugging was taken up a notch, with reports of broken trees and torn branches throughout North Dunedin. Next year, the Proctor asks that students try and show their respect to St Patrick in a more wholesome and environmentally friendly manner.

More significant damage was evident on Hyde Street last Saturday. The ridiculously high level of intoxication was quite a horrific sight. If you were one of the coma'd ones (or have been informed that you were), you might want to consider thanking every OUSA, St John's, Red Frog or Are You OK Staff that you see. It was probably them who were plying you with water in your semi-naked state, curled up in the gutter amidst a pool of alcohol-ridden vomit. As for the guy who remained blissfully coma'd as the roof collapsed, it's hard to believe you're still alive. Remember kids: Personal responsibility.

THIS IS THE SIXTH ISSUE OF CRITIC FOR 2012. Apparently it only takes six weeks to abandon journalistic credibility and just start reporting on stuff that provides free energy drinks.

When you think of Red Bull you think of extreme sports. Maybe a grinning Scandinavian guy pushing the limits of gravity and daring. Maybe a heavily tattooed motocross rider straddling a dirt bike with his stripper wife draped over him, ubiquitous flat peak pulled down over his lank hair and weaselly, white-trash features. Maybe just a short-haired European man driving an extremely fast car. All I know is that the Red Bull website has an official section simply labeled "Holy Shit". That's what Red Bull is.

On Wednesday around lunchtime *Critic* visited the Dunedin leg of the worldwide paper dart flying competition "Red Bull Paper Wings". The whole time we were there I don't think the words "holy shit" were uttered even once. This may have been because Red Bull holds the property rights for the phrase and wouldn't let anyone say it, but it was probably because Red Bull Paper Wings didn't quite live up to Red Bull's extreme credentials. Maybe when you reach the big time it gets a little more "extreme". Dunedin distance flying champ Josh Stewart will be flying to Vienna to find out.

Hyped up on free Red Bulls three members of the *Critic* team entered the first event on the schedule, "Longest Distance". Basically you had to make a plane and see if you could biff it the length of the Alhambra clubrooms.

After a period of strategising and testing (as well as getting loaded up on caffeine) the *Critic* boys joined a group of around 30 others waiting nervously to put their flying machines to the test. DJ Hugo set the mood with some "flying music/progressive house", the Red Bull Girls were there keeping score and the Red Bull rep David Booth was keeping the crowd on their toes with some running commentary.

Up stepped first contest Josh Stewart who immediately demoralised the competition by smashing the 30-metre mark with his very first attempt. From there everyone was playing catchup. The next best throwers struggled to break 20 metres. *Critic* ad-man Sam Stuch went for a traditional design, which got him a respectable distance. *Critic* sports reporter Gus Gawn would have snagged the bronze medal but apparently just scrunching up a ball of paper really tight and throwing it as hard as you can is against the spirit of the competition. You can't argue with results



Red Bull Marketing Campaign Receives Student Magazine Exposure Because It Totes Counts As A Sport

though. Designer Andrew Jacombs just stuck to taking photos, probably because he has extremely small hands like a carnary. About half the darts performed woefully, plunging straight towards the throwers' own feet or even doing a U-turn and heading back the wrong way. Just as many flew straight and true, just not as far as Josh's.

Stewart's effort was never really in danger. Josh said "I got a design off Youtube and I have a reasonable arm. It's all about the dart design really". He favoured a very small and streamlined model, which he folded extremely tightly. His winning throw measured 30.1 metres, followed by James Scoll in 2nd and Andy Bowie in 3rd.

Evan Millar took out the longest hang time award ahead of Hugo Webb and Tom Wu. Unfortunately none of their efforts were enough to challenge for the national title so they will have to settle for regional honours.

In the "aerobatics" competition the finalists

(Evan Miller, Matt Johnson, Matt Soundy, Marlon Johnson and Josh Bone) will all have footage of their efforts uploaded to www.redbullpaperwings.com/newzealand and an online vote will decide the winner.

Red Bull Rep David Booth said he was "really happy with how the event went, there was a good vibe and a great atmosphere. I'm keen to see what Josh is capable of." *Critic* is keen to see what sort of free Red Bulls for the office David is capable of after this article/advert gets published.

When *Critic* went to print Josh Stewart's 30.1 metres was the longest dart throw in the country and the second longest in the world. Josh will be traveling to Vienna to take part in the world finals in May, a fact which he finds "brilliant, brilliant". Unfortunately for Josh, American Joe Ayoob will be the man to beat with a current best of over 69 metres.

Drink Red Bull.



Storm Purvis [Left] and Shannon Francois.

Old people love netball, but do students?

IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE IN INVERCARGILL LOVES NETBALL. ALL THE GRANNIES and kids used to pack out that stadium (before it fell over), smash those rumble sticks together and have a hell of a time. But does anyone care about netball in Dunedin?

The Southern Steel is our netball team. They compete in the ANZ Cup; a trans-Tasman, provincial netball competition that has existed since 2008.

The Steel represents the whole of Otago and Southland. They are an amalgamation of previous franchises the Otago Rebels and the Southern Sting. In previous seasons they have played most of their games in Invercargill in front of all those shrieking Nanas but this year they are playing three games at Lion Foundation Arena in Dunedin.

The snow damage that Stadium Southland suffered in 2010 has not been fixed yet, which partly explains why the Steel are playing in Dunedin. However, the franchise also really wants to re-unite with its estranged Dunedin fanbase. Dunedin netball fans haven't had anything to get remotely excited about since Anna Rowberry, Belinda Colling and Adine Harper were donning the blue skirt. Maybe this is the year that Dunedin falls back in love with netball.

The Steel has fallen on hard financial times recently. The grannies just weren't filling up (temporary home) the Invercargill Velodrome as much as they used to fill up Stadium Southland. This is probably because the Velodrome's seating layout meant the old dears were at least five metres from the court. Income was down and costs were skyrocketing. Importing talent from around the country meant the Steel's salary bill had got out of hand. (Where have we heard that before?) The Steel has applied for a bail out from Netball New Zealand and have installed a new CEO to stop the financial bleeding. They have cut costs by almost \$100,000 for this season and have focused on young, local talent to sustain the franchise.

No New Zealand team has ever won the ANZ championship. Critic asked Otago students and Steel players Storm Purvis and Shannon Francois what they were doing to change that and how they could make Dunedin people care about the Southern Steel.

Storm Purvis is an 18-year-old ex-Aucklander who does 2nd year P.E. She is a New Zealand age group representative who has been drafted down to the Southern Steel to be the future of the franchise (no pressure then). She is confident about the Steel's chances this year. "It's a rebuilding year with new coaches and a lot of new players. We are aiming for the top six but as a team we think we can do better than that." Purvis is most looking forward to the grudge match against the Canterbury Tactix (worst name in sport), "they've always been our biggest rivals."

Shannon Francois grew up in Motueka, first picking up a netball when she was 7. This year she is juggling her netball commitments with full-time pharmacy study, so she is extremely busy. Francois has been a part of the Silver Ferns training group for the past season and according to Purvis, she's really one to watch.

When Critic asked why students don't identify with the Southern Steel at all, Francois replied that the Steel is trying to address the problem. "We are trying to get out in the community a lot. We are going to a lot of schools and things like that but we aren't doing much for students. There are more students in the team now so hopefully our friends will come along." However, given that Lion Foundation Arena seats 3000 a better strategy than "your mates should come watch" might be needed.

By the time you read this the first round of the ANZ championship will be done. The Steel is playing New Zealand's toughest team, the Wai-kato/BOP Magic (they have Irene van Dyk). Dunedin fans get a chance to see the Steel on April 21 when they take on the West Coast Fever at Lion Foundation Arena.

To the casual fan, netball seems to be dying a slow death. Audiences are declining and franchises are living consistently outside their means. But netball administrators are trying desperately to initiate a renaissance in the sport. Though the domestic competitions and trans-Tasman rivalry remain strong enough, international netball has been even more of a two-horse race than ever in recent years. New Zealand beats Australia, Australia beats New Zealand and the refs blow the pea out of the whistle for an hour. The product has become stale and interest is dissolving.

The solution? Fastnet. It's shorter, they have "power plays", "two-pointers" and non-alternating centre passes. Many think it's gimmicky, unimaginative and that they might as well just play basketball (well I think that) but Fastnet is the horse to which netball has hitched its wagon and that's that. Netball New Zealand desperately wants a piece of the T20/Rugby sevens/party-sports pie, and Fastnet is how they are going to get it. The oldies might not like it but they'll die soon anyway. It's the future people, but not as we know it.

RED AND STARRY EYED

ON MAORI CULTURE IN EDUCATION

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY, MANY NEW ZEALANDERS HOPED MAORI would die out. Their numbers were declining quickly, but a hundred years later we claim to be Aotearoa – a multicultural, bilingual society. We may be multicultural, but our society has very little Maori left in it. And our government's current quest for standardisation in education is threatening Te Reo even more.

The Crown is currently in court, accused of limiting the funding to Kohanga reo and thus deteriorating their quality. These centres have given kids a 100% Maori preschool education for more than 30 years and there is no need to cut the services. They are run by the community and studies suggest that kids immersed in these schools are twice as likely to attend university.

The Kohanga Reo Trust Board wants the government to separate the preschools from the Ministry of Education, and to put funding at a par with other preschool institutions. It is the government's duty to do this if we want to continue calling New Zealand a bilingual society. Moreover, Te Reo should be compulsory education for primary and secondary schools. Kids should be able to leave school knowing more than one to 10 and a couple of mispronounced phrases. Maori is an active part of our identity and performing the haka will not suffice. Unless someone, Maori or Pakeha, can go to the supermarket asking for bread and butter in Te Reo, we are at risk of losing our culture and history. In ten years time, we will be no different from an English county, or an Australian province.

The Crown says it needs to standardise education so that it can ensure we all come out of high school as robots without critical capacity. Standardisation is a one-size-fits-all straightjacket. It culls creativity and culture to make an "average individual". There is nothing wrong with community-run schools, especially if they are more successful than your average kindy. The trust says the Crown is not taking into account the "cultural needs of Maori". Red and Starry Eyed thinks the Crown has never taken into account the needs of Maori. They have been robbed across the centuries, but we still have time to recover an important slice of Kiwi culture.

Maori in preschool is a good start if we want to keep an identity that is much more than rugby.

RED AND STARRY EYED



It's Voluntary Jim, but not as we know it

CALLUM FREDRIC

DID YOU KNOW OUSA CONSIDERS YOU A MEMBER OF THEIR ORGANISATION?

Well they do. It doesn't matter that you didn't sign up, OUSA President Logan Edgar reckons there's no law preventing OUSA from signing up every single student as a member, so long as they're not being directly charged any fees.

The voluntary student membership (VSM) legislation states: "No student ... is required to be a member of a students' association." Edgar argues OUSA is allowed to sign up all Otago students, so long as he gives them the option of quitting.

The battle over this decision is mainly philosophical, centred around whether students' right to freedom of association is being breached. There is a slight practical element to the debate too – by signing everyone up as a member, whenever OUSA makes a public statement, they can claim to be representing 20,000+ students. This makes them appear more legitimate in the eyes of the public.

Money Buys Happiness,

CALLUM FREDRIC

IT'S A COMMON MYTH THAT MONEY BUYS ELECTIONS – IN NEW ZEALAND

at least, this is simply not the case. Evidence from several NZ elections has shown no real link between party spending and votes received.

In the 2011 election campaign, the six biggest spenders were (in order): National, \$2.3m; Conservatives, \$1.9m; Labour, \$1.8m; Greens, \$780,000; ACT, \$620,000; NZ First, \$155,000.

So the Conservative Party spent more than Labour, yet Labour got more than 10-times as many votes. And this isn't just because Labour's a major party – the NZ First Party spent a quarter as much as ACT, yet received six times as many votes.

These are politicians we're talking about, so you know they're also getting plenty of public funding in other ways, such as free broadcasting, funding for electorate offices (which are often used for campaigning), and free flights. Most of these freebies only apply to the parties that were in Parliament at the time, which makes NZ

trum



The Tory Templar

Of course, some students feel Edgar doesn't represent their views, and a few unhappy campers have already written in to tell OUSA they want out.

Young Nationals Southern Region Vice-President Todd Dickens says OUSA's automatic enrolment "undermines the VSM law change", and Dickens and his fellow Young Nats are considering whether to take action against OUSA. "To claim an opt-out system is voluntary is nothing but a cheap cop-out."

Edgar argues OUSA's campaigns have broad support among students, such as the petition opposing the liquor ban. Says Edgar "We're never going to side with a political party."

In previous years, OUSA used to offer special deals to members, such as \$10 cheaper tickets to O-Week events, and if a student somehow managed to quit as a member of OUSA, they would no longer get the benefits of membership. These days, all students will get the benefits of membership, even the ones who opt out of OUSA.

There are rumours of a legal challenge to OUSA's actions. OUSA insists that they're not doing anything illegal. Critic hopes the matter goes to court. There's nothing like a good old fashioned courtroom drama.

But Not Elections

First's election result even more impressive, given that they missed out on most of the public funding and resources.

In terms of votes per dollar spent, the Conservatives and ACT did not get bang for their buck, spending \$31.70 and \$25.80 per vote respectively. Compare this to the Greens (\$3.15 per vote), Labour (\$2.91), National (\$2.19), and NZ First (\$1.06). There really doesn't seem to be any link between spending and actually getting votes.

One of the implications of these stats is that NZ might be able to relax some of the strict laws around election campaign spending. Because the evidence is telling us what we already knew in our hearts – no one has their vote swayed by billboards displaying photos of smiling politicians.

And seriously, take one more look at those numbers. The Conservative Party spent a casual \$1.9million. That's a lot of cash considering they barely received half the number of votes they needed to get into Parliament. They obviously aren't conservative when it comes to splashing out on promotional zeppelins and skywriting.

ON MAORI CULTURE IN EDUCATION

A CASE IS CURRENTLY IN FRONT OF THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL LOOKING INTO THE running of Maori-language preschools. These centres claim they need more funding and separate legislation to ensure that the language survives. This raises an interesting question – what role should Maori language and culture play in our school system, if any?

No doubt Maori culture should and does have a place in New Zealand's society, but whether that place should be secured by legislation is doubtful. The protection of Maori language and customs should be the responsibility of Maori communities and families, just as religion is. If we are going to ensure that the school system officially incorporates Maori into mainstream teaching then surely the teaching of religious education should stretch beyond the boundaries of Catholic schools?

The Templar thinks that if you are going to go about making less than a fifth of your population a central part of your education system, then the 2/3 of New Zealanders who identify as being religious deserve to have religious education legislated into the system too. Somehow I see this being controversial and that is the problem. At what point should government interfere to protect minority customs in general education? Put simply, it's not the government's job to dictate what culture should be favoured over another. It never has been and should never be.

The place for education of Maori culture should be in history and social studies classes. Beyond that the establishment of specific after-school programmes that teach the customs and language of Maori is far more likely to succeed than forcing schools to teach it to kids who simply don't want to learn. If families then choose to emerge their children in Maori culture they have the option too, free from state intervention. After all our culture comes from our home, our family, and our beliefs, all of which should be free from the meddling of the state, as long as we are not harming others.

The Templar is sick and tired of the government's pandering to such a small minority merely because of past wrongs. The purpose of the Waitangi Tribunal should not be as a forum for lobbying government. Preserving Maori culture is the responsibility of Whanau and Iwi, not the job of the state. If it becomes such then every culture under the sun should have a right to see its customs made part of the education system.

THE TORY TEMPLAR

New Zea Dis-organ-i



Image copyright: Mary Williams / Barnes Jewish Hospital

To the 5 med students who read Critic: the internet told us this was a kidney transplant operation. We really have no idea if that's true, not being surgeons and all. If it isn't, feel free to send us mocking letters insulting our lack of advanced surgical knowledge. K thx.

land's sation

By Callum Fredric

Need a kidney?
How about a new heart? Better settle in for a long spell on the waiting list – New Zealand has one of the lowest organ donation rates in the Western world. Critic's Callum Fredric investigates the reasons behind the organ shortage, the potential solutions, and the ethical dilemmas posed by these solutions.

ORGAN DONATION NEW ZEALAND (ODNZ) IS THE ORGANISATION responsible for coordinating deceased donations in New Zealand. Its website states: "More than 400 New Zealanders are waiting for an organ transplant. People waiting for a heart, lungs or liver will die without a successful transplant while those waiting for a kidney transplant lead lives restricted by long-term dialysis treatment."

New Zealand has one of the lowest rates of deceased organ donation in the Western world, with just 8.7 donations per million people each year. When you compare this number with those of Spain (32.0), the UK (16.4), and Australia (13.5), this is a serious concern.

So what's the deal? Why does New Zealand have such a low rate? And what can be done to improve the situation? Critic assembled a panel of experts and began researching.

PEOPLE JUST AIN'T DYING LIKE THEY USED TO

DEFENDERS OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM NOTE THAT FEW PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF the very limited conditions under which organs can be donated.

John McCall, Professor of Surgery and pioneering liver transplant surgeon, argues: "There's an assumption we're doing something wrong in New Zealand, but we should consider that actually we're doing something right."

"From deceased donors, organ donation has to happen under certain circumstances where somebody suffers brain death or an irreversible brain injury, but their organs are still in okay shape. For practical purposes, that almost always happens when people end up in an Intensive Care Unit."

"The two most common causes of brain death are head injury and stroke. In the last 15–20 years in New Zealand, the number of road traffic injuries (which is the main cause of brain injury leading to brain death) has halved. The number of deaths from stroke has halved." While this is good news for most, it results in fewer organs being available for donation.

Suffering the "right" kind of injury is just the first hurdle for the wannabe organ donor. The next step is to actually get admitted to an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). But this doesn't happen as often in NZ as overseas – we simply have fewer ICUs per person than other countries. McCall: "That means ICUs sometimes get incredibly stretched. And their primary responsibility is to look after the living."

Donor Coordinator and Team Leader at ODNZ Janice Langlands states: "We don't admit patients into the ICUs for the sole purpose of organ donation. So if there's a catastrophic brain injury and it looks like they're not going to survive, they probably wouldn't get admitted to an ICU in New Zealand."

IT'S ALL ABOUT INFORMED CONSENT

THE MOST COMMONLY CITED OBJECTION TO THE ORGAN DONATION SYSTEM IS THAT family members can trample on the wishes of the deceased and refuse to allow his or her organs to be donated. But although the family veto is disturbing ethically, it actually doesn't make much of a practical difference to organ donation rates.

When you tick "organ donor" on your driver's licence application, it basically means bugger all. The law is all about "informed consent"



– unless a person has given “informed consent” prior to his becoming brain-dead, the decision about whether to donate the brain-dead patient’s organs passes over to the family. For better or worse, ticking the “donor” box on your driver’s licence does not count as informed consent in New Zealand.

Langlands: “In the ICU, the doctors will discuss the option of organ donation with the family. They don’t routinely check the driver’s licence information before they do that. Most commonly, families carry out what their loved one wanted, if it’s been discussed. We’re always trying to encourage people to discuss their wishes with their families in advance.”

Langlands describes the idea of families vetoing dozens of organs a year as a red herring. “It’s a myth. About 48% of the population who have a driver’s licence have indicated that they want to be a donor. When families are approached in the ICU about 50% of families say yes, and 50% say no. If we did enforce what’s on the driver’s licence, we might actually see a drop in donations.”

DESIGNER DONATION – SHOULD DONORS BE ALLOWED TO SPECIFY WHO THEY WANT TO DONATE TO?

WITH DECEASED DONATION, THERE’S NO OPTION TO PICK AND CHOOSE HOW YOU’D like your organs to be used in the event of your suffering a fatal injury – it’s an all-or-nothing system. So you can’t refuse to donate your lungs to a smoker. However many are calling for a prioritised system, with preference given to people who have themselves offered to donate their organs.

Dr Eric Crampton, Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University of Canterbury, says: “I would start by looking at what’s been successful in Israel recently – they experienced a dramatic increase in the number of organ transplants in 2011. They’ve recently moved towards prioritising those on the organ transplant list who have indicated a willingness to be donors.”

Organ Donation Law Reform Campaigner Andy Tookey started a

private, voluntary version of Israel’s system here in New Zealand: “LifeSharers is a private organ donation register, with a slight difference, which is that when people sign up, they pledge that their organs go to other registered organ donors first. Unfortunately a bunch of doctors have said that they would refuse organs with any conditions attached.”

“My point to them was that we’re the shortest of organs in the world, LifeSharers will increase the number of organs, and you’re saying you’d actually throw away perfectly healthy organs just because your morals don’t agree with the morals of the person donating those organs.”

“There will come a stage where one of our members does die in circumstances where they can be an organ donor, the doctors will turn it down, and then it will become a huge test case in law. I think the public would be right behind me on it, rather than the doctors or the politicians. Most people say ‘this is my body, my organs, don’t tell me what to do with it.’ It’s not

up to the government to tell me what to do with my organs.”

McCall strongly opposes the idea behind LifeSharers, describing it as “absolutely abhorrent. We don’t discriminate on what treatment is offered to people based on their beliefs or what they may or may not have been willing to do under different circumstances.”

McCall may not approve of the ethics, but allowing priority organ access to people who are willing to donate would likely increase organ donation rates, as demonstrated in Israel. As Tookey says, the current system is like “giving a Lotto prize to somebody who didn’t buy a ticket”. It seems only fair that you should have to be in to win.

ORGAN MARKETS – SHOW ME THE MONEY

ANYONE FAMILIAR WITH THE ARGUMENTS FOR LEGALISING THE SALE OF DRUGS will immediately recognise many of the arguments for legalising the sale of organs. 1) When you make selling something illegal, the sales still occur, but are driven underground, with damaging consequences. 2) People have the right to use/abuse their own bodies. 3) While your gut reaction might say no to legalisation, when you look closer you can see advantages.

In the case of kidney and partial liver donations, an increasing number are being given by live donors as a way of getting family or friends out of waiting-list limbo. McCall notes: “About 10–15% of our liver transplants are from live donors, and 50% of our kidney transplants.”

So are organ markets the way to go? Would you sell one of your kidneys if the price was right? Crampton argues that organ markets “are preferable to what we have now. They would do a lot to increase supply.”

Crampton continues: “I would also look at compensating those who are signing on to have their organs donated after death. The University of Otago’s Med Centre is effectively allowed to help pay funeral costs for those making whole cadaveric donations for medical research, but there’s no facility for compensating those who make organ donations to help save lives.”

ETHICAL DILEMMAS

ETHICAL DILEMMAS RELATING TO ORGAN MARKETS ARE BASED ON TWO CONCERNS:

Firstly, a belief that it is fundamentally immoral to mix dollars and donation. Secondly, concerns about the poor being exploited by cash-for-your-eyes shops.

McCall: "I find the idea of organ markets abhorrent. Where commerce has had things to do with organ donation, terrible things happen. If you make it legal it's still open to exploitation, and I think trading organs for money is fundamentally ethically untenable. The people who are most exploited by that tend to be the poor."

Crampton responds: "It's interesting that 100 years ago people viewed life insurance as repugnant because it was betting on people's death, so it took a long time before life insurance became legal. Organ markets are in the same position – something that's a good idea, makes the world a better place once it's running properly, but our moral intuitions run counter to them."

"It would be fairly easy to set up a system that maintains security of supply all the way through, where you know who the donor was, that he was willing, that there was appropriate consent and information given, and the compensation went through properly."

"The status quo is killing people because some ethicists would feel bad if we allowed incentives to come into the system. Perhaps the ethicists should be working for free if financial incentives are so corrupting."

FINANCIAL BARRIERS TO LIVE ORGAN DONATION

PEOPLE CONSIDERING BECOMING A LIVE DONOR OF a kidney or half a liver are faced with a long and difficult process. The costs of this process, as well as the costs of transport and accommodation, are paid by the transplant unit. A support person is also provided for. After the surgery, however, the donor faces a long recovery time in which he or she will not be able to work.

Dunedin North-based National MP Michael Woodhouse has a bill in the members' ballot in Parliament. "Presently those who provide live organ donation are eligible for the sickness benefit for up to 12 weeks following their surgery. And people have told me that that is insufficient to reduce the final barrier to altruistic organ donation. So I've introduced a bill that reimburses live organ donors up to 80% of their lost income, as with ACC."

Daniel* has experienced the live donation process first-hand – his daughter was stuck on the waiting list for a liver transplant for three years, and during this time her condition deteriorated. Eventually, Daniel opted to give a live donation. "We delayed the surgery simply so that we could save as much as we could for six months. We could have lost my daughter, but we felt we couldn't do it any other way."

During his recovery after the surgery,

Daniel felt "extremely tired" due to the huge toll regrowing his liver was taking on his body. "After three months, I felt I had to go back to work. But it was 12 months before I felt close to 100% again."

"I was very lucky that I had an employer that paid me for three months. If you're the sole breadwinner for a family, the sickness benefit wouldn't have covered the mortgage. How many people out there would like to become a live organ donor, but realise financially they couldn't afford it?"

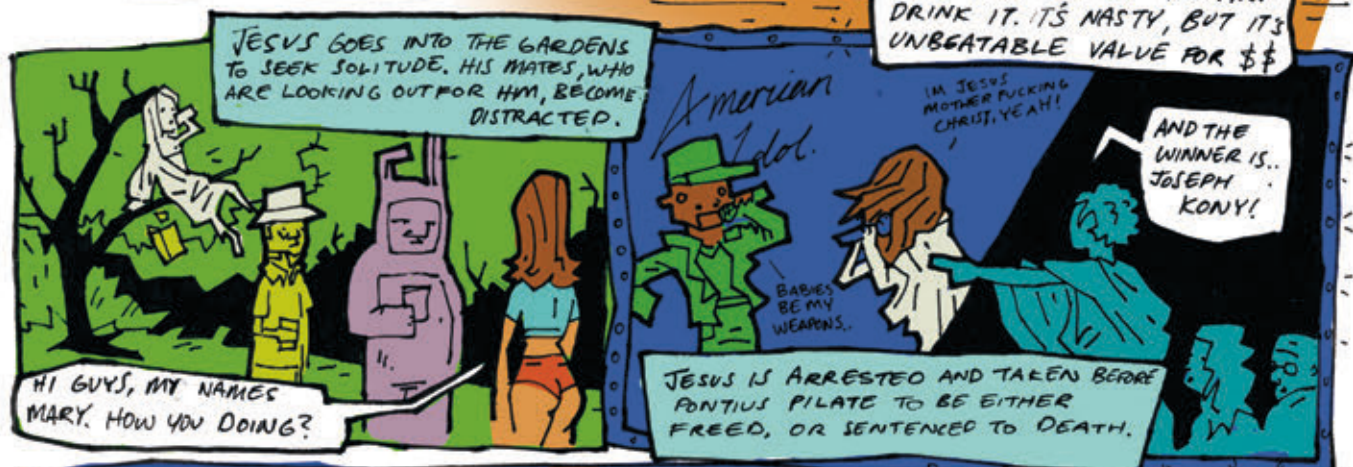
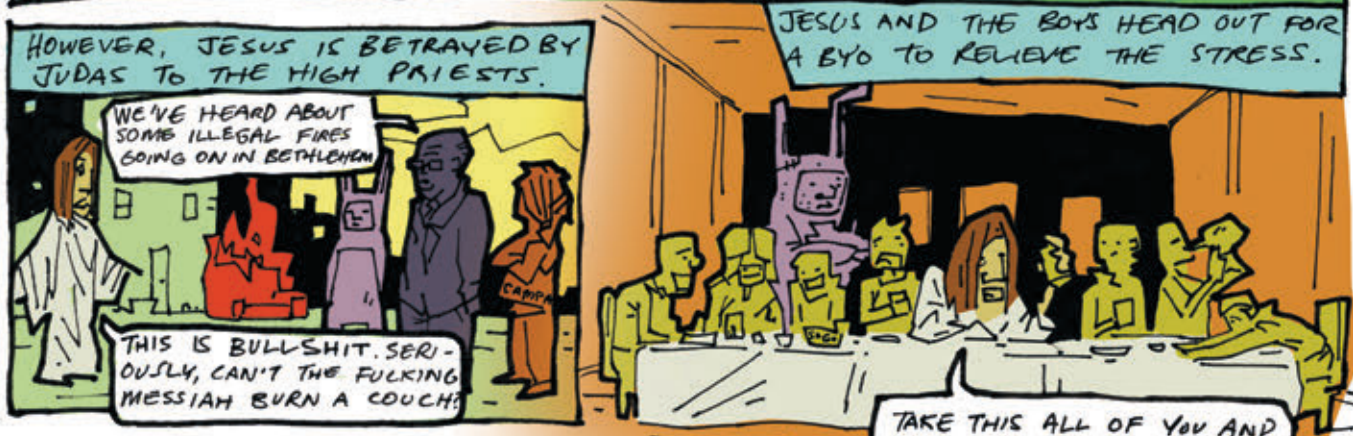
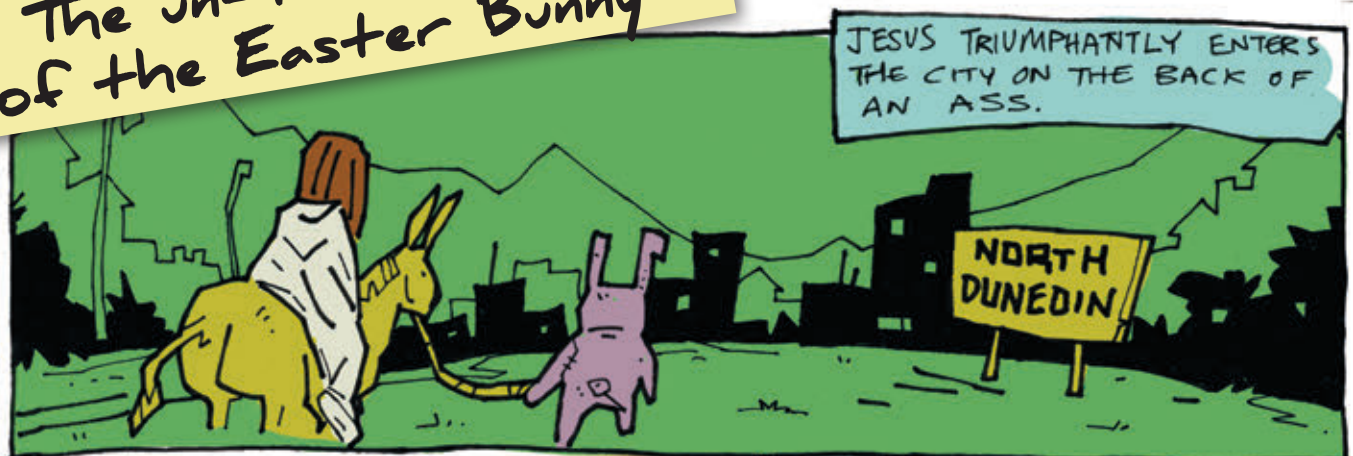
Daniel endorses Woodhouse's bill as "brilliant". But the chances of the bill being drawn out of the ballot are slim, and there's no plan to introduce it as a government bill.

I CAN HAZ KIDNEEZ?

NEW ZEALAND'S LOW ORGAN DONATION RATES ARE A HUGE CONCERN, WITH NO easy solutions. Getting informed is the first step, so congratulations. The next step is to get some public discussion happening. *Critic's* scientists predict that up to 75% of Castle Street residents will require a new liver before the age of 40. Seriously though, let your family know if you want to be an organ donor – you never know when that roof you're drinking on might collapse.



The un-told story of the Easter Bunny









Hyde St 2012





Scarfies on the piss



Want to see more debauchery from Hyde St?

Like "Critic - Te Arohi" on Facebook or visit critic.co.nz for full photo galleries, as well as the Hyde St Critic TV episode.



Kava and Politics

Fiji's Eternal Struggle With Democracy

By Michael Neilson

I'M SURE FOR MOST OF YOU, FIJI INSPIRES ROMANTIC IMAGES OF PURE white sand beaches laden with coconut trees. Crystal clear waters leading out to mesmerizing sunsets glistening over the Pacific. Ah, Fiji: The pinnacle of tranquility – slightly different to your average Castle Street flat.

But is this the real Fiji? For the typical tourist, who jets in, jumps on a boat and cruises out to one of the many surrounding resort islands, this is the island of your dreams. But for those living on the mainland, especially around the political hotspot of Suva, life is a lot different.

I'm not sure how many of you follow Fijian politics (probably not a lot) but if there is one word to sum it up, it would be crazy. Jeff Hampton, a TV reporter for 3 News, lived in Fiji for three years in the 1990s: "The politics over there is really complicated. There's racial politics, tribal politics, provincial politics, all working for and against each other."

In the last 25 years there have been four coups d'état, and in the last six years Fiji has been under the iron thumb of Commodore Frank Bainimarama's dictatorship. Since seizing power in 2006 he has completely censored the media, revoked the constitution, created emergency powers (which give him the ability to control everything) and put a member of the military in almost all positions of power in

his government.

While the regime is not responsible for anywhere near the levels of violent repression we see in other dictatorships around the world, there is a sense of fear in the general population, and people are certainly scared of voicing any dissent. Bainimarama claims that what he is doing is necessary to put Fiji on the "path to democracy", however the question is whether he is going the right way about it.

"At the beginning I hated what he was doing. Using the army to threaten his own people – beating up your own people is a bad way to go about it," says Fijian Otago University student Isireli Savo Guise. Says another Fijian student, "Being here is alright for me, because I am getting an education, but I don't know how it is for my family back home, how they are dealing with the situation,"

However there are also Fijians who look past the obvious flaws in Bainimarama's regime, to focus on the political history of Fiji. Eric Nabalagi, a Fijian working at the Pacific Island Centre, believes "He's [Bainimarama] trying to move forward, he's a good guy. If you meet him in person, he's a good guy. But the way the media talks about him: Dictator, evil, and a murderer – I don't think so. He's trying really put Fiji back to stability." to put Fiji back to stability."

It is difficult to gauge exactly what is going on in Fiji, as the local media is heavily censored, and foreign media have been almost entirely kicked out. On top of this, various blogs and websites such as "CoupFourAndAHalf" spread wild rumours ranging from heavy corruption through to murder by the regime. Without any rule of law in Fiji there is now way of knowing who is telling the truth. So the question has to be asked, are Bainimarama and his regime really as bad as they are made out to be?

TROUBLE IN PARADISE

FIJI IS REGARDED AS THE MOST POLITICALLY DEVELOPED OF THE PACIFIC ISLAND nations. However, ever since Fiji became independent in 1970, the political system has never been stable. Professor Jacqui Lackie, head of the Anthropology Department here at Otago University, believes that "one of the big problems is the history of Fiji, the way the colonial regime structured the economy and the polity, and not just that, but social divides as well."

The British played a large role in dividing society prior to independence by creating an "elite class" and keeping indigenous and Indo-Fijians separate. "There are many parts of Fiji, I think, that feel that they have had a really raw deal, that feel they have been neglected by the colonial government, and also after independence in 1970," reflects Lackie. Throw into this mix a weak parliamentary system and high levels of corruption and you have the perfect formula for the political unrest that has become synonymous with Fiji in the last few decades.

The first two coups d'etat occurred in 1987 when a group of disgruntled Fijians overthrew the Labour-led government. The Prime Minister at the time, Timoci Bavadra had created a coalition with the hugely powerful Indo-Fijian-dominated National Federation Party. Many in the ethnic Fijian population felt that the new government did not represent them, and when land reform attempts led many to believe that land would be taken from ethnic Fijians, the military overthrew Bavadra's government (the first coup) and disestablished the Fijian monarchy (the second coup).

The next coup occurred in 2000 after an Indo-Fijian, Mahendra Chaudhry, was elected Prime Minister. Businessman George Speight led this coup and again tapped into the racial divides in Fiji at the time, gaining many indigenous Fijian sympathisers. This coup was by far the most violent and bloody, resulting in the deaths of three soldiers, and five further deaths in retaliation.

Jeff Hampton was in Fiji at the time covering the coup, "The Speight coup was pretty violent and out of control. They rampaged around and smashed up the TV station ... They trashed a lot of the town." Speight and his supporters stormed the Parliament buildings on 19 May 2000, and took Prime Minister Chaudhry and the Cabinet hostage for 56 days. The crisis ended in July, when Commodore Frank Bainimarama stepped up to the plate and named Laisenia Qarase Prime Minister, who would go on to lead Fiji until the next coup in 2006, led by Bainimarama himself.

A "BAINIMARAMA REPUBLIC"

THE RECENT TROUBLE IN FIJI BEGAN IN ON 4 DECEMBER IN 2006, WHEN COM-modore Bainimarama led the "coup to end all coups", with the support of the entire military. Hampton recalls: "It was more organized and controlled, and there was plenty of warning that it was coming". At the

They smashed up houses that flew opposition slogans, and intimidated the people – beat them up, took them up to the barracks and gave them the bash

root of the problem was a conflict between the government and the military. Bainimarama had warned the government that if they passed legislation pardoning the perpetrators of the 2000 coup, he himself would overthrow them.

On 6 December, Bainimarama proclaimed that the military had taken control and that Parliament had been dissolved. He cited "bribery, corruption and the introduction of a controversial bill" as the primary motivations for the coup. He then went on to state, "We trust that the new government will lead us into peace and prosperity and mend the ever widening racial divide that currently besets our multicultural nation." However, six years on Fiji is still waiting for those elections.

While the coup was relatively non-violent, the military quashed any voices of dissent, and quickly built up an atmosphere of fear to reinforce their position in power. "They became very anti-democratic very quickly," says Hampton. "They smashed up houses that flew opposition slogans, and intimidated the people – beat them up, took them up to the barracks and gave them the bash. We've got video footage of what they did to a place called 'Democracy House', and the lady who owned the house got tortured." These random beatings and suppression of opposition voices created a level of fear in the general population.

BAINIMARAMA THE DICTATOR

AT A TIME WHEN DICTATORS ARE DROPPING LIKE flies all over the globe, Frank Bainimarama's





iron grip on Fiji is looking as strong as ever. So what is his secret?

Jeff Hampton recalls just prior to the 2006 coup seeing Bainimarama cruising the streets of Suva, standing out the back of his souped-up Mitsubishi convertible like some sort of celebrity. Then at the end of last year Bainimarama ordered two official inquiries into a text poll for Fiji's "Personality of the Year", which it was proposed he lost. In 2011, KFC decided to pack up their three stores and leave Fiji, claiming they were forced to either hand over their secret recipe, or leave the country.

Bainimarama also had "monitors" installed in all of the news stations and many of the journalists were threatened for reporting stories critical of the regime. Many of the news services were shut down for breaching these controls, while some continued in passive protest. Fiji's Daily Post reverted to simpler forms of journalism, printing articles such as "Man Gets on Bus" and "Breakfast as usual", about the various breakfast choices of the news team. While these may seem exciting to readers of the Otago Daily Times, they are not of the quality desired in a country as politically volatile as Fiji.

"UNCLE SAM" OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

NEW ZEALAND AND FIJI HAVE ALWAYS HAD A VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP. However in recent years New Zealand has shown Bainimarama's Fiji the cold shoulder. Acting like our somewhat more powerful allies, the United States, New Zealand has been putting the pressure on Bainimarama to revert back to democracy as soon as possible. Without the military threat of the real "Uncle Sam", the New Zealand government has had to settle for "travel sanctions", which prevent people linked to the regime from entering the country. Nonetheless, New Zealand development aid today hovers around \$20 million annually, and this has not diminished since Bainimarama's takeover.

While the travel sanctions have definitely affected Fiji's economy Bainimarama, instead of being pushed to New Zealand's whims, has turned his attention to the world's big players. Top Chinese and Russian officials have recently visited Fiji, and Bainimarama has boasted of a \$200 million "soft loan" from China for construction efforts. Sensing a move on their territory, America has also re-engaged with Fiji, and last year they opened the largest American embassy in the region. Looking slightly red in the face, New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully is now looking to resume contact with Fiji.

BACK TO THE FIJI OF OUR DREAMS?

GIVEN DEVELOPMENTS IN FIJI SO FAR THIS YEAR, THE FUTURE FOR FIJI MAY BE bright after all. In January, Bainimarama lifted emergency and media censorship laws and announced plans for a new constitution and elections in 2014. While many will take these announcements with a large grain of salt, there is reason to be hopeful. Foreign Minister McCully regards them as a "real step in the right direction" and has stated that New Zealand will relax the travel sanctions if there are clear indications that Bainimarama will keep his word.

Fijians themselves are a bit more cautious. "When he first came into power we were all happy with all those plans, like removing corruption, and making things better for everyone. But he's been in power for so long and promised so many things, and we are still wondering, are we even going to have elections in 2014?" says one Fijian student. "I am hoping we have a better future in Fiji, especially for the young people, and I hope that we go back to democracy," says Nabalagi. It seems everybody is hoping, except for the one man who has the power to change it all, Frank Bainimarama.



Me Love You Long Time

Dunedin is renowned for many things, but its dating scene is not one of them. Getting boozed and pashing people on the dance floor is hardly anyone's idea of romance, so Critic wants to sort you out. Every week we're sending two loveless loners on a blind date to Tokyo Gardens (with a bottle of wine to ease things along of course) to see if we can make some sparks fly. If you want in on the action, email critic@critic.co.nz.

CLARK

SO I WAS GETTING DRUNK AT HOME ON THE VODKA AND MOTHERS BECAUSE I thought a bit of Dutch courage would be both helpful and entertaining. I put away 4 solid sized glasses and a stack of mother for a boost and set out on my way, already running late, only because I know being late is a great ice-breaker, and that would make me the less awkward and stupid looking one. Looking just the right amount of skuxx. Not too skuxx, but skuxx enough to pull off cool but casual. I headed out.

Anyway onto my date, first impressions I thought she was cute and attractive so thanks Critic for not setting me up with a dusty minga. We moved into the booth to get crakin on our wine. Funnily enough we got on pretty well, 10 points on the chat there date. An hour went by and we hadn't even ordered, too busy smashing wine and with chat that good you gotta keep it going. Post feed and wine we headed out to carry on drinking at various Tuesday night hotspots, it must have been around 930pm.

I now realise how pissed I was really getting because im not sure if we went to moon bar on the way to octy. I do remember arriving at Dilluso. I was lucky enough to know the bartender, the talented and awesome Ofer who I think was hookin it up and making me look cool in front of my date, chur bo.

After a wonderful big night out on the town, wining, dining and drink-ing, I walked my date home because im such a gentlemen; funnily enough it was back to Unicol. My date invited me in because she had some pictures and stuff to show me, the guard wasn't on which made life easy. It was quite late at this point and we ended up fooling round, then my boy got a flicker of the old whisky dick. Shit what an awkward and rats moment to get a softy. Fuck you cock for being there for me when I needed you. Anyway it was quite clear to both parties that our night was over, so I bailed of course, getting my fat stumble on home to drunkenly wake up and annoy my flatty's to re-count the nights details (that I could remember).

All in all I rated the night, we got wasted, good chat, fun drunken wandering around town and even a few moments in between that no-one will ever remember or know. Cheers to my date shot for the night out and showing me your photos and stuff...

LOIS

I'M NOT GONNA LIE, I WAS NERVOUS. A FEW DRINKS WERE NEEDED TO GET THROUGH the pre-date jitters. I decided I'd have a glass of wine, or bottle, beforehand. To save time, I drank the wine critic gave to us and figured I'd pick up another on my way. After I finish the bottle I fight off my friends insisting it would be hilarious to smoke a big fat J with them before the big night. I win, and just show up tipsy.

I get there first (I guess I forgot about the whole fashionably late idea) and end up just sitting there like a fucking retard. He arrives and the first thing I think is WOW. He was massive! Tall, broad shoulders, looking liking a bouncer (later he tells me he is one for a club)

Usual conversation begins and the chat starts flowing. We piss off the elderly couple next to us and they leave. We further annoy the restaurant owners when half way through our second bottle of wine we haven't even ordered yet. We talk about everything, and the conversation is going pretty well. By the time our food arrives we realize that neither of us are hungry (I'm sure it was delicious), so we'll just go to a bar instead. He leaves his phone there and the sweet little Asian woman chases us half the way down the street.

Eventually we decide that we'll walk home. It's about 2am at this point. He walks me in, and I show him my room. (I don't think he's impressed, I'm a fresher and live in a college.) Floor-mates have put rose petals all over the floor leading up to the bed. Smooth guys.

After a few more yarns about my photos we start fooling around a little. Apparently the way to get head is to flop it out and say "suck it". Clearly I say no. We don't bone. But I sleep well.

My ginger friend informs me today that I should cut him some slack. They crushed up 2 Viagra and spiked the wine. Fantastic. Is that why he went to the toilet 3 times during dinner?

All in all, it was fun and pretty fucking random. He leaves me his number, and says he hopes I'll text him so we can have another date. He was a really nice guy, I think it was just too much of a drunken mess. The number is still sitting in the exact place he left it.



WHAT IS "QUEER"?

"QUEER" IS OFTEN USED AS A COMPOSITE TERM FOR SEX, SEXUALITY AND GENDER non-normative communities in Aotearoa. It is commonly used as an alternative to "LGBT" in order to be more encompassing of identities/behaviours outside this acronym.

Questions about queer often come up from both outside and within "queer/trans" communities. I thought I'd attend to some common ones from my experience.

Why do we use the word "queer" when it has such a painful history?

There are many answers to the question. One response is that using "queer" reclaims the power from those who might otherwise use it against us. By owning the word ourselves, we remove (most of) its sting. Now for some, the word "queer" is a term they associate with pride. This reclamation has been a part of a deliberate political struggle to find pride in identities/behaviours once associated with shame and pain. In a similar way some people have reclaimed words like slut, faggot, dyke and others.

I'm gay and I hate the word "queer"!

Fair enough. Many LGBT people do not identify with the word "queer". For some the word is too confrontational or carries too much historical baggage to be recuperated. For others, they simply have another word that fits better. Unlike gay/lesbian, the word queer does not fix sexual identities. It appreciates that these may shift and change, or be complex and messy. Many gay/lesbian/bi people object to the anti-normal orientation of "queer" – seeking for their identity to be seen as "legitimate" like heterosexuality. Some trans people may not identify with the word "queer" at all, as they experience their sexuality as straight.

Can queer be an identity in itself?

Yep. A number of people don't only use "queer" as an umbrella term, and actively identify their sexualities as queer. For some of us this means that our sexuality leaks out of the boxes of "straight", "gay", "bi" or "lesbian". For instance, how might someone explain fucking men, women, transmen and genderqueers? Or a woman who has been in relationships with women for 30 years but falls in love with a man? Identifying as queer allows these people to register their more complex realities of living and loving.

The most important point is, assume nothing. Some people might love using queer, others might hate it. It always pays to ask.

◀3 LA DIDA



THE BIG SLEEP (1946)

DIRECTOR: Howard Hawk

Private dicks, classy dames, grifting, shooting, and a whole lot of fedora hats, Howard Hawk's *The Big Sleep* is a smooth cocktail of intrigue, romance and suspense. Far removed from the Red Bull attitude of modern cinema, this classy cocktail should be savored and enjoyed; ideally with a nice dame on your arm.

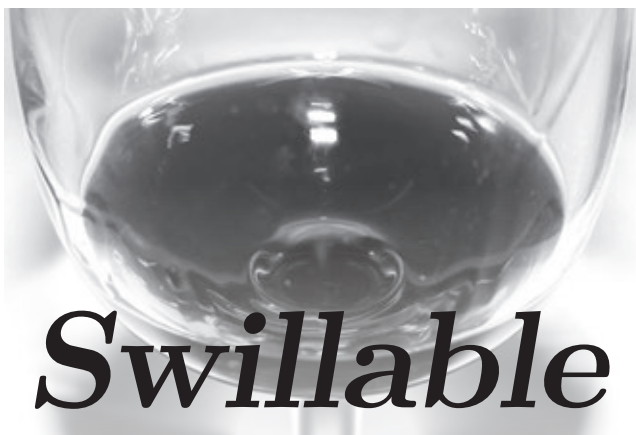
Set in urban Los Angeles in the late 1930s, *The Big Sleep* focuses on Phillip Marlowe, private detective. After being hired by a wealthy magnate to investigate the blackmail of his daughter, Marlowe finds himself drawn deep into a web of deception, extortion, and buried secrets, as he becomes further and further entangled in the seedy underground of LA. Humphrey Bogart fills the shoes of Marlowe perfectly, with his laconic and cheeky style, while Lauren Bacall, the love interest of the film, acts as a delightful contrast with her air of charisma and grace.

The dialogue in the film is sharp, witty and beautifully scripted. Bogart and Bacall both perform their roles brilliantly, and Bogart's sarcastic yet charming Marlowe clashes beautifully with Bacall's gracefully icy Carmen. The cinematography is splendidly classic in nature, and the black and white shots of urban LA contribute well to the film's gritty feel.

Though by no means a James Cameron blockbuster, the film has a great sense of pace and urgency as Marlowe closes in on the answers he seeks. Unfortunately, this pace is occasionally interrupted by the gaudy and suspenseful music that characterised movies of the era.

I thoroughly enjoyed the film, but it is very unlike the plotless action-filled orgies of modern cinema. The characters are developed and brilliantly acted; the script is not only well written, but genuinely funny; and the fast paced, engaging plot builds up to a climax on par with that of *Layer Cake* or *Lock Stock ...* plus, there are heaps of Fedora hats.

— MATT CHAPMAN



Swillable

RASPBERRY AND VODKA GOON

TASTE: 4/10, PRICE: \$22, STANDARDS PER VESSEL: 21, PERCENTAGE: 9%

'Twas the night before Hyde Street and I needed some horse juice for the big day ahead. I made a trip to Cumby Super Liquor to pick my poison with only one real option. I needed something that could go the distance while at the same time not being too much of a fucking tax to lug around. It was time to make amends with my old friend, Señor Goon.

Upon realising that my old favorite goon, the Fiesta Fruitpunch (a regular in my fresher year piss rotation), was nowhere to be found I had to make a tough decision. I already knew to stay the fuck away from Blue Lagoon goon and everything else sounded fucking disgusting so I eventually settled on a pretty pink raspberry and vodka goon, the logic being that no one would know I was drinking pink drink if it came from a generic silver bag.

Fast forward to Saturday, ceremonial slapping formalities were complete and I was dreading the first sip of my virgin goon. No one wants to wake up in the morning and drink goon for breakfast, apart from maybe Speedy. It hit my tongue and I was surprised not to have my gag reflex going berserk. It actually tasted OK, probably the tastiest goon I've come across. A few more sips plus a couple of shots and we were off to Hyde.

After numerous keg stands, amongst other intoxicants, my thirst wasn't overly grand and I managed to make the goon last the day.

I was pretty hammered by the time the police kicked everyone out so that was good. I'd usually recommend something that doesn't taste like shit but if mobility or stealth is a requirement (think Rugby/Cricket sneaks) or you happen to be close to broke and needing maximum bang for your buck then get amongst the goon. Just make sure you treat it with respect because it will fucking destroy you if you're not careful.

Your boy,

PILLBO SWAGGINS



CRITIC IS GOING TO BE FAIR TO THE ODT. WE HATE TO DO IT, BUT THEIR COVERAGE of the Hyde Street Keg Party was actually pretty balanced. Sure they interviewed two landlords and tried to make it sound like every property owner on the street was calling for the party to end; but generally they talked to both sides, and accurately reported what happened. It was almost like reading a real newspaper. Almost.

However:

Need for Wanaka roundabouts questioned

The regions often get overlooked in Dunedin, but not in the ODT. They're right there with the hard-hitting issues affecting everyday New Zealanders. Like roundabouts ...

They are also seriously concerned about the impact of the Marmite shortage on everyday New Zealanders, and you know, prisoners.

'Marmageddon' spreads to prisons

Apparently NZ's incarcerated types have run out of black gold as well, though Critic suspects some cunning prisoners in the kitchen probably just chucked it all up on TradeMe.

In international sporting news, the ODT got very excited that Tiger managed to get his wood away again. Though celebrating the fact that a sex addict got laid is possibly poor form. Or maybe they were talking about his golf win ... but probably not.

Woods breaks drought at last

And finally, summing up the genius of Dunedin landlords, this guy manages to contradict himself in under six seconds: The claims are unwarranted! Except that they're not and are actually completely true. What a good sort.





HOLA! WHASSUP FOLKS! WHAT A WEEK WE HAD! A SIEGE IN FRANCE, CAN YOU imagine?! A young disillusioned French of Algerian descent, who killed three Jewish kids, a rabbi and three Muslim French paramilitary troops was finally cornered in downtown Toulouse ... and bang! The drama starts! Did he surrender? Did France surrender? Was the German police needed, so that the Frenchmen can surrender? After one-and-a-half days of nerve-wrecking comedy, he finally died, NOT by French bullets, no my friend! He fell to his death, in excitement, while charging and firing on French police. Things can't possibly get more bizarre – but anyway, here are some better stories!

- 1** Remember last World Watch we talked about Stop Kony campaign? The director of the widely acclaimed and controversial video apparently had a "meltdown". That's what they call going epic insane on LSD, and running, gyrating naked, and masturbating on the road. Typical of hippies. Or maybe he is under a severe attack of Voodoo. We wish him speedy recovery though ... and a name suggestion for his next project. Stop Horny.
- 2** In other news, which carries on the legacy, a few Indian right wing ministers were found watching porn. Yeah, again. In a state assembly, from the same morally conservative right-wing party. Critic Editor Joe Stockman was mighty impressed by the consistency and suggested that he should make this news of Indian right-wing ministers watching porn a recurring feature in every World Watch – a suggestion I am really considering, as that will make my search a bit easy.
- 3** North Korea, arguably the most bizarre country in this bizarre planet, had its 415th triplet birth this week. The national media (i.e., the only media) of the already impoverished country claimed that this was due to the milk and honey treatment, which helps in triplet births, which are considered something wonderful. The mum, Kim Ok, is quite OK now and dad King Kong is quite happy as they will receive lots of gifts from Dear Leader Kim III.
- 4** This would have been funny had it not been so horribly sad. Mariya Dmitriyenko of Kazakhstan won the shooting championship in Kuwait, and found to her shock and horror, the soundtrack of Borat being played in place of her national anthem. The lyrics included sentences like Kazakh prostitutes cleanest in the region and come grasp the mighty penis of our leader. Apparently the hilariously inept Kuwaiti organizers got the soundtrack from Youtube, when they were searching for the national anthems.

SUMANTRA MAITRA



STUDENT DRINKING

STUDENT DRINKING HABITS HAVE AGAIN BEEN IN THE GLARE OF THE MEDIA. Otago University's Psychology Department recently released groundbreaking research, revealing previously unknown truths about the detrimental effects of getting OTP. The findings showed that students' cognitive functioning was affected the day after a binge, with them finding it hard to concentrate on their studies. Even more insightful was the discovery that they felt tired, and even sometimes sick, after a night on the booze.

I did not need to conduct a research experiment to learn that excessive alcohol consumption also causes people to do dumb shit. Unsurprisingly, then, each weekend a number of students are arrested for alcohol-related offences. Such acts fall primarily into two categories:

Disorderly behaviour

You can be arrested under section 3 of the Summary Offences Act if in, or in view of, a public place you act in a way that is likely to cause violence against people or property. This includes favourite scarfie pastimes such as throwing bottles and running over cars.

Offensive behaviour

Someone commits an act of offensive behaviour if in, or within view of, a public place, they behave in a disorderly or offensive manner. This usually involves using words likely to insult or offend. In determining this, a police officer will have regard to the circumstances in which they were used. A defence is available to those who can prove they had reasonable grounds to believe the person or people would not have been offended.

Similarly, it is a defence to "excreting in a public place" if you show reasonable grounds for believing you would not have been seen. If you get your willy out on George Street this one isn't going to work wonders for you unfortunately, but you might be okay to cack yourself behind the Cook on the way home.

Acts of damage are also a favourite. Guys often commit rogue acts of wilful damage when peeled. Favourites include kicking off wing mirrors, defacing trees, and damaging signs and letterboxes. Campus Cop Max Holt put this down to "angry boys", although I am not sure he was referring to Nathan off the TV series. Nathan on the rage may perhaps engage in acts of sorts, but you should not aspire to be like Nathan.

ALICE O'CONNELL



WE TRAWLED FACEBOOK TRYING TO FIND A FUN SOCIETY TO VISIT WHEN WE came upon an invite to the Otago University Debating Society opening function, to be held at Monkey Bar of all places. Sold.

JOHN:

The number of people at the event impressed me. By the law of large numbers I knew there had to be some skuxes and in fact a lot of people stood out, giving the impression that "This person is a character". I later learned that Michael Laws and a new Green MP are old OUDS members.

The OUDS women were generally physically fit and pretty sassy to talk to. I talked to one blonde who other guys were comparing to Margaret Thatcher. Young Iron Ladies: Hotness. Later, the Executive of the debating society crossed the upper floor of Monkey as a sort of introduction ceremony. Olivia and I were in agreement that the male members of the exec were particularly juicy and we found ourselves both similarly fond of the "developing officer", whatever that is.

The party moved from Monkey Bar to the president of the society's flat for a keg party. It was actually pretty ruckus and the president of the society did a huge keg stand along with several other members of the society. I began surveying the scene more thoroughly to find an interesting cross-section of people at the debating society in terms of different years and backgrounds. I pashed a loudmouthed second-year just outside the party before heading out to town. I rate OUDS potential highly.

OLIVIA:

I expected a lot of loudmouthed nerds and obnoxious Young Labs/Acts/Nats/whatever and there were a couple. But definitely still some skux potential. The social rep of the society was friendly and stood out as a skux (I had seen him at pint nights before at Re:Fuel).

Many of the women had a real feminist angle and were very well-spoken but I couldn't quickly figure out if any of the women there were also into women, which stymied my efforts. The party at Monkey finished as I was exchanging eyes and numbers with a tall American exchange student and I decided to head to town instead of going to the keg party. In short, a pretty skuxable evening. Chur, OUDS.

Much love,
JOHN & OLIVIA

"NO FRINGE, NO INDIE" AIMS TO SKETCH THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF different sub-cultures at Otago University. This week, ladies and gentlemen, we are going to look at that strange breed that generally congregates around the Sale/Black House, otherwise known as the "Heavy Metaller".

Destroying the ears of our youth since the 1970s, heavy metal "thunderstruck" the world in both a literal, physical, spiritual and emotional sense. According to Ian Chapman of the Music Department, "four of the most common heavy metal signifiers [include] gothic horror, war, sex and science fiction." He also suggests that "sadism and masochism" feature in their attire, but combined with sexual androgyny – let's not go there this week. Traditional black and/or semi nudity is often the flavour of choice. So too are ripped jeans, or biker regalia – (any affiliation with an actual motorcycle is not necessary). Hair must also be emphasized; the more, the better to "rage" with. Warning: Struggling musicians naturally don't prioritise hygiene or clothing – this of course is reserved for 'emos'. Instead, music (at the highest volume possible) is at the core of these lovelies.

At first, I deliberated whether to promote a "sugar cookie" recipe in the shape of say, a headless bat – it would certainly be more politically correct than eating a live bat and less offensive than that insufferable heavy metal byproduct, Kelly Osbourne. However, best to avoid such scathing Black Sabbath references – what a "sell out" that would be. Instead this week's crafty creation shall involve physical activity, or more specifically, how to survive a heavy metal concert.

- 1** Complete exercises for perfecting one's "moshing" technique. Use this time productively – bounce that head from side to side while cleaning; for example, a vacuum is a great guitar substitute.
- 2** Stamina, pace and endurance is sometimes required for a typical "circle of death". Ergo, taking up casual jogging and other quad-improving exercises such as wall-sits and squats might prove useful.
- 3** As for the concert itself, God have mercy on those poor individuals who happen to get swept up in the madness. If a circle of death comes your way, jut out those arms like a chicken, raise your feet and pray the tide of sweaty heathens leads you to safety. The more densely populated the moshpit the better – preferably avoid the jugular and/or ribs, if possible. You might get done for assault.
- 4** Finally, violent headbanging often induces a stiff neck. As a precautionary measure, keep a wee bottle of "Deep Heat" in one's leather jacket pocket. Either that, or perhaps invest a little time to perfect neck massage exercises. This might also help you in the romance department.

SASHA BORISSENKO

Scrawls and Swirls

THE LECTURER IS DRONING ON AND ON, AND YOU'RE BORED TO DEATH BUT can't be bothered taking notes. Inevitable solution? You start doodling. Stars, spirals, stickmen, dragons, Pokémon – whatever takes your fancy. They might one day appear in a gallery as part of your own art exhibition.

"Doodles" are what essentially make up the bulk of Georgie Peter's current exhibition, "Kokoro Kara 2.0", at Mint Gallery. His work consists of a large variety of subjects and mediums, including but not limited to ballpoint pen landscapes, paper clip portraits and rough pencil still-lives. At times coloured and other times only vaguely sketched, the combination of all his drawings and paintings in one space is immensely delightful and immediately appealing; yours truly was drawn on a whim into the gallery on a Saturday night whilst en route to the alcohol store (go figure). The multimedia nature of the artworks pleases not only the sense of sight but also of touch. Peter stresses that viewers are free to turn over and more closely examine individual pieces if they wish.

The uniqueness of each artwork is another thing Peter particularly emphasizes – he explains that his "concept has always been anti-mass



"Kokoro Kara 2.0" by Georgie Peter
Mint Gallery, 32 Moray Place
16 March–6 April 2012

production," and so he very deliberately creates original hand-made pieces, ensuring that "no two are alike". Overall, the exhibition spans several genres, ideas and everyday topics, encompassing anything that interests, inspires, provokes or frustrates Peter as an artist. He describes it simply as a tangible outpouring of "the inner workings of [my] head."

I wish the inner workings of my head looked that aesthetically appealing on paper. But pop along and have a look (and a touch!), and get inspired to start doodling yourself.



La Bella Luna

"The Moon Knows" By Mary McFarlane
Glue Gallery, 26 Stafford Street
17 March–15 April 2012

I'M JUST GOING TO PUT IT OUT THERE: THE FULL moon is kind of, well, freaky. Studies have cropped up throughout history striving to prove a connection between the nights the moon is full and all kinds of crazy human antics on earth, including insomnia, insanity and of course lycanthropy. Make of it what you will, but this mythic rumour mill of sorts was what came to mind when I first saw Mary McFarlane's "The Moon Knows" exhibition.

These are no simple paintings; that word doesn't even begin to describe the incredible amount of attention and detail McFarlane applies to each of her creations. Spanning the last 15 years, the exhibition displays a unique collection of antique mirrors that McFarlane, as a well-practiced metal smith, has wrought with lacquer, gold leaf and silver to produce the amazing likenesses of the full moon(s) seen in each of her artworks. Each mirror features a

round moon against a completely black night sky, but here the similarities end. Every work displayed is otherwise completely original, differing in size, colour, texture(s) and even the technique used to apply the latter.

Exceptionally beautiful and mysterious, the artworks are made further compelling by the fact that through McFarlane's delicate shadows and etchings, the viewer can see their own face reflected and therefore superimposed onto the moon. They are implicated within the work, forced to consider their own attitude towards and relation with the phenomena of the full moon, as well as the inevitable commingling of science and art implied within McFarlane's work.

The stunning craftsmanship alone is worth the trip to Glue Gallery. Look all you want but you probably shouldn't touch – the not-so-student-friendly prices in themselves emphasize the value of the works!



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Boys from the Black Stuff

THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL FOLLOWS a group of bitter and bored 70-plus retirees who feel the need to fight the injustices of an ageist English society by travelling to India to "find themselves."

Abounding with distinguished actors, each of the seven main characters take on an eccentric elderly role. Among them is the retired homosexual judge, the dried-up gold digger, and the neurotic housewife stuck in a loveless marriage.

This unlikely travel party meet at the airport and bond over the knowledge that they will be staying at a recently restored hotel for "the old and beautiful". After arriving in India, they are greeted with a chaotic tip run by the young and overly-enthusiastic manager Sonny (Dev Patel). In the first week the individuals either struggle or thrive within their new cultural surroundings. Muriel (Maggie Smith) describes her first day in India as an "assault on all senses".

Other characters such as Evelyn (Judy Dench) and Douglas (Bill Nighy) find India to be a realm of escapism from their mundane lives in England. Through their adventures, the viewer is treated to a visual feast. A myriad of shots and sequences brilliantly capture the landscape, the colour, the everyday vibrancy and the hustle and bustle that is India.

The film allows for a witty and seldom-explored perspective of the elderly. It provides a series of hilarious jibes that touch on what are no doubt common concerns of the elderly which kept the audience in stitches. Ever the pessimist, Muriel claims she would not buy unripe bananas any more, for fear she would die before they would ripen.

Going into the film, I dreaded the mindless banter of such a seemingly dreary cohort. I left pleasantly surprised and entertained, and dare say I could even go back for round two.

EMMA SCAMMELL



The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

DIRECTOR: John Madden



The Hunger Games

DIRECTOR: Gary Ross

THE HUNGER GAMES IS THE MOST RECENT piece of Young Adult lit to roll off the Hollywood production line. In a post-apocalyptic America, the indulgent Capitol rules over twelve districts. Tributes are picked from a lottery of citizens for the Capitol's instrument of oppression – The Hunger Games. This televised gladiatorial battle is almost like *The Bachelor*, except the contestants decapitate each other for the rose. And the prize is not dying. The heroine, Katniss, volunteers as tribute in place of her sister. And so begins the spree of killing, love triangles and teenage angst.

The film is almost an exact transplantation of Suzanne Collins's novel. It puts a magnifying glass to the page, enlarging the scope and capturing the spirit of the book. Director Gary Ross's lack of meddling with the story is almost disconcerting. Diehard fans may miss

the first-person narration, but they won't be nit-picking changes in the plot.

The performances are precise; Jennifer Lawrence is a strong and terrified Katniss, and Josh Hutcherson as Peeta has sufficiently tousled hair. Capitol decadence fills the screen with pretty colours; a nice break from the dying children. The choppy cinematography captures the panic of the games while the fast pace reflects how compulsive the book is to read.

The Hunger Games is primarily a story of survival and secondly a piece of dystopian-lite. It's nothing highbrow but the contrast between suffering and vapidity is striking. If you can brave the mass of swooning fangirls the film is well worth your Studylink dollars. But need it be said? Read the book first.

ELLA BORRIE

Film Society Preview

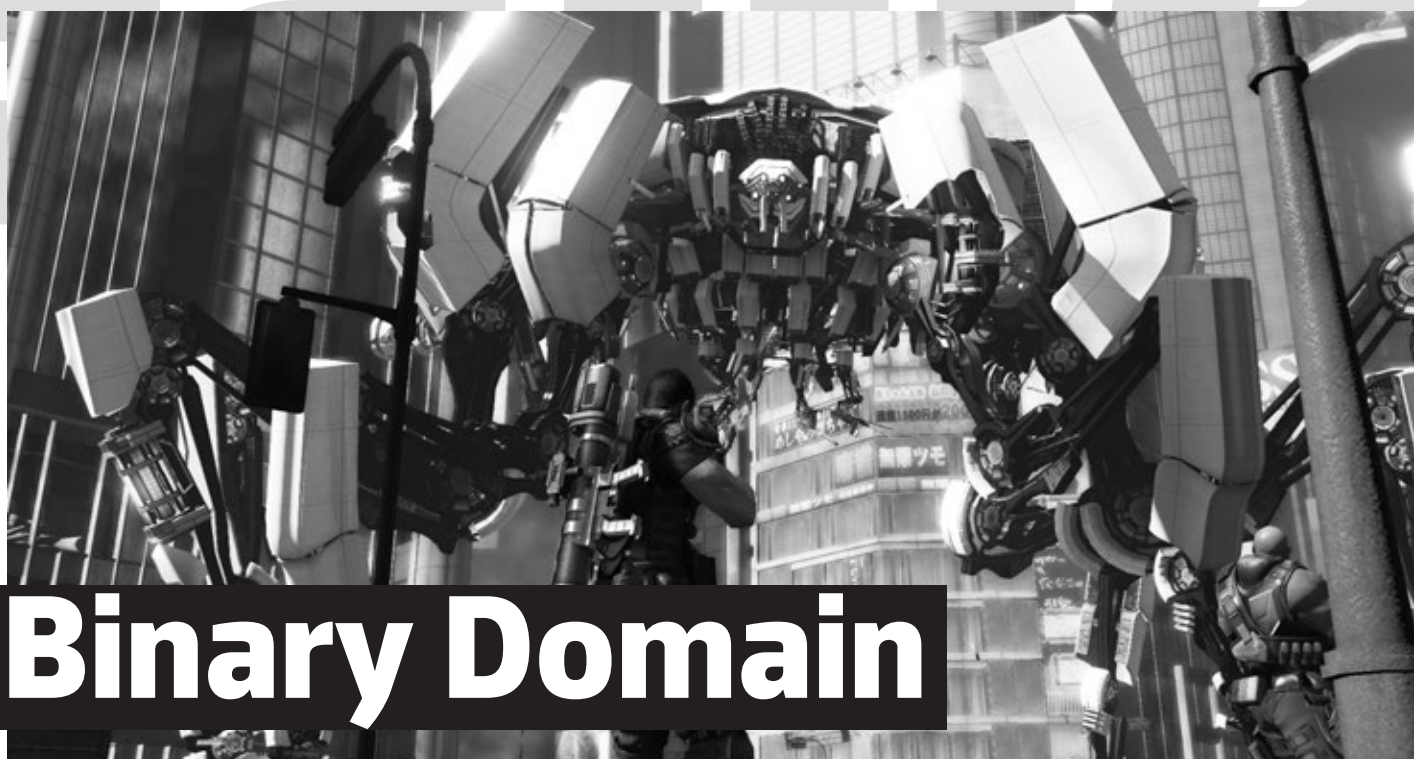
The Asphalt Jungle

(JOHN HUSTON | U.S.A | 1950)

"The big daddy of complex and sophisticated caper movies, this brilliant, chilling thriller revolves around a million-dollar jewel heist. A taut, unsentimental study in character and relative morality ... It has spawned

countless imitations, few of which even remotely approach the intelligence and detail of the original." – Time Out

Wednesday 04 April at 7:30 pm in the **Red Lecture Theatre**, Great King Street, across the road from the emergency entrance of the Dunedin Public Hospital.



Binary Domain

IF YOU ASKED SOMEONE WHO HAD NEVER PLAYED A VIDEOGAME TO DESCRIBE a one you would be provided with a fairly accurate breakdown of Binary Domain: A group of burly humans, who form a gleaming ethnic-rainbow, gun down robots that swarm about the player like schools of herring.

It ain't necessarily a bad thing. As frustrating as a lack of inspired game-design is, *Binary Domain* is unpretentious and, for what it is, refined. The totally-not-Terminators-honestly react believably to the obligatory bullet-hail; their outer armour sloughs off to reveal a chrome inner skeleton and their legs can be blown off. In response to the latter they crawl after the player's squad in a totally-not-like-the-end-of-Terminator-One-honestly sort of way.

Everyone knows that videogames teach kids that violence has no consequences. Here, this manifests itself as a health-bar that regenerates after popping your head behind a wall in the context of a solid cover system. Punching a single needle through the chest wall heals any character who has been knocked down. It is an obvious series of combat mechanics with a variety of different guilt-free metal men to dispatch.

There are subtle differences between your squad-mates. Some are good at explosions while some are better and being tasty-looking

robot-bait. Commands can be issued to your buddies to get a strategic edge on the artificial hordes. It isn't subtle; there are obvious situations where obvious tactics are required – but it remains satisfying to put them into effect.

Normally, one wouldn't get so intimately involved in a game as to begin believing it's real, but *Binary Domain* supports this cliché. If a student owns a headset then flatmates can expect to hear enthusiastic cries of "Charge!" in an attempt to wrangle the game's voice-recognition software. Slowly, these cries are likely to be replaced by slightly bored cries of "take cover" or "Wang. Wang. Look at my huge penis." It's a gimmick – the game can be played adequately using a controller – but the game's additional squad-mates do have replies to certain phrases such as "I love you."

Unsurprisingly, the story is uninteresting and the characters are unlikable. There's some really half-hearted *Blade Runner*-style ethical intrigue surrounding robots who don't know they are robots (covered in an organic skin. Of course). Every cut-scene is, without fail, annoying. It's just more interesting to shoot robots. The protagonist is a roguish rebel and his friend is a huge, African-American and makes the "Cole Train" (from *Gears of War*) look in no way a stereotype.

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Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

Directed by
Luke Agnew

"Every time you play hangman a stick figure family loses a father."

FOR THE FINAL ISSUE BEFORE OUR BELOVED MID-SEMESTER BREAK I believe a change of pace is in order. This week I interviewed the cast of the latest Lunchtime Theatre at Allen Hall and attempted to construct a legible piece of writing from the mayhem.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, written by Tom Stoppard, is a parody of Hamlet and Waiting for Godot, which even the cast can't explain. While sitting in the foyer at Allen Hall theatre I ask them to give a brief explanation of what audiences can expect, and we lurch into a debate about what the play truly means and how it could be categorised.

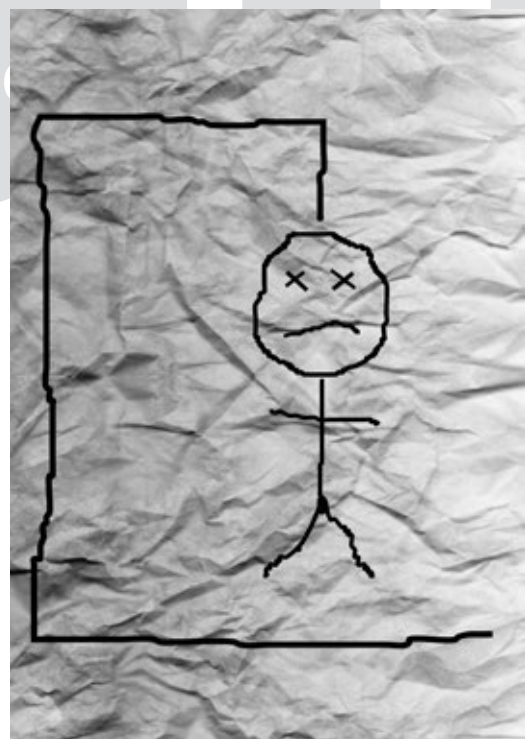
Agnew, the director of the piece, was firm in what the play was not. It's post-modern theatre ... "No, not really." It's Theatre of the Absurd ... "No, no it's definitely not." Then what is it? "I don't know, it's just a good play, a good comedy!" The cast can definitely agree on this one, additionally agreeing that there's "a lot of words". Even taking on the first act alone was a "monumental task", which explains the altering from the original plan.

Agnew began the process back in November of last year, working with the full script. After a read through he realised the script was incredibly long, at two hours, and would need to be performed separately on both days of Lunchtime Theatre with an evening performance showcasing the complete work. However, with only seven weeks to rehearse and each cast member having separate commitments it was decided they would shave it down to the first act alone. Agnew has directed a couple of pieces before such as last year's 40 Hour Theatre and Frequency, but nothing on this scale. It was probably a wise choice not to take on the full length.

When asked about their favourite part of the process, Sims admitted his was the character of Baz Macdonald, and after a swift moment of silence (as the love was sadly not returned) Agnew quickly declared, "All of it! We've got a good, dynamic cast and it's an awesome play! We're having lots of fun making great theatre. It's something people want to see!" Macdonald explained he appreciates Agnew's "unique directing style." "Often when you work with your friends it's hard but with Luke, it's enjoyable."

It's easy to see this cast is smitten with one another, enjoying the long rehearsals and time with one another. The only negative things they could say about the piece was a quick "I get slapped ..." from Jacobs.

A cast that is so well bonded is almost guaranteed to make the performance extensively more enjoyable. If you missed them performing at Lunchtime Theatre last week, do not fear; the cast promise they want to, one day, tackle the whole of the play for audiences' delight. As they say, "It's a bucket of awesome."



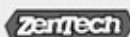
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Caramelised Onion Flatbread

Bouncy flatbread adorned with a blanket of sticky, sweet red onions and rosemary? Yes please. Making bread from scratch is a simple pleasure that contrary to popular opinion is remarkably easy. You don't need to possess a bread maker, nor do you need to slave away in the kitchen for hours with flour in your hair and knuckles bled dry from kneading. The joy of this flatbread is its springy texture, which comes from the addition of mashed potato. You heard me right. Mashed potato: theourite that you would pile into mountains on your plate and smother with lava-like tomato sauce (or maybe I was just a really weird child). Eat it warm, straight from the oven, or use it as a base for open sandwiches and pile shaved ham, cheese and relish on top. This recipe is adapted from Peter Gordon's book *Cook At Home*.

INGREDIENTS

For the bread:

- 1 ½ cup mashed potato
- A splash of milk
- A few pinches of salt
- 100ml lukewarm water
- 1 TBS dried yeast granules
- 2 ¾ cup white flour

For the glorious onions:

- 2 large red onions
- Plenty of oil (preferably olive) and/or butter
- 3 TBS sugar (brown or white)
- A splash of balsamic vinegar (optional)
- Fresh or dried rosemary



- 1 Using leftover mashed potatoes from the night before makes this a quick process. Otherwise, to start from scratch, place about five medium, quartered potatoes in a pot, cover with cold water and bring to the boil with the lid on. Cook until tender. Drain, and mash with the milk and salt. Set aside until lukewarm.
- 2 Meanwhile, halve and roughly slice the onions. Place in a frypan with the sugar, oil and/or butter over a low heat. Keep an eye on them, give them the odd stir, but they will mostly become a hot, sweet mess by their own accord. The longer they are left (at least 20 minutes), and the lower the temperature, the better. Add the balsamic when they are super soft, allowing it to reduce. It adds a gorgeous tang, but isn't imperative.
- 3 When the mashed potato is lukewarm, mix it with the water and yeast. Leave for 10 minutes. Mix in the flour.
- 4 Tip the dough onto a large chopping board dusted with flour, and knead it. You basically attack it with your knuckles, flip it over, squash it together, and so on until you have an elastic, non-sticky and evenly smooth ball of dough. If that confuses you, jump online – there will definitely be a weirdo with a Youtube channel dedicated to their bread-making exploits.
- 5 Tip the dough into an oiled bowl, cover with a damp tea towel and leave somewhere warm (like the warmer drawer below the oven, or a warming cupboard) for 20 minutes.
- 6 Press the dough into an well-oiled baking tray so that it is at least 1cm thick. Spread the cooked onions on top, sprinkle with rosemary and bake in a preheated oven at 220°C on the lowest shelf for 25-30 minutes, then at the top of the oven for 5-10 minutes. You want the bread to be springy inside, without being too dry or brown on the outside.

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Why We Write

In defense of music criticism

LUKAS CLARK-MEMLER

IT'S NOT EASY BEING A MUSIC CRITIC. SCORE AN ALBUM TOO LOW AND YOU'RE labeled a cynic; too high, you're a naïve optimist. Take the easy road out by giving it a 6 or a 7, and you're criticized for having no backbone. Then there's always the case of trivializing artistic intent with pompous descriptors and a plethora of adjectives. Or over-analyzing some bored kid's work, and attributing great meaning to the music, when really it's just a mass of fuzz and haze. You can't win. And that's not to mention the pains and difficulties of ranking an album.

So why do we feel the need to write and read about music? Why do we deconstruct an album devoid of artistic meaning? Because everything does in fact have a greater meaning. Nothing in pop culture is meaningless; not even meaningless music.

Personally, no, I don't like Justin Bieber, Lady GaGa or Flo Rida's latest collaboration. But each of these "cultural lows" highlight certain aspects of society, that in turn, allow us to better understand what it means to be human. We come to realize that one does not require natural talent to become a success, that all females crave a particular Amazonian freedom, and that we all need "a little help from our friends" to succeed in this world (in respective order).

Culture is the soul of society – it's what gives life meaning. And popular culture is just that: Popular. So when it comes to analyzing society, there's no better place to look. The way we react to a song, the success of certain artists, the polarizing nature of an album – these things matter. They matter a lot more than most people give them credit for.

This is why we write: To acknowledge the cultural meaning of music, and its wider social impacts. The great author, poet, and "Mother of the Lost Generation" Gertrude Stein once said: "We all fear death and question

our place in the universe. The artist's job is not to succumb to despair, but to find an antidote for the emptiness of existence." Couple this quote with another, from the French artist Jean Cocteau: "An artist cannot speak about his art any more than a plant can discuss horticulture."

We are left with a fascinating paradox. Artists inject their work with a profound meaning, yet are unable to explain it. And it's this elusive meaning that you search for in every album, in every film, book or piece of art. The ultimate goal of existence is to understand the meaning of existence; to figure out what it means to be human. We are all plagued with the existential problem of functioning normally as a coherent being in the wholly ambiguous physical universe we occupy. It's totally normal to be frustrated by the absence of meaning. But if you look closely, if you pay attention and keep an open mind, we find ourselves sucked, with a great rush of blood, into a vortex of association. Pop culture does not exist as a vacuum. Everything is uniformly connected. Everything has meaning.

This is why we write: To identify the profundity of musical meaning. We are neither hunters nor gatherers. We are not consumers. We are thinkers. We will never know the meaning of life. But we will spend our whole lives trying to figure it all out, in our own unique way ...

Some people find meaning in the existential musings of Socrates or Nietzsche. Others swear their PHIL101 reading list is more than enough for them to understand the most fundamental questions about human existence. Some of us just so happen to prefer examining the meaning of life through the context of music: Through Arcade Fire to ZZ Top; through hip-hop to hipsters; through Top 10 hits to lo-fi home recordings; through the current zeitgeist to the remnants of the past.

Which, to me, is no less rational than finding meaning in the works of a long-dead Grecian, or a clinically-depressed German, and far less pretentious than all those Philosophy students.

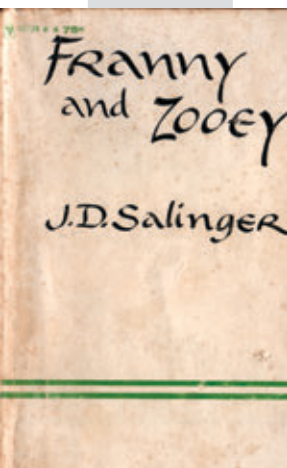
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Franny and Zooey | J.D. Salinger



FRANNY AND Zooey is a book about the two youngest siblings of the Glass family. It's separated into two distinct sections — the first being a short story called Franny, and the second being a novella entitled Zooey.

The first part focuses on Franny and her boyfriend Lane when they meet up on the weekend of the Yale

game. Lane takes Franny to lunch, but she soon becomes upset and appears to be having an emotional breakdown of sorts. She tells Lane that she has been reading "The Way of the Pilgrim" (a religious book which follows the narrator's

pilgrimage across Russia while reciting the Jesus Prayer) and is suddenly finding everything around her to be meaningless.

Zooey follows on from Franny and the novella expands on the Glass family dynamic. The story opens with Zooey reading a letter given to him years ago by his brother. The narrative proceeds into an entertaining dialogue between Zooey and his mother Bessie whilst he is in the bathtub. The rest of the book is dialogue between Franny and Zooey regarding her spiritual unrest.

The book reads more like a play than a novel, focusing on dialogue to carry the narrative's weight. The major themes are set within the framework of four main conversations; the exchanges are set in very close quarters and touch on themes common in Salinger's writing — religion, existentialism, philosophy. The themes are explored in a very thought-provoking and engaging way, the author showing the reader more than telling. Salinger's dense use of

dialogue examines relationships and family dynamics in a relatable way.

While this kooky book doesn't take you on any adventures or move at a fast pace, it is very hard to put down. Amongst the cursing and chainsmoking of every character is hilarious material that will have you laughing out loud, particularly in the extensive bath scene where Zooey spends most of his time trying to get his nagging mother to leave him to bath alone (a fair request considering he is 25 years old).

This book (among the rest of Salinger's work) has somewhat of a cult following. It has been called the college edition of *The Catcher in the Rye* (whose main protagonist was high school age). For this reason, I would highly recommend it to university students, as it discusses colleges, majors and has characters that are relatable particularly to the uni student age group. It is also short and reads incredibly fast. It's certainly one that I will consider re-reading.

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LETTER OF THE WEEK

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



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SOUTH D FIGHTS BACK

The Editor

Critic.

Dear Sir. South Dunedin! So many times have I enjoyed good company and a fine meal there, rummaged through their second hand shops and enjoyed the fabulous hardware stores, or collected seaweed. Danyon Loader and Precious McKenzie lived there, and since Critic has a habit of talking South Dunedin down, when you find the phantom pooer and rub his nose in his own shit please do me a favour and rub your face in it yourself.

Yours Faithfully,
Sue Heap

YNSR TICKETS DENIES OWN EXISTENCE

Dear Critic,

As someone who has never voted National in my life I was disturbed to find that I was somehow on a Young Nationals ticket. After realizing I had not actually signed up for his I realized it must have been critic trying to stir shit up.

I never met with the YNSR or had them help me in my campaign. The fact that someone who did help me has a connection to a member of YNSR is a tenuous link to draw. I entered the elections with the hope that I could represent all students, regardless of their political background. At no stage was my campaign labelled or branded with anything relating to the National Party. I specifically advocated political neutrality, as I strongly believe OUSA should be unbiased and neutral in regards to national politics.

I remain a staunch non-member of YNSR and still an avid reader of critic. I hope they rely more upon founded fact and analysis in the future, rather than rumour mongers in OUSA back alleys.

Mat Damon Jordan

THE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION QUIZ

Dear Critic,

Are you...

1. I don't drink. Seriously.

Say this to anyone and you'll be labelled a freak. In our free country, sharing this opinion is hypocritically met with ridicule. You're either forced to shut-up or stay home – and others wonder why these guys never have "fun".

2. Sure, why not?

It's a sunny afternoon at the flat and you're all enjoying a refreshing beer. Your head is clear; you're having a good time... Why shouldn't you? You're a social drinker after all. Good on ya mate.

3. Like, let's get, like, wasted!

How many times have I heard people joke that "lol rofl, I get soooo depressed when I don't drink!" or "lmao lol-lerskates, I am such an alcoholic!" One wonders just how much truth is in these proclamations.

4. Do you hear the peaceful silence of the effervescent coma of intoxication?

Isn't it beautiful how you could stop breathing or choke on your own vomit? Oh how I wish you could see that drinking until you pass out is an exhilarating experience. Everybody does this, don't they?

Which number are you?

From a Number 1

GOOD MORNING!

Dear Critic,

This morning I visited one of the men's rooms. There was semen all over the place in one of the cubicles! Whoever this guy was getting his fun times before a 10am lecture didn't even bother to flush or yknow.. wipe up... He is probably walking around campus right now, touching door handles and brushing past you in the corridor!

Hugely Grossed Out.

NUTZ

Dear Critic

Fuck Marmite and Vegemite.

Regards,

Nutella.

RACISM; IT'S WHAT WE DO

Dear Critic

Regarding the article on Jojo Ross in issue 5, what is up with the passage claiming 'euro-peans are the thoroughbreds of caucasian

people'? I undertand it was supposed to be a gag regarding the not so sartorially inclined nature of dunedinites, but this line stinks of racial ignorance. ranking people and refering to them in terms of livestock seems a wee bit naziesque, no? And where does this leave non-caucasians? why even mention the word caucasian?? thouroughly gooberish and off-point I do think.

Brydie

FRUIT FAIL

Dear Critic

So we bought a bag of oranges and half of them were actually grapefruit.

Freya

THE PHANTOM POOER?

Dear Critic

In today's current western world there is a shift of reverse-evolution happening in relation to efficient pooing. With laziness, the invention of the flush toilet and inflation on toilet paper prices, soiled bums are becoming a huge problem in our society affecting the lives of millions so I understand your concerns. I have encountered the horrific site that is a squat toilet. See the squat toilet encourages the user to squat, thus widening the legs, which in turn pulls the bum cheeks away from the orifice while protruding it towards the squatter water below. So when the 'log' is ejected it can stay clear of body tissue. Modern toilet seats cause the complete opposite, wedging the cheeks together causing mess on defecation. The squat toilet has been refined for thousands of years and is the most efficient way to take a dump. A technique can be used however to combat the issue with the modern flusher. Called MST (Modern Squat Technique), grasping each cheek with ones hands and pulling the cheeks outwards before sitting down will increase the chances of a legendary clean wipe 10 fold.

So remember: Cheeks spread, or you'll be wiping all day instead.

Paul the Poofessor

STUPID Y CHROMOSOMES

Hey Critic

Seriously, WTF is up with this years girls? I mean small tits is one thing, but i never thought women walkers would be worse than women drivers. I have seen multiple cases of girls being stupid and walking in traffic. During O-Week. some dumb bitch got hit by a car outside The

Baa and walked away unscathed (although deserve a coma or something). Another dumb bitch was using the crossing outside the link and literally stopped in the middle of the road doing god knows what (probably thinking what shiny things were around), and then didnt move until a driver tooted at her to move. Serious, Otago girls get your act together and look both ways (we learned that when we were kids) and stop being at an intelligence of Snooki's future baby.

Sincerely,
Every Male in Dunedin

SERIOUS JOURNALISM

Dear Critic,

Last week i saw Gus Gawn masturbating into a bin near Union Hall, I think he must have been dehydrated. Now I am not sure whether I can take his sports commentary seriously.

Lots of love,
Kony the Pony.

GUS RESPONDS

Union Hall isn't even open yet dumb ass. You must have meant Union Grill.
Gus

UNI GAMES NOT O FOR AWESOME

Dear Critic,

I was wondering if any of you had thought of looking into the decline of Uni Games? This year they are only having 10-11 sports, I believe in the past they have had 18. Many people are not happy about their sport being excluded. On top of this, the registration fees have become exorbitant - over \$200 for Otago students, as OUSA is no longer a member of USNZ. In response to this, myself and the other University Hockey clubs are organising our own tournament in Wellington at the same time. Our registration fees will be around \$30 per person. I have no idea where Uni Games is putting the other \$170 of their money. I heard that last year's Super-City games ran at a loss. This year Massey Uni PN isn't sending any teams to Uni Games, but is sending teams to our Hockey tournament.

All the best - perhaps Howie could do some investigative journalism,
Sam French

OUT DAMN FRESHERS, OUT!

Dear Critic

You know what grids my gears, is the

amount of freshers that are coming now to the bog on a Thursday night and trying to turn an lovely Irish pub, into another cook or starters.

Just because ur wasted at 8:30 doesn't mean you wankers can come in and try to dance to the live music like ur at monkey or distract the staff trying to nick fucken coffee cups, while others are waiting for Pint of the good stuff.

Fuck off to the cook or starters where you are meant to be and leave the bog for folks that just want to drink and chill out to the good music.

Yours truly,
Ron Howard

WE'RE ON IT

Dear Critic

Facebooking in a towel isn't very comfortable. Someone should do something about that.

Sincerely
-Insert Witty Name Here-

HIGH FIVE!

Dear Critic

I'd like to send this letter to thank the OUSA and St John Volunteers who tended to the injuries at Hyde St. I can't name everyone by name but you guys all did a fantastic job and kept lots of people safe. Well done you guys!

Francisco Hernandez

Notices

NORML AGM

Otago NORML AGM and get-together, 7pm Tuesday 3 April, Evison Lounge, Clubs and Societies Centre, Albany Street. All welcome.

STAND UP PADDLEBOARDING

Any stand up paddleboard owners interested in joining our database for possible trips and events is invited to e-mail us at info@watercooled.co.nz with contact details. Learners lessons available. Contact Watercooled Sports Ltd, 9 Kitchener St Dunedin ph:4792206

CALLING ALL JEWISH STUDENTS!!!

There will be a pot luck seder at 7pm this Wednesday the 4th of April. RSVP to jewishstudentsotago@gmail.com for the details Hope to see ya there!

FUNDING FOR STUDENT PERFORMANCES

Funding of up to \$1500 per project is available to help University students and staff fund public performances (e.g. comedy, dance, theatre, film, music) which wouldn't happen without this support. Closing date for applications to the Division of Humanities Performing Arts Fund is 20 April 2012.

For more info go to:
www.otago.ac.nz/humanities/perfartsfund
or email: jane.gregory@otago.ac.nz



www.anticscomic.com



Every day I'm chapil'n

HOW HOPEFUL ARE YOU? AS WE RACE TOWARDS Easter and mid-semester break, it might seem an odd question to ask, but before you read on take a moment to ask yourself, "How hopeful am I?" How hopeful concerning local and world events; concerning your academic future; concerning college mates, flatmates, and your relationships in general? How hopeful are you?

For the last ten days I, along with my chaplaincy colleagues Greg and Mark, have been preoccupied with the sudden and unexpected death of student Thiago Nazario. His family in Brazil and his many friends here in Dunedin and elsewhere in NZ are devastated, breathless with the agony of their loss. It has been our task to comfort and encourage those affected by this tragedy. But where can one find hope in a crisis such as this?

The challenges you face may be no less painful and disorientating – just different in kind. Or perhaps you are unsettled at an almost subliminal level; anxious for no apparent reason? Then again, you might be perfectly happy. Your year is going well. Nevertheless my question still applies: how hopeful are you? Indeed, where can hope be found?

From my experience, and the experience of many, many others (including Thiago's family), the Christian story of Easter offers hope. With the savage torture and death of Jesus of Nazareth at the hands of the Romans (think Mel

Gibson's *The Passion of The Christ*, only worse) his family and friends despaired. All hope was gone; their dreams shattered. Yet contrary to all expectations, from the midst of death, hopelessness and despair God raised this same Jesus to new life. Death was swallowed up in Life.

In the events of the Easter story God is shown to be overwhelmingly for us – for you! Because of the Easter events there is hope – even in the most desperate of circumstances. In whatever you are facing you can be hopeful!

So while you're munching your way through your stash of Easter eggs this weekend I invite you to read the Easter story for yourself. You can find it in the Bible, in the gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – consider it research from primary sources. And if you'd like to talk about what you find after mid-semester break, give Greg, or Mark or me a call. We'd love to listen.

But in the meantime, have a happy, safe, and hope-filled Easter.

MIKE WRIGHT, UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN.

Dr Jekyll and Mrs Hyde St – Ryan Benic



Need a Dollar?

You're in luck, did you know OUSA provides Clubs AND Students grants to help with all sorts of things?! You didn't?! Well, you share with us your story and we could share our dollar with you! The 2nd grant round is closing on the 19th of April at 4pm so we've given you heaps of time to get organised. Check out all you need to know at snurl.com/moneyz and email cdo@ousa.org.nz if you have any questions.

Art on Campus – Call for Submissions



'Art on Campus' is an initiative by OUSA, University of Otago and Blue Oyster Gallery to put contemporary art into different spaces on campus and to surprise and delight students, staff and the public.

Go to ousa.org.nz for more information and submission guidelines

Submissions for the 2012 programme close on the 20th April.

OUSA Clubs & Societies Centre

Free room hire*, mouth-watering \$3 lunches, free snooker and pool table hire, awesome recreational courses, cheap as sauna, use not to mention home to pretty much every imaginable club you can think of and a whole lot more awesomeness. What are you waiting for?! Get on down to **OUSA Clubs and Societies Centre** today 84 Albany Street

Polytech students get all this too!



LOGAN SAYS...

Garoo Scarfies,

Fucking tits I'm busy this week. I've been getting my campaign to win the two seats on University Council for myself and my Vice-President Jono off the ground so that we can move some mountains. We've done a heap of awesome work on Council so far this year with us both already holding the two Council seats so are going to bring it on home for ya's! Keep an eye out for it in a few weeks time.

What a week, all the Hyde St debriefs, even some Ori debriefs still going on figuring how we can do more mean events and also include the essentials getting to grips with uni stuff too.

On the ol Hyde St chat I better clear up a few things, issues you should probably ponder if it's going to go ahead next year...

What went well:

- Hyde St residents being awesome.
- Glass ban (thanks guys, you rock).
- Police, St John, OUSA staff and volunteers.
- Red Frogs and Are You OK? They deserve their own bullet point.
- The majority being awesome and having an epic time.
- Road closure.

What didn't go well according to the world:

- Roof climbers really let the day down, fucked off the powers that be and broke themselves. Argh!
- A few freshers getting waaaaay too pissed.
- Liquor stores still selling to the munted.

Ideas about how to do it next year:

- Limit numbers, each flat gets a certain number to aid in control.
- Gold coin to help cover costs or give to charity.
- Keep the glass ban.
- Students only.

Just a few ideas and hey it's still fresh in your mind so have a think.

Also maybe you wanna give back a little? We've got a volunteer week after the Easter Break, it could be as simple as giving a can to our Dunedin food bank drive, we want to beat the staff so please please please give us a bit so we can waste them! There are also a range of quick short volunteering opportunities around Dunedin, and a few larger ones where we can get a group boofing some work for something awesome. Do it, come on be a Super Scarfie, join the karma army!

Love, Logan

P.S. The first ever ANZAC day on campus is coming soon so I'll keep an ear to the ground for that one.

