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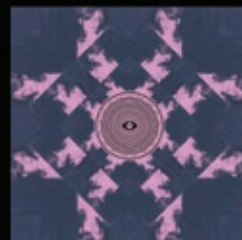
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# Critic

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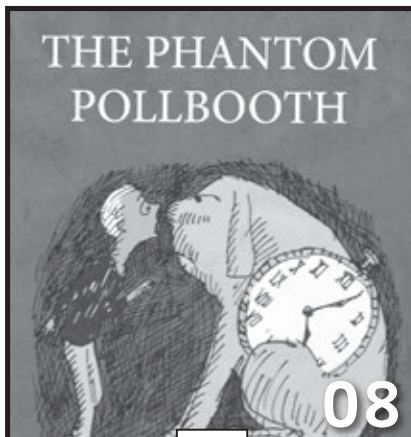


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**T**HERE'S A GREAT SCENE IN SEASON FIVE OF *The Wire* in which journalists at the Baltimore Sun are discussing an upcoming series on poverty in the city. The paper's veteran journalists begin to point out the complex web of factors that contribute to poverty – education, parenting, drugs, nutrition, race – but the editor wants a narrower, more accessible piece that captures "the Dickensian aspect" of poverty.

The scene encapsulates the way in which extremely complex issues become oversimplified in the public consciousness, often with the media's help. After all, there's only so much we can take in, and if we want a properly nuanced understanding of a particular field, we can study it at university.

And yet, at the end of my politics degree I still don't really know the first thing about poverty (although along the way someone probably told me it was all the fault of the bourgeoisie). At the very least, understanding poverty requires a loose grasp of sociology, geography, politics, psychology, and economics. Some gender studies would also come in handy when it comes to the issue of higher fertility among lower socio-economic groups. And the editor in *The Wire* was right, in a way – in order to understand poverty as more than a mere collection of facts, perhaps one must indeed be stirred by the Dickensian aspect. This would require a smattering of English in lieu of real-life experience. Does anybody graduate from Otago with this range of learning?

Poverty is just an example, and an extreme one at that; due to the ring-fencing of humanities subjects, it's entirely possible to finish a politics degree without knowing what rape culture is, or how supply and demand curves work, or why "natural" is not the same as "good."

Despite my repeated (and, as a politics graduate, inevitable) use of politics as an example, this isn't a problem with politics specifically. It's a problem with the humanities, and the way the Humanities Division designs many of its courses.

The Division does not encourage an interdisciplinary approach, and as a result turf wars break out when departments try to broaden their scope. A few years ago, the Politics department wanted to start teaching some feminist thought in one of its undergraduate papers. The Gender

Studies department kicked up a fuss, arguing that this undermined their own programme, and the Politics department was forced to drop the content.

Putting aside the obvious problem here, the gender studies people were right, to an extent – if people can learn feminist thought under the umbrella of politics, many prospective gender studies students will study politics instead, and the department may lose students (and funding). But by the same token, many politics students, if exposed to feminist thought, could then be inspired to take more gender studies papers.



I thought this was a good idea.  
That's humanities for you.

The problem is that this won't happen unless it's easy and practical for students to sample papers from a range of different departments without slowing down their degrees. And quite obviously, it isn't. There are only three non-politics papers that can be credited to a politics degree; take a range of non-politics papers (as I did) and your degree ends up taking forever. We shouldn't blame the Gender Studies department for getting uppity – we should blame the Humanities division for impeding a more collaborative approach between its subjects.

The traditional rationale for this ring-fencing is "specialisation." Specialisation is important for entering the job market, or something. However, with the widening access to tertiary education, the humanities have long since dropped this rationale in relation to bachelor degrees. In order to claim specialist status, you need a Master's or better. A bachelor degree is more about "training

students to think critically," or "equipping them with the skills needed to succeed in the job market," or some other suitably vague words to obscure the fact that it's bloody hard to find a job after graduating.

In reality, "specialisation" is meaningless: the humanities simply train students to view the world through certain lenses. If you study economics, you will see market forces at work everywhere, and will often think in terms of freedom, choice, and rational self-interest. If you study politics, particularly at Otago, you will come out of it a Marxist, a liberal in the Anglo-American tradition, or a somewhat confused mixture of the two. If you take gender studies, you will be a third-wave feminist. If you study law, you will be finicky and tend to miss the point.

Not only have these graduates been trained to think in these particular, discrete ways, they have been made to believe that they have been enlightened in the process. This is true to an extent – all of these ways of thinking have some value – but it also narrows the student's mind as all other, "inferior" ways of thinking are whittled away over the course of his or her degree. Marxists are particularly bad at this, reflexively blaming everything on the class system and twisting the evidence to suit their worldview.

This applies to other divisions – science and commerce both train their graduates to think in a certain way. This can often leave them narrow-minded and with a set of entrenched prejudices, not to mention an unfairly dim view of the humanities. But in each case, there's an obvious rationale for specialising. In order to make a meaningful contribution to the sciences, you need to think empirically; in order to be successful businessperson, you need a business-oriented mind. But I fail to see the point in flooding the market with Marxists and third-wave feminists when these graduates have no other strings to their bow.

I know it's a bit rich to say that the humanities should be more wishy-washy, but I would have liked to have learned more economics, communications, feminism, sociology and philosophy during my degree, and I suspect many others would too.

–SAM MCCHESEY



University Book Shop

## LETTER OF THE WEEK

The letter of the week wins a \$25 book voucher from the University Book Shop.

### Ringworm WebMD

Dear Critic,

When my flatmates suggested that I might have ringworm I thought I should probably get it checked out. After waiting over an hour for my appointment as I was reassigned from a nurse to a doctor, I was becoming more and more open to the idea of an infectious skin disease. A few minutes into my appointment I heard Marimba vibrating from the doctor's bag and she said "I need to take this" and I began to imagine the situations her kid, the artist of the masterpieces on the walls, must have got themselves into. That was until she said "I am more of a one hair dresser type of girl" and that "3.15 is fine". Excusing her conversation with "my hairdresser has a migraine" whilst I'm still waiting for my diagnosis. Still unsure of wtf is on my arm but at least they have their appointments prioritised.

*Sticking to the internet from now on.*

### Vagina Kerfuffle

Dear Critic,

I recently did not read a movie review about the documentary Pussy Riot, but I heard from somebody else that had likewise heard from somebody else that this Josef Alton or whatever his stupid name is came off sounding like a real intellectual asshole. I'm seriously sick of you guys letting postgrads dig their soft buttery hands into stories that they'll only screw up and miss the point by due to their obsession with overanalyzing shit until it doesn't make sense anymore.

Sincerely yours,  
Josef Alton

### Next ... a petting zoo

Dear Sir,

It is pleasing to see that the university has finally got their priorities in order. With rising fees, falling enrolment, and a government cutting research funds, they have found the perfect solution by building a fucking visitor centre. I was under the impression that students were the number one clientèle but apparently tourists are the new cash cow.

Harlene's case for having no money or space to upgrade teaching facilities seems somewhat less compelling when she builds an entire new shop dedicated to selling overpriced coffee mugs with a photo of the clock tower on them.

Is the shop in the link really doing such a roaring trade as to justify another tacky gift shop?

Sincerely,  
Peter

### Thieving Illegal Rape Revue

Sup Law Revue,

Why so rapey? And don't tell me it was some in-joke about some Professor who used to get friendly with students, or that it was just a larf, or that I'm taking this the wrong way - too many girls got groped, touched and slagged off by the boys for no tangible reason. That "Blurred Lines" sketch was the most outrageously offensive thing I've ever seen on stage (and that's including a sober viewing of "Puppetry of the Penis" and a fair few Capping Shows). You had a chance to give us some witty comment on rape trials and their portrayal in the media but instead you had barely-dressed girls waving signs like "#you'refucked" and "#nomeansyes". I heard a rumour that you're going to make that sketch into a video. Please do, so the rest of the world can tear you to shreds publicly, and maybe then you'll realise that it's not just one person 'taking it the wrong way'

PS Directly stealing a Capping Show video sketch from 2010? Are you nuts? Good luck for next year, hope you find some original material and something worth writing about.

Chur,  
N. Guy

### What? Yes.

Dear Critic.

Can I just say something. I have a mate named Mr Mustard because he wears a foul looking mustard shirt every day. Is it alright to call him a fuckwit? Or should I tell him to uppercute himself.

Thanks again  
Diddlehole

**Absurdly long letter receives absurdly long heading to highlight the absurdity of this absurd state of affairs. In future we would advise writers to keep their letters to 200 words. But, we had some space. So bask in it.**

Dear Critic,

I really enjoyed how you brought Foucault in the conversation in your Big Brothers-At-Arms feature, and brought up the idea that norms aren't just something for the "ignorant mass," but how "academically gifted twats" can have it to.

Did you know that the Intelligence agencies in the U.S prior to 9/11 knew full-well that Al-Qaeda was planning to carry out an attack against the public, and it was more a policy/media failure? [1] (that's a link to an academic journal, not a conspiracy site).

But as you have shown, it is scary to think of the government having so much power over our lives. Yet at the same time, if we refuse these security policies, we do have to give up a lot of security.

Now, a typical response may to throw out a bullshit quote like "If you give up your freedom for safety, you don't deserve either one" from Franklin, but I'm pretty sure a) Franklin isn't aware of our current technology and terrorism, and b) the people who had to decide between being burned alive in the Twin Towers or jumping probably would have something to say about that. Not saying all security policies are great, but it would have been nice if you reflected on this harsh dilemma more in depth than just "Big Evil Brother is out to get you/ fight back against The System" (I guess that probably sells, though).

Another example is in China, where it is commonly seen as socially "patriotic" to protest against Japan, and push China into military

### LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be 200 words or fewer. Deadline is Thursday at 5pm. Send letters to critic@critic.co.nz, post them to PO Box 1436, Dunedin, or drop into the Critic office. All letters must include full contact details, even if you don't want these printed. Letters of a serious nature directly addressing a specific person or group will not be published under a pseudonym, except in extraordinary circumstances negotiated with the Editor. Critic reserves the right to edit, abridge or decline letters without explanation. We don't fix the spelling or grammar in letters. If a writer looks stupid, it's because they are.

nationalism. But obviously the public can't let "The Man" get in the way, or more daringly, try control our liberty!- oppressive pigs! See the problem? Freedom doesn't stop us being free to say/do stupid shit collectively.

Regarding another point you made: is "Dunners Babe of the Day" really a group of people trying to appear as the "dominant" cultural norm? Although some aspects are cultural, a lot of those things woman/men are appealing to is biological. Unless you think humans progressed into modern culture with a blank slate empty of any biological impulses. Somehow we accept our bodies want food/water, but when it comes to sex, it MUST be from an oppressive culture!?? But i guess someone could quote a Pseudoscience response about how biology has actually been dominated by the patriarchy as if men/women aren't even the same human beings and can't say anything back because the subject is too "hot" to touch. That would suck, and your magazine has to prioritise popularity above intent to sell. Ironic how the media, a source for liberty, is restricted in those ways.

Do you think people appeal to some of those norms for approval? Think of Books like Twilight and Fifty Shades of Grey - huge best sellers though shit novels - BUT they were about the relations of women with attractive, dominant and powerful/sexual men. The awkward truth is there can be comfort in oppression, because oppression is correlated with the power to be oppressed, and power can offer security (some Foucault right back at you!) It's hogwash to believe women read over 1000+ pages because they needed...approval? whaaat?

[1] <http://bit.ly/17lpzkQ>

Sincerely,  
Maximus Decimus Meridius



CRITIC HAS 10 TICKETS TO PARANOIA TO GIVE AWAY COURTESY OF STUDIOCANAL! KEEP AN EYE ON CRITIC FACEBOOK PAGE ON MONDAY TO BE IN TO WIN.

## Corporate Sellouts

Dear *Critic*,

Vice just published an article about Polyamory. Nice to see you beat them to something for once! Now, time to buy 5% of your company.

Sincerely,  
Rupert Murdoch

## See this week's "ODT Watch"

Dear *Critic*,

Please bring back your sports coverage.

Yours Sincerely,  
No one

## See this week's "Love is Blind"

Dear *Critic*,

Please bring back "Debatable."

Yours Sincerely,  
No one (again)

## Waffles AND Patchworking! Heck!

Dear *Critic*,

Have you tried Hekia's waffles? She makes them at the trans-continental hotel and they're really damn good. Probably the best waffles I've ever had, particularly when she serves them with fresh dragonfruit. Also patchworking!

Love,  
Hekia

## Sam Sam Sam Sam Sam Sam Sam

My dearest *Critic*,

That Sam Clark is a beautiful human being. You should put more pictures of him in the magazine so I have something to gaze at longingly while reading your magazine on the shitter. Can we go to somewhere on an island with no

annoying tourists? I also vote less of that Sam McChesney fellow. Sometimes when I am all alone, I touch myself with your sexy pages while I masturbate.

<3LG

Dearest 'LG',  
I am flattered by your moderately stalkerish ways. Please find an image for personal use below. x



## The Union foodcourt has gender-neutral microwaves for your eating pleasure ...

Dear *Critic*,

I'm an avid fan of two minute noodles and just because I don't have a baby or female I can't get boiling water or a microwave anywhere in the link. Womens room!? Wheres the mens room!?

And I'm not putting the seat down!

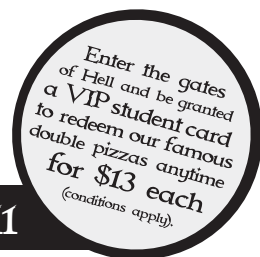
### RETRACTION

The last issue of *Critic* contained a review of Lex's coffee, in which serious personal attacks were made against Lex. *Critic* apologises unreservedly for publishing these statements, and offers a full retraction of any personal accusations, whether explicit or implied, against Lex. The comments were made in jest, and should not be taken to imply anything about Lex's true character or motivations.



Welcome  
to Hell  
students...

CALL 0800 666 111



# DCC Shafts Students Despite Withdrawing Poll

BY SAM MCCHESENEY

**T**HE DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL HAS SCRAPPED plans to introduce a polling booth on campus during the upcoming local body elections. The returning officer, Pam Jordan, made the decision after concerns were raised that the booth could give the appearance of favouritism toward OUSA President Francisco Hernandez, who is a candidate for the Central Ward.

Hernandez is not the only candidate with ties to OUSA. Aaron Hawkins, a candidate for the mayoralty and Central Ward, is an employee of OUSA subsidiary Planet Media; and Students for Environmental Action Co-President Letisha Nicholas, who is also standing for Central Ward, has been door-knocking as part of OUSA's campaign to enrol students to vote. However, Hernandez's role in negotiating the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the DCC, which laid the platform for the booth to be introduced, was cited by sources a major reason for the decision.

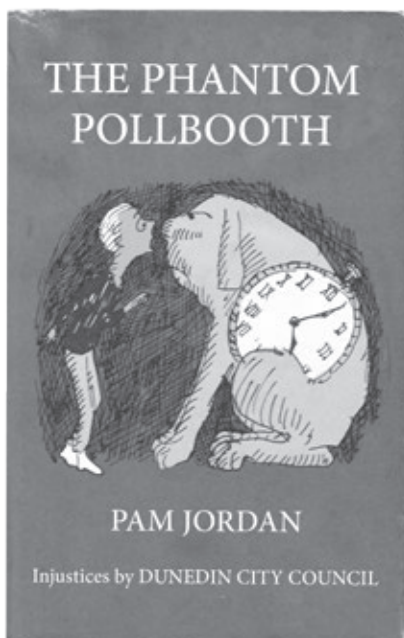
Hernandez was understandably upset by the decision, and dismissed suggestions that his involvement in negotiating the MOU had given rise to a potential conflict of interest.

"What does that have to do with anything?" Hernandez demanded. "I was doing that in the context of my role as OUSA President, well before I was a declared candidate, or even thinking of becoming a declared candidate, and if I had known in any way that my candidacy would affect it I would not have stood as Councillor."

The booth was to be placed in the Link during the last week of the election's ridiculous six-week voting period, and was to help students cast special votes. Special votes are available to those who have missed the registration deadline, which closed on 15 August.

The decision means the only polling booth for the election will be located at the DCC offices. Other polling booths around Dunedin have been abandoned after enjoying limited uptake in previous elections. However, the campus booth – which was to be the first of its kind – was argued to be a special case given the unique nature of the student demographic.

"I think it is disappointing that there won't be a polling booth on campus," Hawkins told *Critic*. "I think it's a very easy way for them to capture a large percent of this city's population who traditionally don't participate in local body elections. ... it seems like a missed opportunity to engage the student population in the local body process."



**"I think it is disappointing that there won't be a polling booth on campus ... it seems like a missed opportunity to engage the student population in the local body process."**

Hawkins believes that Hernandez had been "scapegoated" in the decision, and pointed out that the DCC had a poor record when it came to engaging students in the political process. "The Dunedin City Council don't seem to have any real presence on campus at any stage, which I think is a contributing factor to the lack of student participation in local government.

"[Hernandez] is in a difficult position fulfilling his obligations as a student leader while at the same time campaigning for another job as a city leader, and it's a shame that that conflict seems to have spelled the end of the voting booth," Hawkins said.

The booth had not become public knowledge when the decision was made to pull it. This was primarily because OUSA wished to enrol as many students as possible, and were afraid that the availability of an on-campus polling booth would make students less motivated to register in the traditional manner. Consequently, the announcement was to be delayed until after the registration period had closed.

This appears to have backfired; both Hawkins and OUSA figures believe that had the booth been announced before Hernandez declared his candidacy, the booth would not have been scrapped. However, Hernandez disagrees.

"They probably would have pulled it anyway," he said. "Would it really have mattered if we'd declared [the booth] in March or April? I think they still would have pulled it if I had stood. And if I had known they were going to do this, I can say unequivocally that I would not have stood for Council. I would have just been content to go to NZUSA [the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations]."

Despite the setback, OUSA will still be working with the DCC to help students cast special votes as easily as possible, and an OUSA spokesperson said that he could understand the decision. "From the outside, and from other candidates' perspectives, it would have looked unfair."

Before making her decision, Jordan consulted with the Electoral Commission in Wellington, who recommended the booth be pulled. However, Hawkins questions whether this process was particularly meaningful.

"That's a really hard decision for someone in Wellington to make, who perhaps doesn't understand the demographic or the Otago University calendar," he predicted.



# Shit System to Be Made Less Shit

BY THOMAS RAETHEL

**T**HE PERFORMANCE-BASED RESEARCH FUND is set to undergo changes in an effort to save time and reduce compliance costs for researchers. In a 26 August press release, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment, Steven Joyce, confirmed that a review is underway.

The Government plans to increase investment in the PBRF scheme from \$250 million to \$300 million per annum by 2016 or 2017.

To make sure that the Government gets "the best value possible for this investment," several objectives have been outlined. The research assessment process is to be simplified, reducing costs and saving time. Universities will be encouraged to employ and invest in new researchers. Particular emphasis will be placed on universities that attract research income from non-government investors.

According to Joyce, the PBRF's purpose is to "reward and encourage excellent tertiary education research by assessing research quality, allocating funding based on results, and publishing information on research performance." He added that the fund "supports the Government's wider science and innovation objectives by supporting research that provides and develops new talent."

The PBRF awarded the University of Otago \$53 million for 2013. This amounted to 20.34 per cent of total PBRF funding, 10.32 per cent less than was awarded to the University of Auckland.

The fund has been accused of facilitating an academic culture that encourages research at the expense of teaching. Among its critics is Associate Professor Gordon Sanderson, the recipient of John Key's \$30,000 Supreme Tertiary Teaching Award. After receiving his award earlier this year, he told lecturers that "[Otago] University is not very enthusiastic about teaching."

The PBRF has also been accused of incentivising creative accounting on the part of universities, who in the past have often drawn up contracts in order to maximise the amount of research occurring during the PBRF review period. Victoria

**\$250 million**

Current PBRF scheme value

**\$300 million**

Proposed PBRF scheme value

**\$53 million**

PBRF funds awarded to University of Otago in 2013

**20.34%**

Percentage of total PBRF funds awarded to Otago in 2013

**2003**

First year of PBRF scheme

**0**

Number of PBRF system reviews in the past decade

University of Wellington took this approach in the latest round of PBRF, and ended up topping two of the four measures of research quality.

Otago's Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Enterprise, Richard Blaikie, agrees that adjustments to the PBRF may be necessary. "The PBRF has been in place for a decade now, so a review is timely."

Regarding the University's participation in the review, Blaikie added that "students and the OUSA should also be encouraged to consider submitting their views into the process either formally or informally by talking to the staff members," as "one of the purposes of the PBRF is to support world-leading research-led teaching and learning at degree and postgraduate levels."

Blaikie addressed the issue of compliance costs associated with the PBRF in particular.

"Compliance costs are high for the six-yearly quality evaluation component of the PBRF, which accounts for 60 per cent of the funding. However, the research degree completion and external research income components, which are evaluated annually through institutional returns, have very low compliance costs."

Blaikie acknowledged the time-consuming nature of PBRF rounds. "For the quality evaluation, the time required for academic and general staff to prepare evidence portfolios, enter and verify research publication data and meet other submission requirements has also grown in recent rounds, so we support the principle of the current review to seek ways to reduce both the financial costs and time-consuming nature of the exercise."

Addressing Otago University's probable participation in the review process, Blaikie stated that "views from the University community" would be consulted. This would include "individuals, academic departments and schools, and service divisions."

Blaikie criticised the PBRF's efforts in 2012, admitting that the process was "more time-consuming and cumbersome than it should have been."

"Other flaws or potential improvements, which may be related to specific technical aspects of the process or discipline-specific issues, will be raised through the internal discussions that are currently being held in response to this consultation document."

OUSA President Francisco Hernandez supports the move, but has called for a similar fund to encourage excellence in teaching. "Funding for research is always good, but we think there should be a PBTF; some sort of performance based teaching fund that incentivises, encourages and rewards good teaching."

"Good teachers lead to good research, as they inspire and encourage people to go on to postgraduate work. The link between them is quite clear. We don't know why the government isn't doing more to incentivise good teaching."

# Late Crate Debate Suffocates After Eight Great Speight's-Fuelled Dates With Mates

"It's Fate," Says Kate.

BY CLAUDIA HERRON

**A**CKNOWLEDGING THE "HARMFUL DRINKING culture in New Zealand," the Otago University Debating Society (OUDS) will "no longer sanction" the infamous Crate Debate. The decision, which has been kept under wraps, first came to *Critic's* attention after moderators deleted a comment attacking the decision on an OUDS Facebook post.

Although this may be seen as OUDS surrendering to Vice-Chancellor Harlene Hayne's anti-alcohol warpath, OUDS President Paul Hunt assured *Critic* that there had been no communication between the group and the University over the decision. Rather, according to Hunt, OUDS simply "cannot sanction events which promote binge drinking."

The announcement is particularly surprising given OUDS' reputation for heavy drinking. Earlier

this year, *Critic* reported that members of OUDS had gatecrashed an Audacious event in order to make off with Audacious' alcohol supply, a stunt for which they later had to apologise.

2013 has seen OUDS successfully win their bid to host the "Australians" (the Australasian Intersociety Debating Championships), thanks in part to a grant of \$25,000 from the Vice-Chancellor. However, Hunt assured *Critic* that the decision to cancel the Crate Debate was considered at the start of 2013, before the society had "even signed an agreement with the University."

Informally organised in 2005 and first held in a flat on Grange Street, the Crate Debate was the brainchild of Jono Willis who, according to sources, was "an incredibly smart young man" who "filed through every willing female in the

society." Prowess aside, the event's background is hazy, largely due to the inebriated state of those involved in the annual moot. Topical issues covered in the past include Don Brash and whether 1995 was "the Bain of the New Zealand fashion industry."

The event's demise will also see the end of "competitive adjudicating," in which spectators formed groups of three and competed to finish a bottle of wine, the winners being awarded the right to decide the judgment. One debater described the tradition as "usually excellent."

When *Critic* sought comment from the University regarding OUDS's withdrawal from the event, the University denied knowing that the Crate Debate ever existed.

## Forsyth Barr Stadium May Be Sinking

BY IRRELEVANT IRVINE AND CORDWAINER BIRD

**C**RITIC HAS BEEN INFORMED BY "PEOPLE IN the know" that Dunedin's Forsyth Barr Stadium is sinking on its foundations.

Built on reclaimed land, which requires buildings to have floating foundations, it is believed that when steel was added to the monstrous construction it immediately began to sink. This has resulted in cracks throughout the concrete flooring, some as wide as 0.5m, and Speight's swappa-crates being used to prop up the ailing structure.

A DCC spokesperson told *Critic*, "I can state categorically that the stadium is not sinking. Well, not much. Nice weather we're having. While we're on

the subject, would you like to come and have your photo taken with the Ranfurly Shield?"

It is understood that Councillor Bill Acklin decided not to run for council again after learning of the issues, having been an ardent supporter of the notorious money drain. Then again, unconfirmed reports suggest that Acklin was drunk when he voted for the stadium, and further unconfirmed reports suggest that Acklin is, in fact, drunk of all the time.

"I was wondering why I was slipping so easily at the Illuminate Paint Party," one student told *Critic* when she heard. "I mean, I know paint's slippery and all, but an angle in the floor would

make so much sense!"

*Critic* also spoke with a Generation Zero spokesperson, who said that "this is a common problem in the developed world. Building up is bringing us down, man!"

"With global sea levels falling, this was always going to happen on floating foundations."

No injuries have been reported, although one North East Valley child is believed to have gone missing while visiting with his babysitter. DCC officials plan to begin searching somewhere beneath the Earth's crust, as they concede that there are "lots of gaps" in the area.



## Alt Pub Just A Bit Too Breezy Ankles

BY JAMIE BREEN

**L**AST WEEK WAS DIFFICULT FOR THE BAR MOU Very. The local watering hole for sweaty hipsters faced a public hearing last Wednesday after failing to meet the liquor licensing requirements.

Mou Very was originally granted a temporary licence in February in order to allow the bar to operate while an application for a permanent licence was considered. However, owner Madeleine McCoy continued to apply for temporary licences rather than a permanent one. The third time this happened, police recommended that the application be rejected.

Breaches of legal requirements and the lack of a duty manager on site led to a public hearing being organised to debate renewing the bar's liquor licence.

According to the Sale of Liquor Act 1989 and the new Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012, a certified manager is required on site to ensure compliance with the Acts' requirements, particularly those regarding the sale of alcohol to minors and intoxicated persons. When asked to comment, McCoy responded that the manager's certificate is "just a piece of paper."

However, the DCC's liquor licensing project officer, Kevin Mechen, stressed the importance of having a manager on site. "With an alcohol licence comes a lot of responsibility, so in the process of gaining a manager's certificate, one must successfully complete a course covering the alcohol-related legislation and host responsibility."

The bar was also found to be in breach of the Act in other respects. A compliance check by

the police revealed that the bar was not selling adequate food. McCoy argued that such requirements were unreasonable as, given the size of the bar, the kitchen could not cope with such demand, but this only exacerbated police concern over her suitability for a licence.

When the day of the hearing arrived, however, it was announced that the meeting had been cancelled. Mechen informed *Critic* that "the company has made sufficient changes to the company structure to satisfy the Police and Licensing instructor to negate the need for the hearing.

"They [Mou Very] will be consulting with the Police and licensing inspector and then will get a new temporary authority." This will be followed by the bar getting a licence of its own.



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## Rather Nice Automobile Discovered

BY JOSIE COCHRANE

**A** 1922 ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER GHOST HAS BEEN discovered inside a container at Port Otago's Dunedin container yard. The Rolls-Royce, found earlier this month, has never been registered in New Zealand, and it is yet to be confirmed whether the original body remains in place. Even in its current state, the vehicle could be worth up to a quarter of a million dollars.

Marketed towards owner-drivers in the 1920s, the Silver Ghost became popular with the growing professional middle class of doctors, solicitors and businessmen. With a six-cylinder engine and capacity of 3,127cc, the cars had a maximum speed of 62 miles per hour (or 100 kilometres per hour). The last batch of Silver Ghosts was built in 1927.

The Rolls-Royce is believed to be linked to fraudster Michael Swann. Swann was the Chief Information Officer of the Otago District Health Board until 2006, when he was fired for "gross mismanagement." Swann, along with Kerry

Harford, was later convicted for defrauding the board to the tune of \$16.9 million.

*Critic* spoke to a car dealer who is involved with the case but wishes to remain anonymous. "We sold many cars to him. He was a high flyer and money was never a problem. Trouble is it wasn't his, it was everybody else's money," the dealer said.

Between 2000 and 2006, Sonnford Solutions, an IT services company founded by Harford, made out 198 invoices – to the sum of \$16.9 million – to the Otago DHB for services never provided. Harford retained 10 per cent of the \$16.9 million, whilst the remaining 90 per cent was transferred to Swann or to entities he controlled.

Swann was on a salary of \$145,000, but received an average additional income of \$43,000 a week from his dirty deeds with Otago DHB. Over the six years, Swann earned the nickname "money-bags"

after making some purchases with suitcases of cash. He is believed to have spent \$11.6 million on top-end cars, boats and properties.

Swann was released on parole to a Christchurch address last month, having served only four years and eight months of his nearly 10 month sentence and still owing nearly \$6 million in DBH funds. Consequently, many patients are left facing delayed surgeries and general medical care whilst Swann moves in to a friend's luxury \$1 million home, complete with indoor swimming pool.

Detective Senior Sergeant John Ferguson told *Critic* that "we are applying to court to have the car confiscated as part of the pecuniary penalty order of \$6 million which was made against Swann." This means any assets found to have been purchased using criminal funds may be seized, and the Rolls-Royce could potentially be auctioned off to the public some time in the future.

## Jacobin Encourages Lawlessness

OPINION BY JACOBIN

**A** YOUNG MAN WHO IS A FRIEND OF THEIRS has cancer in the spine. He is just over twenty years old, is experiencing extreme nausea, and is in the late stages of the condition. I don't really know who he is, but we share mutual friends and I know he is a brother of mine. We are all brothers in our guaranteed deaths.

I am not a particular fan of priests or theology. Being a materialist, I tend only to think in terms of what I can see right here in this world. How much pain can I reduce? What could I actually do of value for this young man?

The young man indicated to his friends that he would love to try medical marijuana in edible form. He understood the legal risks but wanted to exercise his freedom and dignity. His desire presumably stemmed from a lack of appetite and regular wanting to puke – I can only imagine having the joy of food slowly taken away.

Marijuana is perfect for lessening these symptoms (it sparks an appetite in almost everyone!), and there is little risk of negative interaction with medications. For some, it even induces a calm introspection that makes staring down death just that little bit easier.

We live in a truly transient world. We will all die. Our lives have value; seize it while you can. I am within a metre of graduating with a law degree and I absolutely encourage the breaking of unjust laws. I will do it throughout my life, and I will deliver.

The Misuse of Drugs Act, which deals with medical marijuana, is one such unjust law. I will do what I can for my brother despite the law and any risk it could pose to me. There is no "if" about it: I acquired an ounce of high-grade marijuana and I am overseeing the process of making it into edibles. It will be delivered. I will deliver.

# Otago Sciences Less Valuable Than Waikato's, says MBIE

BY ZANE POCKOCK

**S**CIENCE AND INNOVATION MINISTER STEVEN Joyce last Wednesday announced the \$1 research projects from around New Zealand that will be funded in this year's \$278 million Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) science investment round.

The University of Otago is "disappointed" to see a 85.6 per cent (\$11.3 million) drop from the \$13.2 million it received last year, putting this year's total at only \$1.9 million for just two different projects.

In comparison, the University of Auckland received \$17 million, the highest of any university. The University of Waikato and Massey University also received more funding than Otago.

Considering that "a number" of the University of Otago's projects were "very well rated by the referees," Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Enterprise Professor Richard Blaikie said the University was disappointed to see only two of them receive funding.

"What we gained in new contracts next year more than compensates for what MBIE contracts we have coming off. It's [a] net positive, but not as good a result as we would have hoped for," Professor Blaikie says.

In terms of the two projects that were funded, Blaikie said that "it is exciting to see this significant support for innovative Otago research proposals that have great potential to benefit both our economy and environment."

Both of the funded projects came out of the Department of Biochemistry and fit into the "Smart Ideas" category, designed to promote and support "research into novel, promising ideas that can create benefit for New Zealand."

Receiving \$920,000 from the Biological Industries Fund, Associate Professor Peter Dearden's investigation into "selective insecticides" aims to develop new bee-friendly insecticides.

"There is conflict between the use of insecticides to protect our crops and the damage these insecticides cause to beneficial insects such as bees. One way to solve this problem is the development of insect-killing genetically modified plants, but here in New Zealand there is public disquiet over such an approach," Dearden's proposal said.

"Here we propose to begin the process of developing the next generation of insecticides, ones that are effective against pests, but have no effect on bees."

Dr. Monica Gerth and Dr. Wayne Patrick's "Manufacturing molecules through enzyme engineering" aims to "enable bio-manufacturing of key industrial chemicals," and received its \$1 million in backing from the High Value Manufacturing and Services Research Fund.

Gerth and Patrick's research seeks "to develop new bio-manufacturing processes for two chemicals (butanone and 2-butanol) that are currently produced from petroleum." These chemicals are key ingredients in paints, varnishes, adhesives and the rubber used in car tyres.

Concluding that "this research has the potential to establish NZ as a centre of the global green chemical market, which is projected to grow from \$2.8 billion in 2011 to \$98.5 billion in 2020," it seems likely that their optimism was key in ensuring their success.

## \$13.2 million

University of Otago's 2012 MBIE funding

## \$1.9 million

University of Otago's 2013 MBIE funding

## \$17 million

University of Auckland 2013 MBIE funding



## ODT Attempts Themed Issue

BY SAM MCCHENSEY

**T**HERE WAS BUT ONE THING ON THE ODT'S brilliant and incisive journalistic mind last week, and no, it wasn't Syria. On 29 August, this was the front page:



This was the front page of the next section:



This was the front page of the sports section:



And this was the rest of the newspaper:



# Money Thrown at Peace And Conflict Centre

*"Not the Cause of All Problems After All," Centre Admits*

BY JOSIE COCHRANE

**A**N ANONYMOUS \$500,000 DONATION HAS been made to the University of Otago's National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. Centre Director Professor Kevin Clements said that the donor, an Auckland businessman, does not want personal recognition.

"He believes very strongly in the importance of peace education and learning as important factors in the generation of peaceable citizens and a peaceful world. His wife is a graduate of this University and both of them feel that Otago is the right place for this National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies."

Since 2010 the department has taught postgraduate programmes at the Master's and PhD levels. The Centre conducts research into the causes of social and political conflict and what

conditions are required for sustainable peace. They also provide advice to government and non-governmental organisations engaged in peace-building.

The money will be used to turn a temporary lecturing position into a permanent position focused on peace education, and to extend a postdoctoral fellowship on the economics of war and peace. "As the world shrinks [due to] global communications and transportation, it is essential that we work out ways in which we can learn to live together in an increasingly shrinking planet," Prof Clements explained.

The Centre has heavily relied on donations in its four-year history to carry out research on "some of the biggest challenges facing the world in the 21st century." In the past, the Centre

has received two additional anonymous donations (sent through the Centre's own Trust) of \$500,000 each, and \$570,000 from the Global Futures Centre Trust. These donations have also been used to fund faculty positions and doctoral scholarships.

The donations have allowed the Centre to expand from one professor, a personal assistant and no students to five tenured faculty members, one postdoctoral fellow, a Centre administrator, 25 PhD students, 13 Master's students and 19 postgraduate diploma students.

The Centre was quick to mention that they are always open to further financial support from benefactors, and that they hoped to eventually support a staff member dedicated to arms control and disarmament.

## The Final Exam of Our Lives

OPINION BY GUY MCCALLUM

**T**HERE IS NO AUTOPILOT FOR FREEDOM AND democracy. Perhaps it is this fact that should be taken for granted, instead of the goods we derive from them. It's hard to imagine the end of the present way of life that they make possible – too distant a possibility to be credible.

But it's like a final exam: it's too late if you're unprepared when the time arrives.

We live in a country untouched by armed conflict – since 1865 at least. Plague has not visited us since 1918, and our fertile lands mean we have never been struck by famine. Our weather is blustery at worst, and natural disasters are uncommon. There have been no violent revolutions or coups d'état in our nation's history. With every socially progressive step taken by our law and society, New Zealanders have increasingly

become the masters of their own destinies.

This relative tranquility and the seemingly steady march of progress lull us into thinking that we'll know when good things like freedom and democracy are at risk. By the time the issue that will excuse the ending of our precious way of life surfaces, we will have missed all the subtle changes that allowed entry to the thief in the night. What will it be?

The fiscal challenges in the United States, which continue to undermine confidence in the global economy, perhaps? China's ban on New Zealand dairy exports, exposing our sensitivity to international politics and downsizing our economy, maybe? Our essential commodities being consistently interrupted by an increasingly thoughtless corporate culture, brought on by legal monopolies and careless regulation?

The dollar drop after the recent Wellington earthquakes proves how shaky the ground is upon which we stand. Anything can happen.

John Key won't be Prime Minister in 20 years' time. Whether that's a good thing or not depends on who comes next, and whether they use for bad what Key built for (what he considers to be) the preservation of the good.

If or when laws like the GCSB and TICS Amendment Bills are enacted, and when worries contribute to instability here and abroad, we know that the final exams aren't far off. Some leader pretending to have all the answers will be getting ready to take over, perhaps even in this country. There is no asking for an extension and no second chances. But there are last chances, should you wish to seize the moment.



## Mosgiel Chainsaw Canister

BY THOMAS RAETHEL

**A** SIX-HOUR STANDOFF TOOK PLACE IN Mosgiel between police and a man who had locked himself in his garage with a running chainsaw. Critic is astounded at how long it took for the chainsaw to run out of fuel.

After being called to a domestic incident on Murray St at 8pm on 22 August, police were forced to negotiate with the 30-year-old man, who had argued with neighbours prior to barricading himself in his house. The man appeared in the Dunedin District Court the following day, charged with assault.

In an unexpected turn of events, as of 29 August

the Armed Offenders Squad has failed to locate a bag containing tear gas and spare canisters that were taken to the scene. A police spokesperson said that "the bag [fell] from a vehicle in the vicinity of Street Andrew St and the Southern Motorway during an AOS callout to a domestic incident."

According to Inspector Greg Sparrow, the canisters – labelled "FLAMELESS TRI-CHAMBER CS" – pose no threat to the public if not tampered with. The cartridges resemble large shotgun shells, with distinctive blue text printed on a shiny aluminium exterior. Inspector Sparrow has urged anyone who finds the canisters to return them to Dunedin Central Police Station

on Great King Street with "no questions asked." As extensive inquiries into the disappearance have proven fruitless, an enquiry into what happened is now taking place.

"An internal investigation is under way to determine exactly how the error occurred and to ensure it does not happen again," confirmed Sparrow.

CS gas has recently been utilised by the Turkish police in efforts to disperse protestors in Istanbul. Its effects can range from a mild watering of the eyes to vomiting, immobilisation and temporary blindness.

# 4

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# Acklin Calls It Quits After Nine Illustrious Years

BY JACK MONTGOMERIE

**R**ECIDIVIST DRINK DRIVER, ELVIS IMPERSONATOR and Dunedin City Councillor Bill Acklin has announced that he will not seek re-election when the city votes for its council in November. Cr. Acklin, whose business dealings have previously left him owing \$190,000 to the Inland Revenue Department, told the ODT he had chosen to put his three children and new partner before his civic role. He also confirmed that a "turbulent private life, at times played out in public," was influential in his decision.

"Eventually, you sort of think 'well, how difficult do I want to make my life?'" Acklin told the ODT.

Acklin, now in his third term as a Councillor for the Central Ward, is one of seven incumbent councillors who voted for the controversial Forsyth Barr stadium, which cost the Council \$162.7 million, has left the city with more than \$144 million of additional debt, and continues to cost ratepayers \$9.1 million annually to operate. Crs. Paul Hudson, John Bezett and Andrew Noone, who voted for the stadium spend, have confirmed that they will stand for re-election in November.

Despite the massive stadium bill, Cr. Acklin told the ODT that he felt the covered sports pitch was providing Dunedin with economic benefits, and

was "a huge statement that this city is going forward." Acklin also criticised the \$47 million cycle network which the DCC and New Zealand Transport Association are set to fund over the coming years, calling it a "pet project" of "a handful of people."

Acklin says he will continue to manage Bill Acklin Entertainments and work for Energy Saving Centre, a company that may benefit from the passage of a local bill setting minimum insulation standards for rental properties.

Acklin would not rule out a future bid for council or mayor.

## Seven Visors Deemed Super

BY BELLA MACDONALD

**T**HE OUSA 2013 SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR Awards were held on 26 August, with awards given to seven University of Otago supervisors.

The role of the supervisor is to oversee and support postgraduate students in the writing of their theses. Finalists for the awards were selected based on student nominations. This year there were 14 finalists.

As part of the nomination process, students "are asked to say something about their supervisor. Some of the things that are written are quite inspiring and carry weight with the committee," Matt Tucker, manager of the Student Support Centre, told Critic.

OUSA President Francisco Hernandez affirmed the importance of the supervisor role, saying that "supervisors are key to the process of

researching, guiding, proofing and submitting a student's thesis. "These award recipients represent the supervisors who stand out and help students not only in their study but assist students in the directions their lives take after studying," said Hernandez.

Dr Roslyn Kemp was announced as the overall Otago Supervisor of the Year for her exceptional supervision in the fields of Microbiology and Immunology.

Winners were deemed to have demonstrated a consistent and exceptionally high level of commitment to the job. Tucker explained that "these awards are given to those supervisors who have shown themselves to excel in the supervision role, as judged by the esteem of their students."

As for the criteria for finalists, Tucker noted that "students are a diverse bunch and supervisors

are no different. OUSA do not try to define what makes the perfect supervisor. One thing they have in common is that they are admired by the people that they work with."

Award winners were presented with certificates, book vouchers and gift baskets.

The winner of New Supervisor of the Year was Associate Professor Jacinta Ruru from the Faculty of Law. Special (Posthumous) Commemoration went to Dr. Tamar Murachver from Psychology. Professor Stephen Duffull from the School of Pharmacy received the Health Sciences Supervisor award, and Professor Jörg Frauendiener received the Sciences Supervisor award for Mathematics and Statistics. Associate Professor Holger Regenbrecht from Information Science won the Commerce Supervisor award. Finally, Dr. Chris Rosin was awarded top Humanities Supervisor for his work on sustainability.

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# NZUSA in the Toilet

## Hernandez Not Yet Ready to Flush

BY SAM MCCHESENEY

**S**TUDENT PRESIDENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY are calling for sweeping reforms to the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA), after the Waikato Students' Union (WSU) notified its withdrawal from the organisation.

In a press release circulated on 22 August, the Presidents of OUSA, VUWSA and AUSA, the three largest contributors of NZUSA funding, said they would propose a series of reforms at the NZUSA Congress, which will be held in early November. These reforms include a more inclusive governance structure, a renewed focus on core services, and "a credible role in organising relevant, national campaigns on issues that matter to students." The reforms are to be tabled immediately prior to the NZUSA presidential election.

WSU President Aaron Letcher announced last month that WSU would "temporarily withdraw" from NZUSA, withholding its remaining 2013 membership fee of \$10,000. Letcher cited value for money as the primary reason for withdrawing. The move, which was made without consulting Waikato students, was criticised by VUWSA President Rory McCourt, OUSA President Francisco Hernandez, and AUSA President Daniel Haines as a "rash and hasty decision."

Hernandez told *Critic* that the moves to reform NZUSA had been "brewing for a long time," but had only crystallised into a clear plan of action after the WSU withdrawal. Hernandez said that OUSA, VUWSA and AUSA were "seizing control of the reform process" away from WSU.

He confirmed that Letcher wished to remove NZUSA Executive Director Alistair Shaw, and convert the full-time President position into two part-time co-President positions, to be filled by Hernandez and McCourt for the remainder of 2013. Hernandez is known to harbour ambitions for the role, but is currently preoccupied with his OUSA duties and Dunedin City Council bid.

Although NZUSA has hardly been a paragon of excellence in years past, the union has recently

fallen on particularly hard times. After the introduction of Voluntary Student Membership (VSM) in 2012, NZUSA lost around \$160,000 – just under a third of its total revenue – when its member associations found themselves unable to afford their previous levies.

Around this time, the union was also restructured. The two co-President positions were consolidated into a single position, and the Executive Director position created. The NZUSA Federal Executive, comprising every New Zealand student president, was also scrapped in favour of a nine-person board of directors.

The current President, Pete Hodkinson, was elected to the position at the end of 2011, after serving as President of Unitec in Auckland. He stood for re-election at the end of last year and, despite running unopposed, was only elected after a second round of voting was held.

### Campaigns

NZUSA, and Hodkinson in particular, have come under increasing fire in recent weeks after McCourt went public with his frustrations over the union's lack of political activity. In an article published in *Salient* on 12 August, McCourt claimed that NZUSA was failing to balance the needs of its larger members with those of its smaller ones.

Smaller associations, such as those from polytechnics, require basic core support from NZUSA. Larger associations like OUSA, VUWSA and AUSA, which have the funds and organisational structure to provide core services, want NZUSA to provide a national voice and be a focal point for campaigns and lobbying. McCourt claimed that Hodkinson, who came to the role as a former polytechnic students' association president, had "struggled to straddle that divide," and did not share VUWSA's vision.

Speaking to *Critic*, Hodkinson said that he agreed "100 per cent" with the issues McCourt had

raised, but blamed NZUSA's political inaction on a lack of funding and clear communication from its members. NZUSA's budget line for campaigns is a whopping \$0.00, so the union must secure one-off funding from its members whenever it wants to run a campaign.

Hodkinson claimed that he had "put forward some proposals around campaigns over the last couple of years," but that these proposals had not "met with the degree of engagement that we'd need to back a full campaign." However, McCourt and Hernandez both deny that any serious campaign proposals had been put to them by NZUSA. "Like Otago, like Auckland, we're happy to put up dollars if [NZUSA] want to run a campaign," McCourt told *Critic*. "That hasn't happened."

Hodkinson admitted that while he has had little experience with running campaigns, the other association presidents were aware of this when they elected him. Without clear instructions or key performance indicators, Hodkinson said, "expecting fireworks of revolution out of me is not necessarily standing to reason."

"I think that would have been much easier to engage with if that had been brought forward in this kind of way – and maybe not quite in this heated, public, intense way, but a lot more directly, a lot earlier in the piece," Hodkinson continued. "If there was more communication going through to the board, more communication coming directly through to NZUSA around expectations, then that sort of thing is a lot easier for me to engage with. The fact that this has come up quite late has made that difficult, but not impossible."

Daniel Haines defended Hodkinson's record in this respect. "I think people need to play to their strengths, and he identified that [campaigns] wasn't one of his strengths," Haines told *Critic*. "And I don't think any of the members who have been criticising him have been helpful in directing him or supporting him in what they expect him to do."

McCourt, however, thinks otherwise. "I don't need to send Pete an email to remind him that he needs to meet with MPs and ministers, or to push our agenda in terms of the real impact that VSM is having here at Vic, or our concerns around loans and allowances," he said. "It's pretty basic stuff, and I don't think it really requires that much hands-on direction from students' associations."

## The Board

"I think one of the biggest things that have come out of the last few weeks is a very clear need to look at how effectively the new board structure is catering to the needs of students' associations," Hodkinson said. "The communications gap has been significant."

Indeed, the board has appeared to act as somewhat of a roadblock. Instead of streamlining NZUSA's governance, it has acted as a buffer between Hodkinson and students' association presidents and allowed the former to blame his lack of campaigning on poor communication.

The board currently has five voting members: Hodkinson; Haines; Kent Lloyd, President of the Lincoln University Students' Association (LUSA, lol); Rafaela Bolanos, President of the Christchurch Polytechnic Students' Association (CPSA); and David Cuthbert, an independent board member. A sixth voting member, Tony Te Huia, President of Waiariki Institute of Technology Students' Association (WITSA), stepped down earlier this year and is yet to be replaced. The board meets around six times a year.

While Haines has found board meetings "really useful," he also sympathised with the concerns that non-board members had raised. "I think the members of OUSA and VUWSA are calling for reforms, and I think what they're feeling is that they're locked out of the governance of NZUSA," he said. "They don't sit on the board and while they're notified of decisions, they don't get to take an active part in making those decisions. ... They're feeling like they're not in control of NZUSA. That's certainly something that we should rectify."

## The Troika

While Haines, Hernandez and McCourt are publicly saying slightly different things, the three ("you can call us the troika," Hernandez said.

"The troika sounds Soviet") hinted at their disapproval of NZUSA's campaigns strategy when they formed their own campaigns subcommittee earlier this year.

While Haines claims that the subcommittee was not about circumventing the NZUSA board, and was set up to "add extra value" to the body, Hernandez confirms that the subcommittee arose out of dissatisfaction with NZUSA. Although carried out beneath the umbrella of NZUSA, the subcommittee was, to all intents and purposes, an entirely autonomous body that had no direct interaction with the board.



NZUSA President Pete Hodkinson

Both Haines and Hernandez admit that the subcommittee enjoyed "mixed success." "Individually as presidents, we were too busy to do much campaigning. So it became more like a way to share resources," Hernandez explained. When it was suggested that this sounded like little more than a Google drive, Hernandez clarified that "it's more than a Google drive. It's more like a chat room. ... It's a social thing as well. We were going to go skiing, but it never really happened." Awww.

While the Labour-aligned troika (sounds Soviet) is understandably unwilling to portray it as such, the subcommittee provides a model for a breakaway or post-NZUSA organisation. Should NZUSA fall over, ad hoc groups could potentially spring up in its place.

Hernandez agrees that the subcommittee could provide the template for a new national organisation, but stressed that such a model was fragile and too dependent on the relationships between individual presidents.

## Can NZUSA Be Salvaged?

Along with VUWSA, OUSA is the second-largest contributor of NZUSA funding behind AUSA, pitching in \$45,000 annually. However, it currently receives very little value in exchange. Hodkinson has visited Dunedin three times this year, twice as part of his Treasury-funded "Big Questions tour," which has failed to achieve any meaningful engagement with students. Hernandez "can't remember" what Hodkinson was doing during his third visit. Hodkinson also sits on the Fun Party, the OUSA governance review panel, which is slowly petering out into oblivion.

Hernandez claimed that OUSA needs the solidarity that NZUSA provides, and that without a national body there would be little to stop the University from undermining and dismantling OUSA. When asked if \$45,000 was a reasonable price to pay to stave off this vague and apocalyptic scenario, Hernandez pointed out that the figure represents less than two per cent of OUSA's total budget.

VUWSA will hold a referendum on its continued membership to NZUSA after a request from one of its members. Hernandez confirmed that OUSA will be following suit, and a referendum will be held alongside the OUSA elections from 30 September to 3 October. However, the wording of the referendum has yet to be worked out, and such a referendum would also seem somewhat pointless while reforms to NZUSA are still on the table.

The consensus is that NZUSA can only be saved if it regains a credible political role. "The irreplaceable thing about NZUSA is a national student voice," Haines told *Critic*. "NZUSA has fringe benefits, like photocopy deals and plans that can collectively save us money if we work together. But those fringe benefits shouldn't be prioritised over the fact that nationally, we should be doing campaigning stuff. Because if we're not doing [campaigns], then we're just like a service provider or providing cheap deals, and that's so far removed from why NZUSA exists that we should just let it fall over because it isn't providing what we want."

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#### SEMESTER TWO

Good Bye and Good Luck

**WELCOME BACK / SPORTS NIGHT**  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 5.30pm, Unipol

**Phase 3:**  
**Are you ready for Exams?**  
Thursday 3 October, 5:30pm  
Commerce Staff Room

**Phase 1:**  
**How's it going?**  
**Pacific Careers Day**  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August, 5:30pm  
Union Common Room

**Phase 2:**  
**After the First Assignment /**  
**One on One consultations**  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September  
Pacific Islands Centre



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# BEST OF THE WEB

[rule34.paheal.net/tags](http://rule34.paheal.net/tags)

A tag list of the weirdest porn on the Internet.

[bibviz.com](http://bibviz.com)

The Bible Visualised: Contradictions, Misogyny, Violence and Inaccuracies.

[critic.co.nz/twelvepigs](http://critic.co.nz/twelvepigs)

"What's a grown man want twelve frosty pigs for?"

[critic.co.nz/oldnewyorker](http://critic.co.nz/oldnewyorker)

Eighty years of New Yorker advertisements.

[worldometers.info](http://worldometers.info)

Worldometers: real-time world statistics.

[critic.co.nz/newyorkcleaner](http://critic.co.nz/newyorkcleaner)

What it's like to be a window cleaner in New York City.

[critic.co.nz/chinesetypewriter](http://critic.co.nz/chinesetypewriter)

The Chinese typist deserves respect.

# NEWS IN BRIEFS

ZANE POCOCK

## WORLD WATCH

**LIBERIA.** | Liberia's education minister has announced that all 25,000 of the country's candidates failed this year's university admission exam, resulting in an entire country without freshers.

**GERMANY.** | German prosecutors are questioning how a man was able to board an empty government jet used by Chancellor Angela Merkel. High on drugs and wearing only underpants, he danced on a wing, sprayed foam around and pushed cockpit buttons.



**MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.** | Doctors saved the life of a woman who was clinically dead for 42 minutes by using defibrillators and a machine that kept blood flowing to her brain.



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## 2-8 September

BY JESSICA BROMELL

**T**HIS WEEK IN HISTORY, SOCIETIES ADVANCE ... or try to.

**September 2, 31 BC:** In the final and decisive confrontation that sealed the demise of the Roman Republic, Octavian faced off against Antony and Cleopatra at a place called Actium. Octavian was the adopted great-nephew of Julius Caesar, and would eventually be called Augustus and become the first Roman Emperor. His troops, commanded by his BFF Agrippa, beat Antony's into the ground. Given that the battle at Actium led to the rise of the Roman Empire, it ended up being pretty important. In the *Aeneid*, Virgil's epic poem of pro-Caesar propaganda, the hero is given a shield that just so happens to depict Actium. (Octavian did pretty well for a guy who was only 19 years old when he showed up in Rome and said he wanted to be in charge.)

**September 8, 1504:** After a long and turbulent history, Michelangelo's Statue of David was unveiled. It had been originally commissioned in 1464, but issues with previous sculptors' contracts meant that it was mostly neglected until 1501, when Michelangelo got his hands on it and made it into one of the most famous sculptures ever. Apparently it was supposed to go on the roof of a cathedral, but officials finally acknowledged that this was unlikely when they could no longer ignore that fact that it

weighed more than six tonnes (it's made of marble, and is 5.2 metres tall). This original plan might explain why its head and hands are out of proportion, though, so that's something.

**September 5, 1698:** Tsar Peter I of Russia introduced a beard tax on everyone except the clergy and peasantry in an attempt to modernise the anti-European nobility. What it meant in practice was that people who'd paid the beard tax carried around a token as proof of payment. These tokens were inscribed with the phrase: "the beard is a superfluous burden." You'd think Peter I might have had something better to do.

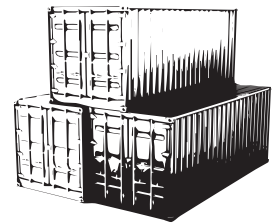
**September 3, 1967:** Sweden switched from driving on the left hand side of the road to the right, and there were actually fewer traffic accidents the following day than on the average Monday. This might have been due to everyone driving 10 kilometres per hour slower because they were concerned about traffic accidents.

**September 4, 1998:** Google was founded, and proceeded to gradually take over the world. It's the most visited website on the Internet, and processes about one billion requests a day – about 24 petabytes of data. That's 24 thousand terabytes, or 10 times the brain's capacity to store memories. Google is hardcore.

# FACTS & FIGURES



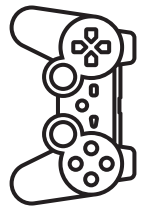
American Idol's audition contract states that they may fictionalise your backstory.



A student-housing complex called Keetwonen in Amsterdam is the largest container city in the world. Each container features a bedroom, study area, bathroom, kitchen and dining area.



In terms of total hours, *Call of Duty* has been played for longer than humans have lived on Earth.



Japanese scientists have used ultra-sensitive cameras to prove that human bodies emit tiny amounts of light, 1,000 times too weak for the human eye to detect.



New Zealand authorities made 106 requests for information about 119 Facebook users in the first half of this year.

New Zealand's Labour and National parties have each had only three parliamentary leaders who did not become Prime Minister.



# 320°



The range of vision that a goat's rectangular pupils can see.





# BLOOD DONATION AND GAY PROBATION

BY DR NICK

IF THOSE FILTHY AUSSIES CAN HAVE EQUITABLE BLOOD-DONATION LAWS, WHY CAN'T WE? DR NICK TAKES A LOOK AT THE BARRIERS TO BLOOD DONATION THAT GAY MEN STILL FACE IN NEW ZEALAND TODAY.

**A**USTRALIA: IT'S A LAND WHERE THE government encouraged child abduction for a century, and only just got around to apologising for it. It's a land where three separate marriage equality bills have been rejected by parliament in the past three years. It's a land where asylum seekers are left to die in the ocean because Kevin Rudd prefers his coffee and his country white. Yet, despite all this state-sanctioned discrimination, it's still got better blood donation equality rules than we do. Here in the land of the long white cloud and the big gay rainbow, we still think it's okay that gay men can't give blood.

Before we go any further, let's address the lisp-ing elephant in the fabulously decorated room. As a gay guy with veins so large a blind drunk could still get blood out of them, it frustrates the hell out of me that I can't give blood. I'm more than happy to admit I'm biased in this regard; it makes my blood boil when I'm told I can't support such a worthwhile cause by donating, which might actually be a good thing if you tend to take metaphors literally.

Thanks to the health sci first year grade-booster that is BSNS104, I'm well aware that equality (how similar things are) and equity (how fair things are) are not the same thing. I can handle different rules for different groups, provided you can prove that the inequalities are equitable. Looking through the deferral criteria, however, I just don't see any fairness in the system, and it really Grindr's my gears that the New Zealand Blood Service (NZBS) does.

## THE DEFERRAL CRITERIA:

The deferral criteria consists of a list of things that prevent you from being able to give blood. They either prevent you donating for a specified amount of time (as in the case of man-love moments) or else prevent you from donating indefinitely (as in the case of snorting coke or shooting up heroin).

The deferral criteria constitute one of many layers of safety checks and protocols the NZBS uses to protect blood recipients. As blood transfusion is reserved for seriously crook people, it's no surprise that maintaining the safety of blood is the cornerstone principle of the service. One of the biggest safety concerns when talking about blood is HIV, so it's also not surprising that many deferral criteria, including the criterion regarding gay sex, centre around this risk.

The deferral criteria for homosexual relationships reads as follows: "You must not give blood for FIVE YEARS following oral or anal sex with or without a condom with another man (if you are male)." The CAPITAL LETTER EMPHASIS on the deferral period comes directly from the NZBS, but also serves nicely to emphasise the incredulous tone in which you should read it. Apparently two HIV negative men in a long-term, monogamous relationship sucking each other's condom-clad cocks to completion pose enough of a risk that they would have to stop for FIVE YEARS before they're considered "safe."

To put that in perspective, here's a list of things that you're allowed to do in the bedroom that will only prevent you from donating for ONE YEAR: have sex with somebody known to carry Hepatitis, have sex with a prostitute, have sex as a prostitute (in New Zealand), have sex with somebody who has injected themselves with drugs, or have sex with somebody who comes from a country with high levels of HIV (including sub-Saharan Africa, which accounts for 69 per cent of people living with HIV worldwide). In theory, you could be paid to have sex with a hepatitis-riddled druggie from sub-Saharan Africa and still donate four years earlier than our two hypothetical homos.

## SWISS CHEESE, D&D AND HIV

As mentioned earlier, the deferral criteria are not the only safety checks in place to protect our blood pool. There are a number of safety steps involved, and the first occurs well before you come through the donation centre's door; it happens when you cum in your partner.

\$100,000 of student loans and six years of medical school has taught me that in order to get HIV, you've got to come into contact with somebody who has it. It also taught me that

**"IN THEORY, YOU COULD BE PAID TO HAVE SEX WITH A HEPATITIS-RIDDLED DRUGGIE FROM SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND STILL DONATE FOUR YEARS EARLIER THAN OUR TWO HYPOTHETICAL HOMOS."**

gay guys are proportionally more likely to have HIV than heterosexuals, so – assuming that gay men are a homogenous group who don't have different demographic, behavioural and risk profiles – your odds of bumping into somebody with it are higher if you're gay. What medical school doesn't do such a great job of teaching, though, is how relatively non-infective HIV actually is.

Let's assume you're HIV negative and your partner is HIV positive and isn't receiving any form of adequate treatment. Receptive anal sex (taking it in the bum) is the riskiest thing you could do without bringing needles or childbirth into the

mix. There's a whole bunch of appetite-losing reasons for this involving anal accommodation, lubrication and mucosal microtears, but the CliffNotes version is that bumming is about as bad, transmission-wise, as you can get in the bedroom. Of course, not all gay men have anal sex, and not all people who have anal sex are gay, but let's not go crazy and start bringing individuals' behaviour into policies based on individuals' behaviour.

There are three 2012 documents that quite thoroughly look at the risk of HIV transmission behind closed doors: "An overview of the relative risks of different sexual behaviours on HIV transmission," "Antibiotic Essentials 2012 (11th edition)" and "HIV Transmission Risk: A Summary of the Evidence." These three publications report very similar results, and essentially show that anal sex is more risky than vaginal sex which is more risky than oral sex.

As anal and oral sex are the two specifically mentioned by the blood service, it is worth looking at the cold hard figures involved. Blatantly disregarding the "if you don't got a rubber there'll be no hubba hubba" campaign, we're also going to look at the numbers for unprotected sex.

Having an HIV+ guy do you in the bum gives you approximately a 0.05 to 3 per cent chance of catching the virus. Doing an HIV+ person in the bum gives you roughly a 0.07 per cent chance each time, which is roughly on par with vaginal sex. Sucking off an HIV+ hooded warrior gives you around a 0 to 0.04 per cent chance of catching the virus, and being sucked off by somebody who is HIV+ gives you a whoppingly low 0 to 0.005 per cent chance. To put these numbers in perspective, you're more likely to get pregnant within a year of a successful vasectomy (a 0.15 per cent chance) than you are to get HIV by performing most of these acts of unprotected sex.

Sure, those numbers do start climbing if you've got another infection, like ulcerating syphilis, or if you're into particularly aggressive sex. On the flip side, simply using a condom causes the numbers to shrink faster than a post-climactic penis. To quote the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, "the body of research on the effectiveness of latex condoms in preventing sexual transmission of HIV is both comprehensive and conclusive. The ability of latex condoms

to prevent transmission of HIV has been scientifically established in 'real-life' studies of sexually active couples as well as in laboratory studies ... latex condoms provide an essentially impermeable barrier to particles the size of HIV."

So before you even get to the blood donation questionnaire, you've already been through a series of Dungeons and Dragons-esque pass/fail checks. First off, you're either aware or unaware of your own HIV status; then you're either aware or unaware of your partner's status; and then you're either practicing safe or unsafe sex (condom use, type of sex and adequate treatment when appropriate). Before you arrive at reception, you make one final check in deciding whether or not you even want to present to the blood service. This "self-deferral" check is based on your own individual behaviours and self-assessed risk of HIV, and relates to the fact that you are not allowed to donate blood if you feel you need an HIV or Hepatitis test.

Only if you "fail" all of these checks can you reach the pre-donation questionnaire without some idea of your potential HIV status. This required alignment of safety check failures is known in public health as "the Swiss cheese model." The delicious metaphor is designed to capture the fact that all the holes in a random stack of swiss cheese slices have to fortuitously line up before something can slip through. The homosexual contact deferral criterion is meant to be another slice of cheese in the stack, but isn't so much swiss cheese as it is a bigoted piece of brie.

## BLOOD TESTING

Even if you believe the deferral questionnaire cheese slice is holier than the hypothetical offspring of the Pope and Jesus, we still haven't touched the final, least hole-riddled check: blood testing. Irrespective of the boxes you tick on your deferral criteria questionnaire form, and regardless of how often you donate blood or how celibate you are, your donated blood will always be tested for HIV. Simply put, ticking "No" isn't enough of an assurance that you haven't been shooting up with used needles while listening to Mötley Crüe.

According to the 2008 Transfusion Medicine handbook and the 2008 Behavioural Donor Deferral Criteria Review, blood in New Zealand

is screened by looking directly for HIV (HIV RNA testing) and by looking for the body's reaction to it (testing for Anti-HIV1 and Anti-HIV2 antibodies).

The point of having multiple tests is to increase sensitivity (i.e. to make it very unlikely that a disease will be missed if it is present) and specificity (i.e. to make it very unlikely that a disease could be falsely reported if it is not present). Based on the sensitivity and specificity of these tests, the review paper models the risk as only 1 in 1,000,000 that they will fail to identify an established infection. To put a smaller, more concrete number on that, between the year 2000 and the review paper, 12 HIV+ donors were identified and their donations destroyed. No HIV-infected blood products have ever been known to reach clinical use in New Zealand. Notably, only three of those 12 identified cases were men who had had sex with men.

One final concern with testing is "the window period," or the length of time between when you get infected and when you start testing positive for the infection. This is a very real concern, because a matter of timing can turn the blood testing phase from a rigorous safety check to a pointless exercise. Indeed, any time a regular donor is flagged as being HIV+, there is a significant and costly "look-back" process for all donated products and recipients to ensure that the donor hadn't donated during their window period.

In the 2008 review paper, the estimated average window period for HIV testing was 11 days. This suggests that in the first 11 days after you get infected, you're more likely to test negative than you will positive, which is obviously a large concern. For that reason, some form of behaviour- and time-based deferral is warranted when HIV is not unreasonably unlikely.

### SO WHAT'S THE MORAL OF THE STORY?

If you have your own bias in the form of a homophobic elephant in the machismo-oozing room, feel free to stop reading here and go away content that your world view hasn't been challenged by a gay guy with a chip on his shoulder. Behaviour-based inequality does make sense

because the safety of blood products in New Zealand is tantamount.

The question, however, is whether this inequality can rationally justify a ubiquitous, five-year ban after any homosexual contact, particularly in light of the much lesser deferral periods for other high-risk sexual behaviours. The New Zealand Blood Service says it can; I say it can't. Certainly the NZBS has to take a harsher line

**"I PROMISE YOU, NZBS, THAT I WOULD CHURN OUT BLOOD FOR YOU EVERY THREE MONTHS IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO STOP HAVING SEX FOR FIVE YEARS TO DO SO. AND YOU KNOW WHAT? I'D BE WILLING TO JUMP THROUGH A FEW MORE HOOPS THAN MY STRAIGHT COUNTERPARTS AS WELL."**

than me – they have a direct duty to ensure that absolutely nothing can go wrong, whereas I'm just a guy who doesn't have HIV but does have a lot of blood to give. That being said, it is still hard to see how the NZBS can justify taking a stance as rigid as the one they do currently.

For starters, they base much of their argument on the now five-year-old review. In the current era of medical advances, five years is a lifetime. The review desperately needs updating in light of newer evidence around HIV epidemiology, treatment outcomes and testing methods. It also explicitly states that there needed to be a follow-up review by now, particularly given that more extensive evidence from the Australian one-year deferral policy is now available. Additionally, some of the evidence in that review is poorly acquired: the 2006 study on sexual behaviours recruited 18 per cent of its participants from a sex-on-site venue, which is practically the definition of a sampling bias (provided you've got a really strange dictionary).

Additionally, the "one size fits all" rule poses a direct challenge – the NZBS struggles enough to get enough donations without arbitrarily excluding healthy gay men. If you look at their marketing programmes you'll see that they focus on the need for more blood. They ram the "42,000 people a year need blood yet only four

per cent of eligible people donate" message so aggressively down your throat that it would certainly increase the risk of HIV transmission if it were an infected knob. Their ad campaigns are littered with adorable cancer-riddled children pleading for you to give blood, or reminders of the three lives you could save by donating.

I promise you, NZBS, that I would churn out blood for you every three months if I didn't have to stop having sex for five years to do so. And you know what? I'd be willing to jump through a few more hoops than my straight counterparts as well.

There's one safety check we didn't mention in our swiss cheese discussion: the mandatory one-on-one nurse interview. After you've ticked your boxes, you're taken into a room to further discuss your answers with a nurse. Couldn't the nurses have an extra sheet from which they ask a few more questions about individuals' condom use,

HIV testing, number of partners and types of sex? If you're really worried, why not reduce the deferral period for people who can show nurses independent evidence of negative HIV status? Sure, some people wouldn't want to go through that, but some people would given the value of the cause. There are a range of solutions that, whilst still unequal, would be a hell of a lot more equitable than a five-year blanket ban. If those filthy xenophobic Aussies can do it, we can too.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**  
 Since the time of writing, the New Zealand Blood Service has confirmed they are in the process of establishing a review group for the donor deferral criteria. They hope to begin this review by the end of 2013.

# The Great Annual Critic BYO Review

Taking one for the team, Ines Shennan bravely volunteered for Critic's annual culinary foray to find Dunedin's best BYO restaurant for the discerning student palate.

"**H** EY INES, CAN YOU DO THE BYO REVIEW?" GIVE ME A MOMENT TO ... YES. THE THOUGHT OF STROLLING off to local eateries after numerous lectures and library shenanigans day-in, day-out, was a brilliant idea if ever I'd heard one. For a moment I thought I could even play my cards right and pretend I was wining and dining my boyfriend out of the absolute goodness of my heart, but the red notebook and camera constantly being whipped out would have quickly given the game away. The two of us set off each evening with empty bellies, ready to be wooed by steaming plates and bowls of various delicacies.

PLAIN NAAN, RICE, VINDALOO, BUTTER CHICKEN

## Shahi Tandoor 351 George Street (03) 470 1597

**W**ALKING DOWN GEORGE STREET, YOU can't miss Shahi Tandoor. Located in the block north of Hanover Street, it stands out with its brightly painted tangerine interior and endless windows. Upon entering, bright yet soothing light washes over you and the colourful walls with gold finishings beg you to order a chicken tikka right away.

They have friendly service, beautiful curries and an environment that is the right blend of casual and lively. A long table at the north end, as well as another one hidden at the back, makes it ideal for larger BYOs. On a Saturday they claim to feed up to 300 hungry mouths throughout the course of the night, seating up to 100 at any one time.

Though I typically avoid butter chicken, finding it often fails to balance flavour with a cloying

richness, I was blown away by the subtle complexities of Shahi's version (available for \$15.90). The morsels of chicken are first cooked in a charcoal clay oven, taking on a heavenly smokiness. The sauce has a beautiful flavour and the dish is topped with a swirl of cream and slivered nuts. For the sake of typical Western tradition, we ordered it mild. I'd recommend getting it at least medium, just for an extra kick, but it's still divine if not. The lamb vindaloo (\$15.90) was oily, tangy and very spicy, making it a perfect pairing with the creamy butter chicken. The presentation is great and the naan (\$3) does its job well of mopping up any excess sauce. If your usual BYO crew are curry fans (or if you fancy one of their daytime lunch specials), get aboard the Shahi train. These guys know what they're doing.

**TRY THE:** Butter chicken, lamb vindaloo or mango chicken.

**WE SPENT:** \$34.80 for two curries (including rice) and a naan.

**CORKAGE:** \$4.50



BUTTER CHICKEN



TAKOYAKI

## Yuki Izakaya 29 Bath Street (03) 477 9539

**T**UCKED AWAY IN BATH STREET IS YUKI. Behind its rolling door entry is a bustling restaurant with heavy, varnished, hand-carved tables and tiny stools. Its low ceiling, open kitchen layout and quick service make it a novel place for a quick bite, or a longer evening of consumption. I've lost count of the number of times I've been to this place, so let's admit that bias now and get on with it. Actually, one more thing: I've also never been here without ordering the octopus balls, so my long-standing praise for them may also infiltrate this review. Sincerest apologies.

The idea behind Yuki is to order many small dishes, either individually or as a table. For larger BYOs (for which they have a key table by the door), I'd recommend selecting three or four dishes for yourself, and that way you'll know exactly what you're getting. We ordered the goyoza dumplings (\$6) with vermicelli filling and a soy-based dipping sauce. Hot, crisp and flavoursome, these are a good starting point for your selection of Japanese-themed goodies. The okonomiyaki (\$8) is a cabbage-based sort of pancake with an outrageous swirl of barbecue sauce and mayonnaise on top. We had the variety with bacon.

The takoyaki, a.k.a. octopus balls (\$6), are not literally what they sound like, but are crispy,

round delights smothered in mayonnaise and bonito flakes, which manage to eerily wave around in the heat. Every mouthful of the takoyaki is a small burst of happiness, even if you do brush the bonito flakes aside. The ika-geso, a.k.a. tempura squid (\$6.50), had a lovely crisp, light batter with a satisfying crunch and was a generous serve for its price. Finally, the spicy chicken (\$7) had tender pieces of chicken encased in a thin, crispy outer and then smothered in an incredibly hot, tangy, electric red sauce. This is one for the chilli fans, and the sauce is fairly plentiful so is great for eating with everything else.



TEMPURA SQUID



OKONOMIYAKI

The wait staff are patient, the food comes out fast and there is even sumo wrestling screening silently on a mounted television. By 7pm on a Thursday they were absolutely bustling, with people popping in to ensure they could get a seat later on. Friendly, efficient, and cranking out everything from Will-I-Am to Foals, this place is a real charmer.

**TRY THE:** Takoyaki, beef tataki or prawn tempura.  
**WE SPENT:** \$33.50 for five smaller dishes.  
**CORKAGE:** \$6

**"The takoyaki, a.k.a. octopus balls, are not literally what they sound like, but are crispy, round delights smothered in mayonnaise and bonito flakes, which manage to eerily wave around in the heat."**



BEEF BRISKET HOKKEIN NOODLES

## Asian Restaurant (a.k.a. The Asian) 43 Moray Place (03) 477 6673

**T**HE ASIAN WELCOMES IN THE OLD AND YOUNG, families, upstanding citizens and fine Scarfies. Its kitschy interior and abundance of lazy-Susan-clad tables make it exciting every time you enter its friendly, albeit loud, embrace. With a ridiculously extensive menu, choosing the right dish can be a test of one's decision-making skills.

They do beef well, but I'd stick with the chilli-based sauces for a more flavoursome experience. The food comes out at lightning speed and the service is attentive. This place has a warm buzz about it throughout the week, but particularly closer to the weekend. They don't take BYO sittings after 9pm, but let's be honest – it would be offensive to wait that late before gorging on their hot, saucy noodles.

We ordered the beef brisket hokkein noodles (\$14), which arrived steaming hot and with a delicious gingery scent. The beef was tender, in a subtly salty sauce loaded with roughly chopped yet brilliantly soft garlic. The noodles

were blissfully soft and thick, soaking up all of the sauce. Some finely sliced carrot added a bit of colour and crunch, but this is an otherwise vegetable-free dish, so a meal with more greens makes a good pairing with it. The spicy schuzuan chicken chow mein (\$14) was served on thin egg noodles with a gorgeous pile of celery, cauliflower, broccoli and mushrooms, though the sauce was fairly nondescript.

In addition to the rice- and noodle-based dishes, The Asian also has a plentiful range of soups, from chicken and corn to BBQ pork to wonton, starting at just \$4 for a small bowl. They also have a very descriptive wine list: for example, one is "dry with herbaceous and tropical flavours" and is "great with Chinese food medium dry" [sic]. Their biggest tables seat 10-12 people and the place is great fun. Remember, you get what you pay for: it's cheap, it'll fill you up and it's good value. Anything with noodles, chilli and beef is a winner.

**TRY THE:** Beef spicy bean sauce on rice, crispy chicken, or fried tofu veges with spring onion and ginger.

**WE SPENT:** \$28 for two mains.  
**CORKAGE:** \$5



BUTTER CHICKEN

## India Garden 10 Hanover Street (03) 477 2495

**L**URED INTO INDIA GARDEN BY THEIR Wednesday \$12 curry night, we were disappointed. The understated interior and friendly staff make the place an otherwise great destination for a relaxed dinner, but the

lamb vindaloo (normally \$15.50) was a flop. Though its spice base was gorgeously complex and the numerous chunks of lamb tender, it was overly salty and this completely ruined it. When we mentioned this, our waitress was absolutely apologetic and brought us another one without question, plus extra rice. The replacement vindaloo still had salty tones running through it, which was a shame, because all of the other elements were otherwise great.

The butter chicken (normally \$15.50) had a heavy tomato presence, although this made a nice change from those that are overly creamy without any competing tang coming through. Get it medium, if not hot, for a more rewarding flavour. I'd like to think that this was just a cursed night for vindaloo because this place is otherwise a perfect BYO destination: well-lit, cheap corkage, inexpensive yet filling food and damn fine, buttery naan (\$2.50). This trip was a disappointment but I've enjoyed it on previous occasions, and small touches like cumin seeds stirred through the fluffy rice and the instant delivery of water to the table makes it a pretty sweet BYO location.

**TRY THE:** Lamb saagwala.  
**WE SPENT:** \$26.50 for two curries (including rice) and a naan.  
**CORKAGE:** \$3

## Kwangchow Cuisine 18 Lower Stuart Street (03) 477 1668

**I**T'S REALLY, REALLY EMBARRASSING THAT I've lived in Dunedin so long and yet still required a *Critic* assignment to experience Kwangchow Cuisine. I am sorry, Kwangchow, for being so blissfully ignorant of your divine existence. This place is honestly something else – in a good way. The décor is incredible and, being up a winding staircase, is completely hidden from the street. Plush scarlet carpet lines the floor and a glitzy chandelier somehow seems fitting despite being at odds with the other decorations adorning the large dining room, which is loosely separated into two areas.

If you want to feel like a king whilst sipping away on your carefully selected Waipara riesling, then you'll feel right at home perched in the comfortable, brown-cushioned seats. Sounds weird, feels great. We ordered the spicy szechuan beef on rice (\$12), which is also available with chicken, prawns or pork at varying prices. It had oiliness, heat, loads of tender beef and lots of vegetables. The braised pork with spicy chilli sauce (\$16) had no rice or noodles but this was no loss; the addition of cubed silky tofu with a

**"I am sorry, Kwangchow, for being so blissfully ignorant of your divine existence. This place is honestly something else – in a good way."**

crisp exterior, plenty of vegetables and a sweet, almost honey-ish sauce made it an instant favourite. I couldn't stop shovelling it in, but hey, it was all in the name of culinary enjoyment. The dishes come out as they are cooked rather than all at once, so go there to share and, for goodness' sake, ask for a table with a lazy Susan. It would be silly not to.

**TRY THE:** Spicy szechuan beef on rice, beef with flat noodles or green beans with garlic.  
**WE SPENT:** \$30 for two mains and a pot of Chinese tea.  
**CORKAGE:** \$5



SPICY SZECHUAN BEEF ON RICE



BRAISED PORK WITH SPICY CHILLI SAUCE

## BEST DISH



### Shahi Tandoor's butter chicken

Rich yet beautifully flavoursome with the perfect finishing touches.

#### Runner-Up:

### Yuki's prawn or squid tempura

The batter alone is a delight, the fillings are tender and the dipping sauce finishes it off nicely.

## BEST BYO



### Yuki Izakaya

For its delicious food and peppy atmosphere.

#### Runner-Up: Kwangchow

Embrace the music-less ambience and elaborate décor for a BYO experience like no other.





# ME AND MY GENOME

BY LINDSEY HORNE

GENOMICS OFFERS INCREDIBLE NEW POSSIBILITIES IN PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, AND IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO HAVE ONE'S GENOME SEQUENCED FOR UNDER \$100. BUT HOW MUCH DO WE REALLY WANT TO KNOW ABOUT OURSELVES, AND IS THIS INFORMATION SAFE?

REMEMBER A TIME BEFORE MOBILE phones? My mum used to stand on the porch and do one of those finger-in-your-mouth whistles to get me to come home for dinner instead of texting me. What about life before the Internet? Everyone had an *Encyclopedia Britannica* stacked next to their Monopoly set or, if they were really lucky, had the *Britannica* CD-ROM. Looking back, it's hard to imagine how people coped. But just think: what could we be missing out on ourselves? In the future, will people will scoff at us and wonder how on earth we managed?

With the rise of medical genetics, this is increasingly a question on people's lips. For those of you who wagged fifth-form bio or have come no closer to genetic science than watching Gattaca, here's a quick run-down:

Each one of you has a unique genetic makeup, because you each have slightly different DNA. DNA is essentially a chemical instruction manual: different sections of DNA code for specific genes, which themselves code for the collection of proteins that together make us who and what we are.

Still lost? Think of it like a book: the various DNA nucleotides are the different letters of the alphabet. Depending on the order of the letters, you can create hundreds of thousands of words

(or genes), each with their own specific meaning. Stringing these words together in the correct order gives you functional sentences (or proteins), and will ultimately allow you to produce an entire book (or individual organism). The consequences are obvious: if you know what words are involved in writing a particular book, and the order in which they need to go, then you can know what the book should be about – and how to edit it – before it is printed.

Researchers cottoned on to how powerful genetics could be a while back, and the field has grown exponentially ever since. The Human Genome Project, an international initiative aimed at sequencing and mapping the genes that make up human beings, was completed in 2003. At the time, the project took 19 years and \$2.3 billion to complete. Now, anyone can get their genome sequenced in six weeks for under US \$100 – all you have to do is spit in a vial and send it off to the lab. Such phenomenal advances in our understanding of human genetics have triggered what has been deemed a "medical revolution," and "the biggest disruption since the internet and mobile phones." So what's all the fuss about?

## PERSONALISED MEDICINE

I'm not trying to be overly critical of modern society, but why are we at uni? Aside from the luxurious housing, balmy weather and range of flavours that \$3 lunch has to offer, the majority

of us are here because we're more likely to get a decent job if we can wave a university qualification in future employers' faces. In other words, we're ensuring our future finances.

But what if you could ensure your future health in a similar way? By "ensure," I don't just mean avoiding Fatty Lane and going to pump class twice a semester. I mean knowing that you are likely to get heart disease, a particular kind of cancer, or a rare disorder that leads to early-onset blindness, and nipping it in the bud before it causes anything more than momentary concern. Genetic sequencing is all about making medicine preventative rather than reactive. It builds on the age-old maxim that prevention is better than (attempted) cure.

If I'm going to use an example, I may as well use one that you're going to pay attention to: Angelina Jolie's boobs. Jolie's mother died of breast cancer at age 56, and so the disease was firmly on the star's radar. Through genetic testing, Jolie discovered that she carried a gene (BRCA-1) that is known to increase an individual's risk of breast cancer. In her case, the risk was 87 per cent higher than for an average female. Consequently, she opted for a "preventive double mastectomy" – in other words, she had both of her breasts surgically removed. Her risk of breast cancer has now dropped below five per cent, and the Jolie-Pitt kiddies will have their yummy mummy around for years to come.

# "23ANDME IS A PERSONAL GENOMICS COMPANY THAT OFFERS 'RAPID GENETIC TESTING' FOR ONLY US\$99. IT COULDN'T BE SIMPLER: YOU SEND THEM SOME SPIT, AND SIX WEEKS LATER THEY SEND YOU A SUMMARY OF YOUR GENETIC MAKE-UP."

Genetic sequencing now allows doctors and genetic counsellors to screen for numerous types of cancer, various heart conditions and Type II diabetes, and the list keeps on growing. Determining the genetic underpinnings of rare disorders has to be one of the greatest advances in modern investigative medicine. Clinicians are essentially becoming CSI agents who can get to the bottom of previously unsolvable cases.

Children with rare conditions are born every day, and before the advent of genetic testing clinicians were more likely to nail a "Babe of the Day" than nail the underlying cause. Take Nick Volker of Milwaukee, for example. At just 17 months, his parents noticed that he had a high fever and a wound that refused to heal. Doctors eventually realised that Nick was suffering from a condition that caused small fistulas (or holes) to form in his intestines, through which faeces were leaking into his colon. Nick underwent hundreds of surgical procedures before his colon was finally removed, and by the time he was four years old had used up his entire \$2 million health insurance. (Apparently there is a price on life after all.)

Like spading on someone in Surfin Slices at 4am, doctors made one last desperate attempt. They sequenced Nick's genome hoping to find a cause. (Remember, this was eight years ago, so not only were we living in a world of Simple Plan and My Chemical Romance, we were living in a world in which whole genome sequencing was the new kid on the block.) Miraculously, they found a genetic mutation that was to blame for the defective protein in his bowel, and Nick was able to receive a cord blood transplant. He's now on the mend, and has incidentally become the first person in history to be saved by whole-genome sequencing.

This is what all the fuss is about: personalised preventive medicine. It's hardly surprising. Not only is it reducing the need for risky procedures, it's going to save us millions. Imagine if Nick had been sequenced when he was born. Imagine not needing to perform all those surgical procedures. And imagine not having to spend that \$2 million.

No wonder the UK wants to go on a sequencing frenzy! In December 2012, Prime Minister David Cameron announced a £100 million (NZ\$198 million) project aimed at fully sequencing the genomes of 100,000 Britons.

Genetic sequencing on this scale will lead to better treatment plans, better drugs and better overall healthcare. It's also David Cameron's way of asserting that genetic sequencing is the UK's "thing." Thailand has mushy shakes, New Zealand is 100% Pure exports dodgy milk powder, and the UK can sequence the shit out of anyone (literally, in Nick Volker's case).

Historically, the Netherlands has been the top dog in the sequencing field, but other countries are increasingly jumping on the bandwagon and it's spreading faster than "hotdog legs" on Tumblr. Nor is the pressure exerted in a purely top-down manner. While governments are fast appreciating the potential of genomic medicine, many regular citizens are crying out for it too. And some geeky-yet-sassy entrepreneur in Silicon Valley has heard their pleas.

## SEQUENCING FOR EVERYONE!

Direct-to-consumer genome sequencing has been bought to the public by Anne Wojcicki, the wife of none other than Google co-founder Sergey Brin. (Since we're talking genetics, just stop and think for a moment about how smart Brin and Wojcicki's kids are going to be. Bags that genetic combo!) 23andMe is a personal genomics company that offers "rapid genetic testing" for only US\$99. It couldn't be simpler: you send them some spit, and six weeks later they send you a summary of your genetic make-up.

Logging in to your 23andMe account allows you to view information about both your ancestry and your general health. The company is the largest DNA-based ancestry service in the world, and has a "Relative Tracker" feature that helps to reconnect you to your long-lost relatives. A number of celebrities have signed up, so you can also check whether you are distantly related to Bono.

"FINDING OUT THAT I'M GOING TO GET HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE (A GENETIC NEURODEGENERATIVE DISORDER THAT USUALLY PRESENTS IN YOUR LATE 30S) WOULD PUT A REAL DAMPER ON MY LIFE."

This sort of thing fascinates me, and 23andMe can teach you some pretty cool stuff about yourself. So I switched my go-to procrastination site from *staggeringbeauty.com* (it's a goodie, trust me)

to any site that had information on 23andMe. Essentially, this involved watching a bunch of Americans spitting into test tubes on YouTube and then listening to them explain how "Oh my God – I'm one per cent Native American. That must, like, totally explain my olive skin!" It's sort of like a weird dream: it's cool for the person involved, but incredibly lame for anyone having to feign interest in it. Despite this, I was still keen to give it a go. After all, it would be great if I could justify my increasingly ginger hair by saying that I'm Irish.

Discovering information about your health, however, is not such a light-hearted experience. Behind the marketing campaigns (dominated by more stock photos than you can throw a stick at and corny lines like "the journey to knowing who you are starts with learning where you

came from") is the chance that you may discover something scary. Sure, it may be fun to find out whether or not your gluten intolerance is legit, but it's not necessarily easy to deal with the knowledge that you have a reasonable chance of suffering from a degenerative disorder or that you are a carrier for Cystic Fibrosis.

## HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

As much as I'd like to have a set Five Year Life Plan, I can also see real value in living life in the YOLO-style for a while and enjoying my youth. Finding out that I'm going to get Huntington's disease (a genetic neurodegenerative disorder that usually presents in your late 30s) would put a real damper on my life. Before sending off my spit for analysis, therefore, I asked myself carefully how much I really wanted to know.

It turns out that 23andMe "locks" information on a number of health risks until you accept another set of Terms and Conditions. If you don't want to know your chances of getting these particular diseases, you can choose to camp out a little longer in the "ignorance is bliss" field. However, the only information that is "locked" in this way is that related to three conditions: late-onset Alzheimer's, breast cancer and Parkinson's. Your risk of Huntington's, prostate cancer and heart disease, on the other hand, will be sitting there waiting for you, never to be unseen again.

I felt a bit uncomfortable about this, and went into investigative mode. My aim was to get to the bottom of this "rapid genetic testing" idea, and perhaps utilise some of those critical thinking skills we were promised as part of our degrees.

We're dealing with information about people's health, so one of the first things I looked into was insurance. At this stage, there is no legal requirement to pass on genetic information to your health insurance provider. Did I just hear you all say "phew"? Not so fast ... you are legally required to provide this information to your life insurance provider. They'll tell you, of course, that they take other things into account – your family history, for example, and your profession – but let's be honest: your genetic information is the best predictor of what's in store for you in the future. Long-term-care insurance and disability insurance can also request your results, making

"A REPORT RELEASED IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR REVEALED THAT OVER 50,000 DIFFERENT COMPANIES – INCLUDING DOMINO'S PIZZA AND THE US POSTAL SERVICE – SOLD THEIR EMPLOYEES' HISTORY INFORMATION TO EQUIFAX, ONE OF THE LARGEST CREDIT AGENCIES IN AMERICA. EQUIFAX IN TURN SELLS THE INFORMATION TO INTERESTED THIRD-PARTIES."

it harder to apply for these types of insurance as well. Doctors in the US have already reported high-risk patients who are too afraid to undergo genetic testing for this reason.

With the current uproar surrounding the GCSB, I could hardly avoid looking into the privacy issues related to genetic testing and data access. Turns out it's easier to identify someone through their genome than originally thought. Yaniv Erlich and his team at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts, managed to pinpoint the identities of individuals in a public database using their own algorithm. Their findings were published in Nature earlier this year, with authors warning that this is "a serious loophole" in the system.

Putting your trust in private companies such as 23andMe is something to think twice about: a report released in January of this year revealed that over 50,000 different companies – including Domino's Pizza and the US Postal Service – sold their employees' history information to Equifax, one of the largest credit agencies in America. Equifax in turn sells the information to interested third-parties. That is not something to take lightly.

Finally, there's the issue of legitimacy. While genes do play a significant role in determining who you are and what may happen to you, the importance of environmental factors should not be summarily dismissed. Genetic risk factors are often not the be all and end all. Nor should you accept without question the legitimacy of the genetic analysis these companies provide. Many scientists doubt the reliability of the methods

employed by direct-to-consumer companies like 23andMe, and some have even go so far as to claim that the results are only marginally more accurate than those provided by the average daily horoscope.

## REVOLUTION OR FALSE DAWN?

Whether you think that this is a medical revolution that will forever change the future of medicine, or a another wannabe sci-fi effort from people who got a little too excited by Gattaca, it's happening regardless. The science is changing so rapidly that the ethical and legal circles are only just managing to keep up.

As young adults in a constantly-evolving world, it is important that we begin to consider these sorts of issues before they become the norm. In many ways, this is already happening – more and more women are opting for non-invasive pre-natal testing (in which their unborn babies are screened for genetic defects in utero), and more and more people are signing up to participate in nationwide sequencing initiatives and mass studies. So take some time to consider how much you really want to know about yourself.

As for me and my genome, I'm gonna put off the test for now. I reckon I want to enjoy a few more years of ignorant bliss and conserve an aura of mystery around the ending to my own personal story. Ask me again in a decade, however, and chances are I will have given in and opted for a plot spoiler.

# 2013 NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

## Mood Indigo

Director: Michel Gondry

REVIEW BY ROSIE HOWELLS

**L**ET ME START BY SAYING THAT I HAVEN'T ENJOYED a film this much in a really long time, which is high praise indeed considering it was my fourth Film Festival movie in a week. Whimsical, surreal and heart-breaking, it was everything you'd expect from Michel Gondry, the director behind the equally magical *Science of Sleep* and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*.

*Mood Indigo's* opening scene made me want to do an aggressive and spirited dance routine of joy in the cinema, as I was so overwhelmed with happiness I felt it required a physical outlet. The audience all watched with smiles plastered on their faces as our hero Colin (Romain Duris) starts off his day: he sings in the shower, dines on a breakfast prepared by his personal chef and legal consultant Nicholas (Omar Sy) and hears of the romantic conquests of his best friend Chick (Gad Elmaleh). However, it is worth mentioning that the door bell climbed up the wall like a spider, Nicholas prepared the meal with help from a TV chef that spoke directly to him (even passing spices through the TV screen), and Colin cut off his eye-lids, which were then collected by his residential mouse (a miniature middle aged man in a mouse costume). It was immediately apparent that you weren't in the real world anymore – you were in a Gondry world.

The story truly takes flight when, after hearing of Nicholas and Chick's new girlfriends, Colin proclaims: "I demand to fall in love!" Luckily, Nicholas and Chick know just the right girl, and that very night he is introduced to Chloe (Audrey Tatou) at a birthday party for a poodle. Shopping, ice skating and general frolicking ensues and you never want the fun to end. But it does. Like a hatchet to the back.

If the first hour of the film was the most joyous



I have ever witnessed, the second hour was the most bleak. The world is still surreal, but in the most depressing way: one of Colin's many miserable jobs is to lie naked on a mound of dirt so that his human warmth can power the creation of military guns. (The weapons his warmth powers are useless, however, as he's too sad.) The film is currently sitting on two stars out of five on Rotten Tomatoes and I think this is why – it gets incredibly dark incredibly quickly. For me, this wasn't a problem. The first half of *Mood Indigo* is so slap-you-in-the-face happy that it gives the sadness beauty and meaning, and the characters' fall into destruction, depression and personal ruin is made all the more poignant.

The actors do the most splendid job of bringing truth to characters that live in a bizarre and magical world. As always, Tatou is a class act, and no one could have been better suited for the

role of Colin as the charismatic, cheeky and often child-like Duris. For me, Omar Sy (of the much-loved *Intouchables*) is a personal highlight – he brings his trademark charm and cool to the unusual happenings around him. It also helps that the cast are more attractive than anyone you'll ever see or meet in your real life; in fact the character of Isis (played by French supermodel Charlotte Le Bon) is so beautiful that I actually got angry when subtitles came onto the screen, as it meant I had to drag my eyes away from her astonishing face.

The only reason this film isn't a 5/5 is because of the ending – if that's Gondry's statement on life then I'm not buying it. But you can enjoy the film without buying into its grand statement. Let yourself be engulfed by this incredible, fantastical, tragic world. You won't regret it.

4 1/5

# Pervert's Guide to Ideology

Director: Sophie Fiennes

REVIEW BY ALEX WILSON

**I**T'S HARD TO THINK OF A FILM AT THIS YEAR'S Festival that is so perfectly equal parts educational and offbeat as this small Irish production about a Slovenian philosopher deconstructing some of the most influential films of the past 50 years. Slavoj Žižek is our phlegmatic guide to the cinema, using it to explore the deep-seated power of ideologies and how they resurface in seemingly unconnected locations such as Nazi propaganda films, the London riots, and Coke commercials from the 1980s. Žižek's aim is a basic one: to show how film can (often unknowingly) reinforce the beliefs, desires and ideas deemed acceptable for society at large. While Žižek is largely successful in his



aim, drawing a few laughs and making very astute observations, at times the whole process is strenuously convoluted.

As Žižek jumps from film to film he also jumps from location to location. When discussing (what he refers to as) "The Taxi Driver" we find him delivering his lecture (and it is indeed a lecture) from Travis Bickle's apartment. His message regarding *The Sound of Music* and its links to Coca-Cola is stoically delivered in a full-blown nun's costume. It seems that Sophie Fiennes decided not to reel in her heavily accented pedagogue. If there was a script, it seems to have been discarded early on in the piece: Fiennes is perfectly happy to let Žižek stumble over his words, pause for extended periods and discuss

at length ideas that make absolutely no sense to anyone bar possibly Žižek himself. In many ways, this is the film's purpose. Why would a film funded by the British Film Institute be allowed to deliver its message in a way that invites such obvious barriers to clear communication, if not to deconstruct the film's own ability to reinforce ideologies?

However, while some points may be lost, this is still a great film. Žižek is a brilliant raconteur and theologian who skilfully turns what could be quite a dry subject into a fun-filled romp through the ages. The film is only let down, maybe, by the grandiose scope of his own ideas. The absent-minded professor for the internet age, perhaps?



# The Bling Ring

Director: Sophia Coppola

REVIEW BY BAZ MACDONALD

**S**OMETIMES REAL LIFE EVENTS FEEL LIKE THEY happened purely in order to be made into movies. The Hollywood Hills burglaries of 2009 were one of those events. A bunch of teenagers robbing the houses of celebrities is clearly the premise for a great film, and the stage was well set for natural narrative flow, thematic significance and deep character complexity. All of these attributes are inherent to the story, and yet Sophia Coppola somehow manages to turn it into a very average film.

For those unfamiliar with the Hollywood Hills robberies, a group of teenagers used celebrity gossip websites (such as Perez Hilton) to find out when celebrities would be out of town and then broke into their homes and stole a variety of items – primarily money and clothes.



Coppola tells this story from the perspective of the only boy implicated in the crimes: Nick Prugo. Through his eyes we see the situation escalate from petty theft to mass robberies, and finally to the groups' eventual arrest and prosecution.

Coppola's direction and writing somehow turn this story into an exercise in self-indulgence. Instead of elaborating the relationships between characters, or further investigating the psychological effects of their activities, Coppola instead opts for extended (and pointless) shots of characters listening to music and smoking. She even manages to make the burglaries themselves a painful and drawn-out experience to watch. While the initial robbery is exciting, every subsequent robbery is filmed in the exact same way. By the fifth or sixth time, this becomes very boring.

Despite Coppola's poor direction, the richness of the content often shines through. In particular, the themes of celebrity-envy and excess (which are central to the story) stand out boldly, making you cringe over the destructive and malignant culture that has sprung up out of Hollywood.

Though the film co-stars Emma Watson, it is the performances by Nick (Israel Broussard) and Rachel (Katie Chang) that leave an impression. These two previously unknown actors put Emma Watson and her barely-passable Californian accent to shame.

If you can look past Coppola's direction the film is worth watching, if only to learn more about this extraordinary true story.





## Child's Pose

Director: Călin Peter Netzer

REVIEW BY TAMARAH SCOTT

**T**HE MOST MEMORABLE FILMS ARE THOSE THAT emotionally sap you dry; those that force you to become immersed in their worlds because the subject matter, images and storylines are so powerful you cannot escape till you actually leave the cinema. *Child's Pose* puts you through so much heartrending turmoil that

you feel almost bruised by the end.

The film is not violent, but rubs your mind raw with its vivid narrative. Directed by Călin Peter Netzer, this Romanian film picked up the Golden Bear award at the Berlin International Film Festival 2013 and was shown at the Toronto International Film Festival 2013. No surprises there: it is one of the most unforgettable films of late.

*Child's Pose* follows Cornelia (Luminita Gheorghiu), a wealthy older Romanian woman who closely resembles the hardened, aristocratic Lucille Bluth from *Arrested Development*. Her son is involved in a car accident in which he

kills a child who ran onto the highway as he was passing a car. Following the proceedings after the death, the film immerses us in the family's trauma and the slow crumbling of their relationships with one another. We see Cornelia as a woman who will do anything for her family, even for a son who no longer holds much love for her. The complications of class are also dealt with, as the dead child comes from a very poor background.

Peppered with insights into Romanian society, it becomes clear that this is a culture in which family bonds are incredibly important. The ending is so abrupt that you are broken away from the linear narrative, which makes the film very unique.

This is a film that deals with subject matter that is almost taboo, and I would certainly recommend it. You can feel the edgy rawness of various relationships, which leaves you begging for more, and while the lack of resolution at the end may throw some people off, it is, in some ways, fresh. It gives the viewer a chance to reflect on what was just viewed, and a chance to create their own ending to a memorable masterpiece.

4.5/5

## Only Lovers Left Alive

Director: Jim Jarmusch

REVIEW BY JONNY MAHON HEAP

**O**NLY LOVERS LEFT ALIVE IS A SLIM AND idiosyncratic film that has received more of a mixed bag of reviews than the Film Festival itself. A darkly funny take on the tired vampire genre, it documents the centuries-old romance between vampires Adam (Tom Hiddleston) and Eve (Tilda Swinton) as they question their place within the chaos of the twenty-first century.

Adam has appropriately chosen Detroit as his home at the end of the world; Swinton, the chaos of Tangiers. The film envisages the vampires as a pair of ageing rockers, for whom sucking blood is "so fifteenth century," and is perhaps the first vampire film for hipsters. While this tag is accurate, however, it shouldn't be completely

offputting. The film's joy comes not just from the gloomily witty dialogue, but from Jarmusch's patient (read: slow) direction, which treats its central figures more like art projects than film stars.

With an opening scene that contains more romance and intrigue than all the *Twilight* films combined, the film is framed almost entirely at midnight. My favourite sequences involved Adam and Eve cruising the abandoned Detroit streets. The film is a celebration of art and the artist, with extended takes focussing on Moroccan street musicians, the grungy aesthetic of Adam's music and the couple's games of chess, often followed by their ritual toasting of blood champagne. While all this is entertaining, the film is neither as insightful nor weighty as it attempts to be. Indeed, its literary references annoy more than amuse (Eve's passport reads "Daisy Buchanan," for instance, and Adam is referred to as Dr Faust). It's almost as though Jarmusch has targeted it at students: the hipster appreciation for Swinton, for this genre and for the European setting all reek of him trying to win favour with the audience, rather than having good reason to include them in the film.



Indeed, *Only Lovers Left Alive* walks the fine tightrope between being aggressively quirky and entertainingly weird. By the end, I had succumbed to all the film's charms, especially its pseudo-intellectual banter and the entrancing performances by Swinton and Hiddleston. These two elevate the film beyond its sweet, vaguely comedic origins, bringing real chemistry and romance to the proceedings. Neither as wise nor as funny as it would like to be, *Only Lovers Left Alive* is nonetheless a pleasantly ambitious entry into the vampire genre, breathing life into this well-worn breed.

3/5

# Critic's Film Festival Awards 2013

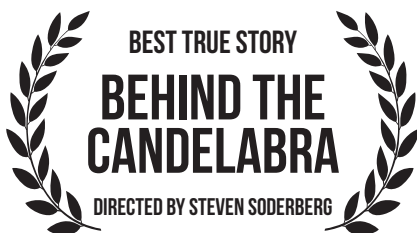
BY ROSIE HOWELLS

**T**HIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL was the biggest Dunedin has ever seen, presenting the greatest selection of movies our branch of the Festival has ever been privy to. Based on critical response, whispers on the street and my own personal opinion, here are Critic's official Festival awards:



There's always that one film full of Hollywood actors that you really don't want to be your favourite from the Festival ... but deep down you know it is. At last year's Festival it was *Cabin in the Woods*; this year, it's *The East*.

Director Zal Batmanglij (that's right, take off the last four letters and his surname is Batman) co-wrote the script with actress Brit Marling, who then co-starred with Alexander Skarsgard and Ellen Page. The beauty of the Festival's Hollywood numbers is that if you missed out, you're sure to find the film elsewhere – so get looking.



This late addition to the Festival could not have been better received. *Behind the Candelabra* is Steven Soderberg's made-for-TV movie (no Hollywood studio dared to take it on due to its strong homosexual themes) that found a place

on HBO. The film tells the astonishing true story of Liberace's twisted love affair with teenager Scott Thorson. The film has already been nominated for 15 prime time Emmy awards. I wouldn't be surprised if it made a clean sweep.



This Romanian family drama took home the coveted Golden Bear award for best film at the 2013 Berlin Film Festival. *Child's Pose* follows controlling mother Cornelia (Luminita Gheorghiu), as she bribes, threatens and manipulates her son out of a manslaughter charge. This film is an intense study of family, guilt and selfishness that will leave you feeling raw, and is worth watching simply for Gheorghiu's incredible performance.



Jim Jarmusch's foray into vampire films (godamn has he classed that genre right up) feels like one very long and beautiful music video. With tunes from such artists as Kasbar Rockers, Wanda Jackson, Hot Blood (appropriate) and Black Rebel Motorcycle club, the music perfectly matches the film's dark aesthetic and contemplative tone. Not only is the music an integral part of its style, but also the topic of much of its dialogue. If you like rock music, and for that matter, rock stars, this the film for you.



As someone who is rather cynical about organised religion, I was set to find *Gardening with Soul* a difficult watch. I couldn't have been more wrong. Documentarian Jess Yeast spent a year following 90-year-old Sister Loyola Galvin of Wellington to create a film not so much about religion, but spirituality.

Sister Loyola is never afraid to speak her mind and is fiercely brave in giving her two cents on the issues of feminism and child abuse in the Catholic church. She is a cheeky, fascinating and inspiring subject for a documentary, and constantly stresses what our time on Earth is really about – love.



Film is a great medium through which to raise awareness about grave and distressing world problems – "The Issues" – but there are also so many wonderful, happy stories to be told. Take *Twenty Feet From Stardom*, which presents a history of contemporary music from the perspective of a back-up singer. This ain't no sob story about being underappreciated and "almost famous": these musicians have helped to shape today's musical landscape. Bring your hankie, this puppy's uplifting.

# Before Midnight

4.5

Director: Richard Linklatter

REVIEWED BY ROSIE HOWELLS

**B**EFORE MIDNIGHT IS THE THIRD (AND PRESUMABLY FINAL) instalment of Richard Linklater's romantic series following the love of fiery French humanitarian Celine (Julia Delpy) and American writer Jesse (Ethan Hawke). The first in the series is the 18-year-old *Before Sunrise*, in which Celine and Jesse first meet by chance on a train and decide to get off at the same stop to spend the day together. Nine excruciating years later, *Before Sunset* was released, but instead of wrapping the story up with a pretty bow it simply re-raised most of the questions prompted by *Before Sunrise*. Another nine years have passed since we saw the dynamic duo, but they're back and still leaving things hanging!

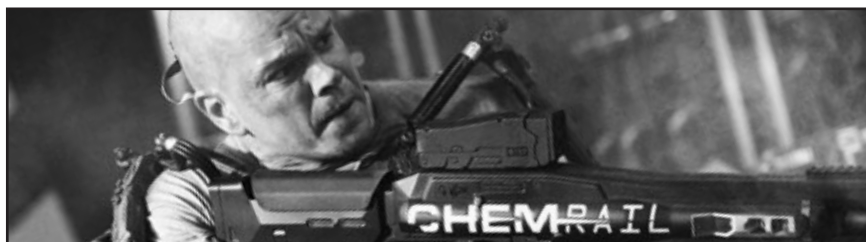
Let me assure you: I don't buy into romance easily. I didn't even enjoy *Love Actually*, which



apparently means I may not have functioning ovaries. But these films are bloody fantastic, whether you were born with a heart or not. It is very rare that a film can stay on the same medium shot of two people talking for a full five minutes without boring viewers. It is even more incredible for two subsequent films that do exactly the same thing and still leave you gagging for more. This series has captured the wonder of finding someone you can talk to – really talk to – who gets what you're saying, and, ultimately, who you are.

But please do not run to buy a ticket if you haven't

seen its two predecessors. *Before Midnight* works because the audience knows these two people so well, and adores them – seeing them older, angrier and chubbier is kind of ... poetic (and I don't throw that word around much – like I said, I didn't enjoy *Love Actually*). I doubt anything Celine and Jesse say would be as meaningful if you hadn't first seen them as twenty-somethings chatting awkwardly on a train. Without the pretext, *Before Midnight* might just feel like a middle-aged couple bickering. But together, the films create a trifecta of awesome that will make you feel funny, in the best possible way. Get to your nearest Civic Video now.



# Elysium

4.5

Director: Neill Blomkamp

REVIEWED BY BAZ MACDONALD

**N**EILL BLOMKAMP IS STILL MAKING SCIENCE fiction film as it should be. His 2009 film *District 9* proved that he could provide highly intelligent yet action-packed and highly accessible science fiction to mainstream cinema, and with his latest film *Elysium* he is once again pushing the science fiction genre up to a whole new level.

*Elysium* tells the story of a dystopian future in

which the rich have left a polluted and over-populated Earth for a mechanical haven orbiting Earth called Elysium. This premise is the foundation for a fast-paced and exhilarating story that follows Hollywood narrative conventions closely enough to be an easy watch, but subverts them in unexpected and ingenious ways that will have you constantly enthralled.

The film stars Matt Damon and Jodie Foster, both of whom give highly commendable performances. However, it is Sharlto Copley (who you may remember as the lead from *District 9*) who stands out as the morally reprehensible Agent C.M. Kruger.

The film is meticulously conceived. It offers a spectacular social commentary on topical

issues such as social and political structures and healthcare. Though these are the central messages around which the film is based, it feels like almost every scene has something to say. This makes every scene a feast of ideological treats that will leave you transfixed in the moment and contemplative for days afterwards. It is clear that there is not a single aspect of the film that Neill Blomkamp did not consider deeply.

On top of a great story and a wealth of commentary, *Elysium* is also a visual triumph. Earth and Elysium offer drastically different aesthetics that are both filled with interesting and intriguing sights. Blomkamp's direction creates superbly crafted action sequences along with not-so-skilfully-executed-but still-admirable dramatic moments. He has an artful grasp on violence (of which there is a huge amount), but it is always varied, intense and lends a real and visceral reality to the actions of the film.

Though this winter has had a number of science fiction epics, not one of them is in the same league as Blomkamp's new masterpiece. A must-see!



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**C**RITIC'S INFAMOUS BLIND DATE COLUMN BRINGS YOU WEEKLY SHUTDOWNS, HILARIOUSLY mismatched pairs, and the occasional hookup. Each week, we lure two singletons and ply them with alcohol and food (in that order), then wait for their reports to arrive in our inbox. If this sounds like you, email [news@critic.co.nz](mailto:news@critic.co.nz) or FB message us. But be warned – if you dine on the free food and dash without sending us a write-up, a Critic writer will write one under your name. And that won't end well for you.

## Daisy

**ALWAYS WAS SURPRISED THAT THESE BLIND DATES NEVER ACCIDENTALLY PUT** two people who knew each other together. It would always be the case that it happened to me. We were both debaters.

I had never really found the guy interesting or attractive in the least bit – he always pissed me off when he turned up to things I was at and acted all knowing and patronising. However, gritting my teeth, I decided to give it a go, relying heavily on the provided wine.

Naturally at the dinner we ended up discussing debating and the upcoming Australs long into the night. And sorry, *Critic*, but the general consensus we came to was that you suck.

To be fair, the dinner date was actually okay, but I was reasonably bored so it was a welcome "coincidence" to run into the friends I had messaged to rescue me after dinner. I started saying goodbye to my date, but to my horror he acted like he knew my friends, and clung on as we went to buy some drinks in town somewhere.

I really, really just wanted to have some fun, but my date stuck to me like glue and several times gave me a patronising hug/squeeze around the shoulders and asked if we should head off soon to "continue our date." I gave him my best "get your arm off me" eyes each time, which he clearly took to mean "just a little bit longer." By about 10pm he had clearly decided to take matters into his own hands. Giving me the same squeeze, he announced, "it was nice seeing you guys but we must be off."

I replied that I was keen to stay with my friends, so with little to do to save face he had to leave by himself, telling me as he left to text him when I got home so he'd know I was safe. For the record, I didn't.

Thanks, *Critic*, for the really average night.

## Donald

Awkwardly, I vaguely knew my date (we share mutual interests) and had always found her kind of attractive. I could tell she had a huge crush on me, and just the other day I had actually told my friend in Sydney that yeah, I would probably bang her; it would be doing her a favour. Very early on I figured that tonight may as well be the night – she was clearly lonely – so I texted my flatmates in advance and told them not to be dicks about it.

We both knew how to handle alcohol, so as we passed that liquor store opposite The Bog we ducked in and I bought us two more matching bottles of wine, just like a true gentleman. The strategy was well practiced and genius: she would drink the *Critic*-supplied bottles one at a time, hiding one under the table and switching later on, and I would drink the two I had bought using the same strategy. It was only half way through the date that we realised *Critic* was paying and the corkage fee wasn't really a problem, which gave us some good laughs at our deeply engrained cheapness.

Conversation was great; we talked about everything from debating to the cool gigs we both happened to go to. Dinner was good too – we decided to go to a place we had often gone for debating BYOs.

We started walking towards the Octagon after dinner and ran into some friends. We decided to hang out with them for a while which was cool – they're all really nice people, but they're just kind of lost and not really going anywhere. Anyway, I'm quite popular with them – I think it's because I'm successful – and we all had a great time chatting, drinking and smoking things down by the railway station. They're a crazy bunch but I like to think I can keep my own.

I was quite tired by the early hours and decided to head home. No luck for my date tonight, but I'm sure we'll see each other again soon.



## Gaga and the Art of Empty Pretention

**L**ADY GAGA'S RECENT NUDIST ESCAPADES ARE currently the cause of a social media frenzy many of you will have witnessed in some form or another. In the video *The Abramovic Method* practiced by Lady Gaga, she exposes her body for a supposedly artistic cause: rising to Marina Abramovic's extended performance art challenge.

So many words could be dedicated to the varied and sometimes surprising reactions to this video. However, it seems more fitting to consider whether or not Gaga's attempt to introduce art to the mainstream should be condemned or, like Jay Z's, be forgiven – despite its lack of sincerity – due to the fact that it has prompted real discussion about the art itself.

Musicians frequently collaborate with artists in order to visually express a concept. Thom Yorke worked with Stanley Donwood to create the distinctive *Amok* cover. Kanye West commissioned Takashi Murakami to work on the aesthetics for *The Graduation*. Alice Cooper and Salvador Dali – of all combinations – made a hologram together. And just think for a moment about Yoko Ono and John Lennon. However, it is art and pop in particular that have established a firm, immovable and undeniable relationship.

Andy Warhol and his "celebration of celebrities" perhaps epitomises the fusion between art and mainstream pop. With the release of her album *ARTPOP* due this coming November, Lady Gaga claims to be starting a new art movement, akin to that driven by the infamous Warhol, in which

"art drives pop and the artist is once again in control of the icon."

Pop art's surge in the mid-twentieth century reflected the desire of artists such as Warhol and Lichtenstein to bring art down to the level of the everyday (hence the tin cans and Brillo) and away from elitist control. Gaga attempts the reverse: the appropriation of art by pop culture with the aim of highlighting the latter's underlying social commentary (although her latest single "Applause" cannot possibly be labelled as anything but shallow, meaningless and boring).

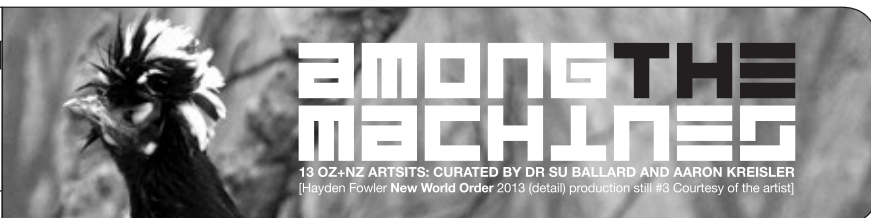
Is Gaga really the artist she claims to be? It isn't clear exactly what her artistic goal actually is. On 11 November she will hold an exhibition, *artRave*, which will showcase collaborations between herself and artists such as Jeff Koons, Marina Abramovic and Robert Wilson. In "Applause" she pretentiously claims, "one second I'm a kunst [German for artist], then suddenly the kunst is me." If there is any meaning in those lines, it is simultaneously obscure and yet superficial.

Conveniently, Gaga argues that she doesn't know where the *ARTPOP* journey will take her, and says that it "could mean anything." Art seems to be simply a mechanism through which she hopes to achieve the shock factor. Both she and Abramovic have stated explicitly that what they are hoping to do with their joint video is attract attention – Gaga for her album and Abramovic for the newly founded Marina Abramovic Institute. Sadly, it seems as though Gaga's recent embracing of art is merely a publicity stunt.

However, like Jay Z, Gaga is indirectly confronting the social realities of our time, particularly social media and the role it plays in shaping cultural perspectives and values. Mimicking the rapper, Gaga will release a free app to complement the *ARTPOP* album later in September, designed to "make connections between music, art, fashion and technology." Her use of social media is already having an effect: Abramovic's Institute Kickstarter was able to reach its funding goal of US\$600,000 directly because of the attention Gaga's video brought to the cause. Should we criticise these musicians for their apparent lack of sincerity? Or, considering someone else will inevitably critique them for us, should we perhaps appreciate them for what they have, in their own way, managed to achieve?

My general feeling is that Gaga is simply exploiting art as a means to her own selfish ends rather than genuinely seeking to create art for its own sake. The free app is simply a tool to strengthen her fan-base, to enable "little monsters" to share in their admiration of her, and, as she explained on Facebook, to allow her to experience "the adrenaline of fame." Whereas Jay Z's collaboration between performance and art was clear and effective, Gaga's has taken it too far – and it's messy. If she uses art in a more streamlined fashion to promote an idea reflected in her music, it might be more convincing.

"Pop culture was in art, now, art's in pop culture in me." Mmmm, I beg to differ.





## Otherness

by David Brin

REVIEW BY KAJSA LOUW

**"Similarly, 'Piecework' – a chilling, award-nominated tale published in 1988 – introduces us to Io, a woman living in a future in which a highly sophisticated engineering process makes possible cross-fertilisation between humans and other mammals."**

**O** THERNESS IS AN ANTHOLOGY OF SCIENCE fiction short stories that is likely to leave its readers impressed by its boldness and originality. The book comprises a collection of 13 stories and is the winner of the LOCUS award for Best Collection of 1995. Notable contributions include "Warm Bodies" and "Dr Pak's Preschool," which is currently being considered for a feature film. Although an accomplished author, Brin originally began his career as a scientist, and this is evident throughout the anthology.

In "Dr Pak's Preschool" we meet Reiko, a woman told she will be accompanying her husband on a business trip. She arrives at her destination, however, to discover that what is really awaiting her is an artificial insemination clinic. Unbeknown to Reiko, the powers-that-be plan to use classified software to educate her unborn child in utero, with the aim of creating a highly efficient member of future society. The story focuses primarily on Reiko's pregnancy, but also

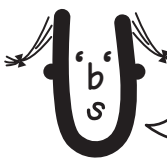
explores the potential that science has to hurt or help the human race in attempting to create alpha beings. Like many of Brin's works, "Dr Pak's Preschool" challenges readers to think critically about issues ranging from politics to birth rights and spirituality.

Similarly, "Piecework" – a chilling, award-nominated tale published in 1988 – introduces us to Io, a woman living in a future in which a highly sophisticated engineering process makes possible cross-fertilisation between humans and other mammals. Poor women can earn a living by renting out their wombs for industrial reproduction. Beyond Brin's fascination with the idea of science meddling in intimate human acts, however, *Piecework* also exudes a real sense of adventure.

A number of his stories, although differing in style, are reminiscent of classic works such as Douglas Adams' *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. In "The Warm Space" (a personal favourite) we

meet Jason Forbes, one of the few "organic" humans left in a galaxy called upon to participate in an experiment in cyberspace. Before long, he finds himself battling hostile atmospheres in his lightship. In "Those Eyes," extra-terrestrial life forms express concern at the possibility that increasing pessimism and narrow-mindedness will cause them to lose their ability to communicate with humans.

To those of you reading this who may feel this seems like too much, too fast – never fear. The anthology is divided into three sections with intermingling essays. Brin guides the reader into each phase of the book with his dry, but amiable, humour. The almost painstaking care he takes in ensuring we understand his point of view can be a little overwhelming, but proves to be worth the time in the follow through. This is an insightful anthology to which to devote an afternoon's reading, especially for those of you who enjoy adventure science fiction.



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## Moroccan Stew & Minted Couscous

**C**OUSCOUS IS THE WONDER-KID OF THE meal-accompaniment world. I mean, sure, rice is nice (until you have to clean the pot or dish you cooked it in), and pasta is fab (yet can be a little stodgy on the odd occasion), but couscous, on the other hand, is light and fluffy, easy to make, and super-duper versatile, and for that reason alone it shall forever occupy a prized position on my pantry shelf (next to the quinoa I like to think I use but don't, and the brown rice I've recently relegated to go-to meal-base number two).

The combination of chilli and cinnamon in this recipe packs a spicy punch, and when served with the minted couscous, yoghurt, and cashew nuts, it delivers on the flavour and texture fronts too. Serve with hummus for extra awesomeness. (And just in case you don't love couscous as much as yours truly, the stew makes a great filling for wraps, pies, and samosas too.)

### Method:

1. Heat olive oil in a large saucepan. Add onion and cook for five minutes, until brown.
2. Add garlic, ginger, turmeric, cumin, cinnamon, chilli, and a couple of tablespoons of water and fry off for a minute or so.
3. Now add the tinned tomatoes, chickpeas,

### Ingredients:

- > 2 tbsp olive oil
- > 1 onion, finely chopped
- > 3 cloves crushed garlic
- > 1 tsp ground ginger
- > 1 tsp ground turmeric
- > 2 tsp ground cumin
- > 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- > ½ tsp dried chilli flakes
- > 400g can tinned tomatoes
- > 400g tin of chickpeas, rinsed
- > ½ cup sultanas
- > 400g pumpkin or kumara, cubed
- > 2 carrots, diced
- > 1 cup cashew nuts
- > 2 cups of couscous
- > 1 tbsp butter
- > 1 vege oxo cube or 1 tbsp vege stock powder
- > 4 tbsp chopped fresh mint
- > Unsweetened yoghurt (optional)
- > Hummus (optional)

sultanas, and one cup of water.

4. Boil the mixture and then reduce the heat and simmer for about 20 minutes.
5. Add the pumpkin and/or kumara and the carrot and cook for a further half an hour, or until the pieces have softened.
6. Season with salt and pepper.
7. Pour 2 ½ cups of boiling water into a large bowl, add the vegetable stock, and stir. Pour in the couscous, add a dash of olive oil, cover, and leave for 10 minutes.
8. Add the butter and half of the fresh mint, and stir in as you fluff the couscous with a fork.
9. Serve the stew atop the couscous with some natural yoghurt flavoured with the remaining mint and/or some hummus on the side.



## The Good Earth

BY M & G

**L**IVING IN NORTH DUNEDIN, IT IS SOMETIMES hard to remember that not every street is littered with broken TVs and patches of vomit. Thankfully, The Good Earth provides a brief respite from everyday life, and can be found right around the corner from Scarfie-ville.

Located on the corner of Cumberland and St David Streets, The Good Earth is the perfect place to freshen up after the dustiness of the Science Library or meet someone for a coffee between lectures.

The Good Earth, with its mostly organic menu and fair trade Strictly Coffee beans, will sort you out in no time. The baristas and other staff are top notch: M has seen them pumping out high quality coffee at a rate of knots at peak times. As well as their incredible work ethic, these baristas are well known for their friendly service. All food sampled by M and G has been delish, but it's definitely in the pricey range for students. If you're short of a penny, your best bet is to jog on up to the two-four on George St.

The seating situation in The Good Earth earns definite brownie points with M. Through some kind of witchcraft, the café has ample seating both inside and out, and almost every table catches some of dat sweet sweet Dunedin sun.

The sun-drenched internal décor, complete with many a jar of preserves or fresh flowers, will definitely brighten up a dull Dunedin day, and the sneaky outdoor area is essentially a sauna in summer – you'll have to resist the urge to sunbathe topless in this wee savannah.

M and G highly rate the coffee at The Good Earth and haven't had a bad bite to eat.

Come with a loaded wallet on a sunny day and you won't regret it.

5/5



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## Splinter Cell: Blacklist

Developed by Ubisoft Toronto  
Published by Ubisoft  
Platforms: 360, PS3, Wii U, PC

9/10



**T**HERE WAS TIME, NOT TOO LONG AGO, WHEN I thought that stealth games were a genre that could only appeal to a very small subset of gamers. Recently, however, I have been enthralled not only by stealth games, but also by attempting stealth tactics in games that are not purely stealth-driven. It could be argued that my tastes are just changing – maturing, perhaps? But I think that this change is not occurring in my head, but in the industry itself.

Approaches to developing stealth games are maturing as technology crucial to good stealth adventures, such as AI and environment interaction, improves. Though I have no doubt that the type of action in a stealth adventure game appeals to some gamers more than others, I believe that we have reached a point in the development of the genre where any gamer can enjoy its nuances due to the sophistication of the technology behind it. *Splinter Cell* has epitomised stealth adventure gaming for the past decade. The latest iteration in the series, *Splinter Cell: Blacklist*, stands as a shining example of how the genre has matured and become more inclusive.

As with all games that have "Tom Clancy" somewhere in the title, the storyline revolves around an international terrorist threat. This threat,

however, struck a chord with me, as I'm sure it will with many other gamers. *Blacklist* sees a terrorist organisation called "The Engineers" carrying out a series of terrorist attacks on American facilities and organisations. Each of these attacks is given a time and a theme (termed the "Blacklist") that the ultimate spy badass, Sam Fisher, and his team must decipher before the clock runs out. However, it is not this that struck a chord, but rather the demands that the terrorists make. All they ask is that America pull its troops from the 136 countries it currently has a military presence in – seems a reasonable enough request to me. The ensuing story is incredibly well written and performed, creating a gripping, intriguing and overall fulfilling narrative.

In terms of gameplay, *Blacklist* makes itself accessible to every kind of player. The first way it does this is through its varying skill levels. In first-person shooters, these options have become a question of how often you want to die. *Blacklist's* difficulty options, on the other hand, offer different levels of stealth immersion. At the simplest level your character will be able to glide through levels as a shadow, due to an arsenal of techniques and gadgets which make it very easy to stay hidden. At the hardest level, however, all players have to help them navigate the levels are

their own skills. The second technique used to make the game accessible is the "choose your own approach" setting. Players can approach combat situations as a ghost (silent, undetected), a panther (silent, detected) or with assault (guns blazing). Each of these approaches awards a different number of points. Ghosts gain the most, so as to encourage players to play with stealth even when they don't have to.

On top of an exceptionally crafted single player campaign there is also a fantastic multiplayer mode: Mercs vs. Spies. This "four vs. four" gametype is an objective game in which the first-person shoots mercs in order to protect hardpoints from the third-person stealth spies who attempt to hack the computer. Two rounds are played, giving players the opportunity to play in both roles. This varied and intense experience is easy to get into but has the potential for incredibly skilful play. An added incentive to playing the multiplayer is that you earn game money which can be spent on upgrades in the single player campaign.

*Splinter Cell: Blacklist* is well executed on every level, and offers significant proof of the innovation still occurring in the gaming industry. Trust me; if it can convert me to stealth adventure games, it can convert anybody.



## Saints Row IV

Developed by Volition, Inc  
Published by Deep Silver  
Platforms: 360, PS3, PC

5.5/10



**O**NLY A YEAR AGO, THE SAINTS ROW SERIES had a different publisher: THQ. That particular sinking ship succumbed in early 2012, however, and now rests silently on the ocean floor of failed video game companies. In this case, the metaphorical women and children that got the first spots in the lifeboats were the few successful IPs THQ had left.

Saints Row was the only thing keeping THQ afloat. So now that the series is in the hands of another company, what does its future look like? Well, if Saints Row 4 is any indication, pretty bleak. As THQ began to fail, these games were pushed out the door as soon as they looked even vaguely complete. I hoped that under a more stable publisher's watchful eye this would stop being the case, but unfortunately Saints Row 4 may be the most unpolished game in the series.

The Saints Row series are open world action adventure games that follow the rise of a small-time street gang from thugs to pop culture icons. Now, with Saints Row 4, you get to take on the role of the President of the United States. The series has always been known for its ridiculous tone, and don't get me wrong – I love ridiculousness. But Saints Row's cultural satire is clearly targeted at stupid people. It takes the gameplay and beautifully crafted satire of the GTA series and removes all traces of subtlety. This is not to say that more discerning players cannot enjoy its various nuances; I just hate being treated like I'm stupid.

Saints Row 4 was intended as a DLC to Saints Row: The Third, and it shows. Almost every aspect of the game, including the map, the gameplay, the

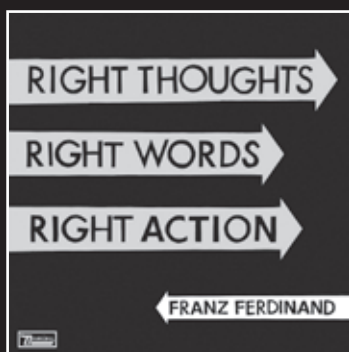
challenges, and most of the weapons and vehicles, are taken directly from Saints Row: The Third.

In a somewhat predictable turn, Earth is invaded by aliens, and you and all the other Saints are thrown into a virtual reality version of Steelport. It is a poorly conceived, written and executed concept, and its only real purpose is to justify the introduction of new superpowers. Before you get excited by the mention of superpowers, however, these powers – such as super fast sprinting and super high jumping – are evenly matched to the point where nothing is challenging and nothing is fun.

The game is essentially Saints Row: The Third with a new concept plopped sloppily on top of it. This does mean, though, that many of the elements that made Saints Row 3 fun remain intact. The driving is still an exhilarating experience, and the soundtrack still offers a distinct "badassery" to the game, especially as it is now possible to listen to the radio stations at all times instead of just in a car.

Every aspect of the game, from the terrible, glitchy and unbalanced gameplay to the stale and uninspired challenges and mediocre graphics, screams overwhelming negligence. It is entirely unacceptable to release a game of this quality into the market, and to put a \$110 price sticker on recycled and shoddy content is near criminal.

I was hoping that a publisher not fighting for its life might give this series the time and care that it once deserved. Now, however, I wish Saints Row had gone down with the ship.



## Franz Ferdinand

### Right Thoughts, Right Words, Right Action

4/5

**Franz Ferdinand are back. Again.**

#### IT'S ALWAYS BETTER ON HOLIDAY."

So sang Alex Kapranos on "Jacqueline," the opening track of Franz Ferdinand's eponymous debut album. Considering the glacial pace at which the Glaswegian dance-rockers are releasing music these days, the line now rings a touch ironic.

After hammering out their first two albums in just as many years, the quartet seem to have spent much of the meantime putting their feet up and their guitars down, which is more than a little frustrating. Less smug than Arctic Monkeys and more consistent than The Strokes, they remain kings (or should I say archdukes?) of the post-punk revival. Those guitars ought to be squirting out infectious riffs, those feet bounding up and down on stage. Or better yet, being tapped metronomically in a studio. It's been a bitter, interminable wait for the fourth

Franz Ferdinand album. But at long last, it's here.

So, Franz Ferdinand are back after a four year absence. Again. The brevity of their fourth new album, *Right Thoughts, Right Words, Right Action*, can't help but disappoint. In all the time they've had since the darker, dancier (and hugely underrated) *Tonight* was released in 2009, they've only come back to us with 35 minutes of new music. That's 48 days for each minute of *Right Thoughts*. Pretty slack, fellas.

Thankfully, once "play" has been hit they waste no time in getting those guitars and those feet back into action. Stomping opener "Right Action" is an addictive blast of indie rock, and easily one of the band's best tracks to date. Anchored by squirming Talking Heads-style riffs and soaring in brief, frequent choruses, it has as much pizzazz and flair as any of their monster hits ("Take Me Out," "Do You Want To," "No You Girls" etc.). I'm

not kidding about the David Byrne influence either: save for the ludicrously imitative "Tell Her Tonight," it's the biggest Talking Heads homage they've ever paid. But dang do they channel the influence well.

About half of *Right Thoughts* is in the same punchy, immediate vein of "Right Action," such as the breakneck "Bullet" and the revved-up "Love Illumination." Let's call these tracks "classic Franz." The other half is quieter and weirder, rippling with a dark pop aesthetic akin to the work of Syd Barrett. These tracks, such as the starry-ended "The Universe Expanded," can be called "Franz in Wonderland." While I can't say these trips to Wonderland are as memorable as the classic Franz moments, they conjure a peculiar and charming mood, and are peppered with instances of real loveliness: see when the lovesick disco of "Stand On The Horizon" descends into the band chanting "the North Sea sings, won't you come to me baby?" like monks in a lilac blur. The whole song builds towards this coda, yet it still manages to come out of nowhere.

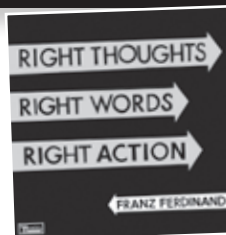
My expectations were high after such a grueling wait, and I can happily confirm that *Right Thoughts, Right Words, Right Action* met them. Featuring a delightful mix of old and new, poppy and strange, it is another solid (if concise) addition to Franz Ferdinand's discography. Hopefully the wait for album five isn't quite as long. I'll be humming "Bullet" and yelling the "red, ya bastard!" line from "Evil Eye" until then.

## BE IN TO WIN!

**RIGHT THOUGHTS, RIGHT WORDS, RIGHT ACTION  
BY FRANZ FERDINAND (OR ANOTHER ALBUM OF EQUAL VALUE)**

"a delightful mix of old and new, poppy and strange, it is another solid" (4/5)

**Check the Critic Facebook page on Monday to be in to win!**

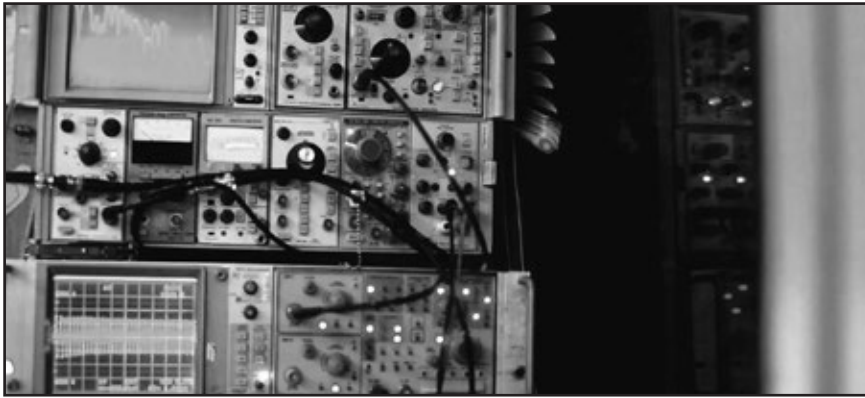


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## The J. Arthur Keenes Band

### Mighty Social Lion

3.5/5

A big maturation for the Nintendophile.

**T**HERE ARE FEW THINGS THAT IRK ME MORE IN a musical discussion than a person dismissing an entire genre. To assert that a style of music is wholly without merit, regardless of the incarnation, borders on psychosis. How can you deem hip-hop or metal or folk to be inherently shit, when you will never in your life get around to hearing a thousandth of one per cent of what that genre has to offer? The vastness and diversity of music genres nullifies any such sweeping criticism, so don't risk sounding like an idiot by chucking them around. Don't be stupid, stupid.

And yet, I come to you something of a hypocrite. Try as I might to enjoy it, it is something of a rarity for me to speak positively of the chiptune genre. Ninety per cent of the time I find chiptune music to be nothing but shrill, obnoxious Nintendo bleeps; ugly sounds forced out of old consoles that offer cheap nostalgia to anyone who has ever played a video game. High on sugar, low on creativity. But that's just like, my opinion man, and I'm doing my best to change it. *Mighty Social Lion*, the new album from chiptuner J. Arthur Keenes, is something of a beacon of hope.

What distinguishes *Mighty Social Lion* not just from J. Arthur Keenes' discography but chiptune as a whole is how diverse its influences are. Though the eight-bit synths and Super Mario sound effects are still present, they are far from the sole ingredients. Added to the sonic palette this time around is everything from lo-fi rock (the Sparklehorse-like "Trails") to guitar pop

(fantastic single "Congratulations") and oceans of woozy Lennon reverb ("Worth Keeping").

Commendably, J. Arthur Keenes manages to make these new sounds cooperate with his old ones, rather than quarrel as one might expect. Instead of yelping at the front of the mix like an insufferable fucking chihuahua as Keenes' synths previously have, on *Mighty Social Lion* they receive a much-needed dose of Ritalin; they dwell obediently amongst the rest of the song, less concerned with being the centre of attention than with actually being an instrument.

But even with the step up musically and creatively, J. Arthur Keenes is still lacking in the ol' lyrical department. His words come in rambling streams of consciousness, as if read from a diary of random thoughts, and very rarely add up to anything beautiful or profound. Often the lo-fi production and his Julian Casablancas-like mumble will disguise their vapidness, other times he isn't so lucky: "my dirty socks are getting filthy, walk through the rain, I'm feeling guilty, my feet stink." So he sings on "Cardboard Box," to groans and rolled eyes from listeners everywhere.

So there is still big room for improvement. But much improvement has already been made with *Mighty Social Lion*, both in my opinion of J. Arthur Keenes and of chiptune in general. He's shown us that the genre can be more than just Donkey Kong samples and eight-bit farts, and if he continues the upwards trajectory set in motion with this album, J. Arthur Keenes could very well become chiptune's premier musician.

## 1 RADIO ONE 91FM EVENT GUIDE

### TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER

**ReFuel** | Open Mic / Open Decks.  
Gold coin entry from 8.30pm.

### WEDNESDAY 14TH AUGUST

**The Church** | Acoustic Open Mic.  
Free entry.

**Queens** | Queens Got Talent  
8pm doors.

### THURSDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

**ReFuel** | Radio One Presents:  
Japandroids (Canada).  
After tearing it up at this year's St Jeromes Laneway Festival, Mystery Girl Presents Canadian punk two-piece Japandroids on their first ever NZ tour. Tickets on sale from undertheradar.co.nz. \$40 tickets available from Radio One Reception with your 2013 Onecard.



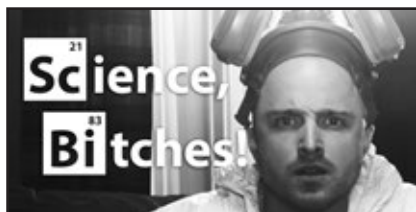
### FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

**Queens** | Radio One & The 91 Club Present: Trust Punks (AKL). w./ Civil Union, Team Ugly, and Yuckers. Free entry with your activated 2013 Onecard, \$10 without.



To include a Dunedin gig or event  
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## Chocolatey Goodness

BY HANNAH TWIGG

**C**HOCOLATE: EVERYBODY LOVES IT. AND GOOD news! Unlike the pseudoscience we discussed last time, there are actual (peer-reviewed) studies that show that some compounds in chocolate are good for you!

Caffeine has been shown time and time again to have benefits for your health. Regular caffeine intake is good for your cardiovascular system, stimulates your nervous system, and has been linked to increased protection against neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's. Okay, so chocolate doesn't have as much caffeine as a cup of coffee, but it doesn't hurt to have an excuse for more chocolate. Grab a coffee as well and you're set.

Other compounds have been shown to stimulate the production of dopamine, a chemical in the brain that makes you feel good. It takes eating your feelings to a whole new (literal) level. There's even a compound in there that is similar to cannabinoids. Yes, you read that right, similar to one of the active chemicals found in weed.

For the snobs out there: (most) white chocolate is really chocolate. When chocolate is made, the cocoa mass is separated into cocoa solids – the dark brown stuff – and cocoa butter. White chocolate lacks the cocoa solids, hence the whiteness, but still has cocoa butter. (Having said that, there are shitty white chocolates out there that don't contain any cocoa butter at all.) For those of you claiming that white chocolate isn't chocolate because it doesn't have cocoa in it, though, you might want to check your facts: it does, in fact, still contain ingredients from cocoa beans. Don't be chocolatist – everyone has their preferences. It is true, however, that white chocolate has less of the good stuff found in dark chocolate, so maybe it is time to cross over to the dark side.

Why not enjoy this excuse to eat more chocolate? Not that you need one ... next time you crave some chocolatey goodness, rest assured that there is some actual goodness in it confirmed by science, bitches!



## Big Bodies and Mini Microbes

BY DR. NICK

**H**I EVERYBODY,

So we were gonna kick the final quarter of the year off by speaking about obesity in New Zealand. Initially I thought the topic would be a piece of cake, but it turns out there are big issues tied up in big waistlines. Whilst many medics think we're currently undergoing an "obesity epidemic" and that the healthcare system is doomed because of it, there's a decent argument to be made that we're actually not ballooning up like a foreskin full of piss. Complicating the matter further is the fact that there's not a lot of good evidence to support the current diagnostic cut-off for "obesity," while there is some solid evidence that being "fit but fat" is healthier than being skinny but less fit than Susan Boyle.

And that's not even touching the devastating impacts of socially acceptable stigmatisation, fatphobia, minority stress, the portrayal of beauty in society and eating disorders. Basically, obesity is a heavy issue. True to med student form I'm shelving it in the "too-hard basket" for now in favour of talking about something that currently seems to be affecting 90 per cent of first year students: conjunctivitis.

Like most diseases, conjunctivitis defines itself, but does so using big words so it seems more medical. It's the inflammation (-itis) of one of the layers of the eye (the conjunctiva). The main cause of the "junc" going round at the moment is infection – either viral or bacterial.

If you have viral conjunctivitis ("pink eye"), you'll likely have a very red, very watery, very itchy eye (or eyes). It sucks, but for most it's a case of sticking it out and getting over it. Generally the virus responsible is one of the adenoviruses, which can also cause things like respiratory infections, tonsillitis and the ol' V&D (vomiting and diarrhoea). There are causes of viral conjunctivitis though, including herpes, which can be serious and require treatment to preserve eyesight, so don't go rubbing infected wangs in your face.

Bacterial conjunctivitis is the nastier, pussier

one. Like its viral counterpart, it's red and unpleasant, but this one comes with the bonus of swollen eyelids and a gritty mucous-y/pussy discharge that often sticks your eyelids together after sleeping. Like viral conjunctivitis, you can get over it on your own, or you can take your place in the doctor's office and get antibiotic eye drops that will speed the healing up. Either way, bacterial conjunctivitis has no permanent effects, unless you've got one of the nastier bugs like chlamydia or gonorrhoea in your eye. Again: keep your eyes closed when going down on a dirty dick.

The frustrating thing about conjunctivitis is we let it run rampant. Halls are very good at handling conjunctivitis because, like Santa or a guy who only gets birthday sex, it comes yearly. Halls are geared towards spreading infections. They're full of hundreds of people living together, eating together, "socialising" together after a drunken night in town – all in all, a microbe's dream vacation. Obviously that contact is unavoidable; nobody's gonna stop scoring the floor just because they might get pink eye. The frustrating part is not the interactions between people; it's the lack of hand hygiene between interactions.

The biggest thing you can do to prevent conjunctivitis is wash your hands. Not all the time, and not with one of those pocket bottles of antibacterial, resistance-promoting, overpriced-and-unnecessary-for-most-people's-daily-routines hand sanitisers, but with plain old soap and water or alcohol gel. Eye infections aren't actually spread by eye-to-eye contact, or knob-to-eye contact, or even by that urban legend about Japanese tongue-to-eye contact that went round the social media sites recently. They are spread because we rub our eyes with our dirty hands.

All it takes to prevent this is washing your hands before meals, after using the bathroom, and after coming into physical contact with somebody who is sick. Like every part of public health, it's not exactly rocket science.

# Facebook's Particular Shade of Blue

**W**AKE UP IN THE MORNING LOOKIN' LIKE P Diddy, grab my phone and check my Facebook ... and learn that Girl Who Was In My Class Last Year "loves Ikea." Ugh. Who cares?

I've got the Facebook Blues. That particular shade of blue makes me feel dissatisfied, bored, and a little uneasy. Like many information-overloaded twenty-somethings, I go through cycles of loving and loathing Facebook. First it's crap, and boring. Then I pare back my friends, hide statuses from sale boutiques and unfollow that stupid meme account. Great, just my friends' stuff now ... but ... do I really need to know about their Wednesday night plans? Or their cat's attachment issues?

Sometimes I want to just be rid of the whole thing, but inevitably FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) stops me. FOMO is that nagging little voice in the back of my head that says, "if I delete my Facebook account, people will stop inviting me to things! I won't hear about that flatwarming, or the casino-themed party!"



It's a little too idealistic to think that people will text, email, or call me to invite me. Be honest – when considering whom to invite to your event, you pretty much just scroll through your Facebook friend list, right? It's easy to forget those who have opted out. I don't want to be forgotten.

It's not exactly Facebook's fault – Facebook is just the much-maligned platform. Though in fact, a thorough read-through of Facebook's terms of service might make you want to delete your account anyway.

The problem is more how we use Facebook; follow a thousand friends and "like" a thousand pages and it's inevitable that you'll become exhausted. Pare your account back to just the essentials and it becomes boring. But cut yourself off and you miss out on opportunities ... right?

Well, maybe not. Maybe my FOMO voice is just sensationalising things. If you're feeling a bit like I am, take a holiday from Facebook. Make it a week, or two. Nothing drastic, just a quick breather. Uninstall the app, unlink your Pinterest/ Goodreads/ whatever other accounts, and banish that particular shade of blue from your life – hell, replace it with that Twitter shade of blue if you like. Just for a little while ... you can always go back, and maybe you'll return with a little more perspective.

## APP OF THE WEEK

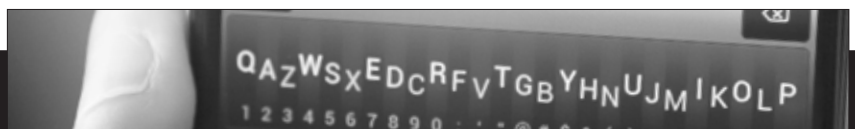
### Minuum

(Android, others in development)

[www.minuum.com](http://www.minuum.com)

**T**HE QWERTY KEYBOARD AS WE KNOW IT has been around since 1873. A lot of shit has happened since then. Women got the vote, man went to the moon, computers were invented and became smaller and smaller, and twerking became an amusing pastime. But despite many changes in device shape, size, and manner of input, the QWERTY keyboard has remained the same. Isn't that a little ridiculous? Tapping away at a standard keyboard on a phone or tablet is cumbersome and annoying – the keyboard takes up half the goddamn screen!

Luckily, some techy-types in Toronto decided that it was time to, if not re-invent the keyboard, at least make it a bit more suited to modern typing. The Minuum keyboard is the result, and it's in beta release in the Play Store.



The Minuum keyboard takes the QWERTY keyboard and smooshes it all down into a single strip of letters. Imagine a kid writing out the alphabet, but instead of the standard A-Z, he or she follows the QWERTY layout. To use the keyboard, tap your fingers vaguely in the right area for the letter you need, and Minuum's sophisticated algorithms will figure out the word you're trying to type.

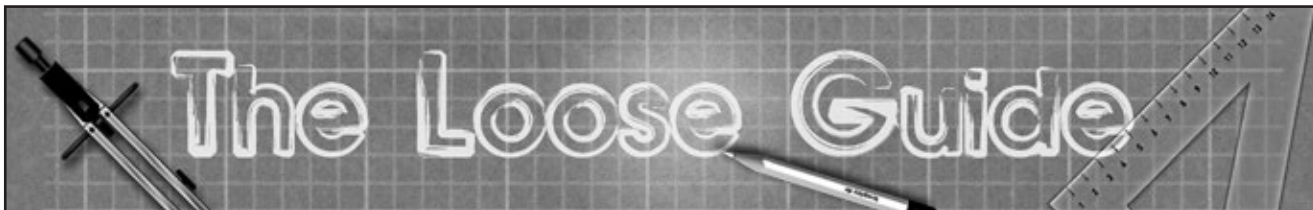
You can type quickly and accurately without sacrificing half your screen space for a clunky old QWERTY. Even better, Minuum learns your name, your friends' names, and the words you use often and adjusts its algorithms accordingly. So, the more you use the keyboard, the better it gets.

There's a bit of a learning curve to get used to Minuum, but if you're a confident touch-typist, it's a fairly small one. Minuum also detects when you are entering a URL or password, and automatically switches to a standard QWERTY

layout for complete accuracy. You can customise Minuum by configuring gestures (swipe backwards to erase a word, swipe forwards to enter a space), and setting the height of the keyboard. Minuum currently only supports English, with more language support coming soon.

The Minuum team are working on expanding the project to other devices (Windows Phone, iOS), as well as wearable devices such as Google Glass, smart-watches, and whatever else the future holds.

At NZ\$4.76 the keyboard is a little pricey, especially as it's a beta release, and there is currently no try-before-you-buy option. But if you're excited about a bit of revolution in the keyboard scene (and if you're not, the video on Minuum's website will get you there) it might just be worth it.



## How to Use a Public Restroom

BY CAMPBELL ECKLEIN

**T**HOUGH WE ALL PREFER THE COMFORTS OF home when relieving ourselves, there will inevitably be times when you are forced to use a public bathroom (or run the risk of bursting a pipe). At such times, it is important to stay calm and collected as you take care of business. Done incorrectly, this can be an entirely traumatising experience. Follow these simple instructions to ensure that everything runs as smoothly as possible.

The sheer amount of arse-traffic public restrooms see on a daily basis is enough to guarantee that they remain some of the filthiest places on Earth. That, and the fact that everyone (except you) is a total pig. Do not touch anything with your bare hands – you will get AIDS and die. If you must touch anything, make sure there is a barrier of at least three layers of tissue between it and your skin, including the toilet seat. Try to

avoid sitting down at all: hover just above the seat where possible. Also, don't pull your pants down all the way, lest they touch the floor. Ew.

Despite the disease-ridden squalor of public toilets, they somehow remain very popular. This means that at any one time there could be lines of people waiting. Time your ablutions so that there are very few people around. Not only will this allow you to excrete at a leisurely pace, it also means that you won't have to walk in and do your business while someone else's stank still lingers in the air. If the darling before you left the lavatory looking like a Jackson Pollock painting, it can be quite awkward explaining to the next person that it honestly wasn't you, swear to God! Do your utmost to secure some hang time before/after use. It's in everyone's best interests.

Just because the commode is already gross

doesn't mean you ought to make it worse. One by one, we can make the world's public bathrooms better places by observing proper etiquette and hoping that others will follow suit. You can make a difference. Flush your stuff when you leave – it's really not as impressive as you think. If you'd like to bring along your own toilet paper, fine. Please refrain from unrolling all of it and stuffing in the sink or letting it congeal on the floor. Why do you do that?

It may not be your house, but smearing blood/ faeces/ boogers/ puke on the walls is still indescribably feral. Chill the fuck out. Finally, always wear some form of footwear in public restrooms (unless you have warts and would like to share them with others). The floor is the catch-all for whatever unspeakable things went down in there before you showed up. Seriously, just ew.



## PBF Robin Hood

Find more of The Perry Bible Fellowship at [pbfcomics.com](http://pbfcomics.com)

## Misery Ink Nurse

TRISTAN KEILLOR  
COMICS EDITOR  
[COMICS@CRITIC.CO.NZ](mailto:COMICS@CRITIC.CO.NZ)

Joe hoped his next visit to the hospital would be with the hotter nurse



Unfortunately she worked in the maternity ward





# Grant Robertson

## Deputy Leader of the Labour Party

BY ZANE POCOCK

**Deputy Leader of the Opposition Grant Robertson has recently declared his candidacy for the leadership of the Labour Party. Zane Pocock spoke to the former OUSA President about the leadership contest and his plans for the Party.**

**Why should a university student Labour member vote for you?**

Because I think I represent a new generation of leadership for the Labour Party. I think I represent a person who can unite our party, I think I'm a person who can communicate clearly and directly with the voters of New Zealand about Labour's values ... and making sure New Zealanders hear from Labour loud and clear why we would be a better Government than the current one.

**Would you address the issue of student allowances being taken away from postgraduates? Would you pursue a universal student allowance?**

It is my strong belief we should continue to have allowances for postgraduate students. On the wider question, I've long favoured an expansion of people who are eligible for student allowances; I have never understood why it was that students were the one group in society who were required to borrow money to eat, which is effectively what we [require them to] do.

**How about VSM? Do you think this has turned into a non-issue or would you look to reverse it?**

I would certainly look to remove the law that's there. I think OUSA has probably done the best out of the students' associations in terms of the deals that have been done, but that situation is not the same around the country, especially at polytechnics where student representation has disappeared in a lot of them.

**OUSA currently has a President threatening a career in politics by running for the DCC. What did your time as OUSA President and as an Otago student teach you for your own career?**

Loads of things! It taught me how to campaign, how to organise and how to stand up and fight for the issues that I believed in. It also taught me the importance of having a good team

around you and making use of all of the talents of the people that were around.

**Is such a leadership contest necessarily the best thing for Labour going forward? Does it not serve to remind the public of the liberal left's tendency for in-fighting?**

I think this contest has the potential to be really powerful for Labour – I mean look at the last few days. All of the news headlines are about us and I think if we handle this well, we show respect to each other as candidates, if we talk about Labour's values and policies and we talk about what's wrong with John Key and the National Government and how out of touch they are with New Zealanders, this can be a real positive for us.

**Do you think your Facebook likes could indicate an early advantage over Cunliffe that the pundits aren't taking into account? That, and the fact that your banner doesn't look like it was made in Microsoft Paint?**

[Laughs] Yeah, I haven't actually looked at where the likes are up to now! Social media is forming an important part of this campaign already and yeah, if I'm going to be a new generation of Labour then I guess I've got to have good graphics, don't I?

**In the event you win the leadership battle, where would David Cunliffe end up in your caucus? He's a well-practiced shit-stirrer and could be risky to keep close?**

I want to make sure that we make the absolute best use of David's talents if I'm elected as leader, and I've said to him – and I've said publicly – that I would see him playing a key role.

**And would Dunedin North MP David Clark climb higher in your team?**

Other than about David [Cunliffe], because it's relevant in the leadership contest, I'm not making any comments about where people are or where people will be. What I will say is I believe David [Clark]'s had a fantastic start to his parliamentary career and he's a great advocate for Dunedin North.

**New Zealand is wonderful for how liberal and open-minded it can be. However, if you are running for Prime Minister next year, it is more than likely that the press will ask difficult questions about balancing your sexuality with foreign relations. For example, Muslim nations may not invite you to be a guest and enter trade talks. Have you begun to address the potential issues that may arise in this context? How will you respond to this?**

I don't think that it will be that big an issue. I think that the way international relations works – and obviously I've worked as a diplomat so I've been part of that scene before – is that countries will treat each other with respect and that the issues that will be discussed will be about our relationships with other countries, not ... our personal circumstances. Look, you know in the past people have raised similar concerns about whether a woman leader of a country would be able to be treated in a respectful way, and when Helen Clark was prime minister of New Zealand she was welcomed all over the world, [as] I'm sure I would be if I was prime minister.

**When it comes to a televised debate, do you think you have the oratory skills to match John Key's remarkable talent for bullshitting?**

What I think I do is I have the skills to challenge John Key and I think I have shown that in parliament. ... Actually the debates will be a terrific occasion to expose John Key's bullshit.

**Would you consider entering a coalition agreement with the Civilian Party?**

[Laughs] I suspect that Ben and the Civilian Party would want to stay on the cross benches, however I would entertain putting him into the cabinet as a Minister for Satire.

**How about the Pakeha Party?**

Um, no, I think you can rule that out.

**And finally, shoot, shag or marry ...**

Aw come on, I've done this before!

**But it's a different combination! John Key, Robert Muldoon, Kim Dotcom?**

I am in the middle of a leadership contest but what I do know is that the first two of those people have such similarities, it would be very hard to choose between them.

**Thank you for your time and good luck.**

# LAWS101 The Legal System

## A good idea for every student

Enrol in the open entry paper "The Legal System", LAWS101 (36 points) and at least 72 non Law points from any other degree. "The Legal System" course gives you an understanding of how the law works. It teaches you to think clearly and logically and to separate good argument from bad. The 36 points can be included in whatever

degree you are taking. At the end of the course, you will be able to stand up for yourself and others in a legal dispute. You will have the confidence with the power of the law on your side.

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### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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## Careers in Journalism

1pm Friday, 6th September, Archway 4,  
University of Otago

Interested in exploring a career in journalism?  
Join Otago Daily Times editor Murray Kirkness to  
talk about why journalism still matters and what  
you can do to become a journalist.

Graduate Diploma in Journalism  
Applications close 31 October.

Find out more at  
[www.saps.canterbury.ac.nz/jour](http://www.saps.canterbury.ac.nz/jour)



## Scarfie Army Clean Up Day!

The Scarfie Army and OUSA Students are getting together to do a bit of a clean-up! If you want to be involved, report to the OUSA Recreation Centre on Albany Street or M block at Polytechnic on Harbour Terrace any time between 11am and 12 noon, Sunday September 15th. You'll be issued rubbish bags and gloves and directed to an area for attention before returning with bags at 1pm. Spot prizes and a free BBQ will be held for all participants.

## Poker Tourney

Free this Friday? Come down to the OUSA Recreation Centre about 6pmish and check out the action.



## Click here for work

Seeking talented, enthusiastic and all round fantastic individuals to tutor for next year's rec. programme. Head to student job search or contact Michaela Hayes (Recreation Coordinator) for more info at [michaela@ousa.org.nz](mailto:michaela@ousa.org.nz)

## Teacup Club!

The Tea Cup Club is a meeting group for women of Otago University supported by OUSA. This is a safe place for a chat, to have refreshments, make new friends, and learn about the available support services for women on campus.

The Tea Cup Club, 12.00pm and 1.00pm, Wednesday 4th September, OUSA Recreation Centre, 84 Albany Street, Room 5.

THINGS BEEN GETTING BROMANTIC RECENTLY?

Has this got you confused about your sexuality? *We are here to help!*

Find us online: [ousa.org.nz/support/queer-support/](http://ousa.org.nz/support/queer-support/)



## President's Column

"I tried to grasp a star, overreached and fell." - Jon Connington

This column is usually very upbeat and written in the tone of a Soviet-era propaganda newspaper. But today I'm going to face up to some harsh truths on where this administration has failed. I think that without failure, our successes don't shine as brightly. I wanted to give it a PC phrase like "Things I could've done better" but failure is a more blunt word which reflects what actually happened. I'm writing this as a cautionary tale to future Presidents and Executive members.

### 1. Over Ambition/Overpromising

I ran with a very ambitious agenda with an 18,000 word manifesto. It became very clear to me upon taking office that I had neither the time, energy or resources to make everything in it happen. I tried my best to deliver and successfully achieved about 75% of what I promised, but it wasn't possible to deliver on everything. I've spread myself too thinly trying to do everything and ended up doing a lot of things adequately as opposed to doing a few things well.

**LESSON:** Don't promise too much when you're campaigning. Make a few key promises and focus on them when in government.

### 2. Lack of Delegation/ Effective Oversight

I was unable to effectively delegate to my executive which added to an already high workload. Because I needed my executive to support my projects, trade-offs were made in order to secure their support. The price I paid was a lack of effective oversight due to the fact that I had to run a lot of my projects myself since people weren't fully on board. If you've got an ambitious agenda in mind for OUSA, it's really important to have like-minded people supporting you - otherwise everything you do is going to be a struggle.

**LESSON:** Run with a ticket of like-minded people. If you don't have loyal, supportive and hard-working people on your side - you're going to end up doing everything and spreading yourself too thin.

Nominations will open next week on the 9th of September and close on the 19th of September. Make sure to get your nomination in if you're passionate about making a difference for your fellow Scarfies.

Much love,  
Fran

OUSA President

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