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KNOWING NANO AND WHEN TO SAY "NO"
Loulou Callister-Baker explores uncertainty surrounding nanotechnology's safety. PAGE 24

TAINTED LULL
Whipped, branded & hungry, sexpert Josie Adams recounts her night at Dunedin's Fetish Ball. PAGE 28

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Critic

High off the moral ground

Purchasing drugs face-to-face is risky business. For those wanting a way out, *Critic* is here with a breakdown of how to buy drugs online, ultimately begging the question as to why it should be such a mystery in the first place. PAGE 20

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NEWS & OPINION



18 | TEXTBOOKS: FUNDING LECTURERS TO WINE AND DINE

Purchasing textbooks is yet another cost universities expect students to meet every semester. Critic investigates what policies are in place when Otago lecturers have a stake in sales.

By Josie Cochrane

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The art of buying drugs face to face during these times of prohibition is just that: an art. It's a subtle dance between vendor and vendee, who both know that their business is illegal but must trust the other. For those wanting a way out, Critic is here with a breakdown of how to buy drugs online, ultimately begging the question as to why it should be such a mystery in the first place.

By Anonymous

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Technology and medicine at the nanoscale has the potential to solve countless issues from climate change to cancer. But the uncertainty surrounding this area also poses serious questions for regulators about if and when to draw a line. Critic explores the precautions and consequences of nanotechnology.

By Loulou Callister-Baker

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There were steampunks, PVCs and playas; suspensions, a swingers' room, gimps and creeps. But just what is it that makes fetishes so appealing, and what strange dynamics unfold when they're openly presented? Whipped, branded and hungry, Critic's sexpert recounts her night at the Dunedin Fetish Ball.

By Josie Adams

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From "High
off the moral
ground"

Illustration:
Daniel Blackball

“

When someone dies using a drug we somehow remove them as an autonomous actor and ban and blame the drug when often times both the mountain climber and the drug user are seeking a similar experience.

ANONYMOUS - HIGH OFF THE MORAL GROUND

”

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EDITORIAL 13

HIGH HORISING AROUND

IT'S REMARKABLY COMMON THESE DAYS FOR FIG-ureheads such as politicians and business people – even in little old New Zealand – to confess to having smoked marijuana. In fact, it basically seems like everyone has, and reporting on the issue has rapidly become so ubiquitously pro-legalisation that it would be remarkable if weed were still illegal here in ten years. Conservatives are working against the force of history on this one.

Having said this, I am going to make no such confession. This is because of an infuriating double standard that often exists in the weed debate, whereby those who confess to experimenting with marijuana are effectively framed as criminals, while those who haven't are "unqualified" for the discussion.

It's also remarkable that although every news outlet will ask politicians if they support decriminalisation or not, they never think to ask why. It's a tragic shortfall, because it's the why that needs to be discussed. And the simple answer is that (and this is based on science)

marijuana shouldn't be illegal. Simple as that. The details are widely reported and repeated a million times elsewhere and you probably all agree with me already, so I won't bore you with yet another summary of why it isn't a problem. But as the satirical Facebook page "Marijuana makes you violent" so effectively highlights, all of the evidence supporting the continued criminalisation of weed is fictionalised conservative propaganda.

This raises the question: when will we have the equivalent of the "big gay rainbow" speech, but for drugs? When will there be a sudden realisation in politics that this is important to change?

The new legislation around synthetic drugs has come with extra idiocy, too, in the form of new (and random) bans on certain paraphernalia. You can still buy grinders for your weed, which although cleverly named "herb mills," really only serve one purpose; yet you can't buy small circles of gauze to put in your pipe. Other bans include one type of pipe (but not another) and bong.

This is "what were they on?!" stupid. It reveals a sinister undertone to where the Government is steering this debate, with these

items (which are predominantly used by weed smokers) tacked on to the banned list along with (and this is far better justified) all synthetic drugs a couple of weeks back. But banning any of this paraphernalia is redundant, anyway, as the things that are easy to hand-make (such as circles of gauze) are banned, while the more vital things (such as grinders) are still legal.

Drugs are like sex. While in part they can be used toward an end goal (making children; medical marijuana), we shouldn't have to search for conservative-friendly excuses. We should be allowed to turn the conversation into one about having fun. Sex is fun. Drugs are fun. Take precautions and, if so inclined, enjoy them both.

Be sure to vote for OUSA to take a stance in this debate during the referendum this week – "That OUSA supports the legalisation of marijuana following the ban on all existing synthetic cannabis products." OUSA has a long history of involvement in the marijuana debate, but it's been dormant for a while and it's refreshing to see the Executive bring it back to the surface.

Zane Pocock

Critic Editor



In other news, this week we at *Critic* bid our News Editor Claudia Herron a very sad adieu and wish her the best in her travels. As regular readers will be well aware, Claudia has led and managed *Critic's* News section to an unparalleled standard and we will miss her dreadfully.

As the 42nd cousin in her family (no shit), we are, in fact, losing our answer to life, the universe and everything. She also held the

title Little Miss Twizel back in her day. The more you know.

But all is not lost! Chief Reporter Josie Cochrane will be stepping up to the role next semester – her outstanding investigative reporting translating to complete domination of our news and, in future years, probably the world.

You read them both here first.
ex oh ex oh <3 :) lolclaudieftw



DCC TO TRIAL PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT

GENETICS AND GEOLOGY STUDENTS WANDER INTO TOWN PLANNING

TWO OTAGO POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE working to transform the lower Octagon into a pedestrian precinct with their submission to the DCC's Annual Plan gaining momentum and support from councillors. Georgina Hampton, a PhD student in Genetics, and Alexis Belton, an honours student in Geology, presented their 36-page proposal to the DCC at the 2014–2015 annual plan meeting on 16 May, and said that the response from both the council and the community was "really awesome."

The submission suggests trialling the lower half of the Octagon and the first block of lower Stuart Street as a pedestrian-only area. The idea of the lower Octagon as a "vibrant, active and people-focussed area" was well received by councillors, with Cr Aaron Hawkins the first to suggest that the council investigate a trial of a pedestrian precinct, reported the *ODT*. He was supported by many of his fellow councillors, including Cr David Benson-Pope, who said that the proposal was "very good" and "timely" in terms of considering the future of urban Dunedin. Council chief executive Dr Sue Bidrose agreed with Benson-Pope on the good timing of the submission, as council staff were already considering ways of rejuvenating other parts of the central city, potentially including the introduction of pedestrian zones. A trial zone in the Octagon and lower Stuart Street could be part of that work, she said.

Hampton and Belton met in 2012 at Powershift, a climate summit organised by Generation Zero, where they both attended a transport workshop. They feel that a pedestrian precinct for Dunedin is long overdue, pointing out in their report that "Dunedin is currently the only major centre in New Zealand without any pedestrian precincts." Hampton said, "Wellington's got Cuba Street, Auckland's got a whole list. Even smaller cities have pedestrian precincts and have started to think more about changing the historic prioritisation of the motor vehicle."

While the submission undoubtedly received support from many councillors, others were less enthusiastic, according to reports by the *ODT*. Deputy Mayor Chris Staynes pointed out that a trial pedestrian precinct in the Octagon could interfere with other work that's already been planned for George Street. Other councillors disagreed with him, backing Cr Hawkins' resolution in favour of a feasibility study. Cr Richard Thomson said that the Council needed to start small – running a trial anywhere on George Street would involve "extremely significant" changes, whereas he viewed the proposed trial a simpler way to "socialise" the idea of pedestrian precincts.

Cr Hawkins finished off the argument by reminding councillors of the vibrant atmosphere Dunedin had experienced from pedestrian-only zones created while hosting Rugby World Cup



matches in 2011. "How cosmopolitan and worldly we all felt for two weeks ... I firmly believe the amenity values will be profound." Ultimately, the Council passed two motions in light of Hampton and Belton's proposal: the first, to request a feasibility study into the possibility of trialling the proposed pedestrian precinct; and the second, to request research into the possibility of crowd funding of the trial by interested parties.

Not only did Hampton and Belton's success receive front-page attention in the *ODT* on 17 May, but widespread support from the community has been flowing in also. *ODT* commenter "Overit" stated that, "Slowly but surely we will finally get a town centre that many of us have called for many years. Well done!" Fellow commenter, "Fietser" said, "Best proposal for Dunedin in years! And initiated by two students with vision, way to go!" Other *ODT* commenters suggested going even further, calling for parts of George Street to be pedestrianised and for Moray Place to be made into an enormous roundabout.

By Nina Harrap | @NinaHarrap



POPPA'S SALE COMPLICATED BY LEASE EXTENSION REFUSAL ITALIAN LANDLORDS PIZZA-FACED ABOUT FUTURE PLANS

THE FUTURE OF ANOTHER STUDENT INSTITUTION is up in the air with Poppa's Pizza on the market and the current landlord unwilling to comment on its future after the lease's expiry. The existing lease is set to terminate in December 2016, with the current operator, Steve Munro, saying, "I've done my dash."

Munro has been running Poppa's Pizza for over 17 years and has had the business on the market for roughly the last year. "I think it's time for a younger, fresher person to take over," with his daughter Georgina chiming in that "he's too old to be sitting around campus." However, Munro has come up against problems selling the

business given the uncertainty around whether the lease will be extended, considering the landlord is under no obligation to do so. "I've asked the landlord if they would give an extension to the existing lease and they have said no, which means I'm trying to sell [the business] with two and a half years of lease left, which makes it difficult."

Critic understands the building is owned by the original owner/operators, who are brothers from Italy. They also own the building next door, as well as the vacant section next to it, which "has been vacant since 1992," according to Munro. "I've offered to buy the whole lot at least twice.

I got registered valuers in, lawyers to draw up a sale and agreement. [The landlords] ummed and ahed and said 'we've got plans.'"

Critic contacted one of the landlords, Guiseppe (Joseph) Luca, who had little to say on the lease or Poppa's future. He said, "Our business relationships are personal and I really don't have any further comment." He added, "I really do not know what the final outcome will be in regards to Poppa's Pizza in the future so [I] couldn't say at this time."

Munro indicated to *Critic* that he would love for the University to get involved, especially considering "it's got such a wide appeal" and the goodwill surrounding the business. *Critic* spoke with OUSA President Ruby Sycamore-Smith who said "it's disappointing that Poppa's could be ending its legendary run as the best place for pizza on campus. The changing face of the University and the North End means another student institution loses its place in our community." She added, "The awesome Orientation posters and the delicious Markollo will be sorely missed."

The business has been advertised in the *ODT* for \$85,000 plus GST. The business is fully licenced, A-grade and near offers will be considered.

By Claudia Herron | @Claudia_Herron

ST DAVID'S 2 RECEIVES \$9.65 MILLION UPGRADE TO NOT FALL FOUNDATION STUDIES IRONICALLY ABANDON EARTHQUAKE PRONE BUILDING

ST DAVID'S 2 WILL BECOME THE NEW HOME TO the Department of Applied Science following a \$9.65 million upgrade necessary to increase the building's earthquake safety rating. Originally constructed in 1997 and formerly used for Foundation Studies, the building was measured in 2014 to be at 34 per cent of New Zealand's current building standards for earthquake strength.

Critic spoke with Director of Property Services Barry MacKay, who said once the reconstruction is completed the building "will be strengthened to 100 per cent of NBS (New Building Standard)." The rebuild will see staff offices, meeting rooms, laboratories, study and specialist spaces built as part of the project. Toilet facilities will also be reconfigured and added to each floor, but MacKay assured *Critic* that "no student disruptions are expected as the building is not currently in use."

With a completion date of June 2015, construction is divided into two parts with stage one, seismic strengthening, ready to commence. This will include "rebuilding the main stairwells, freeing up space within the building. Stage two will see the "fit-out for Applied Sciences" and will see the existing building "provided with a better 'identity' and improved access." This includes a new entry space and wind lobby, and the frontage will also be extended with integrated signage "providing visual identity from the street."

The re-construction of the building is part of the University's Seismic Strengthening Policy, created in 2012. As part of the policy the University "embarked on a Seismic Assessment Program to obtain assessments for each building." Buildings found to be earthquake prone "will have priority for strengthening to at least 67 per cent." All buildings less than 15 per cent will be evacuated

and "immediate and appropriate remedial action will be taken." Mackay said all Residential Colleges will "be strengthened to at least 67 per cent NBS and as close to 100 per cent NBS as practicable," regardless of whether or not they are found to be earthquake prone. With \$50 million set aside for appropriate upgrades, the project is set to run until 2019.

Critic's attempts to contact Prof Raechel Laing, head of the Department of Applied Sciences, regarding the move was stymied by the University's Communications Office who, in their words, "looked after the Barry MacKay related questions, but forgot about the Raechel Laing one." The Office suggested, "You might be best to report [Prof Laing's] quoted comments in the *ODT*." In that vain, Prof Laing said the prospect of a "purpose-built" facility was "marvellous" and would open up many new opportunities, according to the *ODT*.

By Laura Munro | @CriticTeArohi

PICKERING PICKS OUSA POCKETS

ICE BLACK CELEBRATES BLADES OF GLORY

TALENTED ICE HOCKEY PLAYER LUKE PICKERING was among the eight talented students selected in the first round of Individual OUSA Grants this year. OUSA have awarded 45 Individual and Club Grants so far this year, and have completed two out of six rounds of grants.

Pickering used his \$500 grant to travel to Jaca, Spain, to attend the Ice Hockey World Championships with New Zealand Men's Ice Hockey Team, The Ice Blacks. Pickering was originally awarded the grant alongside friend and fellow teammate Connor Harrison, who was forced to decline due to a recurring back injury. Growing up in Queenstown, Pickering and Harrison became involved in the world of ice hockey at the age of five, competing in New Zealand age group teams from 16 onwards.

In 2012, Pickering moved to Dunedin and began playing for The Dunedin Thunder while Harrison remained in Queenstown. In a twist of fate, the boys found themselves pitted against each other in a match between the two cities. However, the

boys were quick to unite, with Harrison joining Pickering in Dunedin to play for the Thunder, and with both being selected for The Ice Blacks. The two boys were incredibly thankful to the OUSA for their grant: "The OUSA were very [supportive] and more than happy to help out with grants for travel and other expenses involved with the trip. They were also supportive with me having to pull out of the team," stated Harrison.

Other OUSA Grant winners include powerlifter Sarah Simpson, who attended the 2014 International Powerlifting Championships in South Africa, and Dental students Stephanie Lee, Lucy Molony, and Kate McElroy, who travelled to the Cook Islands to take part in the University of Otago Dental Care Project.

Critic spoke to OUSA Clubs Development Officer George McLenaghan, who has thoroughly enjoyed being an integral part of the grant process. "Meeting the people who apply for grants has been a highlight of this job for me," said McLenaghan. "It's a pretty humbling experience



to meet these talented, committed, passionate people." In the future, McLenaghan expressed interest in moving the Grant application process online, making access easier to talented students, and increasing time spent face-to-face in an interview setting with suitable students.

For students considering applying, Pickering has some solid advice: "Definitely apply. OUSA were more than happy to help us out and it turned out to be a massive help in getting [overseas]."

By Emily Draper | @CriticTeArohi

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PROCTOLOGY COSTLY CONSUMPTION

THIS WEEK'S VISIT TO THE PROCTOR SAW STUDENTS fronting the cost of their drunken antics by way of joy rides in the ambulance, trips to the dry cleaners and stolen lunches.

While many end up at A&E on a Saturday with little recollection of how their injuries were sustained, the Proctor was quick to remind students that even though the hospital service is free, a ride in the ambulance isn't. "Those in a drunken state and who find themselves in an ambulance to get their stomach pumped ... don't know that it will cost about \$80 to \$90 to go to hospital." He added that students can join St John by subscribing to their services, but for those with a lack of foresight for intoxicated injuries, *Critic* suggests taking the walking bus to the hospital, or a piggy-back.

Another "dumb idea," according to the Proctor, is

when students tactically "vomit into a bucket and then decide to take it out onto the street and throw it on the first person you see." Neither person can expect to get away clean. Sharing your bodily fluids with pedestrians might not be the best idea "especially if it is a long leather coat, which is hard to get the smell out of. You're looking at around a \$90 bill," said the Proctor. *Critic* suggests those who wish to share the remnants of their dinner take precautionary measures such as assessing the attire of the recipient, in order to achieve a suitable match of vomit-to-vest exchange.

In other antics, a group of girls played real-life GTA and waylaid a vehicle in the street refusing to let the car drive on, despite polite protests from the boys inside such as "please excuse us and let us go." The girls then ran around to the back door and opened it and then "pulled the lad's tea from his lap." The Proctor said the girl who

"While many end up at A&E on a Saturday with little recollection of how their injuries were sustained, the Proctor was quick to remind students that even though the hospital service is free, a ride in the ambulance isn't."

stole the boy's lunch "is probably going to pay ten times what he paid for that meal."

Finally, breaking glass appears to be another perfect way to break the bank. A couple of gentlemen who threw bottles at a Residential College were served over \$500 in fines each. The Proctor said the fines were calculated "by the seriousness of what they threw" and that "you never know who is behind the window, or the glass door." *Critic* is terrified. The Proctor is watching.

By Claudia Herron | @Claudia_Herron



DRUGS

THE FACT THAT I INHALED AS A STUDENT HAS been canvassed previously by this magazine. As Barack Obama famously quipped, "that was the point."

I should also say that I am glad to have supported the ban on synthetic cannabinoids recently put through Parliament. On account of the miserable tales I have heard in my electorate office, I won't be too unhappy when former users, facing a choice between two illegal products, substitute for the real thing.

Given most people in New Zealand are exposed to drugs both legal and illegal during their lifetime, I often wonder why it is that we haven't

had a more serious public debate about the relative merits of the substances on our streets. Which ones should be illegal and why?

I believe drug use and addiction should be viewed as a health matter, not a criminal matter.

Perhaps the most useful study on the social harms of drugs published to date was David Nutt's 2010 piece in the *Lancet* medical journal.

Nutt's personal story is instructive. Having earlier published a study remarkable enough to lead to his appointment as head of the UK Government's Advisory Committee on the Misuse of Drugs, one of his papers led to a huge public controversy.

Nutt raised the ire of prominent citizens by favourably comparing the harms associated with cannabis to those of "equasy." He quantified the harms associated with equasy in some detail for an unfamiliar audience. Equasy addicts, often from the wealthier social classes, regularly took the opportunity to experience the adrenaline and endorphine rushes equasy provided, even at risk of brain damage, death and more. Nutt's research

detailed the high likelihood of adverse incidents, traffic accidents and the sometimes-violent behaviour of groups of users that equasy use caused. We know equasy as horse riding, and this stunt did not tickle the funny bone of the British government. Nutt was sacked.

Nutt's 2010 study found that alcohol is more harmful to society than both heroin and cocaine, while heroin, crack cocaine and "P" were the most harmful drugs to individual users. Cannabis was less harmful than tobacco, and mushrooms barely rated a mention.

The social harms of particular drugs are more or less well documented around the world. In a report on controlling and regulating drugs, the Law Commission in New Zealand has made recommendations that warrant further investigation.

Unfortunately, where evidence exists, politicians have all too frequently proven too squeamish to deal with the consequences.

Column by David Clark | @DavidClarkNZ



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SAUSAGE GETS MESSY AT SGM CHAIR: "FUCK OFF AND DIE"

THE STUDENT GENERAL MEETING (SGM) WAS held at 12.35pm last Thursday outside the OUSA office, in order to notify OUSA members of last year's constitutional breach at the NZUSA election.

The breach in question occurred when three representatives of OUSA attended the NZUSA election last year. The three attendees were directed by an Executive motion to vote for former OUSA President, Francisco Hernandez, to be NZUSA president. However, two elected OUSA executive members and one other OUSA representative neglected to vote for him, thereby breaching the Constitution. At the SGM, OUSA President

Ruby Sycamore-Smith gave the members an opportunity to "explain their reasons," but they declined to comment.

Quorum was met at the meeting, with about 110 students in attendance somewhere around the Union area. Only about twenty people seemed to intentionally be there for the SGM, mostly made up of OUSA and *Critic* staff. A forum was also held prior to the meeting to present the questions for the upcoming referendum.

A sausage sizzle was presumably staged to attract students to the SGM, but by the time the barbeque was ready, the SGM was over. Sam Clark, a sausage sizzle aficionado, said there were issues with the sauce, as well as the BBQ starting late. "It was actually a mustard

bottle labelled as lemon juice, but contained tomato sauce; honestly, it's just implorable."

OUSA enthusiast Dan Stride was the speaker for the meeting where, for the most part, he gave a presentable speech. He moved the motion "that OUSA as per section 17 of the constitutional rules hereby validates the breach relating to the NZUSA presidential election of 2013." No further discussion occurred relating to the incident and the motion was carried, confirming OUSA members had been notified of the breach. Unfortunately, the meeting concluded with Stride letting down the OUSA team by using the end of the meeting to launch a personal attack on a student, telling them to "fuck off and die."

By Josie Cochrane | @JosieCochrane



FLAT PETS: A COMMODITY OR CUDDLY COMPANION?

DOES YOUR FLAT WANT TO GIVE AN ANIMAL A home? Yes, you say, but if you get one (or more) will you treat it as a cuddly companion or as a commodity? For whatever reason you and your flat may want a pet, or why you have a pet already, it is crucial to recognise the enormity of your decision and that you carefully consider what's required in caring for a pet responsibly.

In the initial stages of inquiry, certain factors need to be considered. Firstly, is your flat in a financial position to take on a pet? By this I do not just mean the initial purchase of your animal, but the on-going costs of food and vet bills for vaccinations and other health related issues that might surface in the future. Having the financial means to support your pet is very important, but the care does not stop there. Other

very important considerations need to be taken into account also, such as who will care for your pet during the holidays and breaks? There have been instances where flat cats have disappeared while they were left at flats alone over the break and never returned. Your pet may be independent and capable, but they do require someone to watch over them. So it is important if you do go away that you organise care for your pet whilst you are away.

There is more to being a responsible pet owner than love and care; you also need to consider your living conditions and whether they are right for a pet. The suitability of your flat is the best place to start. Is your property fenced? Is there an outdoor area for your pet? Do you live on a suitable road where your pet will be safe from highways and busy roads? And you need to consider outside factors that might compromise your pet's safety. Using Castle Street as a hypothetical example, your flat may be responsible and caring, but you may not be able to say the same for your neighbours. Worst-case scenario: your pet's safety may be compromised by animal cruelty at the hand of another. It is a very busy student street and is frequently patronised by many drunken students at night who often make bad decisions, e.g. smashing

bottles and glass over the pavements.

To all the existing pet owners, here is a simple checklist to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of you pets:

- Your premise is safe and secure;
- Your pets are being feed consistently;
- Your pets are de-sexed;
- Their vaccinations are up to date;
- There is a warm enough sleeping area/ bed available for your pets on the colder evenings; and
- Your pets have alternative care organised for them when it may be needed.

So if your flat wants to adopt a pet and can provide them with the suitable care they need, then giving a home to a pet is a great idea. For an animal there is nothing more wonderful then the love and care they receive from a responsible family. There are various pet shops that have a range of deals that come with the pet you purchase, but the SPCA is a great organisation that also has lovely animals that need homes. They also do deals and have helpful staff to give you advice to boot.

Column by Rosie Cox | @CriticTeArohi

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ONE OF THE MANY REASONS I AM NOT IN THE ALL BLACKS ...

TO THE SUPERLATIVELY SUPER SUPER RUGBY desk, which has shaken itself from its slumber and is starting to get exciting.

We all know I am a sucker for a nice drop goal and Hayden Parker's golden boot has been in good form, racking up all 18 points for the Highlanders against the Hurricanes.

Over the next few rounds the lads face a tough run of season-defining home games against the Crusaders and the Chiefs here at the lunch box, with a trip to Brisbane to face the bottom placed Reds in between.

Hopefully the break for the test series against England won't fuck up our momentum, but as the Highlanders will probably end up contributing fewer players than the other sides, this could work out well in their favour.

These last three games are crucial as the

Chiefs, Warratahs, Highlanders and Crusaders currently occupy third to sixth places respectively with only three points between them.

The 'Landers have an inferior points differential, which could come back and bite them in the ass, but it is worth noting that PD is secondary to total wins as a means of separating teams who end up level on competition points.

Even though he plays for the Blues, I do feel sorry for Charles Piutau, who has picked up the dreaded knee ligament injury, as I know from personal experience how hard it is to recover from these sorts of knee injuries. However, I hurt my knee playing Mighty Morphin Power Rangers on the trampoline with my sister when I was younger. Unfortunately, Nicola didn't believe I was really hurt so she hauled me back on to the trampoline and proceeded to "operate" on me by

poking and prodding her chubby little fingers into my deformed and rapidly bruising knee.

After she tired of this torture she realised I wasn't faking it; she eventually decided to find Mum who dragged me inside, dumped me on the couch and then fucked off to work leaving me there in agony until Dad come home and took me to the emergency room. As a result of this I missed our annual Pirates R.F.C trip to Christchurch where I would surely have caught the eye of the All Blacks talent scouts and been fast tracked to international sports super stardom! Instead I have found myself throwing stones in the glasshouse that is student media.

Finally this week, our extended FIFA World Cup preview concludes with Group H.

By Daniel Lormans | @danbagnz



ALGERIA

CAF – Confederation of African Football

Population: 39 million

Currency: Dinar

Capital: Algiers

Language: Arabic

Nickname: The Fennec Foxes = a very cute big-eared Saharan fox.

FIFA World Ranking: 25th

Qualified: On "away goals" rule after 3 - 3 aggregate draw with Burkina Faso.

Fun Fact: Beat Egypt to qualify for 2010 World Cup sparking huge protests and violence, intensifying an already bitter rivalry.

History: Traditionally one of the stronger African teams. Winning the African Cup of Nations in 1990 remains their biggest success.

Key Players: Captain Madjid Bougherra is their oldest and most capped current player.

Prediction: Can't see much cause for hope as they barely scraped through qualification and have never beaten any of their group rivals.



BELGIUM

UEFA – Union of European Football Associations

Population: 12 million

Currency: Euro

Capital: Brussels

Language: Dutch, French and German

Nickname: Diables Rouges = Red Devils

FIFA World Ranking: 12th

Qualified: Undefeated winner of UEFA Group A.

Fun Fact: The Royal Belgian Football Association was Europe's first FA, founded in 1885.

History: Recent performances have been encouraging but no major tournament success yet. They were ranked as high as fifth in 2013.

Key Players: Chelsea top scorer Eden Hazard and Man City captain Vincent Kompany lead a very impressive squad.

Prediction: Will win this group and could go very deep. I have picked Belgium as the dark horse of the tournament.



RUSSIA

UEFA – Union of European Football Associations

Population: 145 million

Currency: Ruble

Capital: Moscow

Language: Russian

Nickname: Sbornaya = Team (= boring!)

FIFA World Ranking: 18th

Qualified: Winner of UEFA Group F
Fun Fact: Former England manager, the angry and animated Fabio Capello, is now in charge of Russia. In Soviet Russia, World Cup hosts you in 2018.

History: Founded in 1992 following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Disappointing World Cup record thus far but a third place at Euro 2008 was very impressive.

Key Players: Zenit striker Aleksandr Kerzhakov has 78 caps and is just two goals short of becoming Russia's all-time top scorer.

Prediction: Should have enough in the tank to make it to the knockout stage, but not much more than that.



SOUTH KOREA

AFC – Asian Football Confederation

Population: 50 million

Currency: Won

Capital: Seoul

Language: Korean

Nickname: Taeguk Warriors = from the symbol on their flag

FIFA World Ranking: 55th

Qualified: Runner-up, Asian Group A
Fun Fact: They have a cool nickname and a badass white tiger on their crest.

History: Eighth consecutive World Cup appearance, which is the best record of any Asian team. Best result being a controversial fourth place when they co-hosted with Japan in 2002.

Key Players: On-loan Arsenal player Park Chu-Young has been labelled South Korea's best striker despite his lack of recent club games.

Prediction: Despite their low ranking it will be an interesting game against Russia. Whoever wins that game should go through.



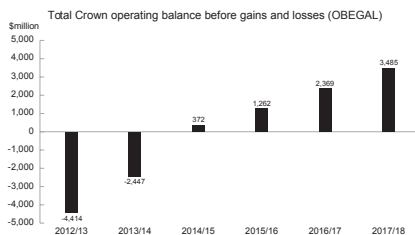
CRITIC TACKLES ELECTION YEAR THE BIG BAD BUDGET

ON 15 MAY, THE ANNUAL NEW ZEALAND Budget was released. For many people the word "budget" elicits an eye roll and a groan, bringing forth images of Excel spreadsheets and a motherly voice explaining exactly why you can't buy that hideous sofa from the Sallies. In some respects, that's exactly what this budget is, except the motherly voice is Bill English's and the hideous sofa is the education system. A plethora of articles and diagrams have been used to explain the positives and negatives of the Budget; this week's *Critic* aims to bring them all into one easy place, whether you think the Budget's an abysmal attempt at running the country, a clever piece of electioneering, or the best thing since Hyde Street.

SURPLUS

An important aspect of the Budget announcement was the "return to surplus" predicted for the 2014–2015 year. What this means, essentially, is that more money will come in than will be put out, a goal the current government has had since its rise to power. Spending, therefore, is tightly monitored and accounted for in terms of money spent and money earned. Terms thrown around on the Treasury's summary are "expenditure restraint" and "reprioritisation and revenue raising initiatives," if that gives a rough idea of what this government's strategy has been.

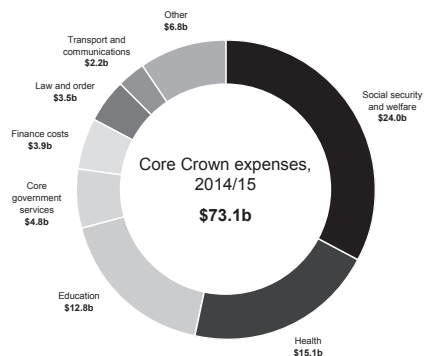
Fiscal deficits have been reversed



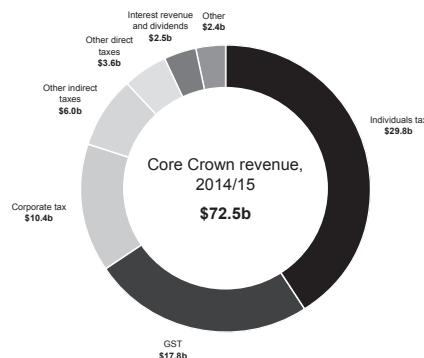
The above graph visualises how this surplus will look in the coming years, and the amount of contrast between 2012/13–2014/15 is stark. A note to remember, however, is that the economic crisis in 2008 shattered Bill English's dreams of surpluses for some time, and damaged the entire economic metric of the country. And we mustn't forget Christchurch, which is still very much a target of National's spending (and rightly so). So don't take these figures out of context.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES AND WHERE IT COMES FROM

The National government has been quick to point out that two thirds of its Budget expenditure goes towards social security and welfare, health, and education. The graph below shows the distribution of "core Crown expenses" for the coming year.

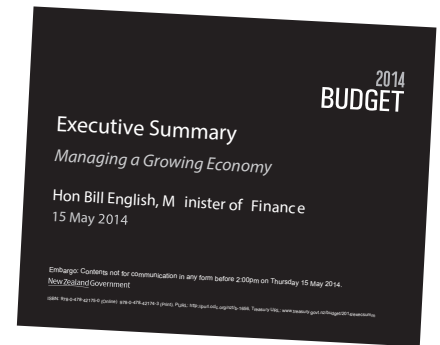


This next graph shows where the money comes from – mainly taxes. Taxes tend to get people riled up, as I'm sure is already evident given the existence of the New Zealand Tax Payers Union and that one middle-aged Southland man everyone has heard utter "my taxes are paying for this." This is not the place to discuss tax policies, types of taxes, and how they work, but the matching graphs do well to help visualise the way our taxes are distributed.



KEY CHANGES

The focus of this Budget has largely been on children and families, an important focus given the noise surrounding income inequality and the child poverty that continues to plague our



nation. With this in mind, the government has introduced two main measures on this front: paid parental leave will be increased from 14 to 18 weeks over the next two years; and doctors visits will be free for children under 13. Both of these are good initiatives, and extremely helpful for those young families who are struggling to keep their heads above the water; in terms of child poverty, free doctor's visits will help reduce the myriad of preventable diseases plaguing our youngest and poorest.

For those of you with cars, the Budget is trying to make life easier for you by reducing ACC levies, with a notable (possible) cut being \$130 for private vehicles, and if you have a car and live in Auckland, you'll be happy to know the NZ Transport Agency is being loaned (interest free, just like our student loans) \$375 million for Auckland transport. Old favourite Paula Bennett also has a new beneficiary package ready to go, targeting those beneficiaries who cannot get work and helping them get work.

CRITICISMS

The main criticisms of this Budget are that a) it could do more, and b) it could do more for more people. It is not a massively inflammatory budget, and even the most leftist among you can't deny that free healthcare for the under 13s is good; but that is one good thing, not an entire budget of good things for struggling people. Much of the criticism surrounds a lack of real child poverty alleviation beyond the doctor's visits (housing, for example, is a nebulous issue that needs attention). These are surface-level solutions, and more must be done to address such pressing issues.

David Cunliffe dubbed the Budget the "fudge-it Budget" (looking very proud of himself for the

rhyme), arguing that the surplus is only there because of the asset sales. In an interview with One News, Cunliffe succinctly explains that it's "a wafer-thin surplus that is concocted by holding back ACC levies, cutting back the re-build of Christchurch, and dreaming up an interest-free [loan] to Auckland instead of really investing in its transport." Winston called it "complacent and disappointing," while Russel Norman argued "the budget won't help everyday New Zealanders struggling with rising power bills, rising house prices and increasing interest rates."

Whether or not you support the Budget will probably depend on where you sit on the spectrum, and for an election year, what has been revealed is hardly surprising. For those swing voters who are now leaning towards National, don't forget their mistakes and the people they've left behind; for those swing voters who are now leaning towards Labour, don't forget their inconsistent leadership and struggle to regain legitimacy; for those swing voters who are now leaning towards the Greens, don't forget about the pixies at the bottom of the garden. Just as the government has to balance the books, we have to balance the good and the bad.

Regardless of what you think of the Budget, however, there is one irrefutable good that can cause us all a sigh of relief: we're not Australia, and our Budget is not even remotely as abysmal as theirs.

POLITWEETS



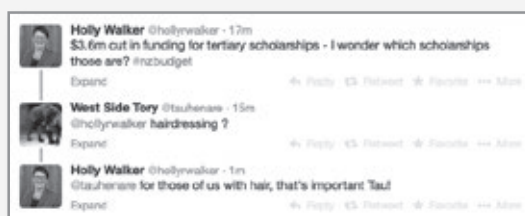
Snap.



Clever.



That is an incredible mental image.



It's ok to be bald, Tau.



We all have our guilty pleasures.

GREATEST SHITS

RATHER AMAZINGLY, I'VE BEEN GIVEN THE opportunity to present the Greatest Shit award to actual shit. Last week, as John Banks made his way to the courtroom (regarding anonymous donations), an elderly protester threw a bucket of manure at him. The look on Banks's face was one of pure shock, and the protester didn't hesitate to let loose on his criticisms. It's an amusing video if you get the chance to have a look.

GREATEST HITS

THE GREATEST HIT THIS WEEK GOES TO A brand new political party attempting to grace New Zealand with its presence: the Civilian Party. Based on the satirical news site, the Civilian Party stands for a variety of ludicrous and hilarious things. Some of their policies include "defend the traditional institution of marriage as the union between one man and one volumetric flask," and "replace New Zealand's national anthem with the theme

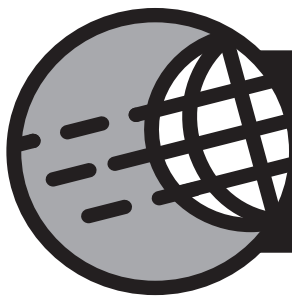
song from the 1996 film Space Jam, by Quad City DJs. A Maori version of Space Jam shall be composed to be sung alongside the English version," and "reform the Justice system so that every citizen is required to prove why they shouldn't be in prison." For some, this is reminiscent of the Bill and Ben Party; for others, this is a sober reminder that no one party can truly represent our interests – but for most, this is a fucking good laugh.



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NEWS IN BRIEFS

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY OUR MAGICAL DEPARTING NEWS EDITOR CLAUDIA HERRON

WORLD WATCH

FRANCE | The Catholic Church in France is offering worshippers the chance to "adopt a priest" in an attempt to raise funds. The campaign, launched by six dioceses in Normandy, copies an existing French dating site called Adopt a Guy and promises "divine products" for potential adopters.

NAIROBI, KENYA | Students demonstrating against a proposed increase in university fees turned violent at the University of Nairobi after students threw rocks at police and authorities fired back with tear gas. Witnesses say the battles didn't end until police cornered students into a campus building and fired dozens of rounds of tear gas inside.

FRANCE | More than 2,000 new trains ordered by French train operator SNCF are too wide for many regional platforms. The error appears to have happened after national operator RFF gave the wrong dimensions to SNCF. The cost to the rail operator is over 50 million euros and is likely to rise even further.

CHINA | Two years after Microsoft executives unveiled Windows 8 in China, the government is banning the operating system from state computers. Most government computers run Windows XP, which has a 70 per cent market share in China. However, Microsoft ended support for this 13-year-old system on 8 April, arousing safety concerns and appeals for a domestically designed OS.

GRAPEVINE

"The bank went to elaborate lengths to shield itself, its employees, and the tax cheats it served, from accountability for their criminal actions. They subverted disclosure requirements, destroyed bank records, and concealed transactions involving undeclared accounts by limiting withdrawal amounts and using offshore credit and debit cards to repatriate funds."

US attorney general Eric Holder in a press conference regarding Swiss banking giant Credit Suisse, who have pleaded guilty to helping some US clients avoid paying taxes to the US government and agreed to pay a US\$2.6 billion fine.

"While it is reasonable to assume that, if existing smokers switched completely from conventional cigarettes (with no other changes in use patterns) to e-cigarettes, there would be a lower disease burden caused by nicotine addiction, the evidence available at this time, although limited, points to high levels of dual use of e-cigarettes with conventional cigarettes, no proven cessation benefits, and rapidly increasing youth initiation with e-cigarettes."

The authors of a major scientific review of research at UC San Francisco on e-cigarettes have found industry claims about e-cigarettes are unsupported by the evidence to date, including claims that e-cigarettes help smokers quit.

"Sneakers bring out a particularly devoted level of fans. If Kanye does a sneaker, people pay thousands of dollars for it. This is a fun way for maybe less intense fans to make a conversation piece."

Mickey Boardman, editorial director at Paper magazine and a sneaker enthusiast, following an announcement by Adidas that it's creating a mobile app that will let users customise their sneakers by printing any photo, including Instagram pictures, on a pair of shoes.

"Most of the time, the dogs were kept on their leads. They were released with the leads dropped, only when their handler directed them to chase gulls. Then the dogs were called, they would circle back, and the handler would pick the lead back up."

Dr Elizabeth Alm from Central Michigan University who led a study into the use of Border Collies as an effective weapon against E. coli infections at the seaside. The sheep dogs were successful at keeping seagulls away from beaches, the droppings of which are known to be a source of E. coli bacteria, and which can lead to abdominal cramping and diarrhea in humans.

BEST OF THE WEB

vimeo.com/18280328

Undercity is a fascinating 28-minute film that explores New York City's abandoned underground.

critic.co.nz/theresmo

The Resmo: a solution for frequent flyers who find themselves curling up on airport seats to sleep.

critic.co.nz/eraseonline

How to erase your identity on the Internet. It starts by deleting Facebook, Twitter and Google accounts, but then escalates into falsifying information on profiles that cannot be deleted, and other great ideas.

birdseyechina.tumblr.com

China's version of Google Maps (Baidu Maps) looks like SimCity in 3D view; this blog uses screen grabs from it to tell stories.

critic.co.nz/drunkanimalsFR

Had a big weekend and finding it hard to focus? Well, these animals no doubt have a worse hangover than you.

emojifortun.es

Find out what your emoji fortune is!



SPEAK IN TONGUES LIKE ALLEY CATS

WE drove around the Castle St and Harbour Tce area one recent Sunday and were absolutely appalled at the sight before us.

THIS ARTICLE GOES ON TO LAMENT THE BURNT-OUT COUCHES, EMPTY BOOZE BOTTLES and pigsty houses, rhetorically questioning if decimating Dunedin in the name of having fun is really desirable. We'd like to point out this man's first and foremost mistake: taking a Sunday drive through Castle Street (!) If you were hoping for pleasant scenery you most certainly came to the wrong place, buddy.

Thanks for pimpin' our rides,
Dunedin City Council!

Cyclists may get free bells

No plea on cat charges

This poor lady: after reconciling herself to life as a bona fide cat lady with a mere 37 cats living in

her city home, Invercargill District Court goes and demands she re-home some of her pets due to the "nuisance" they were causing. She rightly refused: the bond between cat lady and her cats goes deeper than the law.

AT some point each winter we are faced with one of those days when the weather turns irrevocably nasty.

One of those days? I think you mean every day, ODT.

Cats are known to bring home dead birds, half-alive mice and bloody rabbits, but this epic cat brought home a bag of weed to its owner. Where

did this cat get trained and how can we get our hands on one? On a side note, terrible heading from the ODT: we recommend they don't attempt to channel cat thoughts next time.

Pretending to be a Holocaust survivor? New low. But we're wondering how anyone

actually believed a young Jewish girl fled into the woods and was adopted by wolves until the end of World War II.

Author of fake Holocaust memoir must repay \$US22.5m

Kristen Stewart and Allison Hess | @CriticTeArohi

FACTS & FIGURES

55 Maui Dolphins

remain in the world, making the species the world's most endangered dolphin.

Dork

The common name for a whale's penis.

Twit

A pregnant goldfish.

If a woman's name is Mary, it is against the law to be a prostitute in the city of Siena, Italy. Otherwise, it's perfectly legal as long as the brothel stays within the laws and rules of the government.

In 1938, Time magazine chose Adolf Hitler for man of the year.

Umami

a savoury taste and is one of the five basic tastes (together with sweet, sour, bitter and salty).

It is an offence to insult the national anthem of Namibia, "Namibia, Land of the Brave," with punishment upon conviction of up to five years imprisonment.



REALITY CHECKS

HI EVERYBODY,

In 1964, M Poppins et al reported on the effects of sucrose on the gravitational properties of pharmaceutical products. Further studies have failed to demonstrate that a spoonful of sugar does indeed help the medicine go down, but it raises an interesting point: medical reporting can be bullshit and we'll eat it up if it sounds good.

Take, for example, autism and vaccines. Like the makers of the *Game of Thrones* TV show I'm going to have to cut a very long story short, simplify some concepts and ignore some pretty crucial characters in my rendition. But here we go. In 1998 a greedy cunt with dollar signs in his eyes published some fake data claiming the MMR triple vaccine for Measles, Mumps and Rubella carried a risk of autism. He purported that separated vaccines for each would minimise the risk of autism developing for mystical doctor-y reasons and just so happened to be selling vaccines like that for a nominal fee.

He's since been struck off, had his research officially removed from the journal that published it and features in his very own Wikipedia article that calls him a cunt [citation needed], but his legacy still lives on because it sounded so sweet. The media had a field day, politicians had a field day, celebrities had a field day, and Measles, Mumps and Rubella have had a field day ever since.

Every paediatrician, public health nurse and GP that vaccinates can tell you about the truckload of parents who won't immunise their kids because of the risk of autism. There are also the parents that won't have a bar of it for similarly flawed reasons, but talking about them for too long makes me mad enough to invite them all to a red wedding, so I'll skip to the pointy end of the story: medical reporting and medical media is bad.

It's not always for lack of trying on the reporter's end, though often it can be. The cold reality is that

"In 1998 a greedy cunt with dollar signs in his eyes published some fake data claiming the MMR triple vaccine for Measles, Mumps and Rubella carried a risk of autism."

medical research is uglier than the eponymous duckling, and ain't nobody got time for uggos. Doctors don't want to read medical articles because they're long, boring, difficult to understand, minutiae-oriented, and require careful scrutiny and interpretation in a background of other medical articles. Given how reluctantly most medics read medical research, how on earth could it be sexy enough to star in the *ODT*? What can make that venerable publication has to be cut shorter than a botched circumcision and have all subtlety and nuance removed from it, and all for the sake of a witty headline.

Medical reporting, therefore, can't really report medicine as it has to sex up something inherently unsexy. Things have to be simple, punchy, and either inspiring, outraging or gut wrenching to be worth our time. Medical features, reports and self-referential columns must therefore prioritise telling a story you'll want to listen to. If that means the evidence behind late-stage cochlear implants is left vague, or the soundbite claiming vaccines cause autism isn't fact-checked, or Pharmac gets portrayed negatively for refusing to subsidise a drug that doesn't work or breaks our budget, then so be it.

It's great to see medical information and medical stories reaching the mainstream media, but always bear in mind that nothing you hear, read or see accurately represents the core of the matter. Everything that can be presented in a short and pithy frame has had to be diluted to a point that people want to read it outside of their compulsory job requirements. It would be wise to distrust any media presentation of medical information, particularly those that summarise things in a witty soundbite. In essence, a spoonful of cynicism helps the medical features go down.

By Dr Nick | @CriticTeArohi



FAITH AND IDENTITY

SO LAST WEEK I HAD A LITTLE RANT ABOUT the experience I had attending an administrative meeting of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia. What I should have stressed is that my experience would have been much worse if I attended a similar meeting of nearly any other Christian denomination in New Zealand. The Anglican Church is comparatively liberal.

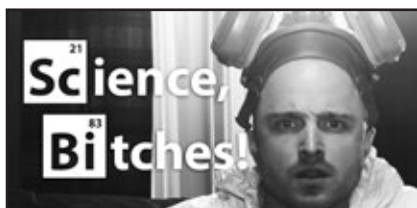
So what is it about religion that makes people go all conservative? The simple answer is that religions are based on texts that are inherently rooted in the social context of the time that they were written. Hence if 2,500 years ago a prophet had a "spiritual revelation" about a firstborn donkey requiring a lamb sacrifice (see Exodus), that prophet will write about it in the vernacular of the time, and with all the assumptions, prejudices and nuances they have. If a prophet is xenophobic, misogynist and homophobic, those will be the lenses through which they write their revelations whether or not there is any divine truth to them.

I also think that the faithful are a bit insecure about some of their spiritual practices. Christians go to church every Sunday to declare their love to a Jewish dude who went "fishing for men" and constantly surrounded himself with at least 12 completely devoted men who would do his every bidding. One of these men he called his beloved. Let's not forget the fabulous, bedazzled robes which some priests wear. It's all a little bit gay!

I once had the delightful experience of visiting a mosque. The whole experience felt kind of ... well ... gay! First of all came the gender segregation (women out back), then came the ritual cleaning (various parts of the anatomy depending on which sect you belong to), then the constant prostrations where your nose is basically in the butt of the dude in front of you!

I am not trying to belittle religion, I attest to its power to do good and transform people's lives, but we must stop using it as an excuse to discriminate.

By Sir Lloyd Queerington | queer@critic.co.nz



THE SCIENCE OF BEER

AS A STUDENT IN DUNEDIN, BEER IS PROBABLY relevant to your interests. Not only is this beverage delicious and intoxicating, but the beer-making process, while being an art form, is also jam packed full of science!

Beer is made of four key ingredients: barley; hops; water; and yeast. Other ingredients can be added to create a specific style, such as oats (to create oatmeal stout) or peppercorns (to create saison ale), or just to experiment. But exciting extras aside, let's look at what these four main ingredients bring to the party.

Let's start with yeast. Yeast is actually added to the brew last, but its job in the brewing process is the most important. Yeast is a wee microbe that ferments our sugars into alcohol, creating carbon dioxide on the side. Yeast likes an anaerobic, or oxygen-free, environment to

do this, and a batch of liquid brew is just the place to do it. (Bonus fact: there's a brewery in the States called Rogue that used beard yeast instead of normal brewers' yeast to make a beer.)

The first ingredient that's used in beer making is malted barley. There are lots of kinds of barley that can be used, alongside other grains, and which varieties you use will determine what kind of beer you make. But what do I mean by malted barley? Malting is a process where the grains are soaked, which stimulates germination. This is how the barley grain, the seed, would usually grow into a new plant. Though before the grains actually sprout, they are dried. This malting process gets the grains to produce some enzymes that will chop up the starches in the grain into sugars we can use. If you chew on a barley grain, it's not sweet at all, but after we heat the grains in hot (65-ish degrees) water, the starch in the grains are chopped into sugars, and are drawn out into the water. Once you've strained the grains, the liquid left behind – the wort – tastes really sweet.

Once we have the wort, we can start the boil. This is where we boil the wort and we start to add our next ingredient: hops. Hops are a plant closely related to hemp and marijuana. Hops

do two things in beer: they add bitterness; and they add flavour and aroma. Often, a variety of hops are used. Bittering hops are added first, and need to be boiled for a while to extract the acids from the hops. Towards the end of the boil, the flavouring and aroma hops are added. The oils in the hops contribute to beer's characteristic hoppy taste and smell. Hops in New Zealand are grown in Nelson, and we have several varieties that can't be found anywhere else in the world. Each variety of hops makes beer smell and taste a little different. Brewers spend lots of time trying out different hops to make different beers. IPAs, or India Pale Ales, and APAs (American IPAs) are the hoppiest of beers and the choice of hops dictates what they will taste like.

Once we've completed the boil and the beer is back to room temperature, we add our yeast and leave it to ferment. This can take a few weeks. Then the beer is ready to bottle.

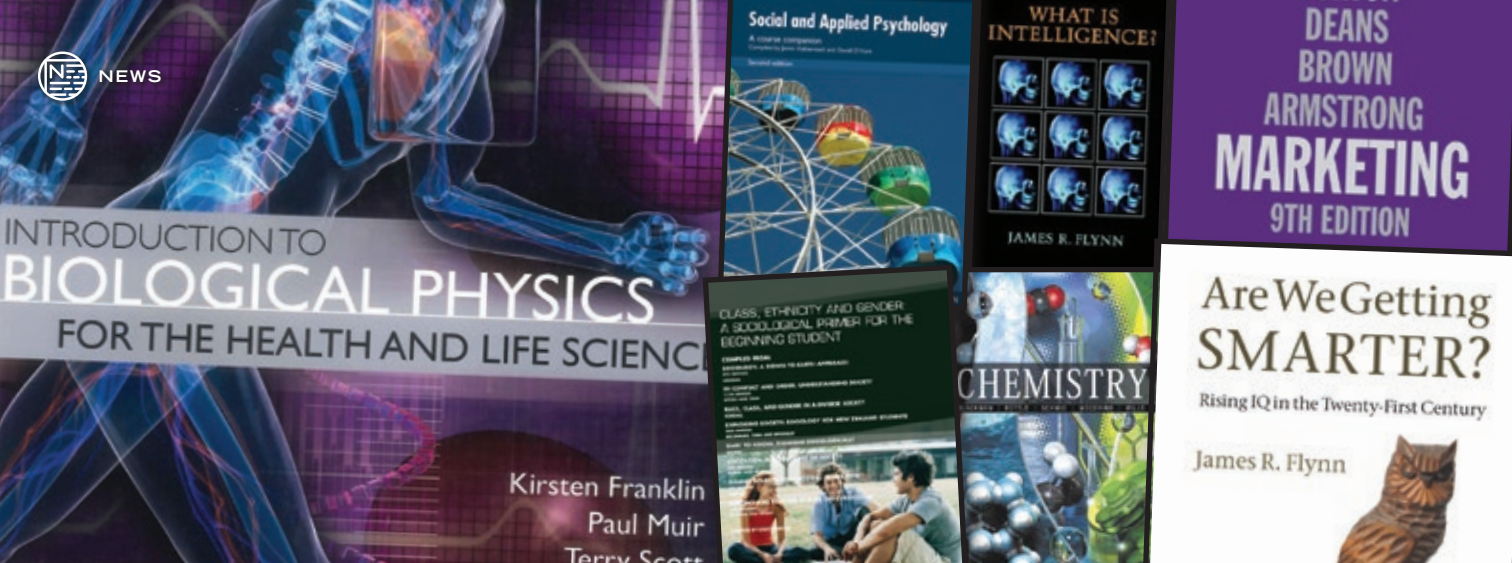
You may have noticed the types of beers described in this column aren't quite your average Speight's. So next time you're grabbing a beer, try a craft beer. Regardless, remember whom you have to thank: Science, bitches!

By Hannah Twigg | @ScienceBitches_

BLUES & GOLDS

Nominations open Monday 2 June
Nominations close Friday 1 August

See the Clubs Development team at the OUSA Recreation Centre, 84 Albany Street for all enquiries or check out www.ousa.org.nz/recreation/blues-and-golds-awards/



TEXTBOOKS: FUNDING LECTURERS TO WINE AND DINE

INVESTIGATING THE ETHICS OF BEING REQUIRED TO PURCHASE A LECTURER'S TEXTBOOK

PURCHASING TEXTBOOKS IS YET ANOTHER COST universities expect students to meet every semester. The cost and quality of textbooks ranges enormously between papers and, too often, the matter is aggravated when lecturers only use a few chapters of the textbook, or require a new edition of the text every year or two. Many textbooks are written by the very lecturers who teach the paper, which raises the question as to whether it is ethical to buy the lecturer's own work on top of paying course fees. Following on from various students' enquiries, Critic investigated what, if any, policies are in place at the University of Otago and how this differs to other universities.

The University does not have a policy regarding when a lecturer has a vested interest in the suggested or required textbooks for their paper. Professor Vernon Squire, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International) explained that, despite the lack of direct policy, each new paper at the University must pass a "rigorous approval process," which includes departmental and divisional endorsement, consideration by the University's Board's of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies, and approval by Senate. He says that the course outlines are included within this process and will usually, "although not always," specify the required texts for each paper.

At a number of overseas universities, there are policies in place to remove this conflict of interest. For example, at the University of Kansas, "Proceeds must be donated to their departments, schools, scholarship funds or other non-profit entities." At the University of

Minnesota a lecturer "cannot personally profit from the assignment of materials" to students without authorisation of the department chair. With no policy in place at any NZ universities, the door is open for lecturers to take advantage of the position they are in. Overseas universities have, at the very least, guidelines on what should take place should lecturers even appear as if they are exploiting their students for personal financial gain.

"With no policy in place at any NZ universities, the door is open for lecturers to take advantage of the position they are in."

University student Taylor Wheeler wants students to have access to the "essential" textbooks included in their fees. "Having to pay extra to increase your grade, even by a margin, is wrong," she says. Once you have paid your fees, she says, "[students] should be given all of the material included in order to get 100 per cent." She believes that when software for relevant papers is provided to students as part of the course fees, "essential" textbooks should also be included. The University has recently introduced Microsoft 365 as a free software package for all University students, adding to this point.

The University also has no policy on how crucial a textbook may be to a particular course. This means that there is no limit on how much the readings may contribute to a grade, whether described as a "required" reading (necessary for successful completion of the paper) or a

"recommended" reading (if they are useful but not required). Depending on the lecturer, the reading may just be for enhancing understanding of the lecture material, or examinations could be set to contain material purely from the textbooks, meaning not doing the readings may have a direct effect on a student's grade.

Squire makes it clear that "the University cannot compel students to buy any textbook." However, he said, "Purchasing key texts is strongly recommended in many cases." The alternative is that students can use the library system, however, there are rarely enough copies to cater for a whole class. Auckland, Massey, Christchurch and Victoria Universities run short-term loan systems for textbooks, similar to Otago's course reserve system, but again none of the universities have a set policy in place regarding textbook demands from lecturers. A University spokesperson for Victoria said, "Course outlines are reviewed by an academic colleague [but] this does not necessarily mean that the colleague approves the [recommended reading]."

Nanette Cormack, Deputy Secretary of the Tertiary Education Union, says, "I would have thought that the institutions would have policies that resources recommended to students would be checked." Cormack believes that as long as someone else in the department is checking over the materials recommended to the students, she does not see it as a conflict of interest. She says that given the "nature of expertise within New Zealand Universities," it may well be that the academic staff are the experts in their field, making it "quite appropriate" to recommend their own text.

Otago's department of physics had several lecturers involved with writing an Introduction to Biological Physics for the Health and Life Sciences. The textbook has been "essential" for one of the Health Sciences First Year papers (PHSI191) since its release in 2010. Head of the Physics Department, Associate Professor Pat Langhorne, says "it was never seen as a money maker" and that there is often a reason lecturers will work on writing textbooks. She explains that lecturers were spending an extensive amount of time writing more comprehensive notes for their students "because no textbook was on the market that fitted [the course]," and that it made sense to produce their own book. As a result of surveys for the paper, the Department discovered that students thought the previous textbook was "crap." Since the introduction of their own textbook, however, survey results have been "stunning."

Priced at \$79.50, sales of the book provide royalties for the Physics department and the authoring lecturers. Physics lecturer Dr Craig Rodger says that a lot of the royalties are from international sales, which include Australian universities and Oxford University in the UK. The department makes some money to go towards labs and equipment, but the authoring staff also receive a "small reward." He says "it's certainly paying them for some wine and a couple of meals out a year to celebrate" for working on a "thankless job."

Sales of the textbook through the University Book Store (UBS) are "small relative to course size" says UBS General Manager, Philippa Duffy. She says a "significant number of books, which were purchased through us, were for second hand copies, which we buy back and resell, for which the authors receive no royalties." She also notes that there have been no changes to the edition since 2010, resulting in a large quantity of less expensive second hand copies available. However, Wiley Publishers have recently requested that a second edition be released, which could result in future students having to fork out the cost of the most recent edition once again.

Professor Lyall Hanton, Head of the Chemistry Department, believes that writing a textbook is an "altruistic undertaking" and that "there are much easier ways to make money." Despite the issues surrounding the resignation of Chemistry lecturer, Associate Professor Allan Blackman, the author of the First Year Health Sciences

Chemistry (CHEM191) recommended textbook, Hanton says the book from Wiley publishers remains the most tailored textbook for the course.

He said that there was a lot of discussion over which textbook to recommend when it was first implemented but "when a colleague, which he was at the time, has gone to the effort to write a textbook, and it's highly suitable for the course, it makes sense that we seriously consider it for the course." He explained that Australasia teaches chemistry differently to the rest of the world, with a heavy organic chemistry component included, so "if we went with American textbooks, students would have to buy two books." He said there is one other book, which is published by Pearson, which could be considered as a replacement. However, he says, "That won't be considered for a while."

"when a colleague, which he was at the time, has gone to the effort to write a textbook, and it's highly suitable for the course, it makes sense that we seriously consider it for the course."

PROFESSOR LYALL R. HANTON
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO CHEMISTRY

Associate Professor Kenneth Deans is one of the authors of the recommended texts for a 100-level Marketing Management paper. Deans receives the profits, explaining he doesn't write the book on university paid time, and "I am taxed on it." He says the financial benefits are "no more than a couple of days of consultancy." He sees it irrelevant that he authored the book because whether a student buys his book over another book, "it's still an added cost [for the student]."

Deans became involved with authoring the textbook so that New Zealand examples could be included, as well as international examples. He says he would "never" make additional material from outside of his lectures the difference between getting a pass or fail because it would be "immoral" and "suggests I can't teach enough in class." Deans' "recommended material" is purely to "help students understand concepts discussed in lectures."

He believes that it is "increasingly important for students to study from a wide range of

sources, including the electronic material attached with his textbook." MyMarketingLab is an online study service provided with the book; this additional content has become a common addition to new textbooks. The online material provided by a number of textbook publishers is potentially a way of attacking the used textbook market as it has a one-year expiry and often will have been used by the time the book reaches a second-hand store. Again, Deans assures us that the online material is purely "an alternative way to study" and is "absolutely" not required.

As an alternative or addition to textbooks, course readers may be required for some papers. Uniprint sold over \$100,000 worth of course readers this semester, profiting by ten per cent of total sales. Individual departments do not make any money off the readers, except for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, who request to keep ten per cent of the sales themselves. This is presumably for the labour required for writing the content, which may include an extensive number of original questions.

In a statement released by the American Association of University Professors, they expressed concern that "professors may seem to be inappropriately enriching themselves at the expense of their students." They point out that lecturers are encouraged to publish the results of their research, so "they should certainly be free to require their own students to read what they have written." Some students even enrol in a paper because they want to "engage in discussion with the professor about those writings." The statement notes that it is important that policies to protect students "do not impair the freedom of faculty members" in deciding what materials to assign students.

The statement reads, "None of the policies [at the US universities] bar faculty members from assigning their own works to students. Rather, the policies seek to ensure that course-assignment decisions are not compromised by even the appearance of impropriety."

In response to the policies put in place overseas, such as donating profits gained as a result of student purchases, Deans says, "if that became policy, or even formal advice, I would happily do that."

By Josie Cochrane | @JosieCochrane



High off the moral ground

PURCHASING ILLICIT SUBSTANCES OFF THE INTERNET IS RISKY BUSINESS AT THE BEST OF TIMES. AN UNNAMED WRITER BREAKS DOWN THE PROCESS - ULTIMATELY BEGGING THE QUESTION AS TO WHY IT SHOULD BE SUCH A MYSTERY IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THE ART OF BUYING DRUGS FACE to face during these times of prohibition is just that: an art. It's a subtle dance between vendor and vendee, who both know that their business is illegal but must trust the other (while at the same time distrust them). Amongst professional drug merchants and their clientele there exists a fragile rapport based upon a mutual suspicion vital to one another's survival. Compared to this delicate intrigue, buying drugs on the Internet is a fucking piss take.

But first, I would like to take a moment to address something that I am guilty of myself: a gut reaction to the word "drugs." The word drugs comes with a host of cultural baggage. It implies illegality, danger, temptation. Rock Star stuff. Hip Hop stuff. *Trainspotting* stuff. Drugs are scary. They are scary because you and I, dear reader, have grown up in a period of scaremongering with endless after school specials made by two generations who have only had alcohol to sustain them – a drug which they imbibe with greater gusto than any of us wayward youth. This is, in a roundabout way, an argument for legalisation and I don't want people getting hung up on the drugs part.

But first back to buying drugs off the Internet. It works, as I'm sure many of you are aware, much like any other legitimate online transaction seen every day on Trade Me, eBay, Amazon and top-shelf porn sites. However, due to its nature, it takes place at an online level deeper than "the Internet" – a level which is colloquially and imaginatively known as "the Deepnet." The Internet has been likened to the ocean and search engines to a net. You might drag your net across the surface of the ocean and collect all manner of flotsam and jetsam from a Google search, but beneath the surface lurks untapped depths of data, information and high-powered LSD. It is this bit here that is the Deepnet.

Let us take a hypothetical drug purchaser looking to get messy with their friends in the privacy of their own home. First they'll want to download Tor, originally funded by the U.S. Naval Research Authority. This is a free bit of software which allows them to access hidden websites whilst, most importantly, remaining hidden themselves when used in conjunction with a Virtual Private Network (VPN) and/or a proxy server (those things you use to watch naughty videos on the Uni Internet). Just like buying something off Trade Me, they'll then navigate themselves to a virtual market place,

like the silkroad2.0, where they will search for the products they desire and pay for them using the crypto currency called Bitcoin.

Suppose then our bright-eyed shopper wishes to purchase some MDMA and, being the discerning type, they don't want the limp-wristed, stepped on, cut up variety that usually manages to wend its way down to Dunedin Otepōti. They would search for it in the search bar or alternatively find the subcategory under the Drugs tab on the side bar. Ibuprofen, helpfully marked Ecstasy, lies just above Dissociatives and just below Opioids in the Drugs tab. As a brief aside, Opioids are psychoactive substances like morphine whilst Dissociatives are things like ketamine – fucking horse tranquilisers, man. Anyway, they would then find a seller and they would purchase X amount of MDMA from them at a reasonable price. Again, much like Trade Me, they would be best to choose a seller with a large amount of positive feedback of whom they'd be able to ask questions and receive information on the product. This is something that is not always possible to do when buying drugs in person unless purchasing in bulk. It may even be considered something of a faux pas, as if you were questioning the drug dealer's drug dealing credentials. Another added benefit of virtual market places is user feedback – this is because you can find out who's got the good product, who is a rip off and who is known for their professionalism and successful deliveries.

A few days later their drug of choice, cunningly disguised, would arrive at its designated address for a fake person, hand delivered by the wonderful men and women of the New Zealand Postal

Society, through societal pressures and the rule of law, does a pretty good job of restricting our bodies already. "Sir, you'll have to leave! Sir, put your clothes back on!" they clamour.

Service. This is perhaps the most tenuous part of the whole operation, as having paid their money, the purchaser relies upon the honesty and skill of the seller and a little bit of luck to bring the contraband safely past the gimlet eye of Customs New Zealand. I say honesty of the seller because there is essentially nothing to prevent them from taking our hapless purchaser's money with a cheery "the cheque's in the mail," never to be heard from again. There is, however, a mechanism much like other online markets by which complaints can be made as well as the user rating and review system so that repeated undelivered or subpar goods will result in poor ratings and thus fewer or no sales as well as ostracisation by the community. For added security our friend has also purchased an easy to use test kit or, alternatively, has enjoyed the fine tutelage of the University of Otago's chemistry or pharmacology departments, thus they are able to test their purchase for purity. In my experience the feedback of other users has proved to be accurate and reliable on every occasion, which is not something I can say of drugs, particularly pressed pills and tabs, purchased in real life.

So there we have it, our intrepid Internet explorer and their friends now have at least one and probably several good nights of rolling on MDMA to enjoy – oh how they'll laugh and dance with one another, tell each other their hopes and

dreams, confess their love, hear music as if for the first time, feel a sense of euphoric bliss and generally grow together as friends and lovers. This shit should be illegal.

The reason such a marketplace even exists is because of the policy of prohibition enforced by New Zealand; a policy that I feel is morally bankrupt. Many arguments for the legalisation of drugs begin from a practical, economic and scientific standpoint. They essentially argue that prohibition creates more crime and criminality than it prevents, that it costs more in policing and lost taxation than it saves and that, scientifically, many of the drugs prohibited are demonstrably less harmful than my own beloved alcohol, tobacco and caffeine. All sound criticisms but that is not where I shall begin, I shall begin rather from the simple belief that it is no-one's business what I put in my body provided I cause no harm to others. This is not by any means a radical notion – it is inherent in the concept of freedom of consciousness (also known as freedom of thought). A concept that is found, among other places, in section 13 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act.

We are born into this world with only two things: our body and our mind. Although the distinction is an illusionary one it serves its purpose. Society, through societal pressures and the rule of law, does a pretty good job of restricting our bodies already. "Sir, you'll have to leave! Sir, put your clothes back on!" they clamour. Our minds, however, cannot, must not, ever be shackled in the same way our bodies may be. To allow that would be the grossest form of servitude, the most disgusting kind of supplication. This is not to say that you must get high. It is, in fact, the opposite. I merely assert that our consciousness is wholly our own and we have the right to change or not change that state of consciousness at will.

When someone dies using a drug we somehow remove them as an autonomous actor and ban and blame the drug when often times both the mountain climber and the drug user are seeking a similar experience.

I saw a piece of graffiti one time in Newtown, Wellington, which had the typical stoner motif of a marijuana leaf and the phrase "smoke weed everyday," but under this the same author had written "or don't." This sums up my mentality quite succinctly: provided you harm no one but yourself you should be free to do as you please and, frankly, if all you've ever done to break the law is driven a few km over the speed limit you've already done more to endanger someone's life than I have getting illegally stoned at home. Issues with drugs can and do arise when harm is caused to others because not all drugs are equal; some by their nature make people

more prone to violence or risk-taking behaviour. However, our current system of prohibition appears to have it all backwards. When have you heard this news report: "a man high on ecstasy filled with a sense of euphoria and kinship with humankind assaulted and killed a man in a Dunedin bar on Saturday night"? Never. Instead, we hear of Dunedin Police recently launching their "Just One Punch" campaign to highlight the link between alcohol and assault.

This is where the scientific critique of prohibition comes in. It argues that we need to take a scientific approach to drug use and its harms

and benefits instead of the current knee jerk prohibitive reaction born out of Reagan era policies that have resulted only in a US\$300 billion black market and an even greater cost in human misery. It is not always possible, however, to take the scientific approach when speaking truth to power.

Professor David Nutt, chairman of the British government's advisory committee on the misuse of drugs, was sacked in 2009 after providing evidence in a paper for his claim that LSD, Cannabis and Ecstasy are less harmful than alcohol and tobacco. He was sacked for speaking the truth and providing evidence

to support it. In 2009. In a democratic nation. This illustrates the perverse lengths to which people will go to maintain the status quo, and for what? To not look foolish? To escape having to say "we were wrong" or "we succumbed to pressure from vested interests?" Professor Nutt also once infamously said that Ecstasy was no worse than horse riding (he called it Equasy), which is responsible for around 10 deaths and more than 100 road accidents a year in the UK. This was an attempt to illustrate that drug harms can be equal or less than other harms that we would never think to criminalise in a free society. It is interesting that although over 250 people have died on Mount Everest we have never once blamed the mountain or used this as evidence that Everest is bad and people should be restricted from using it; we say they knew the risks they took them and paid the price. Yet when someone dies using a drug we somehow remove them as an autonomous actor and ban and blame the drug when often times both the mountain climber and the drug user are seeking a similar experience.

I can only imagine the sense of meaning and purpose one might get as they stand atop Everest. To look around as the highest human being in the world must give one a great sense of perspective and feeling of transcendence. I cannot summit Everest, I do not have the skills, the funds nor, frankly, the inclination, but I took LSD and watched a New Zealand harrier hunt for its dinner metres from my face and almost wept at the sight. I felt a sense of kinship with this bird and every other living thing. The sense of "oneness" that a good LSD trip will give you actually happens. This has carried on like a hangover that will last the rest of my life – colouring the interactions I have and the way I treat people.

The use of LSD for terminal patients to help them comprehend and come to terms with their impending death has been documented and shown to be immensely therapeutic. The use of psilocybin, the psychoactive ingredient in magic mushrooms, has the potential to help treat people with severe depression, but due to its illegal nature scientist find it almost impossible to study and develop its potential (I am trying to ignore the bizarreness of declaring illegal a fungus, which grows naturally in and

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around our own fair southern city). The use of medical marijuana is alive and well in several US states. Colorado and Washington have fully legalised it and, surprisingly, the sky has not fallen upon their heads. Prohibition harms us in a therapeutic way by impeding our access to medicine as well as our understanding and treatment of addiction. Therefore, prohibition from a scientific perspective is an untenable position.

Lastly there is the socio-economic argument against prohibition. Almost on cue, the London School of Economics on 7 May published an academic report called "Ending the Drug Wars." In it they point to violence in Afghanistan, Latin

America and other regions as evidence of the need for a new approach as well as the huge and mounting costs of enforcing prohibition. They write: "It is time to end the 'war on drugs' and massively redirect resources towards effective evidence-based policies underpinned [sic] by rigorous economic analysis." They go on to say "the pursuit of a militarised and enforcement-led global 'war on drugs' strategy has produced enormous negative outcomes and collateral damage." Part of this enormous collateral damage is that American prisons, as well as those in New Zealand, are now heaving with non-violent offenders sent there for the crime of getting high or being entrepreneurs. In her book *The New Jim Crow* (a reference to the laws that disenfranchised and segregated black Americans in the 19th and 20th centuries), Michelle Alexander makes a compelling case that drug laws are enforced along racial lines in a way to continue the disenfranchisement of black Americans and the process of mass incarceration in the US – a country with five per cent of the world's population and 25 per cent of the world's prisoners. Prohibition has therefore become a powerful tool to infringe people's rights and liberties in the Land of the Free.

The "cost to society" is also often touted as a reason for prohibition; this, however, is disingenuous. In 2013 police on the West Coast busted a cannabis crop with an inflated street value of three million dollars and stated that the total haul was worth four million dollars due to the societal costs of crime and enforcement. One million dollars in crime and enforcement! Who made it a crime? Who enforces it? The police used a helicopter and thousands of personnel hours to find some plants, which have never caused even one direct death. How many tax dollars does it cost to fly a helicopter all over the West Coast looking for foliage amongst other foliage? But despite all this, despite the bloated costs of enforcing prohibition and its crippling of scientific and medical potential I want an end to prohibition and an empirical harm based analysis of drug legalisation for selfish reasons. I want it because I want to get high, to change my consciousness as and when I feel like it. I don't need to demand this right or take it back because I've always had it; I was born with it and so were you.



KNOWING NANO & WHEN TO SAY “NO”

Technology and medicine at the nanoscale has the potential to solve countless issues from climate change to cancer. But the uncertainty surrounding this area also poses serious questions for regulators about if and when to draw a line.

BY LOULOU CALLISTER-BAKER



EVERYTHING, HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES, food packaging, sunscreen and cosmetics are examples of everyday objects seen and used so often that we barely pay attention to them. They are useful, sure, but are they

exciting? No, not usually. But what about when each of these items is made or infused with technology on the nanoscale? That's when things get interesting. Carbon nanotube-infused graphite can make very strong but light tennis rackets. Silver nanoparticles can prevent any bacteria from reaching a wound. And that's just what nanotechnology is achieving now. The potential for what nanoparticles and nanotechnology could achieve in the future is astounding – from providing better alternatives to cancer treatment to achieving multiple environmental goals by combatting issues in solar energy technology, pollution and water treatment.

But before understanding even the basics of what nanomedicine is, an introduction to the nano world in general is necessary (especially if you're like me and have a limited understanding of science). All around the world scientists from every field are working together to study these tiny worlds that can have huge, unfathomable impacts on almost every aspect of life. While scientists have been working with these nanoparticles for centuries, the recent invention of new tools, especially the scanning tunnelling microscope, has made it much easier to work with nanomaterials. This is because the technology I am talking about is small – so small, in fact, that the human eye alone can't see it. To provide some perspective: one strand of human hair is approximately 80,000 nanometres wide and one nanometre is one billionth of a metre. This means it would take 800 100-nm particles, side by side, to match the width of a human hair.

"There are nanoparticles floating around in the environment, like volcanic ash, but we're not so interested in the naturally occurring ones," Dr Jennifer Moore tells me after I sit down with her for a discussion on nanotechnology's incorporation in medicine. "We're interested in the human made, manufactured nanomaterials, which happens in labs right here on the Otago campus." Jen is a lawyer, social scientist and health scientist with qualifications and training in all these disciplines. She has work experience as a legal and policy advisor for the New Zealand Law Commissioners and lectured in the Public Health Department at Otago and the Health Sciences Department at Monash University. Jen is now a Senior Research Fellow in the Faculty of Law and the Acting Director of the Legal Issues Centre. It's safe to say that Jen knows what she is talking about.

Although the definition of nanotechnology itself is contested, most commentators agree that nanotechnology refers to a multidisciplinary field involving the manipulation of matter at the atomic and molecular scales. Engineered nanomaterials have greater surface area to volume ratios than at larger sizes, which increases their potential for biopersistence and reactivity – which also means that a sufficiently manipulated element can have several different properties at the nanoscale. A common example of this nanotechnology is sunscreen. Zinc oxide, the central ingredient for sun protection, at its bulk size, goes on the skin white or pink, but zinc oxide at the nanoscale appears clear when applied to the skin. The change in the optical properties of zinc oxide at the nanoscale is an example of the uniqueness of the nanoscale. "If we look at an element from the periodic table like gold, for example, when it is bulk it appears yellow but when it is at the nanoscale it appears red. The difference is due to the different optical properties of gold nanomaterials."

“In one case Chinese workers who were exposed to nanoparticles in a factory started experiencing difficulties breathing. One worker died and several became severely ill. Later scans of the affected workers showed the nanoparticles in their lungs.”

Another example of an engineered nanomaterial is carbon nanotubes. This technology has raised concerns, particularly when people are exposed to it in the workplace. Research of carbon nanotubes suggests that their size and fibre shapes may lead to health effects similar to asbestos – prolonged inhalation of which can cause a myriad of serious illnesses, including malignant lung cancer. In one case Chinese workers who were exposed to nanoparticles in a factory started experiencing difficulties breathing. One worker died and several became severely ill. Later scans of the affected workers showed the nanoparticles in their lungs. Although these workers were not wearing personal protection equipment,

“Although nanotechnology is available in a range of products, New Zealand has only approved two nanomedicines ... Because of the huge potential market for nanomedicines and the new or uncertain risks different products may bring, there is a need for adequate regulation to both avoid adverse health ramifications and following backlashes on research and innovation in science.”

the uncertainty about what caused these health problems means that this technology is still worth investigating. The trade and use of asbestos has been restricted or banned in many jurisdictions; whether the same will happen with the use of carbon nanotubes remains a pressing question.

Many predict that the medical industry will be impacted the most by nanotechnology. “In medicine there are quite a few different applications of nanotechnology, many of which are at the clinical trials phase, but there are some products that are already on the market,” Jen tells me. These medicines have been reformulated with nanoscale materials to improve their absorption, bioavailability and to make them easier to administer. Nanotechnology is also being used as a delivery vehicle for medicines to target selectively specific cells such as cancer cells.

Although nanotechnology is available in a range of products, New Zealand has only approved two nanomedicines. The first, Rapamune, is an immunosuppressant for the prevention of organ rejection in renal transplant patients. The second nanomedicine is Abraxane, which is indicated for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer. However, because of the huge potential market for nanomedicines and the new or uncertain risks different products may bring, there is a need for adequate regulation to both avoid adverse health ramifications and following backlashes on research and innovation in science.

When I asked Jen if she knew of any other examples of nanomedicine about to enter the New Zealand market she told me that although she had checked with Medsafe about this recently, they reported to her that until they receive applications for approval from companies and manufacturers, they were unable to advise her. However, the knowledge that other regulators in jurisdiction like the USA have already approved eighteen nanomedics, means that it is “highly likely that there will be further nanomedics entering the New Zealand market soon.”

Another example of the application of nanotechnology in medicine is nanorobots specifically designed to target cancer cells.

Nanorobots are programmed to attack and reconstruct the molecular structure of cancer cells and viruses, while leaving the surrounding healthy cells intact. While this is generating “a lot of excitement,” Jen asserts, “It is the same properties of nanomaterials, which cause concern in these products. For example, the potential for nanomaterials to cross the blood-brain barrier and react with brain tumour cells is both a concern and exciting. Some nanomedics are able to target the cancerous cells and leave the healthy cells intact by crossing the blood brain barrier [a membrane that protects the

brain from harmful chemicals in the bloodstream] and target cells. But “barrier” is a crucial word here. Should nanoparticles be crossing it? Maybe we don’t want these things getting into that space? We just don’t know yet.”

Therefore, despite these innovations, Jen favours and encourages the precautionary approach when it comes to regulating nanotechnology. She is enthusiastic about nanotechnology research and development but believes that New Zealand is not spending sufficient money or resources to ensure that we have adequate regulatory regimes in place to protect public health: “the advances are exciting, but we do not want a repeat of other scares, such as asbestos or genetic engineering. If adequate protections are not in place, the science loses too. If harm happens, there might be a knee jerk reaction, which would stall scientific progress.” With the Chief Science Advisor on nanotech projects in the United States, Andrew Maynard, also forming similar conclusions, Jen is not alone in her beliefs.

“The advances are exciting, but we do not want a repeat of other scares, such as asbestos or genetic engineering. If adequate protections are not in place, the science loses too. If harm happens, there might be a knee jerk reaction, which would stall scientific progress.”

So what is actually going on with the regulation of nanomedicine in New Zealand? While nanomedicines are not regulated by their own Act, they are instead regulated by the Medicines Act 1981. Because this existing legislation was drafted before nanomedicines entered the market and is not designed to deal with the novel and unique properties of some nanoscale chemical substances, nanoparticles are “illuminating” and “exacerbating existing legislative imperfections,” Jen wrote in her research. Furthermore, “rapidly developing nanomedicines using mechanical chemical

and optical properties at the nanoscale will create classification challenges. Such products will integrate multiple modes of actions in a novel manner and blur the boundaries between mechanical and pharmacological actions." Yet Medsafe (a business unit of the Ministry of Health) still do not single out nanomaterials as requiring special assessment.

The three categories of New Zealand's regulation of medical products in the Medicines Act are: medicines; medical devices; and related products. The need to improve NZ's regulation of medical products has been emphasised since at least the 1990s; however, proposed changes to NZ's Medicines legislation in the Medicines Amendment Bill 2011 aren't entirely achieving this purpose. There are commendable changes – the most notable being the establishment of the new Trans-Tasman Regulatory Agency as a single regulatory agency for Australia and New Zealand, which will, over the next five years, assume complete responsibility for the therapeutic goods regulatory functions currently undertaken in both countries. Arguably, however, the Medicines Act is so deficient that, as Jen writes, "simply making amendments is similar to sewing a new patch of fabric to an outdated tapestry."

For example, there remains no regulatory pre-market approval system for medical devices in New Zealand, even though most developed countries require this. While the pre-market approval process applies to medicines, including nanomedicines, it does not apply to medical devices. The Medicines Amendment Bill leaves this issue to be dealt with in an indeterminate time in the future. "This is an issue because it means that New Zealanders are using medical devices which have not been approved, which means that their safety has not been independently tested. This in turn means that there are potentially harmful products available for New Zealanders to purchase, creating a potential risk for consumers. My argument is that they should be dealing with it and dealing with it now."

"We, in New Zealand, are far behind other jurisdictions that deal with these issues. I'm less worried about the medical devices that you can get in a pharmacy, what I'm worried about in particular are the nanomedical devices," Jen clarifies. "Some of the best examples of these are a combination of devices and medicines like cosmetics that contain medicines with nano particles, supposedly to improve the product. All over the world these products are regulated differently; in New Zealand the question is: do they fall under our Medicines legislation or do they fall under cosmetics regulations? In the U.S. they have said this is a problem but they seem to be taking [a] hands-off approach. They do seem to be slipping through the cracks. I don't want to be an alarmist – these products may be fine – but, for me, I would rather be prudent about it. I think science ultimately suffers if a product is harmful and we [don't] have the appropriate regulation in place – often there's a very immediate reaction to shut down the labs, stop the research, stop the innovation and then science can't progress."

Although Jen is "very hopeful" that the deficiencies she has outlined in her research will be met eventually, she provided me with a number of remaining deficiencies with the new Bill. There are no human and safety assessments for medical devices. There is no definition of combination product, which means that they may not be caught by legislation and consumers may be put at risk. There is insufficient mandatory labelling. The regulation under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act is not sufficient because of trouble deciding whether nano is new or existing. Here Jen argues that they should be treating it as new because they would undergo more stringent safety assessment testing. "If nanogold," for example, "is treated the same as bulk gold, it would be treated as 'existing' under the Act and it would just go through the normal procedure. But if it is treated as 'novel' then it would be treated differently. We still don't know what could happen with these materials. We want to be prudent. It may be that it's absolutely fine, but it's better to be safe than sorry. I do really want to point out that not all nanomaterials are dangerous, however some have demonstrated properties that have the potential to be."

But the regulation of nanotechnology isn't totally unchecked. In fact, the University of Otago has a centre set up for this very purpose. The New Zealand Law Foundation Centre for Law and Policy in Emerging Technologies is the (very long) name for this research centre that examines the "legal, ethical and policy issues around new technologies," which include biotechnology, nanotechnology, neurotechnologies and the Internet. The Centre's overall vision is "to encourage the formulation of a framework for the systematic and comprehensive evaluation of emerging technologies, and to build New Zealand's legal and policy capability in these developing areas." The Centre is led by Director Associate Professor Colin Gavaghan (who also lectures a 400-level Law paper called Law and Emerging Technology). However, it was Lynda Hagen, the Director of the New Zealand Law Foundation, who contributed the funding to set it all up. "We're really lucky in Otago because of this really amazing woman," Jen remarks. "Lynda was sitting there one day watching the TV, seeing all this science happening, and she thought 'where is the law in all of this? Where is the regulation?' And now we have cool research being done on these sorts of topics. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be doing this. This centre is unique to Dunedin and the Law and Emerging Technology course is the only one I know of on this topic in New Zealand."

The world of nanotechnology, particularly nanomedicine, is incredible. However, innovation can come at huge costs. As Jen stresses, "it is crucial to have a regulatory regime that can deal with the challenges presented by the influx of new nanoproducts onto the market." But even for the experts, when it comes to regulating uncertainty, the "how" remains the big question.



FEATURE

TAINTED LOVE



After being whipped, branded and hungry, Critic sexpert Josie Adams recounts her night at Dunedin's Fetish Ball.

IT WAS A DARK AND QUIET NIGHT on Crawford Street. The darkness was warm and lit by the still streetlamps, and even the shadows glowed with beckoning comfort. It was an empty night, perfect for spilling secrets into.

The street was deserted except for the purposeful tip-tapping of a single person striding. I was two blocks behind the footsteps, and all I could see of its owner was a vibrant, sashaying crimson. When she crossed the amber-grey road, her masked eyes glanced back at me and flashed knowingly.

We met again at the door. I could see her dress better now: it was tight around the body, strapless, and volumed out violently at her waist. It was entirely PVC, and her black-heeled legs kicked out through its short front. I gazed at the squeaky shine tucked under her shoulder blades and wondered if I'd tried hard enough.

"Do you go to Polytech or Uni?" asked the door people, as they appraised my costume and deemed it scandalous enough. "Uni," I replied, and they ticked off a column on the desk. "How many tickets have been sold?" 126. 126 attendees to the Dunedin Fetish Ball so far, and another twenty or so to come.

I walked into Sammy's, which was red-tinged and had tables and chairs haphazardly placed around the hall. There was a rust-coloured Dalek staring out at the crowd, alone between the stage and the toilets. I shrugged off my coat and was pleasantly surprised by the lack of stares the Powergirl-esque triangular hole in front of my breasts attracted. To my right was a young man just as confused as I was about the functionality of the coat check. He was in a gimp suit, complete with a gas mask, and seemed lovely.

"Do you know how this works?" I asked him, and a distorted but determined attempt at the human language tumbled out of his mask. "Well," I nodded, "at least we're in this together."

My boyfriend waved at me, a beer in each hand and an altar cloth dangling dangerously from his neck. I adjusted my habit – had to look my best – and went to accept my drink. We strode across the room to a couch that lurked in the shadows. We weren't first-timers when it came to playing with fetishes, but this was the first time we'd seen the fetish community at large; it was best to observe first. Mum warned me they'd be ugly, but I like to believe everyone is beautiful. The ball-goers probably averaged out at average, but they were all interesting, and as the crowd grew bigger, we found it could be split into three broad types: steampunk, PVC, and playas.

A huge amount of people looked as though they were recycling their steampunk convention outfits. There were top hats, corsets, the odd parasol, and plenty of ankle-flashing. I briefly wondered what a steampunk fetish entailed, and then remembered my teenage obsession with Larklight.

The PVC crowd was the one I wouldn't mess with. Dancing slowly and creepily for six hours wrapped in sweat-insoluble red and black had to give them some kind of thrill; you couldn't pay me to do that. They had the slicked-back hair of people who meant business, and more than any other guest it was this group that was most likely to be carrying something that could be used as a weapon (ropes, whips, chains, etc.).

The latter group was largely made up of nineteen-year-old girls in leather jackets and red lipstick, who were "only here because it's a red card, honestly!" Gurl, \$40 is a lot to spend on an

event just to demonstrate how TC you are. Throw your own party next time, it's cheaper and the people there will hate you less.

Mixed in with the crowd were people like us, who wore outfits representing more 'traditional' fetishes: teachers, maids, schoolgirls, priests, gimps. One man, who I later learned was actually a "general area act" called Dodgy Ropes, was tying his girlfriend into a pretzel. Her hands were crossed across her chest, and her eyes were blissfully fluttering between closed and mostly-closed. It looked very romantic.

The couple next to us was not very romantic. A Fetish Ball takes all sorts, but sitting a metre apart and browsing social media is universally very non-intimate. We wouldn't have known they were together if we didn't see them paddling each other upstairs an hour later.

Deviant Queen, her dress trailing behind like a personal guard and a top hat perched firmly on her head, strode across the floor to emerge onto the red haze of the stage: the night was about to kick off. "Welcome!" she cried in a rare, un-irritating incarnation of the New Zealand accent. The house rules were laid down: no photos of guests, except when by the Dalek; don't talk about people at the Fetish Ball to people outside it; don't touch people without their permission. It was like *Fight Club*, but with better outfits and less conspiracy.

"Needles" was the first stage act. She shuffled out looking strangely morose for someone wearing sequins and a bright blue wig, but brightened up when two massive hooks were driven through the skin on her upper back.

"Come closer!" Deviant Queen suggested, "come and look at the blood!" We pressed against the

WE RAN INTO TWO FRIENDS AT THIS POINT, WHO HAD JUST BEEN WHIPPED. THEY WERE ON TOP OF THE WORLD BECAUSE, APPARENTLY, “GETTING THE SHIT WHIPPED OUT OF YOU IS REALLY RELAXING,” AND THEY URGED ME TO TRY IT FOR “JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY.”

side of the stage, investigating the bloody rivulets winding down her back. Nothing unusual there, though – everyone bleeds. The exceptional part of the performance was how much Needles enjoyed the two hooks dug into her flesh. When she jumped off a ladder to suspend herself, even the presenters chastised her a little for enjoying it too much. She didn't care though; she just bobbed up and down like someone on a masochistic swing set. She was having a blast.

We went straight from there to Deviant Queen's personal table, where her boy-toy was becoming "the human incense candle." She would heat up an incense stick and then drive it into his hand or forearm, while we watched his unflinching face stare determinedly at the table. Once his hand had come to resemble a murderer's birthday cake there was nothing more to see, so we headed upstairs.

Upstairs there were two sections: the BDSM corner and the swingers' tent. BDSM, for the uninitiated, involves a bundle of things that begin with those letters: bondage, discipline, domination, submission, sadism, and masochism. It's a kink, fetish, or sexual practice where interpersonal relations are a big part of the "play:" there are doms, subs, and roleplaying, and it's a community where safe words

are absolutely imperative. *50 Shades of Grey* is a terrible representation of a good BDSM relationship, but if you picture Christian Grey's infamous "red room" then you'll have some idea of what the BDSM corner at the Fetish Ball looked like. When we arrived there was a naked woman being whipped, and someone else bent over for a spanking.

We took a seat upstairs, where we could watch the rest of the acts. Needles was back and had a friend with her bare back laced up very prettily and attached to Needles' hooks. They were pulling away from each other, which was no doubt a very impressive physical feat, but to observers it just looked like two women standing still. Needles' face was a happy grimace, and her friend's frown stayed constant.

We ran into two friends at this point, who had just been whipped. They were on top of the world because, apparently, "getting the shit whipped out of you is really relaxing," and they urged me to try it for "journalistic integrity." I clambered up onto the little platform glued onto a giant wooden St Andrew's Cross, and gripped the tops of it. They'd taken their tops off for it, but I just unzipped my dress and pulled it apart a bit; I was dressed as a very modest fetish. My boyfriend was given the whip and safe words

were established: "green" for "go for it," "orange" for "maybe stop soon," and "red" for "you stop that right now."

I could feel the sting of the whip, but its bark was much worse than its bite. We've played in a dungeon before, and the whips there hurt much more than this. This was "green" the whole time, whereas in previous experiences I was at a constant "orange," which can be much more satisfying. It really was relaxing; like a massage with many very tiny hands.

I was sinking into it, mumbling "green, green," at my partner in punishment, when a man came and stood at the top of the cross; it was leaning against the top level of upstairs. The man was small, and of indiscernible age. He could very easily have played Rumpelstiltskin. He was gazing down at me with a mischievous smile, his hands resting on a walking stick that he obviously didn't need; maybe disability-play is a fetish.

"Hi," he smiled. That smile was too constant to be healthy.

"Hi," I replied, "are you really trying to have a conversation with me right now?" He continued to grin.

"I just like to watch." Well, fair enough.

He watched a while and then wandered off. I jumped down and my missionary zipped up my dress.

"Did you have fun?" We both did. It had been a cathartic experience: I'd had my back tension whipped away, and he'd worked up a sweat. We went to snuggle and watch Zylah, another rope act.

I recognised Zylah from earlier, when she'd been mingling with the crowd. She'd been wearing shiny pants and sitting on the lap of someone in a chain loincloth. Now she wore only bright pink hotpants and a rope. She was being tied up and hoisted above the stage, where she writhed and contorted until she freed herself and then spun around, held aloft only by her tied-up ankle. Her body, like all other nakedness at the Ball, was not sexualised. Like a good stripper, she was athletic and hypnotic.

Following her was a very good stripper, Whip Mistress Serenity. She was far more sensual than Zylah, and when she picked a volunteer from the crowd we could see the blood dripping down his whip-marks from the back of the room. I didn't freak out too much because Richard Barker's interview in *Critic* a few weeks back had led me to believe this whipping would be staged; days later I heard from the volunteer's flatmate that he still had huge lacerations from the whipping.

The acts became very tame. At one point I turned to my neighbour and complained that I was bored.

"There's a middle-aged woman being glad-wrapped to a crucifix, her sub is dressed as a dog and tied to a stripper pole, and everyone's singing 'Happy Birthday.' How are you bored?"

He was right. My standards had been set too high by Needles. Missionary and me went upstairs to eagerly stand in line for what I knew would put me back in a party mood: cold branding. Branding has historically been used

to mark ownership or crime; these connotations probably helped it flourish in the BDSM scene, along with its painfulness. Cold-branding uses a branding iron submerged in either dry ice or liquid nitrogen; instead of burning a mark into your skin, you freeze it. It doesn't leave as "good" a scar as normal pirate and slave-style branding, though; we were told ours would have faded after six months.

Waiting in line, we made small chat with the people up ahead, one of whom was a maid

"I READ AND SIGNED THE FORM TO CONSENT TO A BRANDING, AND CHOSE A BIG HEART SHAPE. I MAY BE KINKY, BUT I'M STILL CUTE."

and the other was very small. "We love your costumes!" They said, and I felt accepted. My mother-in-loan would be so happy to hear that her dress was a certified A-grade fetish costume.

I read and signed the form to consent to a branding, and chose a big heart shape. I may be kinky, but I'm still cute. They pulled it out of the foggy bucket and pressed it against my upper arm. It felt exactly like getting a wart burned off; no biggie. My boyfriend chose a pentagram, and seeing that particular shape glow bright white on his skin is one of the coolest things I've ever seen. A week later, the scab has nearly disappeared and there's an adorable pink, heart-shaped scar on my arm.

We went downstairs to nurse our buzzing arms and watch Amadeo, a Spanish man who sets

things on fire. His entire show was basically a year nine science class: he made bubbles filled with hydrogen, put the bubbles on a person, and set them on fire. He did this many times. It was clear the night was winding down.

Cydonia, a gothic, cyberpunk-looking belly-dancer made an excellent attempt at regaining our attention, but it was too late. The ball had been going on for more than six hours. That's longer than I'd spend with people who were actually my friends, and twice as long as my high school ball, which I didn't attend because I thought it might be boring. Six hours is more than enough time to turn a series of interesting events into a desensitisation occasion.

For the whole night, the swingers' tent had remained empty except for piles of unused condoms and lube. Deviant Queen, as she told us very politely that it was about time to get out, extended another invitation for the seriously sex-inclined to use the swingers' tent. Its vacancy and the thriving BDSM tent next door did a fairly good job of summarising the entire evening: the only fetish we saw was BDSM, and no-one was looking for sex, except for Rumpelstiltskin. I wondered about the other famous fetishes: plushies, bronies, and foot-fetishists. Were they here tonight? Or is the only acceptable community fetish BDSM?

In the six hours we'd been there, gimp man had won a "best dressed" prize, Dodgy Ropes' girlfriend had collapsed due to hours of being the only volunteer, I'd seen too many tits and asses to sexualise, and we'd been vaguely propositioned by Rumpelstiltskin for some "really cool" swinging. Nothing surprised me any more.

I was as dark as the night we walked out into. "My love," I held my missionary's hand, and we looked into each others' soulless eyes. "I feel empty." He nodded, and steered me away from home.

"Let's get you some BK."



Critic's infamous blind date column brings you weekly shutdowns, hilariously mismatched pairs, and the occasional hookup. Each week, we lure two singletons to Di Lusso, ply them with food and alcohol, then wait for their reports to arrive in our inbox. If this sounds like you, email critic@critic.co.nz. But be warned – if you dine on the free food and dash without sending us a writeup, a *Critic* writer will write one under your name. And that won't end well for you.

♂ PHARAOH

WIT, CHARM AND CHARISMA: THESE WERE THE THREE THINGS I WOULD be feigning in order to woo a complete stranger into bed.

Since the only thing I've ever been early to is climax, I decided long before the date that there was no chance I was to be the first person on the scene. I turned up fifteen minutes late, thinking that this bold manoeuvre was a sure fire way to arouse not only my date's curiosity, but ultimately her loins.

Desperate to know what she looked like, I was relieved when I was greeted with a strikingly attractive, pissed off-looking slender brunette dressed in bright red lipstick and a short skirt. Considering it was a freezing cold Dunedin evening, I quietly thanked the *Critic* matchmakers for earning their keep.

We both cycled through a few drinks while exchanging typical pleasantries, which should be called something more reflective of their dastardly painful nature, as we fumbled our way through a few hours of relatively awkward conversation.

She seemed coolly indifferent to everything I threw at her, which made reading the situation difficult. With her being a biomed student, I chalked it up to science students being generally robotic and emotionless.

When she announced suspiciously that she had to get up early the next day to shove her hands up a bunch of deer assholes, I took it as a sign that the night was going to end badly. So after we rounded off the tab, we were presented with three options: part ways; head to my house; or head to her house. She opted for her house, and asked me to accompany her.

Once she introduced me to her lovely flatmates and her cat (this was very important) we didn't mess around: it was hammer and tongs. It's been a while since I've done a walk of shame, but this was the stroll of success. Not a bad night, in the end. We're even friends on Facebook now.

♀ SPHINXXX

HAIR? CHECK. MAKE-UP? CHECK. BEING SO NERVOUS I SCULLED HALF A bottle of wine and semi threw up in the kitchen sink? Check. Still looking like an absolute fucking boss? Definite check! This night was most definitely off to a good start ...

I arrived at Di Lusso at what I thought was a fashionably late time only to find he wasn't even there yet (rude much?). My flatmates and I had devised a game plan: if he looked like a potato I was cutting it short and probably having a "quiet" one with myself. Lucky this plan didn't have to be brought into action 'cause I had instant fizzy knickers as soon as he walked through the door. He was very good-looking and immaculately dressed. Hells yes!

I'm going to be honest: I don't actually remember that much of the date. I didn't think I was all that drunk at the time but now when I reminisce over it, I do slightly recall dropping food over me and the floor like a wild animal. Whoops. It didn't matter though 'cause there was only one thing I was eating that night and it wasn't on the platter we ordered.

In my drunken state, complete with broken shoe, I somehow managed to make it back to my flat with him on the promise of seeing my pussy (cat). He must have been really impressed as this eventually turned into him meeting my other cat ;) And what a meeting that was! To keep things brief, shit got real steamy ... Waaay spicier than the chorizo from our earlier dinner. Unfortunately things did have to be kept briefer than I would have preferred as I genuinely had a very early and busy day at Uni in the morning. I did get a really good spooning to complete my night, though.

Cheers for the set-up *Critic* and, of course, thank you to my date! I just hope I didn't scare him off in the morning in all my hung over, no make-up and un-showered glory ...

FORM AND VOID BRENDAN JON PHILLIP

MINT GALLERY
EXHIBITED UNTIL 29 MAY 2014

FORM AND VOID PRESENTS A STUDY IN CONTRASTS by staking out a liminal territory between cadence and dissonance, presence and absence, potentiality and actuality. While eschewing iconographic elements, the work of this collection continues to engage with wider thematic narratives concerning the nature of creation, being, apocalypse and redemption."

I have been going to Mint Gallery a lot recently because their exhibitions have been developing strongly all year, and I have been really enjoying my time there. I recommend joining the mailing list for opening nights (free wine); often the artists are at the openings and can sometimes string together an inspiring sentence or two, which is nice.

The current exhibition on display is *Form and Void* by Brendan Jon Phillip. It's morbid and anxious, passive and introspective, and the artist continues to expose his growing interest in the physical and the metaphysical; what exists, and what is devoid, and what does it all mean. As a creative existentialist continually questioning life and death and everything else, I'm really into his moody metaphysical aesthetic and love his work.

Phillip studied at Whitecliffe College of Art and Design and Elam School of Fine Arts, as well as receiving Distinction in Film and Media Studies at the University of Otago. He has been a practicing artist engaged with experimental aesthetics through a variety of projects, spaces and media for over 15 years in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin.

His previous exhibition, *Holy Ghosts and Talk Show Hosts*, re-imagines the symbolism of the Dutch vanitas tradition (a tradition that has been explored often in contemporary art) of the 16th and 17th centuries through the utilisation of plaster skulls, candles and bubbles that serve to remind us of life's brevity, through an altogether more contemporary and disparate perspective.

The recurring use of skulls and cartoonish ghosts in *Holy Ghosts and Talk Show Hosts* brings



together the mundane and the metaphysical, the divine and the day-to-day, through a vibrant layering of iconography, pure form and textual elements to generate a palimpsest of human experience, and these ideas have been simplified and transferred to *Form and Void*, which elaborates on the narrative of dissolution and dissonance as an impetus of liberation that has become characteristic of Brendan's practice.

Form and Void comprises a series of paintings, which are mixed media, using various hues of black and white, red and blue – contrasting colours, for obvious reasons. The horizontal and vertical contrast of the canvas surface and media also works as an underpinning aesthetic for Phillip's interest in binary oppositions. The trial and error process by which he works is also informed by Phillip's interest in relational dialectic theory and process.

What I found most interesting about the



whole exhibition are two conceptual ghost pieces that hang in the window of the gallery. These black and white ghosts (made out of what appears to be raw-hem sheets) literally linger in the gallery space, becoming an iconographic key to opening a new aesthetic and ideological territory surrounding notions of presence and absence. Each work appears tactile and abstractive, with ghost-like traces of form suggesting a balance between such opposites.

Such a fixation upon such morbid iconography, at such a simple level of production, signals a sense of liberation from the exhaustive, meditative and philosophical act of painting. The inclusion of the ghosts confronts the reality of death and mortality and the sensational effects from such an experience affects the way we view our own flesh and existence.

By Hannah Collier | @HannahCollier21

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SAGA

BY BRIAN VAUGHAN

SAGA IS THE NEW COMIC BOOK SERIES FROM Brian Vaughan, who wrote *Y: The Last Man*, *Ex Machina*, and *Runaways*. He was part of the scriptwriting team for *Lost*, seasons three through five, and he's currently show-runner for *Under the Dome*, a TV series based around the 2009 Steven King novel. I've not read much of Vaughan's stuff before, so when I was first introduced to *Saga*, I was expecting the sort of pubescent power fantasy that I've come to associate with those quirky sci-fi/fantasy cross-overs. Turns out I'm entirely wrong. Vaughan is a remarkably mature writer, and although the first volume is not entirely free of the male gaze, there are a couple of moments that just blow you out of the water. At one point, a male character goes to "Sextillion," which is basically just a massive space station brothel. He wanders around, people are boning, and I'm resigning myself to the upcoming gratuitous sex scene. Suddenly, a pimp appears! Oh, great, here we go.

"You decent in there, Slave Girl?"

"Anything but, master."

"I taught her to say that. Anyway, have fun ..."

I roll my eyes and turn the page, and there's a six-year-old girl, looking scared and awkward. What the fucking fuck. So *Saga* unexpectedly dropped child prostitution on me, and after that I started taking it a bit more seriously. One of the best things about this volume is the way that things have consequences. Normally when you've got empowerment fantasy, you don't want unpleasant realities messing up your plot – consider, for example, the inexhaustible supply of goons in every superhero story ever. So far, *Saga*'s going to admirable lengths in its mission to bring real consequences (emotional and physical) to bear on the characters. The real test now for Vaughan will be charting their emotional development over the course of the series. It's a shock to discover child prostitution in a sci-fi/fantasy comic book, but now that it's in there, I want to see how this weighty issue affects and shapes the characters involved.

In terms of narrative structure, there's about half a dozen main characters in three different places revolving around the same game of cat and mouse. It's not desperately original, but

I'm willing to sit back and see what Vaughan does with it. He spends most of the first volume playing with expectations of empowerment. Sure, some characters can fight off massive nasty creatures from the abyss; they can also get murdered by a bunch of thugs in a street fight – it mostly depends on who gets lucky. There's potential for battles to go either way, and that's a significant plus. Characters aren't off-limits: they can die, and they do die. It's not quite George R.R. Martin, because nobody is quite like George R.R. Martin, but it's heading in the same direction. The one difficulty that *Saga* encounters is that it's trying to depict an intergalactic conflict from the inside. The focus is on a series of individual characters, and the narrative never pulls back to display the supposedly breath-taking scale of the conflict. The two sides clash once or twice "on-screen" but only briefly, and only as the background to the relationships between main characters. That's fine for something stylised, like Shakespeare or the opera, but *Saga* feels like it's trying for a realism vibe (at least as realistic as sci-fi/fantasy mash-ups get). Perhaps a grittier tone would have better suited the content, but it is only the first volume. I'll be keeping a close eye on *Saga* to see how it develops.

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By James Tregonning | @CriticTeArohi



THE OBSERVER - INTERVIEW WITH RUBY



RUBY'S AUTUMN/WINTER 2014 COLLECTION, "The Dreamers," was inspired by the cult classic films of director Sofia Coppola and the rebellious youths of the 1968 student riots in Paris. Having taken over RUBY in 2008, designer Deanna Didovich has seen the label grace its first catwalk at New Zealand Fashion Week and find its feet with a footwear line. This week the Observer caught up with Deanna to find out what the journey has been like and what we can expect from RUBY in the future.

"The Dreamers" was inspired by the films of director Sofia Coppola. What elements of these films inspired you?

I love the way her films transport you onto the screen. They are not overtly over the top, but just really beautiful works of art.

Dunedin is the southernmost RUBY store. Which pieces from "The Dreamers" would you recommend for a typical sub-zero winter's day on campus?

Definitely our coats and knitwear, of course. We have a dreamy cashmere blend jumper that is perfect layered with one of our coats. We also have some fun, chunky scarves and beanies that are an essential to get you through the cooler months.

RUBY was born in 2002 and you took over as designer in 2008. Talk us through your journey to becoming the designer of New Zealand's most youthful and adventurous labels. Have there been any highlights?

The time has gone so quickly that looking back over the past few years sometimes amazes me how much we have built and grown the brand! A highlight for me would definitely be the first show we held in 2010 at New Zealand Fashion Week, as well as being named designer of the year by Metro Magazine.

Otago Polytechnic offers an acclaimed Bachelor of Design (Fashion) course with strong connections to iD Fashion Dunedin. What advice can you give to aspiring designers wishing to forge a successful career in the industry?

Get as much work experience as you can, and take it seriously, as work experience can sometimes turn into a full time job!

How would you describe the RUBY girl?

Cheeky and charming, with effortless confidence and a sense of fun.

What pieces from past RUBY collections do you still love to wear?

My Benvolio Cardigan in black and white. Perfect for the cold Dunedin climate!

Since opening its flagship store in Auckland's High Street, the RUBY empire has expanded to seven self-titled boutiques throughout NZ. What can we expect from the label in the future?

A lot more exciting projects both nationally and internationally! Stay tuned.

By Emma & Liam | @CriticTeArohi

STREET STYLE



Jamie (Microbiology and Commerce)
Wearing Beau Coops boots, Ruby dress and coat.



Lydia (Commerce)
Wearing New Balance shoes, Levi Jeans, Witchery jersey and Zara coat.

By Helen & Grace | @CriticTeArohi



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CHEF

DIRECTED BY JOHN FAVERAU

ONE SHOULD ALWAYS BE WARY OF A FILM THAT was written, produced and directed by the starring actor, and *Chef* is no exception. Jon Favreau is the guilty party in question, as he occupied all the major production roles to bring us a film we could quite frankly do without. The story follows Carl Casper, a talented but creatively stunted chef, who, after some bad reviews and a nervous breakdown, buys a food van in order to make the kind of meals he's passionate about. Which turns out to be sandwiches (bit of an anti climax, to be honest).

It's obvious that Favreau decided this was going to be a "cool" film: almost every actor had a stupid tattoo tacked onto them; there was an abundance of fedoras; barely a second without salsa music; and the men all referred to each other as "dude," "main man" and, my personal favourite, "big chef dawg." I think it goes without saying it all felt a bit forced. And by a bit, I mean a lot.

However, the real problem with *Chef* is that it's straight up boring. Although Carl experiences some troubles at the beginning of the film, these are resolved quickly and weren't earth shattering



to begin with. The audience is then "treated" to ninety minutes of Carl leading a rich and fulfilling life. Don't get me wrong, I'm no sadist; but this is not the reason I watch movies. There has to be some form of drama or conflict to engage the viewer. You can't base a film around a middleclass, middle-aged man being reasonably happy – that shit's everywhere. I can hang out with my dad if I want to see that, and I don't have to pay him \$13 to do it.

The one redeeming feature, other than Robert Downy Jr.'s wonderful and very welcome cameo, was the incredible food porn. Before Carl ditches everything to make grilled sandwiches (I was not impressed), I got to feast my eyes on everything from berry desserts to marinated squid. Watch *Chef* if you love food; but stay away if you love films.

By Rosie Howells | @CriticTeArohi

CULT
FILM**THE STEPFORD
WIVES (1975)**

DIRECTED BY BRYAN FORBES

NO, I AM NOT REFERRING TO THE 2004 NICOLE Kidman monstrosity that left us all cold and more than a little bit confused. The original 1975 *The Stepford Wives* was everything the remake was not – brave, tense and extremely unnerving. Unlike the (attempted comedy) of Frank Oz's remake, Bryan Forbes was loyal to Ira Levin's book of the same name and made the town of Stepford a hauntingly bizarre and dangerous place.

Joanna Eberhart (Katherine Ross) is a smart and politically minded young mother who is persuaded by her husband, Walter, to move from New York to the idyllic suburb of Stepford, for the benefit of their two children. As soon as they arrive it is obvious that something strange is going on: all of the husbands belong to the mysterious and overtly sexist Stepford Men's Association; the women are completely preoccupied with housework; and the town has taken a suspicious interest in Joanna and her apparent free-will. Joanna is lucky to meet Bobby, a sassy as hell



new Stepford resident who is also shocked and dismayed by her neighbours' behaviour. The two of them begin to investigate the dark secrets of their peers, but not without fatal consequences ...

That's right; women are being slaughtered in this film, much unlike Oz's diluted remake, in which all of the lady robots can be switched back to consciousness in a press of a button (is that optimistic or pathetic?). Perhaps one of the most disturbing scenes of the original is when Joanna and Bobby overhear their neighbours having sex, and are scared shitless by the wife's disturbingly subservient bedroom talk;

a moment Oz destroyed in his own version by posing the situation as hilarious. It's a real pity most people of our generation associate the title *The Stepford Wives* with Oz's pointless, pretty powder puff of a movie, as the original took such brave narrative measures to deliver a raw and very scary social commentary. That's not to say the 2004 version isn't worth a watch – it is unintentionally hilarious – but be warned, it is also highly offensive to women, the LGBT community and people with eyes and ears.

By Rosie Howells | @CriticTeArohi



A- | GODZILLA

DIRECTED BY GARETH EDWARDS

FOR THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH ONE OF FILM'S longest living monster icons, the eponymous creature first appeared in the 1954 Japanese film *Godzilla*. A lizard mutated to colossal proportions by radiation, *Godzilla* allowed Japanese moviemakers to express their concerns about mutagenic radioactive power in a way that would both speak to Japanese audiences, while also being sensitive to the fresh wound of the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. 70 years later, director Gareth Edwards too is using *Godzilla* to voice concerns about our global attitude towards radiation, while also creating one of the most spectacular monster movies ever made in the process.

You often hear the term "jaw-dropping"

being thrown around. I always thought that it was just one of those silly hyperbolic phrases which people use to describe something spectacular. However, *Godzilla* has given me a new perspective on the phrase, as there were moments in which my mouth literally dropped, leaving me staring at the screen in amazement while probably looking like a slack-jawed idiot.

Gareth Edwards' *Godzilla* truly nails the scale, spectacle and grandeur that these genre films hope to incite. The true beauty of the movie came from how much thought had been put into the physiology of the monsters and how that affected their movement, both in travelling and in combat. This creates some incredibly dynamic action sequences, which feel both mind-bogglingly epic in scale, while also being firmly grounded in physics.

Unfortunately the human stories revolving

around these monsters are not at all awe-inspiring. Either the action follows the human characters in a way which feels very forced and strangely coincidental, or the characters make decisions which puts them in the middle of the action, which is absurd considering the carnage awaiting them. The exception to this is Bryan Cranston's portrayal of Joe Brody. The narrative behind Brody is by far the most engaging and organic, and is brought to life by Cranston's continued unmatched acting calibre.

Godzilla has set a new standard for monster films in terms of the thought and execution behind CGI creatures. It is a shame that the human aspects of the story didn't always live up to this standard, but this is still a spectacle you don't want to miss.

By Baz Macdonald | @kaabazmac

B- | RIO 2

DIRECTED BY CARLOS SALDANHA

PEOPLE LOVE ANIMATED MUSICALS; WHY ELSE does Disney practically run the entertainment industry? A great Disney musical is like a grand opera with a huge orchestra and people singing their feelings into the sky. But if Disney musicals are like operas, *Rio 2* is like Top 40 pop music. The soundtrack in *Rio 2* makes you feel like you are listening to The Edge and, like most pop music, *Rio 2* also lacks any sense of emotional depth or nuance.

Rio 2 picks up a little while after the first film ended with the only two remaining Spix McCaws, Blu (Jesse Eisenberg) and Jewel (Anne

Hathaway), who have started a family in Rio. But when they discover that they may not be the only Spix McCaws left in the world, the family and their friends begin a journey into the Amazon. The plot is void of any interesting characters, emotions or motivations. Instead everything feels like a pastiche of all of the animated films we have seen over the past 10 years, most notably *Ice Age*.

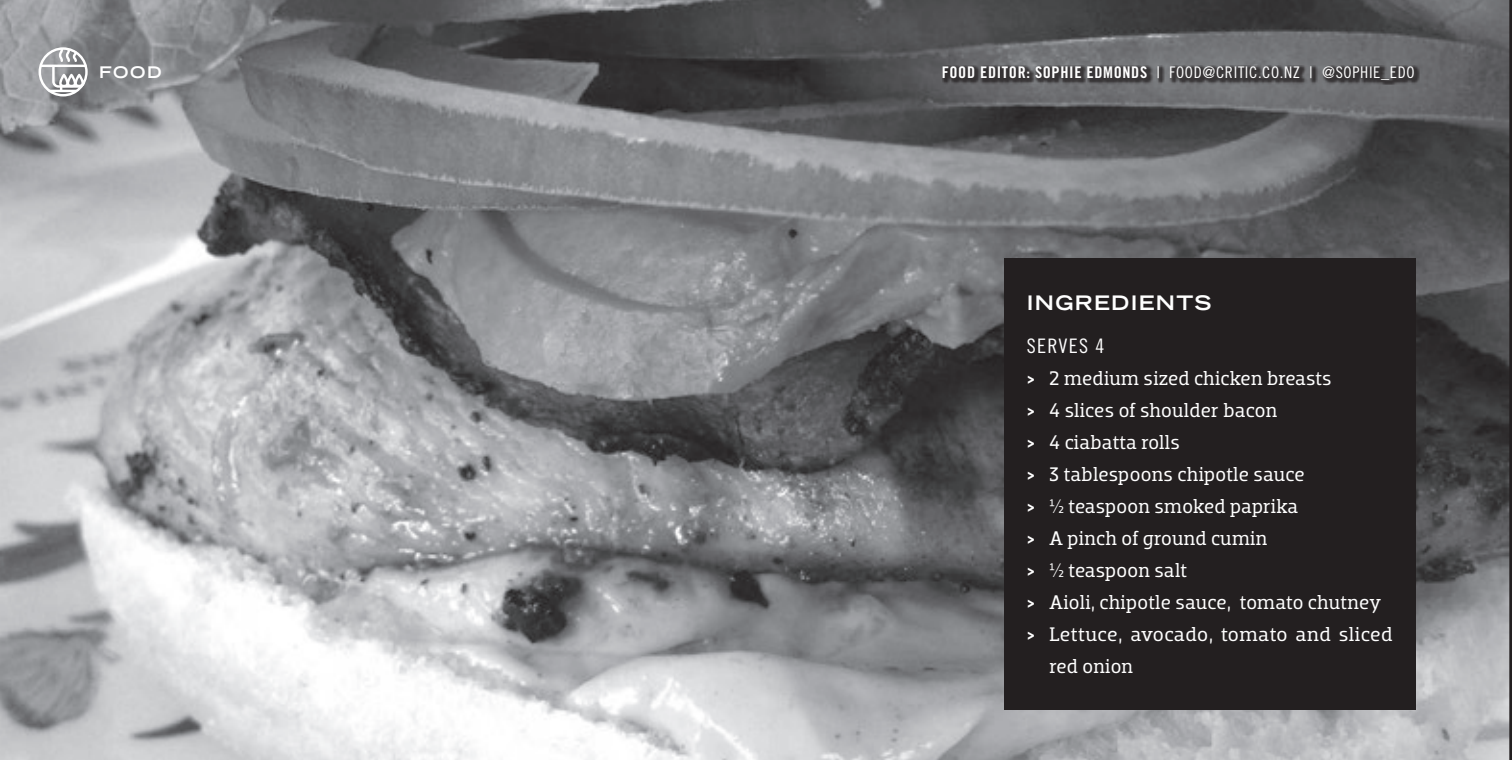
Rio 2 tries hard to be meaningful and carry a bigger message of environmentalism. But when all of your character development is based on cheesy and overused phrases and "hip" (and out of place) lingo, you're never going to succeed in communicating anything of significance.

Fortunately, there are a few brief moments of joy in what is generally a celebration of cliché

and painfully overused tropes. Most notably, the side story of Nigel the Cockatoo (Jermaine Clement), the villain from *Rio*, and his quest for revenge against Blu. Nigel is a hilarious character, brought to life by the always-fabulous Clement. Even more interesting is the unrequited love story that emerges between Nigel and poisonous tree frog Gabi.

And, of course, despite the script and music, Dreamworks as always did a stunning job of animating the lush rainforests and stunning creatures that live there. If *Rio 2* has anything going for it, it is that it is always a joy to look at, but offers little else.

By Baz Macdonald | @kaabazmac



INGREDIENTS

SERVES 4

- > 2 medium sized chicken breasts
- > 4 slices of shoulder bacon
- > 4 ciabatta rolls
- > 3 tablespoons chipotle sauce
- > ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- > A pinch of ground cumin
- > ½ teaspoon salt
- > Aioli, chipotle sauce, tomato chutney
- > Lettuce, avocado, tomato and sliced red onion

CHIPOTLE CHICKEN BURGERS

MADE UP THIS RECIPE OVER THE SUMMER AFTER I was inspired by a delicious Ferg Burger I ate. Ever since I made these for my family it has become one of Mum's staple meals on the weekly rotation. My brother, who usually loves these burgers, actually complained about the frequency of their appearance on the weekly menu. For Mother's Day, Mum and Dad were in Bora Bora and so my brother, his girlfriend and myself convened upon the family home and had a "family" dinner sans the parents. To celebrate the day of maternal appreciation I made these favourite burgers of hers (funnily enough, at my brother's request).

I use chicken breasts and slice them into two thinner breast pieces then marinate them in a good sloshing of chipotle sauce and a bit of salt. Give it a good cooking in a frying pan along with some well-cooked bacon. Then slap that between two halves of a ciabatta bun along with some aioli, relish and a few rogue salad vegetables and you have yourself a winner of a sandwich.

Look down the international aisle for a good chipotle sauce. I like using the Culley's one. I think these burgers tasted the best when I made them at my friend's house using a charcoal barbecue. But this was back in summer so barbecuing is now not a thing, but keep this in mind when the sun returns to Dunedin in November.

METHOD

1. Slice the chicken breasts lengthways so that you have four thinner breast pieces.
2. Marinate the chicken in the chipotle sauce, smoked paprika cumin and salt.
3. Cook the chicken and bacon in a medium-to-high heat frying pan until the chicken is cooked through and nicely browned and the bacon is crisp.
4. Toast the ciabatta rolls and slather them with aioli, tomato chutney and a bit more chipotle. Fill the buns with the chicken, bacon and other salad ingredients.



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A-

SUPER TIME FORCE

DEVELOPED AND PUBLISHED BY
CAPYBARA GAMES
360, XBOX ONE, PC

AFTER FIVE MINUTES OF SCROLLING THROUGH Reddit posts, you'll be certain that the world's about to end – what with all the doom and gloom that abounds online. The trolls of the Internet have infected everything with a disgusting degree of cynicism and negativity. Unfortunately, when the post is related to video games this effect is often amplified. There are few trolls worse than the gamer troll. If you were to believe these trolls you would think that all innovation is gone from the world and that every game produced is the same sort of thing that has always, and will always, be done. But avert your eyes from these posts, my friends, because game developers haven't even begun to scratch the surface of what is possible in video games. Case and point is the latest game from Capybara studios, the talented folks who brought us *Superbrothers: Sword and Sworcery EP*. Capybara's latest game *Super Time Force* is so chock full of innovation that it should be enough to turn any troll into a believer.

Super Time Force, as the title suggests, is about a military group whose objectives are to correct events in the past and future in the hopes of creating the greatest earth possible. The insane and hilarious Colonel Repeatski, the scientist/military mastermind who created the time machine and got your team together, leads you through time and space to do this. The whole game has a charming tongue in cheek humour, which though the dialogue is never particularly well written still gives the game a fun and light-hearted tone. Where the comedy lands is in the game's design, in which the ridiculousness of the enemies, environments and events exponentially grow as you play. The whole game is realised in a superbly designed retro eight-bit

style, with an equally great retro soundtrack to match. The art style gave Capybara license to really mess around with some truly weird and wonderful designs, the likes of which I haven't seen in games before.

You begin the game with only three different soldiers, all with their own approach to combat and skill sets. However, as the game progresses, you can rescue additional team members, all of which have hilarious names such as Jeff Leppard and a raptor called Zackosaurus.

The game itself is a classic side-scrolling shooter. However, the gameplay rests upon one of the most brilliant and innovative gameplay designs I have seen in a long time. Each level is a race against a clock, not a mechanic I normally enjoy. However, you have the ability to rewind time on a whim, and in doing so add another character to the timeline. The result is kind of like a ghost in a racing game, where you see what you did last time, but then you can support or complete additional tasks with the new character you have added to the timeline. An example of this might be that you spot a secret pathway branching off; you don't have time to go for it, so you have your character move on ahead towards the end of the level. But you can then rewind time and send a character for the collectible, all while maintaining your progress with the character that moved ahead. The applications for this mechanic are vast, but the most satisfying moments with it is in the boss battles. At first you just have one character fighting these bosses – rewind time a couple of times, however, and suddenly you have an armada of characters destroying the boss in seconds. This is even more satisfying when you are racing the clock, as you have to try and discover the fastest way to destroy the boss to still complete the level within the time limits. Another level of strategy is added to this



through the different abilities that each character has, and the fact that if you use the addition of a new character in the timeline to save a character that died, the powers of those two are combined.

So for those of you who think that every mechanic has been used, I invite you to look at the work of Capybara and *Super Time Force*. Time is a device that has been used extensively in games, but there still are new and innovative ways to implement it. Plus, beyond being an incredibly unique and inventive experience, *Super Time Force* is a bloody funny and entertaining one.

By Baz Macdonald | @kaabazmac



NEW THIS WEEK / SINGLES IN REVIEW



SHARON VAN ETTEN EVERY TIME THE SUN COMES UP

The second single from her upcoming album *Are We There Yet*. Sharon Van Etten crafts yet another melancholic folk song, this time over an affected drum machine. Her voice is full of substance and carries a heaviness that is beautiful, as well as rare.



PARQUET COURTS INSTANT DISASSEMBLY

Brooklyn band Parquet Courts return with "Instant Disassembly." A stoner ballad, woozy and as hungover as Andrew Savage's delivery. As melodic and as emotionally honest as they have ever sounded. They pull it off well.



WHITE LUNG - FACE DOWN

I think this is verging on metal, but still retains the brashness of punk.

White Lung are a band from Vancouver set to release their album *Deep Fantasy*. "Face Down" is energetic and whoever is playing that guitar line is a god. Okay. That is all.



THE PAINS OF BEING PURE AT HEART SIMPLE AND SURE

This band was the darling of indie pop two or three years ago, with a stream of solid singles and two solid albums. Lately they've sort of disappeared, maybe for no apparent reason other than music is sometimes a game of trends. "Simple and Sure" is a catchy, polished, pop song. Lacking in character a little, but still well crafted.



AMEN DUNES - LONELY RICHARD

Amen Dunes is Damon McMahon set to release his debut album, *Love*, on Sacred Bones records. "Lonely Richard" is a simple song, acoustic guitar, simple-tribal percussion, and a cool drone in the background. Sounds sort of like *Love* or *The Velvet Underground*.



POPSTRANGERS FORTUNA

CARPARK RECORDS (US); 2014
ALTERNATIVE, POP

A

POPSTRANGERS ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS music thing, and so they should be. Since 2012 not only have they signed to Carpark Records, they've also made the bold decision of moving all the way to London. With a slew of strong singles since then ("Country Kills," "Don't Be Afraid"), I've found myself eagerly anticipating their sophomore offering.

Unlike their first album *Antipodes*, *Fortuna* seems to have ditched a lot of the dissonance. Instead this collection boasts a sixties psychedelic flair coupled with large sweeping choruses. Not saying the band have turned their back completely on their trademark sound. In fact,

returning are the intricately textured guitars and soulful rhythm section.

Not returning, however, is the slight unpredictability and sense of chaos that laced the outskirts of *Antipodes*. However it seems, this has been traded for an immediacy and a gleaming sonic luster which has greatly benefited their new material.

Sure, from song to song the album sometimes borders on formulaic. Off-kilter verses lead to catchy pop choruses, then an instrumental, then repeat. But there seems to be enough charm and pop craft to justify these decisions. Some of the best songs ever written follow this simple formula; there is no reason why Popstrangers shouldn't buy in. Especially if they continue to do so with such style and conviction.

Production-wise, *Fortuna* sounds pretty outstanding. Guitars shimmer and swoon, the low end is full, crisp, and rough enough around the edges, the vocals are slightly washed out and with just the right amount of added reverb. Nothing is buried, yet the songs retain a certain edge. The perfect coating for a collection of tunes that flaunt so much melody, allowing the songs to simmer rather than burn.

Overall, *Fortuna* is a more than worthy statement by a trio looking to stabilise their musical footing.

By Adrian Ng | @TrickMammoth



NZ DOWNLOAD OF THE WEEK:

SALAD BOYS SALAD BOYS

MELTED ICE CREAM; 2013
POP, ALTERNATIVE

SALAD BOYS ARE A BAND FROM CHRISTCHURCH, and this album features some incredible chill-out pop songs. Featuring members of T54, the guitar playing is magnificent. Eight songs, lo-fi, dreamy and fun. Sometimes surfy, sometimes upbeat, bringing to mind Flying Nun glory days.

Salad Boys is now available for a name-your-price download from saladboys.bandcamp.com.



A+

SWANS TO BE KIND

MUTE / YOUNG GOD; 2014
NOISE-ROCK, EXPERIMENTAL

SINCE THEIR INCEPTION IN THE 1980S, EXPERIMENTAL rockers Swans have attracted many superlatives: biggest, loudest, darkest, heaviest. To many folk, Michael Gira and company epitomise music as an extreme experience. Whether percussively punishing as they were in the '80s, or gothic and elegant as they were in the following decade, Swans have always aimed for transcendence through intensity.

And unlike many older bands who've reformed recently, Swans have only grown more potent with age. 2012's *The Seer* was one of the best albums the band ever made, a two-disc opus of churning post-rock and cavernous blues. Gira described it as the culmination of all the music he'd "ever made, been involved in or imagined," and rightly so. *The Seer* wove together the nauseous repetition of Swans' early days, the grandeur of their '90s work and the voodoo-Americana of Gira's other project, *Angels of Light*. The result was astonishing.

Now, less than two years later, *The Seer*

has a sequel.

It's hard not to think of new album *To Be Kind* as a companion piece to its predecessor. Both albums are 120 minutes in length, each with a song in excess of a half hour. *To Be Kind* even has similarly-composed artwork, its distressed infant echoing *The Seer*'s grinning wolf. Musically the two albums overlap, though *To Be Kind* has a slightly expanded palette of flavours. Added to *The Seer*'s rather meat-and-potatoes instrumentation are careful sprinkles of brass, synthesiser and Egyptian piano. *To Be Kind* also operates on a somewhat lighter ethos – see manic, half-melted cuts "Oxygen" or "A Little God in My Hands." To say *To Be Kind* is a "happy" album would be a grievous overstatement, but it certainly isn't as sludgy or unrelenting as an album like *Filth*.

Since their debut EP, the close cooperation of Swans' instruments has been crucial to their sound. It is through this precise interplay that Swans are able to build, stretch and drive home their songs. At this art, they've never been more adept. Just listen to the band dance around one another on hypnotic opener "Screen Shot," or build to a volcanic crescendo on album highlight "Nathalie Teal."

In its less thunderous moments, *To Be Kind*

can be deeply affecting; those who call Swans "noise without a heart" needn't look far for a pulse. On "Just a Little Boy," Gira pleads "I need love" into the void around him. Does he receive this love as requested? Well this is a Swans album, so fuck no: his prayer is met with a Greek chorus of derisive laughter. On "Some Things We Do," life is reduced to a series of futile acts – "we eat, we work, we fuck, we love" – over sighs of violin. Closing track "To Be Kind" even borders on romantic, as Gira cries "there are millions and millions of stars in your eyes" as the whole world trembles.

It may take two hours of Swans delivering blows to your head, but by *To Be Kind*'s end, you'll be seeing stars too. No matter how violent or protracted, a Swans album is always ultimately a beautiful experience. Gira has himself said that his goal isn't to deliver pain, but ecstasy. Just see *The Seer*'s spaghetti-Western closer "The Apostate," on which he repeatedly exclaims "we're on a ladder to God." It may be a daunting ladder, but *To Be Kind* reaches higher than just about any Swans album to date.

Dense, diverse and cathartic, *To Be Kind* is well worth the climb.

By Basti Menkes | @CriticTeArohi



INTERVIEW: MAJELLA CULLINANE 2014 BURNS FELLOW

What was it like receiving the Burns Fellowship/ how did you actually go about getting it?

Well, the Burns Fellowship comes around every year. I was pretty unsure whether I was going to apply for it or not, 'cause I have been in New Zealand for just over five years, and it's New Zealand's oldest literary award and I thought maybe it's too soon, what would be the chances; something like that, I imagine, is very competitive. So I was kind of um-ing and ah-ing about applying for it. Then I met with an Irish friend of mine and she said, "Oh, just apply for it." My mum has always been like, "if you're not in, you can't win." So I put in an application about a week before the deadline, which involves a CV, a sample of your writing, and a project plan.

You've done other fellowships in Ireland and Scotland; what is it like here, comparatively?

The first one I did was after my MLitt at St Andrews. I did a MLitt in creative writing and applied for a creative writing fellowship with Aberdeen City Council. That was very different because part of the fellowship involved going into primary schools and teaching creative writing. Part of the remit of that was to get reluctant readers and reluctant writers, who were mainly young boys, actually, and to encourage them to write. So those were three-and-a-half days of pretty full-on [work] going to five different primary schools – but it was great fun, it's great fun teaching 10, 11, 12-year-olds. They're fantastic. Some of them had really great imaginations. Then you only had a day and a half to work on

your own stuff. So it was a yearlong fellowship, but three-and-a-half days [of] every week was in schools and one-and-a-half days you had for your own work.

The second residency I did was in Glasgow. That was a shorter residency – that was about five months. And that was, I think, two days in schools so it was more part-time. And then just other little "mini residencies," we call them. You might get a couple of weeks here in a house with the stipend or something like that. So this one [the Burns Fellowship] is definitely the best because your time is your own, you can do what you want to; there's nobody checking and saying, "have you reached this word count today?" [And] there's no report to fill in so you've got complete autonomy, which is absolutely unique of any residency anywhere. Usually there's some kind of outcome that you're expected to produce something, but that's not the case with this one.

I read that you're planning on writing a novel this year and I know you've also written a lot of poetry. Which do you like writing more: prose or poetry?

Obviously writing is writing, but they're both quite different. I would say the mind-set is quite different – for me, anyway. It's different for everybody. People will say that's not what it's like for me, because everybody has a different process. For me poetry is a quieter, stiller mind-set. I'd almost call it like autumn or something. There's something very still about it, cool. And for me prose is far more fluid. So when I write, because I can get terribly distracted by the Internet, I tend to try and write by hand. I turn off the computer, I've tried lots of ways – it's very old fashioned and probably silly – but it's just more fluid and you're less likely to censor yourself. Now, I have friends who would be horrified because as they write, they edit. I can't wear the two hats at the same time. So I just try to turn off all the distractions and just write the story and then type it up and that's when I edit. I know there are people who can do it, who can wear the simultaneous creative and critical hat at the same time. I have found that when I try and do it, what happens is the critical starts to take over and goes, "that's not very good." Whereas if you just go with the flow, which is, essentially, "what are you trying to do here; you're trying to tell a good story?" And you're not even thinking about the reader, you're thinking, "I want to entertain myself first." If you're being entertained or you think that's quite moving you're more likely to continue with the story. Obviously, sometimes

I deviate from that if I don't have a notepad and have a computer then I'll go on the computer. There are certain Irish writers, like Banville and O'Brien, that all write their novels in longhand before they type them up. Banville can spend a whole day on 50 words; he's a perfectionist, a great writer. Everyone does it differently.

Do you have a particular method you use to write?

With poetry I tend to read a lot of poetry. I think that's a very important thing. I think reading and writing are inseparable. You get a lot of beginning writers, including myself – 'cause I started dabbling when I was 14, and I would write lots but I wouldn't read anything. But you have to – one informs the other. Reading really helps me and then you can get an idea of what is it I want to write. With poetry, for me anyway, I do a lot of free writing. Looking out the window and describe the window and keep going for a certain amount of time and see if there is anything that comes from that. It's a subconscious thing. Then you start to craft it and find a form and figure out at some point, it could be draft 30, what it is you're trying to say. With prose I used to get quite overwhelmed. I think it's better if you take it almost like a film; scene-by-scene. And then you try and get that flow and connection between scenes, rather than thinking, "ah, I have to write a novel." I've done that before, "I have to write a novel," and then you get half way through and go, "oh, this is really bad, I should do something else." So just taking your time, I suppose.

Who or what inspires you most to write?

It's difficult to name names, because there are so many. I suppose it's easier to say what: Good books; good music; a beautiful day. I think if you're writing, most people who do write would say that if you don't write, you don't feel right about it. You feel antsy. Well, that's at least how I feel. I'm always writing in my head even if I'm not writing writing. It just never goes away, never switches off; it's always there. I suppose my first influence that I remember being really affected by was James Joyce. When I went to Uni it was Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein*. I loved James Joyce's *Dubliners*, not *Ulysses*. Some of *Ulysses* is great but it's quite a difficult book. I love magical realism – Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Salman Rushdie. I like a lot of Irish short story writers, [like] John McGahern. Lots and lots. I did Italian at university and I studied Dante. I like Dante a lot. I do remember someone once asking me, "who do you read?" Now, I never thought



who was so important as what. All writers have stories that just really stay in your head. And then there might be something else that they write that you don't like or you don't connect to. It's more about "what" than the "who."

When was the moment you first realised that you wanted to be an author, and what encouraged you to strive towards this goal?

That's an interesting one. Certainly back when I grew up in the '80s in Ireland – pretty economically depressed in the sense of 30 per cent unemployment, most people immigrating to America – to say you were going to be a writer was kind of a nutty thing. People might think it but they wouldn't really say it. My dad worked in a hospital and my mother was a housewife so it wasn't a bookish family or anything like that. I always loved writing in English class. I think the first time I felt like writing was when I read Emily Dickinson. I think a lot of teenage girls go through a sort of Emily Dickinson/Sylvia Plath phase. So I started writing in the style of Emily Dickinson, with the big dashes and stuff like that. I definitely started writing poetry first and then I got to write short stories.

I always think I wanted to be, but reality is, well, at least at that time – or maybe because of the background I came from – it was something you would do as a hobby. That it wasn't really something you could pursue full time or seriously because you had to find a job. It's all about finding a job. If you go to university, what are you going to do then? Are you going to do this, this or this? Some people will disagree with what I'm about to say, but I do think it is a good idea, and many writers have, to get a sort of profession to keep the lights on, to pay the bills. In the sense that a lot of writers, especially poets, are librarians or they're teachers or they are civil servants. Just keep that at the side, and if you do get an opportunity, like this year where you get paid, it's a once in a lifetime kind of opportunity. If someone said to me that they would like to be a writer, I would say absolutely go ahead with it. Just have something to depend on. The reality is that most people can't make a living by writing or by art or by music.

I had a bit of a crisis just before my 29th birthday and I was living in a pretty dull town in Ireland and I had a pretty dull job and I thought to myself, "What am I doing? I've always wanted to write and here I am doing something I don't want to do. If I don't do it now, I'm never going to do it." So it just happened that I was made redundant, which for many people would have

been disappointing, but I was like, "Yay!" So I just started to write. I was on the dole for a few months and I started to write again and I thought, maybe I should apply for one of those creative writing things. I had applied when I was very young, right out of college, and I didn't get anywhere. So I thought I'd just apply for a few, and I got all of them and then I thought, "how am I going to fund this?" So I applied for an Irish Arts Council grant. I thought that the chances of getting this are pretty low, but then I got that, too. So that funded it. As soon as I was in St Andrew's I was meeting people with similar obsessions.

I really felt that this was what I was meant to do and always meant to do and I've just taken so many diverting routes. I did a Masters in publishing, I thought, "Oh, I like books, I'll do publishing" but publishing is not the same as writing; it's the creative versus the analytical. Not to say that publishing is not creative, what I'm saying is that it's about producing a book and not writing a book. Anyway, then I got the fellowship in Aberdeen and I did little mini gigs along the way. Also, it always helps to have a champion. What I mean by that is that there is usually someone in your life that is really encouraging and I was quite fortunate in that my partner is incredibly encouraging. Also by going to creative writing workshops I would meet other people who you encourage them and they encourage you and it does help. I think writers are notoriously insecure creatures. That's just part of it and they think, "Oh, it's not very good," or they tend to doubt themselves. I suppose you can get the few odd ones who are very sure of themselves, but most aren't. Poets in particular are delicate souls sometimes.

I recently did an article on the connection between Scotland and Dunedin. How do they compare in reality? Is it a similar city? Did the similarities make it easier to move to New Zealand?

I was only in Scotland for three years, and I was living in three different parts of Scotland. So, St Andrew's is in Fife, and Aberdeen is in Aberdeenshire, and Glasgow is in Lanarkshire. Scotland is very like Ireland in the sense that, depending on where you go, the local identity or personality can be very different. It's probably like New Zealand. In the sense of probably Northlanders are quite different than, say, down south. We started off in Wellington then we lived in Kapiti. This is my first time in the South Island, and all the names are Scottish. The first time I came to Dunedin I thought the outline of the city was very Scottish. The way things are up in the

hills, the old buildings, the old railway station, and then when you walk down George Street it's a very Kiwi town. It's sort of a balance between the old and the new, which I hadn't come across before in New Zealand. In a lot of other old towns in New Zealand, a lot of the buildings are really gorgeous, but they're colonial New Zealand buildings. Whereas the railway station here and St Paul's Church and those kind of things very much remind me of the old world. Certainly the weather is very similar. A lot of people have Scottish heritage and Scottish names.

I think what will be interesting in the future here is that, of course this was founded by Scots, but I think more will come out about the Northern Irish influence in Dunedin. Because I know about my partner's family, they came out in the 1860s to Otago, the gold-rush, and they were from Northern Ireland. Certainly there were people from what we call the Republic, which wouldn't have been called the Republic back then, there would have been people from the south, but mainly a lot of them were from the north. I think a lot of that is starting to come out. And also, of course, the English. People forget the huge influence of the English in New Zealand, with maybe a smattering of Welsh, too. There's a little bit of everything. I think New Zealanders are becoming more and more interested in their history.

Do you have any sage advice to offer young budding writers like myself?

Read, read, write, write, write. You can't have one without the other. It's like having two arms – if you just write you're not really informing the writing by reading. Experience is good, too; it doesn't have to be travel necessarily, or international travel, could be just going somewhere new and getting ideas. Even to a park. Because at a certain point the mind empties out and you have to fill it again. A self-belief is important and for some people that comes quite young, because they've been encouraged a lot, and for other people it comes later. I honestly don't think that if I'd – say if this had happened to me 10 years ago – I don't think I would have been ready. It doesn't matter how old you are. A big thing has been made about Eleanor Catton winning the Man Booker at 28, but some people are very mature at 28 and I think this is the case here. Some people haven't got a clue what they want to do at 28 – some people don't have a clue what they want to do at 48. So it's really more about the individual.

By Laura Starling | @CriticTeArohi



University Book Shop

LETTER OF THE WEEK

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

Don't sweat it, we're not cool enough, either

Dear *Critic*,

Since when have you guys been about fashion? Your column 'The Observer' goes completely against everything *Critic* used to be about. It is simply perpetuating the idea that everyone should dress the same way or else they aren't cool, aren't a true Scarfie, and will never fit in. Suggestions like wearing a beanie with shorts is just absurd.. you do know we live in Dunedin right? It's fucking freezing, on your head and your legs. Also the advice to buy from Huffer, Country Road, Witchery, Nike etc seems ridiculous when you consider how much debt students are in, and that there are posters around uni for foodbanks 'no questions asked'. So to fit in I have to spend my meagre student allowance on name brand clothes and go hungry? I read *Critic* for the insightful features (Lydia Adams was top notch this week by the way) and thought provoking news articles. Not to be told that I am not cool enough for Otago Uni.

Anonymous.

And then Sir Lloyd did exactly that (p16)

Dear Sir Lloyd Queerington,

Your column this week was a rant that needed to be said. However, I was disappointed that your sole focus was on the Anglican Church. How about providing some insight on the wider issues of social stigmatisation of the queer community in your next column? Indeed, it does look like you wrote this week's column in a hurry!

Sincerely,

An informed reader.

#Sausagegate

Dear *Critic* politics sect.

You greatest shits section featuring "sausage-gate," makes you seem more left than the herald! You have put spin on something already so spun I don't know what to call it. You say the two girls struggled to make many sausage sizzle sales, as John Key was giving away sausages down the road. And that once Key found out "he donated a few dollars to their cause." This make it seem as though the girls came away with nothing but a couple of sales and a couple of dollars from Key. This is not the case. As you know (because we both read the same story in the ODT/nz herald) the girls were selling sausages for \$3 or two for \$5. Key donated \$60 and they came away with a \$60 profit each. \$60 is more than "a few dollars" and a \$30 profit each from sales is pretty decent too. Come on *Critic* don't hide the facts.

Fukn Jez 0+<]:

We are having a party, how are your ears today?

Dear Editor,

Sometimes I find in burnout row, the seven flats that surround me, sometimes everybody wants to party, but no one ever tells, they just wack on their death machines from the devils workshop in hell, kill a few more cilia, ear crickets become a shriek, my face an ugly mess, my words a constant curse, noise control my friend and since misery loves company, come Sunday everybody is sad.

Get over the face to face thing, kids, what is so difficult, to wander in the garden and say, "We are having a party, how are your ears today?"

I'll say your father ruined them years ago, with the very same line of torture, and you cannot move me from this place, I'm anchored to the soil, and all I ask of you is what I asked of him, we could all be very happy if you kill the baseline kid, before I.

Yours faithfully,

Sue Heap

We can hear it from *Critic*.

Dear *Critic*,

For the love of sanity could the flat on Leith St North with the annoying beeping appliance please turn it off!

Get off your tush, press that power button and save us from the incessant 3 beeeeeeep beeeeeeep beeeeeeep that have become the soundtrack to my life.

Yours,

Driven Crazy


2014 Winston Peters Race Relations Award

Hi *Critic*

How did Capping Show get Seth Rogen to join the cast this year? That guy is fucking amazing. The DJ put on a good show as well. Give that man the

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.



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"Winston Peters Race Relations" award for 2014.

The physio jokes were great, although I suspect most physio students didn't understand them. Maybe try saying them slower next time? With fewer words and more pictures.

The lack of BCom jokes was disappointing. Especially considering how many jokes take commerce at Otago. Why not have a stab at a Weatherston gag next year?

Yours truly,

Me Gusta Usar Pantalones

That oily bastard

Dear Critic

This goes out to the scum that stole a bottle of oil today from the trolley you could win for your flat at OUSA market day.

You bastard, how dare you! I hope you read this and feel overwhelming guilt then your dick falls off out of shame.

The worst part is if I'd had less faith in the human race I would have stopped you but foolishly I assumed you were merely examining the bottle and going to put it back.

You fuck faced thief, you ruined my afternoon.

You make me metaphorically sick.

I hope karma fucks you in the eye.

venomously sincerely

A begrudged student who missed his chance to be a hero.



NOTICES

Theatre Voyager

Are you struggling to take your place in the world? Don't know how to live your life? Lunchtime Theatre Presents: University of Voyager. Attend Life 101 to learn how to live the proper way.

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Unraveling medical mysteries at the
University of Otago



President's Column

Kia Ora,

Last week it was our BIRTHDAY! We're 124 years of age! It's pretty special, and awesome that we've been a whanau to so many students over the years! We have made some pretty radical changes, and will endeavour to stay strong for you all for the next 124 years that are just around the corner!

This is the last week of semester one! Can you believe how fast this year has gone by? Hopefully the study isn't getting to suffocating! I've chucked in a couple of study tips for you guys that have helped me through the years.

Tip One: Figure out when your exams are, what time and what room. I'm not kidding, I was chatting to my friend when suddenly she realised that she has missed her exam by two days. True story. Thank god for internal assessments and 30% exams.

Tip Two: Space it out, make sure you have time for study breaks and exercise. Instead of a three hour binge on marketing, cut it into hour slots and spread it over the day. Work hard, play hard! Rewarding yourself for studying is the best!

Tip Three: Stay away from candy and caffeine! The sugar rush always leads to the sugar low... you won't take my advice, but at least now you know. Instead eat your five plus a day, it's the only way to get through the day!

Tip Four: Make some mates, study can be boring, have productive chat with people in your class, you can understand it all together and play some fun quizzes! Education can be fun! Reciting the info means you can slot it in your mind. As Albert Einstein apparently said, "If you can't explain something simply, you don't know enough about it." He also suggests being able to explain it to your grandmother, maybe try give her a call.

Tip Five: Chill, you are smart, intelligent and wonderful, you will get through this. Stressing about how you should have gone to class will just leave you a whimpering mess. Work hard, play

hard, and get those A's! I believe in you!

See you guys next semester! Enjoy exams, enjoy the break and come back refreshed and full of energy for the final semester of 2014!

Much love xxx

Ruby Sycamore-Smith

Ruby Sycamore-Smith



What's the haps with ousa recreation

Semester 1 Poetry Competition winners!

Congratulations to.... Larissa Hinds, Payton Goodrich and Anderson Romero for their 1st, 2nd and 3rd placing in this semesters poetry competition. The standard of entries was fantastic. If you missed out we will have another comp running in August. For more info head to www.ousa.org.nz/recreation/



Call for Entries!

STUDENT ART EXHIBITION & SALE

JULY 28 - 1ST AUGUST. Make money from your art, OUSA takes 0% commission. **Entries close Friday 4th July.** Please note, your work does not need to be ready by this date, rather it is an indication that you wish to exhibit. Email artweek@ousa.org.nz or visit artweek.ousa.org.nz for online application details.

INSTALLATION PROJECT JULY 28 - 1ST AUGUST

Make a statement on campus this July with an Installation Project. Your work could be anywhere on campus! **Entries close Friday 27th June.** Email artweek@ousa.org.nz or visit artweek.ousa.org.nz for online application details.

The OUSA Referendum needs your votes!

The first OUSA Referendum of the year needs your votes and open Tuesday the 27th at 9am and closes Thursday the 29th at 4pm. Do you want OUSA to push for the legalisation of marijuana? Do you think OUSA should support the removal of GST from fruit and veges? Let us know!

www.ousa.org.nz/your-executive/elections-and-referenda/

University Challenge Team to reclaim Title

OUSA has selected a team of 5 whiz kids to reclaim the University Challenge for the University of Otago. The University Challenge is a TV quiz show that pits teams against each other in a battle of minds with one University coming out victorious. The University of Otago has the greatest record of all the Universities in the country, although the current holders from the last show in the late 80's is the University of Waikato! **Stay tuned.**

CHEAP TEES!

OUSA supports the
*International Day
Against Homophobia
and Transphobia*

We will be giving away
T-shirts for just a \$5 donation
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