

**BARTER, BANTER AND A CONDOM**

*Max Callister-Baker goes on a quest to resurrect bartering in the Dunedin student community. PAGE 20*

**5 SURPRISING THINGS I  
LEARNED ABOUT PSYCHOPATHS**

*Psychopaths continue to captivate people around the world. PAGE 24*

**OPINION ENTITLED TO HEARING?**

*Recent stories of embezzlement in university communities around the country. PAGE 28*

**ISSUE 04**

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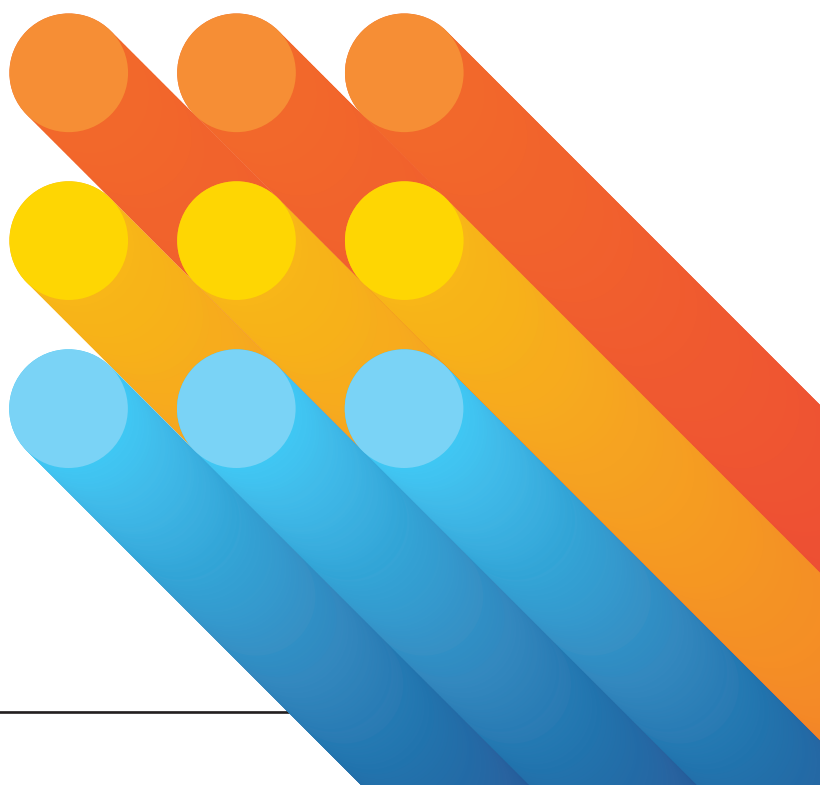
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## NEWS & OPINION



### 18 | SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS

There is an anomaly between the use of legal drugs developed as an alternative to cannabis and the fact these alternatives may present more harm than the very model itself.

*By Claudia Herron*

### 06 | NEWS

### 09 | DAVID CLARK

### 10 | FEELGOOD

### 11 | SPORT

### 12 | POLITICS

### 14 | NEWS IN BRIEFS

### 16 | DR. NICK

### 16 | QUEER EYE

### 17 | SCIENCE, BITCHES!

## FEATURES

### 20 | BARTER, BANTER AND A CONDOM

While trading a good for another good of similar or equal value used to be an everyday practice, this type of exchange has now become a thing of the past. In a burst of nostalgia, this is a quest to resurrect bartering in the modern context of the Dunedin student community.

*By Max Callister-Baker*

### 24 | 5 SURPRISING THINGS I LEARNED ABOUT PSYCHOPATHS

From James Bond to Hannibal Lector, individuals with psychopathic tendencies continue to captivate people around the world. This week, Critic undertakes an exploration of the defining aspects of psychopathy.

*By Lucy Hunter*

### 28 | OPINION ENTITLED TO HEARING?

Troubled by recent stories of embezzlement in both government and university communities around the country, it's important to address issues of corruption within New Zealand – ultimately advocating for the maintenance of transparency and for a turn away from complacency in the voting public

*By Loulou Callister-Baker*

## CULTURE

### 33 | LOVE IS BLIND

### 34 | ART

### 35 | BOOKS

### 36 | FILM

### 38 | FOOD

### 39 | GAMES

### 40 | MUSIC

### 42 | INTERVIEW

### 44 | LETTERS

### ABOVE:

From "Barter, Banter and a Condom"

*Illustration by Daniel Blackball.*

### COVER:

From "Opinion Entitled to Hearing?"

*Model: Claudia Herron.*

*Image by Alex Lovell-Smith.*

“

*An estimated four per cent of CEOs are clinically psychopathic. It is more likely that you work for a psychopath than have one as your subordinate.*

”

- PAGE 24

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## EDITORIAL 04

### OPAQUE IS THE COLDEST COLOUR

**I**N THIS ISSUE, LOULOU CALLISTER-BAKER'S FEATURE "Opinion Entitled to Hearing?" (page 28) speaks of the importance of transparency and accountability in universities and student associations. It's a pertinent piece. Personally, a huge issue of mine is that I have often found the University of Otago to be exceptionally opaque – so much so that I can't help but draw Orwellian connotations from their demeanour.

Back in September last year I heard a tip-off about the embezzlement case involving Charlotte Solomon, 2013 president of the Maori Law Students' Association. In fact, I had separate tip-offs from three different primary and reputable sources and another stream from secondary sources. Not one person would go on the record, but it happened so many times that any realistic person would start treating it as fact. In hindsight, this would have been a sensible choice, and I regret having such a fear of New Zealand's defamation laws that we didn't plough ahead with breaking the news.

Naturally, one approach we made was to the University's media office. In return I received a terse phone call, the clincher being told something to the effect of "if the *ODT* aren't on to this story yet, then you kids shouldn't be sniffing around in such big matters." I have two responses to this. First off, sniffing around like we were is one of the privileges of being in student media – although we adhere to high journalistic standards, we are at much more liberty to run head-on into University issues because that's our job. Second was the implication that we're not real media and we don't know what we're doing. I don't feel like I need to delve into why this assumption is wrong, but considering the great reporting that student media is often responsible for, I found the insinuation insulting and characteristically short-sighted of the high-horsed University.

The next part of the phone call was threatening, too. A reporter had mistakenly used Solomon's name when asking about the case, which I agree was bad journalistic practice. However, it was a small mistake, easily taken back, that was then used as a technicality to support the University's cover-up. "How dare you name someone?" was the gist of this conversation-concluder. Of course,

we would've used that great word of legal insurance – "alleged" – a healthy number of times. And at the end of the day, despite knowing who it was, we wouldn't have named the alleged individual unless our lawyer approved of us doing so, which I can almost guarantee wouldn't have happened.

The absurd thing about defamation law is that if we were more bullish, we wouldn't have been able to publish Solomon's name or title – only that the offender was an Executive member of the Maori Law Students' Association. Yes, it means that Solomon's reputation wouldn't immediately be lowered in the eyes of a reasonable person, which keeps *Critic* out of the shit. However, it suddenly brings into disrepute the seven other unrelated Executive members of the Association. It seems like a terribly thought-out law to me.

Matters escalated further when another *Critic* reporter had a door closed on her upon approaching someone from the Faculty of Law for comment. We had been informed (correctly, as it turned out in a response from the Ombudsman) that although the Faculty does not hold any financial records of the Association, they were tipped off to investigate the issue, and it was this tip-off that started the legal proceedings. Naturally, hearing this revelation opened another avenue for *Critic* to pursue the story, but the Faculty wouldn't have a bar of it.

In the most literal sense, multiple areas of the University had banded together for a cover-up. They all knew what had happened, which is why they reacted so extremely.

Damage control is all well and good – we all do it – but we're talking about fraud here. We're talking about the fact that members of the Association would have been going to vote for the 2014 Executive in the very near future, and such elections tend to include referendums if applicable. Maybe they'd want to vote on the basis of change if they had known the story. I know I certainly would've. It's this lack of accountability that can so easily result in disillusion on the part of those who should otherwise be voting. With cases like this, it's easy to see why people don't think their voices are heard; the elite are all controlling anyway, protected through bureaucracy from criticism and change.

**Zane Pocock**  
Critic Editor



METSERVICE PREDICT IMPENDING ICE AGE WILL OVERCOME HEATWAVE

## INFERNO OF INJUSTICE IN ARCHWAY FOUR

### 185 HOT-HEADED LAW STUDENTS SIGN PROTEST PETITION

**T**HE OVERHEATING OF THE ARCHWAY 4 LECTURE Theatre is cause for concern, a sentiment echoed by many disgruntled students and teachers who are suffering in Archway 4's record temperatures. According to Law Lecturer Andrew Geddes, "current heat problems in Archway 4 make it an environment in which teaching and learning are near impossible." He described the situation as a "major impediment." The environment is created by the hand of the University and affects "people who are meant to be academically our best and brightest – they can't concentrate."

Students reached for comment described Archway 4 as "suffocating," "uncomfortably stuffy" and "sweaty."

"On hot days it's pretty bad, actually. If you get a jog on prior to the lecture it gets pretty hot up the back," states another student.

This "ongoing problem" is largely caused by the structural nature of the theatre, Geddes says. "The Archway Theatres, especially Archway 4, appear to be designed in a way that there is no airflow ... As the hot air accumulates in the theatre it rises up towards the back and doesn't circulate at all. So we end up with lecture theatres that are incredibly hot and stuffy – the heating that's turned on, even on cold days, heats the place up like a sauna."

Class representative, Daniel Doughty, echoes Geddes' sentiment: "there's just no ventilation system to cool the place down." This lack of fresh air has a direct effect on student concentration, argues Doughty. "It definitely affects our ability to learn. It's difficult to focus on already complex material when we're stewing in a sauna fuelled entirely by body heat." In addition to failing concentration, Doughty also raises concerns about the short and long-term effects such a stuffy climate could have on student health. "It's just that time of year when bugs are floating around, sticking us in a room hot-boxed with germs is making far too many students sick."

Last week 185 200-level Law students signed a petition calling for improvements to the lecture theatre, stating the humid climate has "adversely affected [our] ability to concentrate on lectures and makes the hall extremely unpleasant." This petition is to be sent to both the University's Property Services and the Divisional Vice-Chancellor of Academics, in the hope that improvements will be made in the next renovations. While complaints have been laid with Property Services in the past, this student-led petition is the first to take an active stand in imploring the University to fix this problem. As Doughty states, "If the University wants to spend

a great deal on the new facilities it has recently outlined, we only ask a very small portion of that is earmarked to maintain the current facilities that are still very much in use."

However, due to the difficulty of such renovations, and that improvements may only be made when the busy lecture theatre is not in use, change seems unlikely to come immediately. Geddes suggests merely installing an air-conditioning system would work wonders with fatigued students. "There's no reason why a couple of grunty heat pumps couldn't be stuck in there to do what they're supposed to do."

Archway Lecture Theatres hold 136 lecture hours per week. Archway 4 is used for 41 lecture hours per week, the most of the four Archway theatres. 200-Level Law makes up 12 of these hours per week, holding up to 250 students for two-hour blocks. This prolonged exposure to Archway's stuffy environment poses a major problem for students. "Every time we enter the lecture theatre there is a collective groan about how hot it already is, and after two hours of lectures in a row it's ridiculous" states Class Rep Oliver Allum.

Ultimately, this is an academic issue that should be taken seriously by the University, Geddes argues. "I can complain but it's [the students] that are really suffering. It's a big deal." Critic's attempts to contact Property Services before print were unsuccessful, as predicted.

By Emily Draper | @CriticTeArohi





## “NO UPPER LIMIT” ON DCC HOTEL EXPENDITURE (OR HEIGHT) CULL SAYS THAT IT IS IMPORTANT VISITORS ARE ABLE TO FIND IT

**A** MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) has been signed by the Dunedin City Council and Betterways Advisory Ltd, the developers of the proposed \$100 million waterfront hotel. The agreement means both parties will now work together on a new design, in order to get the contentious project underway.

Last year, the Council rejected permission for a 27-storey, five-star hotel to be built at 41 Wharf Street. The proposed 96m-hotel development would have been nearly double the height of any other building in Dunedin and the tallest building in the South Island.

Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull says, “We have never had a resource consent application of this magnitude and the DCC were expected to just tick off a design.” An Urban Design Panel will be set up to look at the plans and advise as to whether

they are “viable, appropriate and work within the parameters.” Following the MoU, the building design will be a whole new proposal but the developers remain set on the Wharf Street site.

Cull says the agreement is an improvement on the method used so far. He describes the appeals made to the Environment Court as “confrontational and expensive.” He says the court proceedings would have cost up to \$300,000. However, following the current agreement, costs are estimated to be upwards of \$30,000 for the DCC, but “we have not put an upper limit on it at the moment.”

Supporters of the hotel see it as tourism boost to the city, providing much-needed beds for busy periods and allowing for more accommodation should events and conferences be held in Dunedin. However, it has still been met with much opposition.

Critics of the project claim the hotel would have looked out of place in the middle of an industrial area, surrounded by railway lines and a highway, and that the modern design was not in keeping with the architectural design of Dunedin. Issues have included pedestrian access to and from the hotel, traffic control and the hotel’s interference on the waterfront.

Other submissions put forward to deny resource consent will all need to be addressed, but Cull says “we now have an agreed approach between the council and the developer on how we address the issues.”

He explains that traffic and pedestrian access is essential, but the current one-way system makes accessibility difficult for out-of-town visitors. Cull says that it is important visitors are able to find it. *Critic* speculates that a 27-storey building should not be too hard to find.

By Josie Cochrane | @JosieCochrane  
Image courtesy Otago Daily Times / ODT Pix

## HUMANITIES ENROLMENTS FALLING MEAN FEWER IN RETAIL CRITIC BEGINS RECRUITING WRITERS FROM POLYTECH

**T**HE UNIVERSITY HAS SEEN A 1.9 PER CENT decline in enrolments from 2012 to 2013, with the decline "overwhelmingly concentrated in the Division of Humanities" according to the 2013 End of Year Financial Review. The drop in humanities students accounted for 83 per cent of the overall drop in student numbers at the University over the past two years, down five per cent from 19,568 equivalent full time students (EFTS) in 2011 to 18,600 last year.

The Division of Humanities includes subjects such as law, english, media and politics, as well as the College of Education. Professor Brian Moloughney, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Humanities, says the subjects "develop transferable skills that are fundamental in a wide range of occupations."

The most significant decline within the Division has been in the College of Education. This is due to the "scheduled conclusion of a major teacher education contract with the Malaysian government," as well as a reduction in the number

of domestic enrolments entering the teacher education programmes.

Moloughney says there was not a "significant decline" in Bachelor of Arts enrolments overall, although "it is too early to talk about 2014 enrolments at this time."

Commerce enrolments were down marginally, while enrolments in the Divisions of Health Sciences and Sciences had increased. The number of students enrolled in the Division of Health Sciences surpassed humanities in 2012 and continues to rise. Moloughney does not appear concerned with the drop, saying "enrolments fluctuate from year to year for a variety of reasons."

Despite the fall in numbers last year, the Division had a favourable variance of \$1.646 million (3.4 per cent). This was mainly due to a donation to the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, which will be used to fund salaries beyond 2013

*"The University has seen a 1.9 per cent decline in enrolments from 2012 to 2013, with the decline 'overwhelmingly concentrated in the Division of Humanities' according to the 2013 End of Year Financial Review. The drop in humanities students accounted for 83 per cent of the overall drop..."*

and the unbudgeted income received for continuing commercial contracts. Individual departments also made the effort to make savings, which contributed to the favourable variance.

Moloughney explains the importance of studying humanities, saying that they "develop informed and critical citizens" and "foster social justice and equality." He says "they encourage us to think creatively, and to deal critically with subjective, complex and imperfect information. The humanities reveal how people have tried to make sense of the world in the past and teach empathy for others."

By Josie Cochrane | @JosieCochrane

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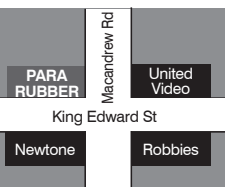
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## PROCTOLOGY CAMPUS WATCH CAUGHT RED-HANDED

**T**HIS WEEK IN PROCTOLOGY SAW SOMEONE set-up Campus Watch to Police – by divulging examples of the former's "ne-farious" behaviour to the latter. A woman, who locked her keys in her car on Albany Street, was attended to by Campus Watch with "some breaking-in gear" to assist her cause. The Police were subsequently called in what the Proctor said was "probably someone in the library having a bit of fun" and the Police were soon on the scene "whizzing around the corner with blue bolts flashing."

Critic was able to get in contact with the person who anonymously tipped off police. He recalled "two really large guys breaking into a nice car that clearly wasn't a student's." He promptly phoned Police and reported that they were "wearing tracksuits like they were in a gang or something."

The student said he thought he'd seen the guys "staring at my friends from across the road at a party once, clearly trying to intimidate them." He also thought he'd seen a guy in "the same tracksuit follow a girl home when she was really wasted." Following the tip-off, the Proctor said that once the Police had arrived they saw the men in "matching tracksuits" were actually Campus



Watch and they "realised they'd been had."

Aside from Campus Watch's gang-status being preyed upon, a number of glass injuries around campus, including an intoxicated student who refused to go to hospital despite a very bad cut revealing "tendons and everything in there," has lead the Proctor to issue a warning about broken glass. "We could get back to the likes of the '80s where taxis would stop on the one-way system and refuse to come in to the north end." While we "certainly don't want to go back there," Critic suggests we won't either, as the Vice-Chancellor's strong stance on glass – or "chop a leg off" stance, as the Proctor described it – will mean that the Emergency department will sooner be dealing

with an influx of amputees at the hands of the VC instead of injuries from strewn glass.

Life as a construction worker was last week's career of choice for "a couple of lads missing their Meccano sets." The boys were seen walking into a building site after wanting to "play on a digger." They soon "discovered running faster than a police dog is difficult," after the boys had attempted to flee the scene and Police had quickly called up a nearby dog van to rein them in. The Proctor called out the lads' activity as child's play and said "if you get the urge to relive your Tonka-toy days; don't."

By Claudia Herron | @Claudia\_Herron



## STUDENTS AND THE LAW

**Y**OU MAY KNOW SOMEONE WHO WORKS AT THE Dunedin Community Law Centre in Filleul Street. One of 24 nationwide, the Dunedin Community Law Centre was established in 1980. Close to 200 people volunteer there – many of them law students at our University.

As the local electorate MP, I frequently refer students and other constituents there for free legal assistance.

Community law centres ensure equity of access to justice across New Zealand. And never has that been more important than now – when the

gap between haves and have-nots is larger than at any time since proper records have been kept.

You may have struck issues the Community Law Centre can assist with. The most common problems dealt with are unfair dismissals, tenancy disputes, and consumer issues. Close to a third of clients at the Law Centre are students.

Legal representation for those of limited means is vital to healthy democracy. So too is the role played by community law centres supporting submissions to the select committees that help write our laws. Ensuring all perspectives are heard as new laws are shaped means better law for our country.

Unfortunately, the future of community law centres is fragile. Following the partial collapse of an historic funding source in the Global Financial Crisis, community law centres have faced uncertainty.

Since 2009, the Government – whilst lavishing praise upon the activities of community

law centres – has provided necessary top-up funding for one year at a time only. The exception to that being the most recent arrangement which conveniently pushes funding questions beyond the next general election.

But community law centres need greater certainty. A rolling triennial funding arrangement with annual reviews would generate an environment attractive to the core paid staff required for an effective operation. It would ensure focus on strategic planning, and the training of volunteers rather than on writing applications for grant funding.

Society benefits from an organisation with mandate and resources to deal with legal matters for public good reasons, matters uneconomic for any private lawyer to pursue.

Faith in the justice system depends upon equity of access to justice. Full stop.

Column by David Clark | @DavidClarkNZ



## BEN SHERMAN PUSHES PAUL SMITH TO FRINGE

**T**HE 2014 DUNEDIN FRINGE FESTIVAL HAS ARRIVED, with over 300 guests attending the opening Festival Gala and the Polsen Higgs Comedy Club. The Dunedin Fringe Festival, funded by the Dunedin City Council, Otago Community Trust and Creative NZ, is "an awesomely creative grassroots event that wouldn't be possible without widespread support from the community" says Paul Smith, Festival Director.

Several shows have arrived from the New Zealand Fringe, including *The Bookbinder* by Trick of the Light Theatre, which sold out in Dunedin and won the Best of New Zealand Fringe award.

The Reels on Wheels short film event will continue throughout the week, where a mobile cinema will visit the Octagon, the Museum Reserve and the Dunedin Railway Station.

Highlights for this week include "an open-ended beginning" performance series by Samin Son, held at the Blue Oyster Art Project Space, and Carousel and Clothesline, a circus show direct from Adelaide's Fringe Festival.

Lara Fischel-Chisholm will perform her latest

show, *This Is My Real Job*, at her parents' house, with each show limited to around thirty viewers and "tickets are selling fast." Ombrellos will also be hosting three comedy shows: ... Let's Talk About the Golliwogs; Frickin Dangerous Bro; and Nick Rado – How Did We Survive the '90s.

A free preview of the Fringe Festival talent will be held at 12pm on Thursday 20 March in the Meridian Mall. Online discounts are being offered to the general public who book in advance and Fringe Festival Publicist Brooke Lowry says ticket sales have been "excellent" so far.

The Festival concludes by celebrating the stand-out artists of the Festival at the Festival Awards night, which is to be held on 23 March in the Porters' Lounge at the Dunedin Railway Station. The festival organisers encourage guests to dress for a "sophisticated evening of urban glamour and film noir fashion" and there will be spot prizes for the best dressed. Event tickets can be bought from the OUSA office.

By Josie Cochrane | @JosieCochrane



## PARTY IN THE U-K-RAINE

**I**F THERE'S ONE THING ANY RED-BLOODED KIWI male absolutely pisses his pants about, it's the prospect of a diplomatic dispute being resolved by horrific violence. Now through the magic of Old Media; I am coming to you from two weeks in the past, so it's entirely possible that by now Obama-lama-ding-dong has soared over to the Kremlin on his flying unicorn of peace and he and Putin-on-the-Ritz have sorted it all out over a few verses of Kumbaya. But I am nothing if not a fucking hideous wretch from the bowels of hell, so I'm betting that by now the Ruskies have rolled into mainland Ukraine and are proceeding to Glasnost their brains out.

How does one deal with a bully? If you're a cringing primary school teacher you'll likely advise the Ukrainians to ignore them, but we all know that primary school teachers are about as wise as ceramic fish. No, the proper way to deal with a bully is to beat them into a bloody pulp, to give in to your anger and embrace the dark side of the force. What if the bully is bigger and stronger than you? Well, then you're fucked. This whole situation goes to prove that you can have all the democracy and transparency and revolution you want, but if you Occupy the men's toilet in protest of gender segregation, don't be surprised if someone pisses in your eyes because you're in the way.

Vladimir Putin may be a tyrannical, free-speech repressing, gay-bashing discharge, but he's a NUCLEAR-ARMED tyrannical, free-speech repressing, gay-bashing discharge. Obama and the West can throw all the hope and change they want at him, but hope and change burns just as well as treaty paper, and Vlad the Mad has 40 megatonnes worth of reasons for no-one to fuck with him. So good luck, Ukrainians – maybe give Al Qaeda a call, those guys handed it to the Soviets 30 years ago. Maybe they can give you some tips? Like buying rocket launchers off the Yanks, but that's another story altogether.

Opinion by Ethan Rodgers | @EdRodgersInc

## NCO SPELLS END FOR PARTY BABY-EDGAR VICTIMISED

**O**VER HALF OF THE 382 NOISE COMPLAINTS made to the Dunedin City Council last month were from Dunedin North, with 94 per cent of the complaints relating to noise from stereos. This is the highest number of complaints in a single month since February 2010 and coincides with the influx of students back to the city for the University year.

Council environmental health team leader Ros MacGill said, typically, there is an increased number of noise complaints in February and March. She said that even if tenants kept their windows and doors closed, "the housing stock in North Dunedin is pretty old so the sound can easily escape."

MacGill explains that following a complaint, a Noise Control Officer (NCO) will "subjectively assess the noise" from the complainant's boundary and decide if it is excessive or not. If it is excessive the NCO will issue an Excessive Noise Direction (END) to someone that lives at the address, instruct them to reduce the noise to a reasonable level and then advise them that non-compliance or reoffending within 72 hours of the notice being issued will mean their equipment will be seized. MacGill says, "No matter what time of day it is, if

the noise is considered excessive then they must comply with the NCO's directions to reduce it."

Critic spoke to OUSA Vice-President Ryan Edgar in regard to issues of noise control. Edgar said, "One of the first things that caused me to run for VP was noise control, who were, in my opinion, overstepping their boundaries." Edgar himself has been victim to a complaint, with his flat receiving a notice last weekend and his speakers, worth \$300, being seized on a separate occasion. He says "if you can't have a respectable flat party at 9pm on a Saturday, then when can you?"

Critic spoke to several other local students who have had END notices. Jacob Scully, an ex-Hyde Street resident, says his flat party was shut down in the "pretty early hours" – at around 10pm – on a Saturday night and had an iPod and DJ equipment seized.

Last Saturday, a flat on Forth Street was issued with a notice and had a laptop seized. Flat resident Jacob Arahill said, "We asked them to take the speakers instead, but they said 'nah.'" The residents have to pay an \$84 fine to retrieve the laptop, which Arahill says "is ridiculous."

During February 2014, 134 END notices were issued and 14 pieces of equipment were seized.

By Josie Cochrane | @JosieCochrane



## THE FIFA WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN BEGINS

**T**HE FIFA WORLD CUP (DON'T MAKE ME SAY "soccer") returns to South America this year with hosts Brazil opening the tournament against Croatia in Sao Paulo on 12 June.

The final will be played on 13 July in Rio de Janeiro if the centrepiece Estadio do Maracana is ready. Preparations for the event have been underway for years but have been plagued with delays, deaths and corruption.

The Brazilian government has invested significantly into infrastructure for the World Cup. However, there are protesters that oppose the huge cost of the event when poverty and

inequality remain big domestic issues. A smooth run to the final would calm officials' nerves, who must fear a backlash and popular uprising should Brazil be knocked out early.

The climate will surely be an issue for some teams playing in the humid northern parts of the country near the equator. Airports remain the biggest infrastructure concern for the government and tournament officials as severe delays and cancellations are frequent in domestic flights.

After a long qualification process that began in 2011, 32 teams have made it to the finals.



Defending champions Spain seem to have lost their invincible aura since they won in 2010 but remain top of the FIFA World Ranking. Germany is my favourite to win.

This week we preview hosts Brazil and the other teams in Group A.

By Daniel Lormans | @danbagnz



### BRAZIL

**CONMEBOL – Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol**

**Population:** 201 million

**Currency:** Real

**Capital:** Brasília

**Language:** Portuguese. The team is referred to simply as Seleção (the Selection).

**FIFA World Ranking:** 9th

**Qualified:** By right as host.

**Fun Fact:** A history of providing humorous single-named players continues. Jefferson, Dante, Fred, Bernard, Oscar and Jo are all legit members of the Brazil squad and not my Nana's weekly bingo opponents. **History:** These five-time champions have never failed to qualify for the World Cup but the two previous tournaments have been disappointing results by Brazil's high standards.

**Key Players:** Young Barcelona wunderkind Neymar will be one to watch, as he has the knack for producing a game-changing moment out of nothing. Hulk could also live up to his name and be a complete beast. **Prediction:** The hosts will be under a HUGE amount of pressure to perform given the country's big investment. Can win. Should win. Must win.



### CROATIA

**UEFA – Union of European Football Associations**

**Population:** 4 million

**Currency:** Kuna

**Capital:** Zagreb

**Language:** In Croatian, the team is also known as Vatreni (the Blazers).

**FIFA World Ranking:** 16th

**Qualified:** Beat Iceland in a European play-off.

**Fun Fact:** I spent a wonderful sex-filled week in Croatia a few years ago and took no notice of anything football-related, sorry.

**History:** Consistent qualifiers to the Euros and World Cup, but a third place in 1998 remains their best effort to date.

**Key Players:** Lightweight midfielder Luka Modric plays for Spanish powerhouse Real Madrid and has great technical ability. The rest of the team are relatively solid but anonymous Premier League and Bundesliga players.

**Prediction:** The game against Mexico will be massive for both teams, but I think Croatia will be the ones going home early.



### MEXICO

**CONCACAF – Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football**

**Population:** 119 million

**Currency:** Peso

**Capital:** Mexico City

**Language:** The Spanish nickname for the team is El Tricolor (the 3 colours).

**FIFA World Ranking:** 21st

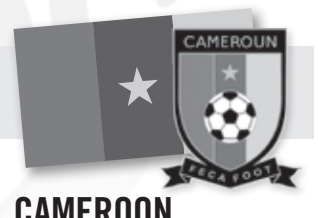
**Qualified:** By winning the Inter Confederation play-off.

**Fun Fact:** Mexico won gold in the men's football at London 2012.

**History:** Consistently make the knockout stages of the World Cup. Quarter finalists when they hosted in 1970 and 1986.

**Key Players:** Manchester United impact striker Javier Hernandez is probably their most well-known player, otherwise they have a solid, mainly home-grown, squad which secured their place in Brazil by thrashing New Zealand 9 - 3 over the two-game play-off.

**Prediction:** Should scrape through to next round ahead of Croatia but will need a friendly draw to keep going further.



### CAMEROON

**CAF – Confederation of African Football**

**Population:** 22 million

**Currency:** Central African Franc

**Capital:** Yaounde

**Language:** French-speaking locals say Les Lions Indomptables (the Indomitable Lions).

**FIFA World Ranking:** 46th

**Qualified:** Winner of the African third round playoff.

**Fun Fact:** Cameroon has a habit of showing up with unconventional kits. Sleeveless shirts and a controversial Puma onesie have been highlights from recent tournaments.

**History:** Has the best World Cup record of any African team, with a 1990 quarterfinal against England being their best result.

**Key Players:** Chelsea striker Samuel Eto'o is their captain and record goal scorer for Cameroon. Alex Song of Barcelona provides a solid midfield platform for this squad's speedy young attack.

**Prediction:** They will be well supported by neutrals but realistically should finish bottom of the group.



## CRITIC TACKLES ELECTION YEAR STUDENT ALLOWANCES

**F**INALLY, THE ELECTION DATE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED: 20 September. Bring on the policy releases, campaign ads, catchy slogans, and the inevitable rhetorical fuck-ups. It's time to cut through the empty statements about student support and "the best education ever" and see what's actually in writing. This week? Student loans and allowances organised from "most support" to "least support" (support being a financial composite of both fees and the funding we currently call living costs). For brevity's sake, the parties included are the eight currently in government, but if you know of another party that has a stellar education policy (or disagree with my interpretation), feel free to write an angry letter or direct a passive-aggressive tweet in my direction.

### GREEN PARTY

**What's the story?** The Green Party's policy framework surrounding student financing is, unequivocally, the most comprehensive. So much so, in fact, that it has its own dedicated policy document accessible exclusive of tertiary education. There are three main tracks outlined relevant to this week: a debt write-off scheme that trades a year of full-time work for a year of debt dissolved; a universal student allowance with a step-by-step plan on how to achieve this; and a fee-free tertiary education system. (All the while, current loans will still be interest-free and a higher repayment threshold will be implemented).

**Pro, in a nutshell:** If you're looking for a party that aims to support your education, this is the one. The Greens want to make your learning and living free.

**Con, in a nutshell:** There are questions that must be raised about feasibility. First, there would need to be a serious reshuffling of government funding; second, it would take longer than one election cycle to institute the level of overhaul required; third, the Greens would need to be a major party in the first place.

**Overall:** Great policy, difficult to implement. **8/10**

### MAORI PARTY

**What's the story?** Like the Greens, the Māori Party place a huge emphasis on reasonably priced education. They propose reducing fees to a "nominal level;" a universal student allowance;

and that student loan repayments only must be repaid after five years and once you earn 1.5x the average wage. They will still be interest-free.

**Pro, in a nutshell:** The Māori Party is dedicated to keeping education affordable.

**Con, in a nutshell:** It's not as comprehensive as the Greens and it does not specify an action plan in order to get there.

**Overall:** Good, supportive policy, but no plan on how to implement. **7/10**

### MANA PARTY

**What's the story?** The MANA Party is committed to the transition from tertiary education to job creation, as well as enfranchising Māori youth. In terms of policy, while they focus on these main aspects, they do propose to reduce and remove all tertiary fees. No explicit mention of adjustment to the current allowance/living costs loan scheme.

**Pro, in a nutshell:** They want free education.

**Con, in a nutshell:** Unclear whether they support a universal student allowance or not.

**Overall:** Clearly supportive of students and community, but financial support not explicit. **6.5/10**

### LABOUR PARTY

**What's the story?** There's one thing more "tricky" than David Cunliffe, and that's the Labour website. By navigating past the "Are You In" title page and hunting within the various tabs until I finally landed on "resources," I managed to find Labour's latest Policy Platform. It does reference education, but largely it's just positive rhetoric, and doesn't make explicit reference to loans and allowances. Being a major party, this is a bit of a concern.

**Pro, in a nutshell:** The rhetoric is positive. It talks of reducing inequalities and affordability, which seems to be a good direction.

**Con, in a nutshell:** Where's the detail? Let's hope a tertiary policy package is next on the release list, because currently there is little to nothing for us to sink our teeth into.

**Overall:** Labour's website is impossible to navigate, and Cunliffe's voice whispering "Are You In?" will haunt my dreams. **5.5/10**

### NATIONAL PARTY

**What's the story?** Even though National's website is better than Labour's, their policies are

still available by clicking on hilarious ClipArt-meets-PowerPoint buttons. At least their PDFs are easy to find. The tertiary policy document, rather than echoing the rhetoric of the above parties, scarily speaks of "value for money" and "accountability" – as though students are commodities. Interestingly, the document is largely in the past tense, and it brings to light all of National's current achievements. I won't repeat the overhaul details, as they've been heavily discussed since Steve Joyce had his way, but National is proud of enhancing borrower responsibility. Unfortunately, the structure of this scheme means many fall through the cracks – mostly postgrads.

**Pro, in a nutshell:** They want to tackle student loan debt, and have been active in finding ways to chase up ex-students both domestically and overseas. They also pledge to keep student loans interest-free.

**Con, in a nutshell:** If you require considerable financial support, this is the party that plans to strip it down.

**Overall:** Plans to make students accountable, but is heading in the direction of less financial support. **4/10**

### ACT PARTY

**What's the story?** Well, they talk of education, but not about tertiary. Rather, they enter into the nebulous world of non-government organised education, which sends warning bells on the financial front. We'll have to wait to see if this develops.

**Pro, in a nutshell:** Their education page exists.

**Con, in a nutshell:** It says nothing about tertiary education.

**Overall:** Forgotten by ACT. **2/10**

### NZFIRST PARTY

**What's the story?** Nothing. There is literally nothing.

**Pro, in a nutshell:** The webpage exists, and is accessible via search: <http://nzfirst.org.nz/policy/tertiary-education>

**Con, in a nutshell:** There's nothing on it.

**Overall:** Nothing. **-/10**

### UNITED FUTURE PARTY

**What's the story?** More nothing. Currently United Future is revising their policies.

**Pro in a nutshell:** There is a subheading titled "Tertiary" and another with "Funding and Achievement," so there's that.

**Con in a nutshell:** Nothing to work with.

**Overall:** Nothing. **-/10**



## YOUNG POLITICIAN

### BAYDEN HARRIS OF LABOUR

**I'M NEW TO DUNEDIN, SO NATURALLY, I'VE GONE** to start my first of many years at Otago in a hall. When you arrive to your particular hall, they will most probably have a number of initiations for you; designed to break barriers, reduce homesickness, and make new friends. But there was one thing I did after our inaugural O-Week that worked an absolute treat in terms of this last point.

John Key visited a few weeks back, and I took it upon myself (with a number of people) to make his day a little less enjoyable. We initiated a rowdy protest that followed him around Dunedin, drowning out speeches and making his most junior cabinet minister look like he was going to shed a tear, or six ...

Once fellow hallers had got a sniff of what I did, I was bombarded with praise and a large consensus of approval for what I had done.

It became clear that younger people were paying attention to politics, and largely had a view that the status quo didn't sit well with them. Whatever you think of John, I'm just glad I could impress hundreds of students in my first few weeks here.



**elections.org.nz**

ELECTION HELD 20 SEPTEMBER 2014



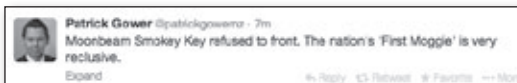
## GREATEST HITS

**IT WAS VERY TEMPTING TO AWARD GREATEST HIT** to John Key for choosing 20 September as the election date, as a few Critic staff were recipients of healthy iPredict payouts (myself included); but in the interest of providing students with something a little better than "should've got on the insider trading buzz," the award goes elsewhere. It's therefore not the man in blue who gets the prize; it's the idea of a blue zone. Over the weekend, the Greens proposed that the Government set up a blue zone in Christchurch to allow homeowners of flood-damaged properties to get the hell out. Based on the red zone, the \$140 million idea is one that would help the poor citizens of Christchurch deal with this latest setback. Notable mention: the Baywatch-style shot of David Shearer and his dog during Paul Henry's MP pet therapy segment.

## GREATEST SHITS

**IT SEEMS IT ONLY TOOK TWO DAYS FOR THE BEEHIVE** to kick-start the election drama, and while much of it was shit-worthy, there is one particular instance that undoubtedly takes the Greatest Shit cake: milkgate. It was revealed that Judith Collins, our ever eloquent and graceful Justice Minister, took an "official trip" to China with her husband and had dinner with a few too many Chinese big shots. Costing over \$30,000 in taxpayer money, this conflict of interest resulted in a snap debate in the House on Wednesday. Highlights include classic Winston racism and Gareth Hughes insinuating that Collins is "rancid milk." John Key is "disappointed," and while at the time of writing Judith has not yet resigned, there is still time.

## TWEETS



**3 News reporter asks the real questions – where's John Key's cat?**



**Cunliffe appears to be doing National's job for them.**



**Burn**



**Critic wonders what 1996 RWC Henare is referring to.**



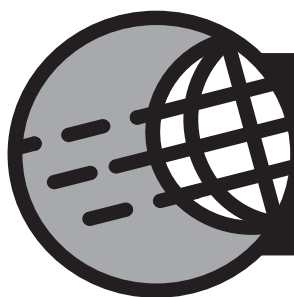
**That would be insider trading.**



**Kevin could put the money into the anti-defamation campaign.**



**Clare lashes out #llama.**



# NEWS IN BRIEFS

BY ZANE POCKOCK, CLAUDIA HERRON, SAM CLARK & LUCY GAUDIN

## WORLD WATCH

**SPAIN** | Abandoned Spanish villages are being sold for as little as NZ\$100,000. Typically they will include a main house plus five other buildings, a freshwater spring, and 140,000 square feet of farmland. It is estimated that there are approximately 2,900 such villages spread throughout the country.

**USA** | Proper sterilisation procedures are still followed before administration of the lethal injection in America. This is because the State would likely lose a wrongful death lawsuit if an inmate died from infection after an execution was called off, supposing the needle was already in the convict's arm. What's more, such a last-minute call off has happened before.

**ICELAND** | A missing woman on vacation in Iceland joined the search party looking for herself, when she was reported as missing after going to the bathroom to "freshen up" when the bus tour she was on stopped for a break.

**FOLKESTONE, UNITED KINGDOM** | A marine biologist has described a Kent goldfish belonging to an 83 year-old-widow from Folkestone as "simply amazing" after discovering it measures 38cm long and weighs over two pounds.

## GRAPEVINE

*"It's really stunning that the Europeans are trying to claw back products made popular in other countries."*

**Jim Mulhern**, president of the National Milk Producers Federation, responding to the European Union's announcement that it wishes to ban the use of European names such as Parmesan and feta on American-made cheeses.

*"There's more security around the development of a presidential limo than any of our products. It takes a number of years to develop the car. It's a great project to work on. This particular one, more so than any of them in the past. In the past, they were retrofitting existing vehicles — with this, this is really from the ground up a new vehicle, and we really do it right."*

GM vice president for design **Ed Welburn**, commenting on the announcement that the Department of Homeland Security will be awarding the contract for designing the next US President's limousine by late August.

*"I'm going to keep it as is. I'm just looking at it as that's the day we nearly lost her and a miracle happened and we didn't."*

**Jesse Hiini**, an Auckland dog owner, after saying she didn't regret tattooing her dog's face and date of death on her forearm after it was hit by a car, despite finding out the pup was alive and on the loose in Te Puke.

*"It's much louder than it needs to be to communicate with just the female that the male is trying to mate with."*

**Dr Rosyln Dakin** from the University of British Columbia, who co-authored a study on Peacocks that revealed peacocks make fake sex sounds to attract a female's, or peahen's, attention.

## BEST OF THE WEB

[politicheck.org.nz](http://politicheck.org.nz)

New Zealand's first political fact-checking site is expected to launch before the end of March.

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

We have never seen a kid with such an outstanding feel for music as this one.

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

This billboard produces potable water out of air.

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

The Miracle Machine is a kitchen gadget that can turn water and a sachet of ingredients into wine.

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

The Tone Matrix lets you create audio mixes by clicking on a grid arrangement of squares.

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

Create your own Picasso with Picassohead.

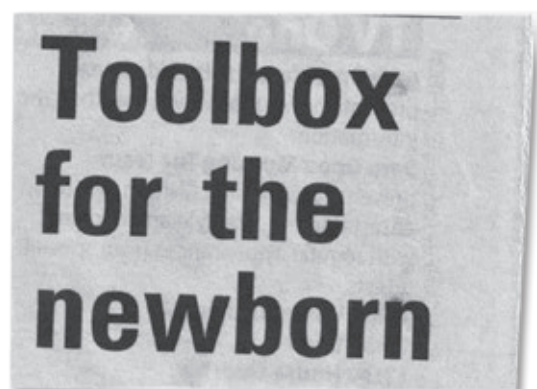




# FACTS & FIGURES

## BABY BUILDERS

**THINK THIS IS A SIGN FOR A GOOD WEEKEND (THE** ODT isn't the only one capable of a great pun); if the doctors can't save you after your night out, the Church will.



Now babies can help with the DIY; it's about time they pulled their weight around the house.

## Thompson home first

When I won "go home, stay home" it never got put in the paper.

## Mother on P, baby suffers

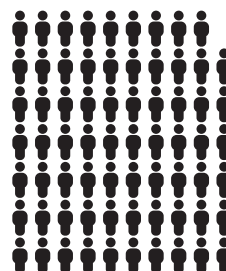
This apparently "new finding" has us all reeling with shock – next they'll be telling us it's bad for pregnant women to drink alcohol!

## Over-medication study funded

The funds are here, the drugs are provided, overdoses encouraged, all that's missing is you! Volunteers apply at: [otagodailytimes@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:otagodailytimes@hotmail.co.nz)

## 69 children

The most children born to one woman - She was a peasant who lived a 40-year life, during which she had 16 twins, 7 triplets, and 4 quadruplets.



After making 1.4 billion crayons, Crayola's "senior crayon maker" of 37 years has confessed that he's colourblind.

The five-second rule is legitimate. Research out of Aston University last week found that most food would abide by this urban legend, with toast lasting even longer.

Cleopatra lived closer to the building of Pizza Hut than the pyramids. The Great Pyramid was built circa 2560 BC, while Cleopatra lived around 30 BC. The first Pizza Hut opened in 1958, which is about 500 years closer.

## spermatorrhea

During the Victorian era, masturbation was seen as unhealthy. In an attempt to stop the practice amongst men, doctors invented the spermatorrhea. Fitted around the penis, every time a man got a little too sexually excited, the sharp spikes would kill the mood.

When christening a ship, instead of using champagne, the Vikings would sacrifice a human being.

The first modern toothbrush was invented in China. Its bristles came from hogs hair or the mane of a horse that were then put into ivory handles.





## NORMALITY

**H** I EVERYBODY,

The joy of writing under a pseudonym is that you can say anything you want without fear of repercussion. It instantly silences the angel on your shoulder that tells you not to be needlessly crass or make libellous accusations.

As my name's not on my work, I can imply that David Bain murdered his family because they didn't approve of his gay love affair with Joe Karam (Bain shot Karam in the face, if you know what I mean). It also means I can call Sir Roger Douglas a dinosaur cunt, which no sane person would do if they knew their name would be forever attributed to the quote (mainly because a dinosaur's nether region would be better described as a cloaca rather than a cunt, which is appropriate because Sir Roger Douglas is a vapid cock hole that spits piss and shit, and reeks of feral musk. Also he's a cunt).

My needlessly crass and libellous point is this: I don't usually filter myself when writing this column. It was pretty surprising, therefore, that a little voice chirped in my ear when writing this week and said "hold on, you shouldn't write that."

I had begun discussing the dripping dick diseases and pustulating pussy problems that can come from unsafe sexual practices. At the outset I didn't see a problem in highlighting that chlamydia is as common as red hair in 20-24-year-olds, nor did I see a problem with suggesting that no ginger has ever had chlamydia because nobody finds them sexually attractive. I was finishing up the column when I stopped and thought, "What about those readers that haven't had sex?"

The problem in medicine is we focus on disease; we don't focus on healthy things as they don't pay for our BMWs and yachts. Its easy to jump to genital warts and pelvic inflammatory disease, but the more pertinent topic is "what's normal, healthy sex?" As topics go, that's a big 'un. Like "walking funny the next day because of how big it was" level big. So let's break it up and cover sex, sexual health, and sexual illness across a couple of columns before going back

*"Around 75 per cent of New Zealand high school students haven't had sex, though older students are more likely to have done so. In America, the median age of onset of sex seems to be around 17-years-old, with guys starting very slightly earlier than gals. New Zealand doesn't appear to have churned out a decent report on our boning habits for a while, but work from the '90s seems to agree that around half of people will have had sex before they're 17, and half of people won't have."*

to less sticky and shameful-to-the-Catholics-among-us topics like Fresher Flu.

The point I want to repeatedly thrust into you this week is that not everybody at Uni has had sex, and not everybody at Uni will want sex. The literature around age of onset of sex is messy, to say the least, but the general view is that onset of sex is far later than you'd expect.

Around 75 per cent of New Zealand high school students haven't had sex, though older students are more likely to have done so. In America, the median age of onset of sex seems to be around 17-years-old, with guys starting very slightly earlier than gals. New Zealand doesn't appear to have churned out a decent report on our boning habits for a while, but work from the '90s seems to agree that around half of people will have had sex before they're 17, and half of people won't have.

That means a large chunk of young adults like you won't have had sex yet. Which is normal. Its also probably an underestimate as it doesn't account for things like homosexuality (where age of sexual onset is generally thought to be later due to heteronormative social pressures), asexuality, and lying.

Normal, healthy sex is a big topic which is full of things you wouldn't think of. So strap in (and strap on) for the ride next week.

By Dr Nick | @CriticTeArohi



## ASEXUALITY

**D** OESN'T THAT HAVE TO DO WITH SPORES OR something? You may be dredging up fuzzy memories of Year 11 Biology: Fungi? Plants? That bit in Jurassic Park where the dinosaurs started laying eggs and shit hit the fan?

Well, son, you may want to sit down for this next bit: words can have more than one meaning. In the context of human sexuality, asexuality is defined as "not experiencing sexual attraction towards people of any gender." None of them. No people. This is the point where people usually screw up their faces in confusion, or perhaps laugh, pat your shoulder and tell you how sorry they are. (Protip: don't do this.)

If you're in the former category, I invite you to consider the following: statistically, you are likely only attracted to one gender. There are entire swathes of people wandering the world towards whom you are totally unable to feel attraction, based solely on gender. Is it such a stretch to extend that state to cover everyone?

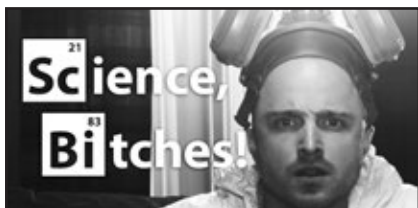
Now we've got the basics down, things start to get a little more complicated. To wrap your head around asexual-spectrum identities, the first and most important step is to start thinking about breaking down the idea of "attraction." As mentioned above, "asexuality" is defined as not experiencing sexual attraction. Everything else is fair game. So what does this mean?

The main categories into which you will see attraction broken down are aesthetic, sensual and romantic. Aesthetic attraction is the experience of feeling drawn non-sexually to someone based solely on looks; a similar feeling to what you might get for a sunrise or a really pretty horse. Sensual attraction is physical non-sexual attraction; for example, I'm told people less black-hearted than myself occasionally want to rub their faces on small animals. Romantic attraction is at once easy—it's just what it says on the box—and really tricky—no-one actually has a good definition for it.

These all tend to get tangled together, but as with most aspects of queerness and identity, it's very rarely that simple.

By Harlequin | queer@critic.co.nz





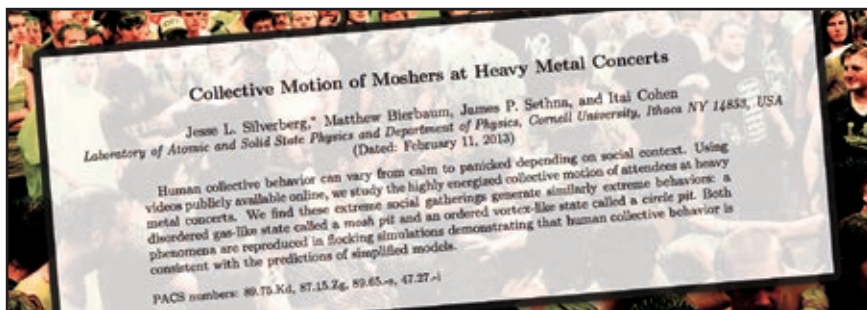
## MOSH PITS & PARTICLE PHYSICS

**W**HAT DID THE PARTICLE PHYSICIST SAY when he went to the heavy metal concert? "Wow, it seems the participants of the mosh pit behave intriguingly like gas molecules!"

Take note, young grasshoppers; the science doesn't stop when you leave the lecture theatre. That wasn't a bad joke; that was a somewhat abridged version of an epiphany had by one Jesse Silverberg. He even wrote a peer reviewed paper on it, "Collective motion of moshers at a heavy metal concert." By watching videos of some serious heavy metal moshing, he convinced his colleagues to help him look at people in the way that we look at particles.

Fluid dynamics is a pretty key part of physics, looking at the way liquids and gases move. It's handy to know when you're pumping a bunch of oil through a tube and hoping it won't explode. It's quite nice when you know how the air is going to travel around an airplane wing. Even if you've never heard the term, fluid dynamics really are all around you.

So in order to understand what the fluids are



doing, you need to figure out what each molecule is doing, and how they're all interacting. Physicists have been investigating this for ages – Newton would have loved particle image velocimetry! Using it, we can follow individual molecules by putting a few tagged particles in a fluid and tracking them. This allows us to figure out what the rest of the particles are up to, and build a model to explain it all. But what if the data we plug in isn't about atoms, but about people?

In almost any situation, you don't get a lot. People have a lot of reasons for moving about in the way they do, and it's very rare that equations accounting for viscosity, turbulence or non-Newtonian fluids have anything to do with it. But it seems that in mosh pits, when everyone is moving in random directions, they act just like atoms in a moving fluid.

Cool, whatever, you never plan to be in the mosh pit of a heavy metal gig, so who cares? But no one plans to be in an emergency like a fire or earthquake, and it seems that it could be modeled in the same way – a panicked situation with large numbers of people moving quickly and randomly. If this turns out to be

the case, it would mean we could predict how a large group of people will move when shit goes down. And that means we can plan the best way to get everybody out and unharmed from a burning building or an earthquake in the city centre, from designing the exits to mapping the ambulance routes.

Now, this is not the first time we've tried to model groups of living organisms with simple physical laws – it seems to be a favourite pastime of some academics – but most of the time it doesn't work. Pretending that animals move randomly in a swarm is like pretending that *Ureaplasma* is chlamydia-free. Wish all you want; it's just not true. But if you start to allow for interaction, you can see how incredibly complex movements can emerge from lots of simple "particles" if they can have basic communication, and respond to the environment. Things like nerve cells growing into a brain, or cancer cells migrating – or even, apparently, political movements. I don't quite believe the last claim, but then who would have thought a mosh pit was a great place for physics research? That's science, bitches.

*By Elsie Jacobson | @ScienceBitches\_*

## Do you plan to make changes to your course?

### Make them by 4 April or wait until 28 April.



From Saturday 5 April until Sunday 27 April, the system for course changes will be offline while the University works on the e:Vision student portal.

Try to make any first semester course changes by Friday 4 April.

For further information, contact the University Information Centre.

0800 80 80 98

[university@otago.ac.nz](mailto:university@otago.ac.nz)

**askotago**

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# SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS A LEGAL, MORE HARMFUL VERSION OF NATURAL CANNABIS

**P**SYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ARE THE ACTIVE ingredients in party pills, energy pills and herbal highs. They are like any other drug, with many people experiencing problems of addiction. The Psychoactive Substances Act commenced on 18 July 2013 and regulates the importation, manufacture and supply of psychoactive products. However, despite regulation of the substances, five varieties of the drugs have already been revoked due to being too harmful. Damning the drugs further, a number of counsellors have spoken out about recommending synthetic addicts use natural cannabis in place of synthetic varieties because of the harm they cause. Despite attempts to regulate, there appears to be an anomaly between the use of legal drugs developed as an alternative to cannabis and the fact these alternatives may present more harm than the very model itself.

Most recently, Bay of Plenty (BOP) Addiction Services have revealed their counsellors are encouraging some synthetic addicts to smoke natural cannabis. The revelations are contained in a draft policy to further limit the sale of psychoactive products, as reported by the Policy and Planning Committee to the Western Bay of Plenty District Council in February this year. BOP Addiction Services, which comes under the district health board, and Te Puna Hauora, a community mental health service, revealed in the report that "the majority of people presenting used to use cannabis and have switched to psychoactive substances most probably because it can't be detected in any work drug tests and it's legal. However, they seem to have more health problems with psychoactive substances than cannabis."

The report states: "They note that 16-17 year olds are a 'total mess' and in fact recommend that they use cannabis in preference to synthetic cannabis. Anecdotally they are aware of death as a result of consuming psychoactive substances."

The report also indicated that while a number of those presenting for help with psychoactive substances is "relatively small," significant problems experienced with use of the drugs include hallucinations, seizures, and impulsivity such as climbing out of moving cars. The report was unclear as to whether these were symptoms of use, or were due to withdrawal from the substances.

The ODT also reported in June 2013 that Dunedin Community Alcohol and Drug Services clinician Mark Greco promoted the use of cannabis to synthetic cannabis addicts because it is the "lesser of two evils." He highlighted the different agonists – a chemical that binds to a cell receptor and triggers a response – in natural and synthetic varieties of cannabis. He said that cannabis has a partial agonist and thus a partial efficacy, while synthetic cannabis has a full agonist and has full efficacy. He was also reported as highlighting the issue of drug use in different settings. He said, "Cannabis has more of a spiritual cultural background to it. People listen to music and they know what they're in for. It's not about getting completely off your face."

***"Dunedin Community Alcohol and Drug Services clinician Mark Greco promoted the use of cannabis to synthetic cannabis addicts because it is the 'lesser of two evils.'"***

Synthetic cannabinoids are chemicals that mimic the effect of THC – one of the ingredients in cannabis which helps get one high. Their appeal to many is, of course, their legality, and that they can be used to avoid strict student and workplace drug-testing regimes. While many may be harmful and nasty, they are generally cheap and effective.

The Psychoactive Substances Act came into effect on 18 July 2013 and regulates the importation, manufacture and supply of psychoactive products. The purpose of the Act is "to protect the health of, and minimise harm to, individuals who use psychoactive substances." The Act aims to balance the demand for access to such substances with the risk of likely harm to individuals and society. Manufacturers are required to have their products assessed in order to prove that they are low risk before they are approved. There are also additional restrictions on the sale to minors, no sales from convenience stores, limited advertising, childproof packaging and clear listing of ingredients and health warnings.

However, the Act has not been without the continued recognition of problems with synthetic cannabinoids. The National Poisons Centre has

reported a rise in calls from doctors and ambulance officers reporting breathing problems, paranoia and recurrent psychotic episodes in relation to the drug. Doctors have also reported concerns following an increase in clients using emergency services following adverse effects of taking them. In the February issue of *Matters of Substance*, a magazine by the New Zealand Drug Foundation, Max Daly talked about the framework of New Zealand's synthetic drug legislation, which is receiving attention globally. "While New Zealand's New Psychoactive Substances regulation is sensible, it leaves us with a situation where some substances, synthetic cannabinoids, for example, are legal while arguably less toxic ones like cannabis are banned and the most dangerous drugs, such as heroin and crack, are left to roam wild. Common sense says the only way of solving this narcotic riddle is either to control all drugs or prohibit all drugs out of existence."

*Critic* spoke with Bruce Atmore, the Principal Advisor of the Psychoactive Substances Regulatory Authority at the Ministry of Health. When queried about the continuing problems with synthetic cannabis and some counsellors' inclination to recommend natural cannabis, he said that "[the Ministry] treat natural cannabis as a different substance," and that comparisons between natural and synthetic cannabis won't be made by government. "One reason for the Psychoactive Substances Act is that it's about regulating substances already under control."

He said that it is "a lot more complex" than saying that synthetic cannabinoids are more harmful than natural cannabis. "There are strong synthetic cannabis substances out there, many that are banned by default. And there are more mild strains that are more likely to be approved. So the 40-odd that are approved products are substances that present a lower risk of harm."

He also highlighted that like any drug use, the user's state of mind and physiology will come into play and acknowledged that some users of synthetic cannabinoids have reported disorientation, nausea and headaches. "If we're looking at the severe end, there have been incidents with kidney problems, and we have subsequently revoked and withdrawn five products, so those have completely exited off the market, and that is because we did have verified reports of medical harm. Those products no longer met our threshold for approved products." He said that it was necessary to look at how truthful reports



of drug use are: how a user took the drug, and how much they took.

"The very nature of [synthetic cannabinoids] is they are for the purpose of getting a psychoactive effect. And we need to distinguish between that and harm."

Admore said the Ministry "can't speak for the individual counsellors," but that "the Ministry doesn't endorse [promoting one substance over the other]." Admore noted that the Ministry administers both the Psychoactive Substances Act and Misuse of Drugs Act. "[Natural cannabis and synthetic cannabis] are quite separate. Government maintains the position that cannabis is an illegal substance and that the Psychoactive Substances Act is a separate piece of legislation."

Critic also spoke with Mark Chignell, the Clinical Group Leader at Student Health Counselling Services who said it was "curious" that counsellors would advocate any drug use over another. He highlighted that the counsellors' remarks needed to be looked at in light of Community Alcoholic and Drug Services (CADS) and Student Health dealing with "an entirely different clientele," particularly because CADS deal with addicts who have been specifically referred to them for serious addiction issues.

He said it was important to put addiction to one side and look at the complications around both synthetic cannabis and natural cannabis. "[Student Health] see chronic natural substance users do less well academically, higher drop out rates, poorer relationships, and their general ability to cope with life is reduced." Chronic users have a tendency to overcome their reduced lifestyle by doing more of the drug in an attempt to relax their anxieties. In Synthetic users, they see a lot of anxiety, paranoia, depression and panic attacks. "What [addiction] creates is dysfunction. Synthetic cannabinoid use creates a whole different plethora of problems." Chignall said that we see "quite a few [people] that have a really bad experience. The anxiety, the panic, the depression is pervasive."

Chignell added that even at the Ministry of Health level, it is "acknowledged" that synthetic cannabinoids are harmful, "so why would you allow it? There is a level of craziness." Despite being treated differently in the eyes of the law, he said "with either [synthetic cannabis or natural cannabis], you are playing Russian roulette in a way." Any reaction to the drug will depend on the make-up of the person, whether it be their physical or mental state.

Chignell reiterated that Student Health "do not advocate any use of mind altering substances."

*"Even at the Ministry of Health level, it is 'acknowledged' that synthetic cannabinoids are harmful, 'so why would you allow it? There is a level of craziness.' Despite being treated differently in the eyes of the law, he said 'with either [synthetic cannabis or natural cannabis], you are playing Russian roulette in a way.'"*

Chignall said that "when you actually begin to delve into it" the different harms present in natural cannabis and synthetic cannabinoids are "a really complex interlay of factors." He said that drug use is often an issue of setting, and that "the setting is more likely to create different forms of harm." He said, "Generally, when a person were to take natural cannabis, they are more likely to be in a setting where they are in a flat, having a few beers, in a relaxing situation, or just kicking back. A synthetic product is more likely to be taken at a party, clubbing, and other stimulants will be involved."

But in terms of counselling, everyone is treated "as an individual" and the emphasis is on "harm reduction." Sadly, some students would need help beyond what Student Health can provide. "If it is natural marijuana products and their life has become dysfunctional, it may be that we refer them to secondary services. With synthetic products, by the time they come to us it's often too late. The reaction is so severe they need to go to secondary health services to get the care they need. It's harsh."

By Claudia Herron | @Claudia\_Herron







# BARTER, BANTER AND A CONDOM

While trading a good for another good of similar or equal value used to be an everyday practice, this type of exchange has now largely become a thing of the past.

In a burst of nostalgia, Max Callister-Baker goes on a quest to resurrect bartering in the modern context of the Dunedin student community.

**"I HAVE THIS CONDOM,"**  
I TOLD THE PERSON STANDING AT THE DOOR.

**"WANNA TRADE?"**

**A**ND SO MY BANTERING JOURNEY BEGAN. THE mission I had set myself was to see how far I could go trading items for slightly better ones, starting with a condom. However, before I even began I spent 20 minutes gathering up the courage to go knocking on doors. I couldn't quite figure out why it was so nerve-wracking approaching houses at the start. You pass them every day. Inside them are things identical to your own. Yet walking up to one you don't know triggers a sense of uneasiness. You are in someone else's property that you weren't invited into. You don't know the type of person who owns it. You are walking into a space where you have to justify being there. The person on the other side of the door is in his or her fort of safety and you are a stranger whose intentions are unknown. If things go badly he or she only has to close the door, and you're left back at the start.

The girl who opened the first door I knocked on gave me a funny look. I realised I would really have to work the conversation in order to make her feel disarmed, otherwise she wouldn't actually think about engaging in my question and instead focus on a polite way to end the conversation and close the door on me. At first she was hesitant but soon she warmed up and

**"FOR THEM, THERE ARE MINIMAL REPERCUSSIONS FOR CRACKING A JOKE ABOUT A STRANGER AT THEIR DOOR. THEY ARE IN THEIR OWN HOME; THE STRANGER IS OUTSIDE. THEY ARE WITH THEIR FLATMATES; THE STRANGER IS ALONE."**

left briefly to consult with her flatmates. *Do I step inside or wait by the door?* I wondered to myself. She had a laugh with one of her flatmates then returned to me with a mostly full bottle of Spray and Wipe. Not a bad start. I gave her the condom.

The next flat took me by surprise. Unlike the previous one, the door opened straight up to the living room; so when one of the female occupants opened it, I instantly observed five more female faces staring back at me. I don't know how successful I was at keeping it casual; I might as well have been pushed on stage, and



I wondered how red my face was turning. It was a strange type of tension. On one hand it's empowering to be at the centre of attention – on the other, you feel at the mercy of being openly judged. For them, there are minimal repercussions for cracking a joke about a stranger at their door. They are in their own home; the stranger is outside. They are with their flatmates; the stranger is alone. They also have the discretion to answer or deny the request. After a lengthy discussion among themselves, they offered me a chair. This was going way too well.

My exchange at the next house was probably the smoothest of my entire experience. The guy who opened the door was looking to get rid of a lot of junk and was genuinely interested in the whole project. He brought out a little plastic box, and then from inside of the box, he pulled out a remote-control helicopter and flew it around the room. This was awesome, but there was a problem. While the first few items were relatively cheap and common, a remote control helicopter started to push the value of what people were willing to give up.

My visits along Anzac Street were fast, painful failures. It must have been getting late into wanker o'clock because the majority of the guys that answered the doors told me that they didn't have anything to exchange within a moment of me explaining my mission. Once you find yourself on a rejection streak it's natural to want to give up. With my enthusiasm derailed I decided to give the one house at the end of the block a shot before calling it a night. I knocked on the door and a chorus of screams sounded out from somewhere inside the house. I wish I hadn't approached the house but it was too late to run away. I'd obviously given the group of girls a fright so when one of them answered the door I let them know I wasn't Freddy Krueger. At least I had their attention. This frightening start turned out to be a great thing as we had a good laugh about it. It only got better when I asked if they had anything to swap and they offered me a blender. Things had turned around. However, before any exchange occurred, the girls asked me to prove the remote controlled helicopter worked. I pulled it out and hit the buttons. Nothing happened. Things got pretty awkward. I thought that maybe it needed a flying start so I threw it up in the air then hit the buttons, but this only resulted in it crashing to the ground. They offered me a puzzle for it instead. I couldn't believe it; I was going backwards.

**“WHILE THE FIRST FEW ITEMS WERE RELATIVELY CHEAP AND COMMON, A REMOTE CONTROL HELICOPTER STARTED TO PUSH THE VALUE OF WHAT PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO GIVE UP.”**

**“I STARTED TO PICK UP RECURRING SIGNS THAT LET ME KNOW RIGHT AWAY THAT I WASN'T WELCOME: THE DOOR WOULD ONLY BE SLIGHTLY OPEN; I WOULD ONLY SEE HALF A HEAD POKE OUT; THE OCCUPANT WOULD ONLY SAY A FEW WORDS. I FELT AS IF I WAS THE BAD TAX COLLECTOR AND EVERYONE HAD WARNED EACH OTHER OF MY ARRIVAL, OR THAT THERE WAS A SECRET THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WAS TRYING TO HIDE.”**

Not accepting this embarrassing fate, I went back to the previous guy and he gave me a tutorial in flying a toy helicopter. I then rushed back to where I came from and began my second attempt at flying. Oddly, while setting it up, the house's occupants began asking me for some dating advice – in particular what to do if a guy they like is oblivious to them liking him. *Well, that was a mundane question*, I thought to myself. It turned out they went to a Pentecostal church, so I figured even talking to a boy for them was a big step. Maybe when my masculine hand knocked on their door it had been such an intimate experience for them, that it had sent a wave of man-particles causing them to wet themselves. To seal the deal with the blender, I promised them I'd hit up their church this coming Sunday. *What was I getting myself into?*

The next day I started at the flats on the hill just beyond the Bog, then continued to make my way upward. Although there were a lot of steep paths to walk up, the houses were in tight proximity to each other, which made things more simple. My first attempts of exchange all the way to Scotland Street were quickly shot down with conversations lasting less than 30 seconds. I started to pick up recurring signs that let me know right away that I wasn't welcome: the door would only be slightly open; I would only see half a head poke out; the occupant would only say a few words. I felt as if I was the bad tax collector and everyone had warned each other of my arrival, or that there was a secret the whole community was trying to hide. I entertained the idea of beginning my conversations with "you know what I want" just to see people's reactions. Maybe my luck had finally run out.

I approached a rather big house on London Street with what had to be over 100 empty beer bottles crowding the outside – a classic indicator of a student flat. When I knocked, I prepared myself for a big bloke in shorts, a singlet and jandals to answer. How wrong I was. Instead, a young skinny girl with a nose piercing opened the door. Once I told her my project, it was as if I'd thrown a bucket filled with excitement, happiness and unicorn jizz in her face. She took me inside and leapt into her *"Harry Potter corner"* where she explored for various items. Her flatmates, curious as to the commotion, came out of their rooms. Once the first girl told my story they started bouncing ideas off each other about what to swap. It was like watching kids building up each other's excitement

## “WHILE THE OFFERS STARTED PILING UP — AN OLD TV, A MATTRESS, A SEMI-NEW TENNIS RACKET, A DESK, A COUCH ( AND ONE PARTICULAR GIRL IN A FLAT EVEN OFFERED SEXUAL FAVOURS ) — THERE WERE NO OFFERS THAT SEEMED CLEARLY BETTER THAN THE SUITCASE”

as they figured out what toy to bring for show-and-tell. I stood there in silence. Before they reached a conclusion, however, I had to show them that the blender worked. Again, like my first attempt with the helicopter, nothing I was doing could get it going. A deep, sinking feeling washed over me. Suddenly, the blender came to a roaring start, which was so unexpected that we all simultaneously screamed.

While it was a bucket of awesomeness that seemed to have washed over the girls in the flat initially, this time it seemed like a waterfall. I was taken back and forth between different locations of the flat, trying to find the most ideal item. Suddenly one of them thought of the suitcase a previous girl had left behind, and dragged it out from a corner in the room. The flatmates then made me close my eyes as they put a huge range of various items inside the suitcase; everyone was in hysterics. It was like the other kids had banded together and donated me, the poor kid, their most awesome gifts. After thanking them for their help, I made my way back into the streets. Although I was grateful, it felt wrong. When people normally have a fun experience with each other, they make some plans to do it again. But since my business was the project and not them, I felt I would be breaking a silent rule if I made a move to get to know them beyond what I was doing — still, it felt like I had missed out on getting to know some delightful people. When you're feeling alone, the echoing noise of a suitcase's wheels against the pavement certainly does not help.

Unsurprisingly, I made things difficult for myself knocking on strangers' doors with a suitcase behind me at 9 o'clock in the evening. For the first time in my life I began reflecting on what

body language represents "homeless" and what represents "non-homeless." If I wasn't uncomfortable enough, I started finding the houses further along all had gates. I tried to do everything as slow as possible to look non-suspect. I was making my way up to the door of one of the houses along Grand Street when a German Shepard came bursting out, barking madly. Here's the thing about dogs — when you see one on a walk with their owner, they are the most approachable, joyful creatures on the earth. However, when it's just you there — alone, uninvited, and on their property — a barking dog becomes a completely different story.

The first few seconds you try to reason slowly with it, as if it was a foreign tourist who couldn't speak much English. Like if you say "calm down" slow and nice enough it will take a deep, deep breath and walk away. Then you realise you're talking to a dog. I slowly backed off, or more like I began slowly walking off then turned my pace into a quick walk. I let the dog know that it was great getting to know him, we should catch up later sometime over a beer and his teeth were looking impressive — but I had better be on my way. As I was walking backwards, however, my grand exit quickly turned into a grand disaster as I tripped over. The dog came running up to me. I dropped the suitcase and threw myself over the fence. I had either just missed out on a slobbery dog hug or becoming a Scooby Snack. I then spent the next 15 minutes waiting around the corner for the dog to move away. Eventually it did and I rushed back in to grab the suitcase. I called it a night.

The following day I aimed for more student-friendly streets. Flat after flat fell in love with the mysterious suitcase. But, while I was

constantly getting good responses, most of them weren't that interested in trading and instead they simply enjoyed opening it up and looking through it. This happened so many times that I considered starting a career as the mysterious suitcase man. Maybe people could exchange their most interesting items for those inside the suitcase once they had pillaged through it all. Like a Mr Whippy jingle, the wheels echoing against the gravel could be my signature noise, signalling my approach.

After a while, I reached an apartment complex. It was like finding a gold nugget. Everyone was right next to each other, which made it easy to go between them. What was intimidating, however, was that the main entrance was a slide door, which opened straight to the living room. This meant that when I approached it, I was constantly stared-down by half a dozen people on the couches inside. Still, I went in. While the offers started piling up — an old TV, a mattress, a semi-new tennis racket, a desk, a couch (and one particular girl in a flat even offered sexual favours) — there were no offers that seemed clearly better than the suitcase, even though I had kept my promise to the girls on London Street and never looked when people searched through the suitcase. I did, however, overhear some cheeky, revealing comments such as "how high can I get on this?" and "this will go well with the lube!"

I walked out of the complex, disappointed that I hadn't managed to trade up despite all the opportunities. My shoulders began to droop with resignation, when a guy came rushing out after me with the offer to trade his mini fridge. It was of a good size and in all right condition. I was sceptical at first, but he added the case for the fridge into the negotiation and I agreed to the deal. As we shook on it, a big cheer came from a group of people around us. The people slowly disappeared back into their homes, leaving me at the entrance to the apartment complex. I felt a moment of pride at how well everything had gone ... then a crucial question dawned on me: "how the fuck do I take this home?"







# 5 surprising things I learned about psychopaths

From James Bond to Hannibal Lector, individuals with psychopathic tendencies continue to captivate people around the world. **Lucy Hunter** explores the defining aspects of psychopathy and ponders whether she risks adopting the dark and charismatic traits she obsesses over.

**I** WISH I WERE A LITTLE BIT MORE OF A psychopath. I don't mean so that I had the guts to hack people into little pieces and stuff them in the walls. I don't want to do that. Honestly.

Some psychopaths may want to crack open your head and eat your brain like Hannibal Lector. Some may want to bludgeon you to death and rape your corpse like Ted Bundy. But the right kind of psychopath – charming, cool, manipulative, charismatic, fearless, ruthless, persuasive, and narcissistic – may not be a criminal. In fact they may be more like James Bond than Patrick Bateman.

I spent a worrying amount of my summer reading about psychopaths, and found some surprising facts about them, some of which actually make psychopathy seem quite desirable. If you take Robert Hare's psychopath test and get over 27 out of a possible 40 marks on his "Psychopathy Checklist," you are diagnosed as clinically psychopathic. Around one per cent of the population is estimated to be psychopathic. And only a small percentage of them are in prison. This is because ...

## 01.

**PSYCHOPATHS ARE FREAKIN' AWESOME AT SOME THINGS.**

Have you ever suspected that your boss may be a psychopath? Well, there is a fair chance that they could be. If a psychopath is violent and

has a low IQ, they are likely to end up in prison. But if they have a high IQ and are not violent, it is far more likely that the psychopath will live an ordinary life. They may even do very well for themselves. Many high-powered, mentally demanding jobs have a much higher percentage of psychopaths than in the general population.

An estimated four per cent of CEOs are clinically psychopathic. It is more likely that you work for a psychopath than have one as your subordinate. In his book *The Wisdom of Psychopaths*, Kevin Dutton explores the positive aspects of psychopathy. He did a survey to find the most psychopathic occupations. As well as CEOs, surgeons, lawyers, journalists, media workers, police officers, and religious leaders also rated high on the list. "Psychopath" may be a scary word in our society, but being a functional one does appear to pay off. John Ronson calls it "The madness that makes the world go round – a preponderance of psychopaths at the heart of the political and business elites."

What Dutton calls the "Seven Deadly Wins" are psychopathic traits that can be extremely useful in modern living, without necessarily making you a horrible person or a criminal. They are: ruthlessness, charm, focus, mental toughness, fearlessness, mindfulness, and action.

Debate about whether psychopaths are born or created continues. But there is now evidence that psychopathy may be caused by a lack of activity in the amygdala, the emotional centre of





the brain. This dulled amygdala means that psychopaths can remain extraordinarily cool under incredible pressure. They can work emotionally draining jobs and still sleep at night. And, yes, they can lie, manipulate, deceive, brown-nose, and backstab their way to the top of the job pile. "I have no compassion for those whom I operate on," says a top neurosurgeon. "That is a luxury I simply cannot afford. In the theatre I am reborn: as a cold, heartless machine, totally at one with scalpel, drill and saw." He describes a hyper-real clarity that settles over his vision when he operates. His mind goes quiet and allows him only to focus on the job at hand.

Creepy stuff. But in many ways a good attitude to have in surgery. An ice-cold psychopathic calm is preferable to an emotional, nervous surgeon. A lack of fear and emotions also means that ...

02.

### PSYCHOPATHS ARE BASICALLY INCURABLE.

If you weren't worried about anything, why would you want to change?

It is uncomfortable to think that a human being can simply have no conscience. Journalist Jon Ronson investigated Elliot Barker, a kind-hearted 1960s psychiatrist who really cared about criminal psychopaths. He thought they could be rehabilitated if given the right, loving environment to allow their consciences to flower. Inspiration for his therapy came from unconventional psychiatrist R. D. Laing. Laing's son, Adrian Laing, says: "My father believed that if you allowed madness to take its natural course without intervention – without lobotomies and drugs and straitjackets and all the awful things they were doing at the time in mental hospitals – [the illness] would burn itself out, like an LSD trip working its way through the system."

And so Elliot attempted to encourage a group of 12 violent psychopaths to blossom into regular people via the world's first ever "marathon Nude Psychotherapy session." With LSD. The therapy is exactly what it sounds like – psychotherapy done in the nude, with patient-lead activities such as "crotch eye-balling," by a bunch of psychopathic criminals with minds saturated in psychedelic drugs. They were locked in a

room called the "Total Encounter Capsule" with no distractions but each other's naked bodies and their tripping-out drug-addled minds. They sucked food through feeding tubes sticking out of the walls. They did this for 11 day stretches. The treatment seemed to be going well. Psychopaths were opening up, talking about their feelings and listening to each other. Many who were previously thought incurable were released back into society, with some even living with Barker on his family's farm.

**“Asked why he did it, he replied that he “wanted to see the effect that a hatchet had on a human body” and “wanted to see what it felt like to kill someone.”**

Barker's good intentions came from him not wanting to believe that a human can truly have no conscience. Under normal circumstances, criminal psychopaths have a 60 per cent re-offence rate on release from prison.

Unfortunately for Elliot Barker, the psychopaths released after undergoing his treatment at Oak Ridge Hospital had an 80 per cent re-offence rate.

They had become worse. Some even credited their therapy for helping them be even more manipulative. They had learned more devious ways of faking empathy. One psychopath, Peter Woodcock, was in prison for paedophilia and murder. He was released for three hours, during which time he killed his prison mate with a hatchet. Asked why he did it, he replied that he "wanted to see the effect that a hatchet had on a human body" and "wanted to see what it felt like to kill someone." When reminded that he had killed other people in the past, he replied, "Yeah, but that was years and years and years and years ago."

Poor Elliot Barker was finally obliged to abandon his noble project. He became a director of the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, where he specialises in counselling

the children of psychopaths. He says in an interview: "I founded the society because it seemed to me clear that our ability to treat psychopaths was just about nil. We tried very hard with the treatment programs there but the results were disappointing. A psychopath is a person who has an inability to empathise with other people. I think that's the core element of psychopathy: an inability to empathise."

Psychopaths have been shown to actually be better at faking empathy than ordinary people. But it's a learned response. They know what's appropriate to show in that situation. There's nothing inside. The feelings just aren't there. Which seems surprising when you consider ...

03.

### PSYCHOPATHS HAVE A LOT IN COMMON WITH BUDDHIST MONKS

Do you suffer from depression? Anxiety? Do you procrastinate? Congratulations! You are not a psychopath. I have spent most of my life procrastinating. I live with a constant gnawing guilt and anxiety about my own pathetic laziness while not often doing any work to ease it. I know that the only thing that will make me feel better is to do the work, I know that I actually like the work I do, but I still often don't do it. Someone once said that humans could achieve great things if they put up with slight discomfort, but we will go to huge lengths to avoid slight discomfort. I honestly believe most of the problems in my life would disappear if I could stop procrastinating. Psychopaths don't procrastinate.

The reason for this seems to be that the psychopath's naturally sluggish amygdala not only dulls "positive" emotions like conscience and empathy, but also fear, anxiety, worry about what others think of them, about the past, and about the future. Their brains are naturally anchored in the present moment. Woodcock saying his last murder was "years and years ago" is testament to this – he thrives off fresh, present experience rather than dwelling on memories. This is also why criminal psychopaths don't respond well to punishment. They don't dwell on it once it's over, and so are likely to reoffend.





Who do you think this quote is from? "I think the problem is that people spend so much time worrying about what might happen, what might go wrong, that they completely lose sight of the present. They completely overlook the fact that, actually, right now, everything's perfectly fine." The Dalai Lama? Actually, it is Leslie, a convicted murderer from Broadmoor Hospital, a high security forensic institution in the U.K.

When wired up to machines measuring their brain patterns and heart rates, the results of psychopaths and Buddhist monks who have devoted their lives to achieving presence of mind are remarkably similar. Both groups' startled responses to loud noises or disturbing images are negligible compared to regular people. Both are largely unaffected by the anticipation or memory of fear or pain. Monks are basically psychopaths with empathy.

Meanwhile most of us are half-crippled by anxiety about the past and future, about what people think of us, and of possible dangers that may happen. Mildly unpleasant acts like calling someone to tell them bad news seems much, much worse in our minds than in the actual reality of doing it. We worry about things we can't change or that don't exist.

Psychopaths just don't feel that anxiety. Which is why ...

04.

#### BEING PSYCHOPATHIC CAN MAKE YOU A HERO

If you've ever wanted to put a badly hurt animal out of its misery by killing it quickly but not been able to bring yourself to do it out of horror or squeamishness, you've had a struggle of conscience that a psychopath would not feel. You want to kill the animal to stop its suffering, but the thought of causing it further injury is horrific. In a similar vein, psychopaths are often better at making truly altruistic decisions than non-psychopaths. Would you go back in time and kill Hitler as a baby if you had the chance? A psychopath probably would.

They may also be more likely to save your life. Psychopaths make tough, utilitarian decisions faster and with less anxiety than regular people.

They are also much happier to put themselves in danger or high-risk situations than ordinary people.

If a psychopath knew there was someone inside a burning building, their extraordinary presence of mind may cause them to go "why the fuck not?" and run inside to save them. They may genuinely want to save the person, or they may do it for kicks, or for the praise they will get. Who cares?

Some top SAS soldiers are psychopaths. So are some very good bomb deactivators. Kevin Dutton thinks that Neil Armstrong was perhaps one, judging by his incredible cool while landing on the moon with just a few seconds' worth of fuel remaining. He says for a psychopath, heroic feats are not so much about keeping your head in the heat of the moment as not feeling the heat at all.

But, of course, the lack of anxiety when it comes to the preservation of human life also means psychopaths can make the most terrifying, cold-hearted killers. Psychopaths are simultaneously appealing and appalling. This is what makes them so fascinating. But be warned, because ...

05.

#### OBSESSING ABOUT PSYCHOPATHY CAN MAKE YOU PSYCHOPATHIC

While reading about this stuff, my own obsession began to freak me out. I was also talking about psychopaths far too much. I was thinking about them too much. I started watching serial-killer documentaries late at night. I found John Wayne Gacy particularly nasty. He is called "The Killer Clown" because he used to dress up as a clown for children's parties. He also enjoyed torturing young men and boys to death and burying them under his house. After falling asleep I had a nightmare about him, and was woken abruptly by my cat doing an eerily deep, human-sounding cough. After three seconds of terror and panic I thought enough, I have to stop looking at this shit. But it's creepily exciting. I was back on the Dennis Nilson Wikipedia page in the morning. But worse than that, I started to fancy myself as a bit of a psychopath spotter. After smugly giving myself a 2/40 mark for psychopathy, I set out,

armed with Bob Hare's "Psychopathy Checklist," and started diagnosing everyone around me. It's a dangerous thing to do. You will begin to see psychopaths everywhere. Any behaviour that seems un-psychopathic is exactly what a real psychopath would do to convince you they are normal, empathetic human beings. I started chewing on the wackiest extremities of a friend's personality in order to mush her into a psychopath-shaped spitball to flick like a schoolyard bully at my feature. I was thinking, "she's so charming and funny, but she cheated on her boyfriend and didn't seem to care about it. And she's persuasive. Psychopath!"

I, who am not even a psychology student, let alone a psychologist, was going to label my friend a psychopath and print it in public. After reading a couple of shitty books. I was ignoring all the good aspects of my friend's personality and focusing on the worst bits. What a horrible, fucked-up, psychopathic thing to do. A person having two or three psychopathic characteristics is not enough. You need a cluster of them which hang together to form a psychopathic personality.

Jon Ronson warns of the "corrosive danger of judging someone by their maddest edges." If you start psychopath spotting, you will see them everywhere, and become a power-crazed psychopath yourself.

So would you exchange some of your empathy for an equal loss of anxiety, sadness, and tendency to procrastinate? Do you sometimes wish that decisions in life were more black-and-white than you perceive them to be? Think of those desirable, psychopathic traits: ruthlessness, charm, focus, mental toughness, fearlessness, mindfulness, and action. A wuss like me could do with some more of the whole lot. I really think my life would be better if I spent less time worrying and procrastinating.

Of course, I could start meditating and try to become some kind of Buddhist monk. But seriously, that sounds quite hard and boring. If there were an easier way to dampen my amygdala a little bit in exchange for some more of these traits, I'd take it in a second. As long as I didn't turn into more of an arsehole than I already am. And, no, I wouldn't want to end up blocking up the plumbing with human meat either.





# opinion entitled to hearing?

troubled by recent stories of embezzlement in both government and university communities around the country, **loulou callister-baker** addresses issues of corruption within new zealand – ultimately advocating for the maintenance of transparency and for a turn away from complacency in the voting public.

## “corrupt”

IS A WORD THAT RESONATES; IT IS A WORD THAT condemns. Sometimes “corrupt” is used flip-pantly – tossed into political debate in a moment of red-cheeked irrationality or slipped into news headlines to overly simplify the crumbling of an authority figure or entire political body. Corrupt is not a word heard often in New Zealand. We are a nation filled with privileges and this creates a general feeling of ease; the more cynically inclined might even label this feeling as “complacency.” But, while cases of extreme corruption in New Zealand are rare, this does not mean they are impossible. The rarity, along with New Zealand’s reputation, should encourage us all to maintain awareness of corruption, reinforce sanctions that lower its likelihood, and – as the public or the media – report on it when it occurs.

But first, as always, there is an issue of definition. Whether a state or authority is corrupt or not is difficult to determine. In 2013, Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index ranked New Zealand and Denmark as the least corrupt countries in the world. Somalia, North Korea and Afghanistan all came in last place. Experts allocated scores based on perceived levels of corruption within the public sector of a country – defining corruption as the misuse of entrusted power for private gain. Reflecting New Zealand’s high ranking in both this index and others, Transparency International New Zealand’s website comments: “New Zealand’s public sector is consistently ranked among the least corrupt in the world. This reputation is not a coincidence. New Zealand has a long tradition of being first with legislation aimed at promoting human rights. Milestones include the Public Service Act 1912 and the Official Information Act 1982.”

However, what both this organisation and Emeritus Professor of Political Science at Victoria University, Robert Gregory, stress is the importance of not becoming too self-congratulatory about New Zealand’s ranking. “In key areas, passivity and complacency continue,” the 2013 NZ National Integrity System Assessment Executive Summary states. “New Zealand has not ratified the UN Convention against Corruption more than 10 years after signing it, and is not fully compliant with the legal requirements of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention more than 14 years after signing it.” As Professor Gregory also comments in his paper on good governance and corruption in New Zealand: “... it is worth noting that in New Zealand since the introduction of the State Sector Act 1988 there has been no central record kept of criminal offences committed by state servants. Nor is there in New Zealand any common law covering misconduct in public office, as there is in Britain and Hong Kong, for example.”

Complacency and ignorance are not the only issues with these ranking systems. Corruption and good governance don’t easily translate into numbers – and if they do, it’s a complicated translation with very subjective formulas at play.

"Probably the most common criticism of the WGI (and other indexes) is that the vast complexities of good governance cannot be reduced to any meaningfully precise single index number," Professor Gregory writes. "While a single composite number is seductive, and enables quick comparisons to be made among countries, the problem is that for comparative purposes these numbers are virtually meaningless, since they are based on sources and information which vary greatly between countries, and even within countries, over time."

As a citizen, the public sector's role in my life is integral; but as a citizen who is also a student, there is a further quasi-political body whose actions or inactions can have a large impact on my experience. When ACT's Education (Freedom of Association) Amendment Bill passed its third reading in 2011 it flipped-off student-body associations throughout the nation. ACT's Heather Roy commented that students were "free at last," describing the Bill as "Parliament's gift to students." But, despite the blow, student-body associations around New Zealand continued on. This September, with the general elections looming, it's not unspeakable that some passionate members of student bodies hope for the promise of change – of bettering the past's wrongs. And, for the most part, they deserve change and more support. It's not okay, for example, that Massey University's magazine *MASSIVE* was forced out of print despite the University's 34,000 students and journalism school. Of course, student-body associations do have their flaws and their conduct needs to be as transparent as possible. Cracks will form, and we need them to be visible when they do.

A sprinkling of news reports at the end of 2013 and in the beginning of 2014 suggest that in student body associations, where political careers can begin for many, temptation – or a simple lack of understanding – has resulted in questionable behaviour.

Late in 2013, certain OUSA Executive members sent the Association into a frenzy when they breached section 7.6 of the OUSA Constitution. The breach occurred when members voted contrary to a motion that stated that delegates attending the NZUSA Conference had to vote for

2013 OUSA President Francisco Hernandez in the NZUSA presidential elections. This was one of the first times in recent history – if not the first time ever – that OUSA's Constitution had been broken like this. The breach occurred due to a lack of experience and training on behalf of the offending Executive members. On the matter, Hernandez told *Critic*: "I've learned a lesson in politics from this: don't trust anyone. They'll either fuck up or they'll be disloyal, and either is as damaging." However, to OUSA's credit, appropriate sanctions for the offending members have been made, which included pay reductions and limitations on roles. Furthermore, at some point this year a Student General Meeting will be held to notify the student body of this breach of the OUSA Constitution. Don't forget your popcorn.

Another crack appeared in a University of Otago student association when it was revealed in the Vice-Chancellor Discipline Report 2013 that fourth year law student Charlotte Solomon, who at the time was President of the Maori Law Students' Association, fraudulently obtained money from the Association by making false invoices. A total of \$1,736.59 was stolen. The offending student was excluded from further enrolment with immediate effect, for an indefinite period, and sentenced to nine months' supervision, with an order to pay court costs of \$260 and the outstanding repayment.

In the windier lands of the capital, 2013 Massey Extramural Students' Society (EXMSS) President, Jeanette Chapman, has continued to make news headlines into 2014. In August last year, Massey's student magazine *MASSIVE* published an article revealing Chapman was receiving a salary of \$53,000. This salary included \$30,000 of extra funds that were approved by Chapman's executive team, who are believed to be made up of the past President's friends. Although Chapman claimed that \$30,000 of this salary came from her role

as Massey University's Student Association Federation Coordinator, she was recorded in a MUSA Executive meeting denying receiving this funding. Recent events in January this year have only added to the surmounting issues, with a suspicious request for, as Lucy Townend reported for *Stuff*: "Massey University Extramural Students' Society's \$200,000 nest egg to be moved into a mysterious trust has been filed, with no-one able to say what the money will be used for." The trust was reportedly set up by Chapman in October last year, but has not been granted charitable status.

It's not just the student associations that are getting caught up in questionable affairs; university staffs throughout the country have been in on the action as well. In 2010, practicing dentist and former head of oral rehabilitation at Otago's

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School of Dentistry, Dr Alan Graham Thomas Payne, pleaded guilty to two counts of using false documents to obtain pecuniary advantage and one of obtaining money by deception. His method? An elaborate act where the doctor pretended to provide patients with two sets of false teeth instead of one. In the time between 2002 and 2011, Jonathan Kirkpatrick – the former head of Auckland University of Technology's business innovation centre – fraudulently collected over half a million dollars from the

University. Kirkpatrick's technique was simple: false invoices in the names of Halsey Consulting, Business Custom Solutions and Eventure. Vice-Chancellor Derek McCormack told students at the time: "The discrepancies relate to money in the research and development field, and is not derived from student fees. Nevertheless, AUT is largely a student and taxpayer-funded organisation and remains accountable to the highest accounting standards." Later, in 2012, a remarkably similar case appeared when a University of Otago accounts manager, Graeme Jeffrey Pettitt, admitted to stealing approximately \$240,000 from the University. Over the course of seven years Pettitt made a staggering 72 fraudulent payments into a bank account he established for a fake creditor known as Hadaad Syndicate.

These stories resonate with their own kinds of tragedies. Sure, the offending figures were greedy and morally trite, but underlining each example is a type of desperation that makes me cringe and causes my trust in any political system to waver dangerously. These offenders are people who were once seen as leaders in the academic institutions they taught or learnt in and, simply stated, they should have known better. The negative social and economic repercussions are vast – as Transparency International state: "Frustration and general apathy among a disillusioned public result in a weak civil society." Furthermore, if one can profit from fraudulent means, there will always be someone missing out, which not only leads to the depletion of wealth within the victim institution, it also attacks fair market structures and competition.

These stories remind me of a letter from Jawaharlal Nehru to his 10-year-old daughter, Indira Gandhi (who would later become India's first and only female Prime Minister): "Everything in [the early] days belonged to the whole tribe and not to each member separately. Even the patriarch had nothing special to himself. As a member of the tribe, he could only have a share like any other member. But he was the organiser and he was supposed to look after the goods and property of the tribe. As his power increased, he began to think that these goods and property were really his own and not the tribe's. Or rather he thought that he himself, being the leader of

the tribe, represented the tribe. So we see how the idea of owning things for oneself began." In New Zealand's system of democracy, the people give power to the governing bodies and, ideally, this power should be used to benefit the whole of society, not the individual who holds it. If this is not done, the moral authority of democracy falters and institutions lose their legitimacy, sometimes irreconcilably so, depending on the sanctions in place.

**"65 per cent  
of people they  
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Further stories of embezzlement, both in student-body associations and university institutions, exist but are unable to be pursued, as they are protected by legal, professional privilege or a general feeling that "it wouldn't do" to call attention to one's own failings. "At any given moment there is an orthodoxy, a body of ideas which it is assumed that all right-thinking people will accept without question," George Orwell wrote in his essay about the media's self-censorship titled *The Freedom of the Press*. "It is not exactly forbidden to say this, that or the other, but it is 'not done' to say it, just as in mid-Victorian times it was 'not done' to mention trousers in the presence of a lady. Anyone who challenges the prevailing orthodoxy finds himself silenced with surprising effectiveness. A genuinely unfashionable opinion is almost never given a fair hearing, either in the popular press or in the highbrow periodicals."

Issues of corruption are meaningless to the wider community if they aren't reported on and exposed. The essence of democracy requires transparency – every time – because if we, the voting public, aren't informed, our choices are simply unintentionally uneducated and arbitrary. As New Zealand activist, barrister

and co-founder of Transparency International, Jeremy Pope, once stated: "'Transparency' is a term so frequently used and used in such diverse contexts that it is worth re-stating why it matters so much. Citizens have a right to information – a principle well established in such codes as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and New Zealand's Official Information Act 1982. Transparency is also a precondition for effective public debate, strengthens accountability, and promotes fairer and more effective and efficient governance." Transparency is not just about knowledge of the basic facts, but also the mechanisms and processes behind decisions, government bodies and student associations – requiring predictability and coherency at all times.

Transparency International, an organisation aimed at lowering corruption through increased exposure of it, revealed last year that 65 per cent of people they surveyed thought corruption had increased in New Zealand over the past two years. The reasons for this are varied. Some believe various activities surrounding the Christchurch earthquakes have been questionable and have come to the public's attention with a sense of unease. Others point to the increasing use of social media to spread news or inflate hype. Whatever the case, it comes down to each of us maintaining an active awareness and acceptance of how grey this area is – even in a number one-ranking country like New Zealand. This is a battle against complacency. As Professor Gregory concludes in his paper: "All public institutions – including the Institute of Governance and Policy Studies – and all components of civil society have to be committed to fostering, developing and sustaining an intelligent and balanced relationship between social science and social criticism. In the quest for good governance the real challenge is to ensure that while we have ever burgeoning stores of data and information, we also have more knowledge of what this data and information actually means, and – above all else – more wisdom in applying it." As students, part of an institution primarily focused on education, with the ability to vote in a myriad of both political and quasi-political elections, the battle starts here.



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# CRITIC

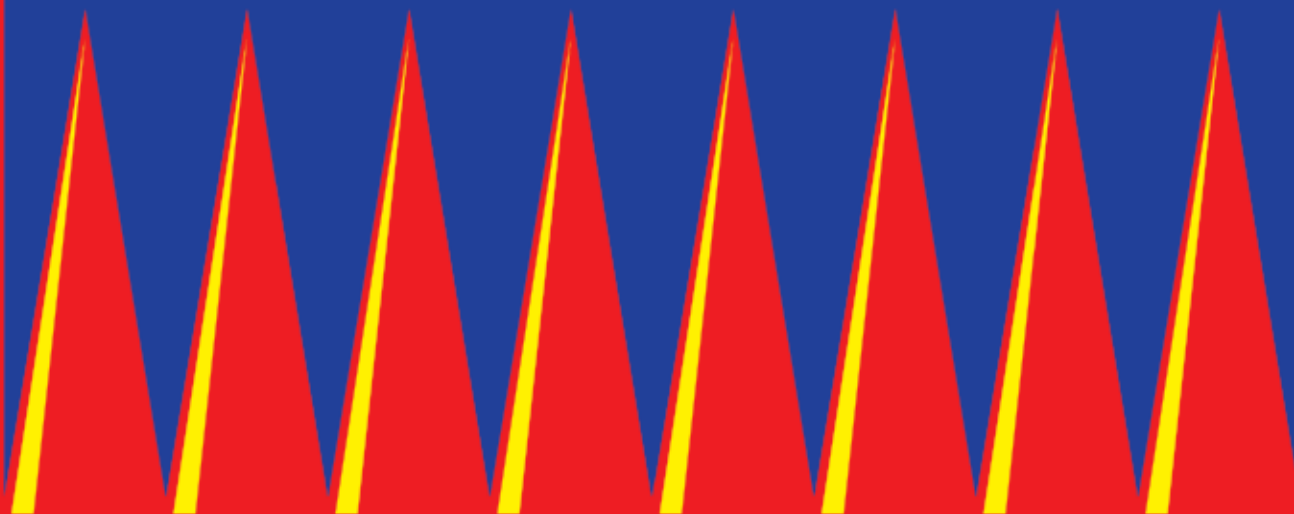
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di lusso  
BAR

# Love is Blind

*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](mailto:critic@critic.co.nz) or FB message us. 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.

## Q CYBELE

**W**HOEVER I REPLACED, YOU GOT LUCKY.

I got a call from *Critic* and was asked to replace the girl that had canceled. Boy, was I excited. I mean, it's Thursday night and I get drinks for free. What more can you ask for?

I arrived early and had a shot with the bartender. After a nice chat, my eyes wandered off in the direction of the storefront, only to find that my flatmates were scoping out the place. Mere seconds later, my date walked in.

When he came up to me, I had to hold back the laughter. He looked like a damn penguin, and he walked like one too. He was wearing a white dress shirt with a black vest and slacks, and the guy waddled from side to side like a huge stick was up his ass. I think he thought we were going to get married or something.

To make matters worse, he was a ginger. A carrot-top. A RANGA.

The entire time we were talking, my eyes were searching for his soul. Luckily, it only takes a few drinks to get me talking up a storm, and I pretty much carried the conversation. When it was time to leave, he invited me to play pool, and when he pulled out roses that he had been hiding, I was too nice to refuse.

We played pool and ended up at his flat. I had no idea how I got to his flat, but when he started serenading me and things got weird, I made an excuse to leave. Before I made it out the door, he went in for the hug and kiss. He landed one, and I had to fight to keep my food down. He asked me if I just choose not to kiss people back, and I should have answered with "Nope. Just you, bro."

He asked me for my number and when I hesitated, he just said never mind. I ran as fast as I could.

## ♂ ZEUS

**S**UITED UP, I STROLLED INTO THE EARLY EVENING AIR DETERMINED TO MAKE this blind date stand out from those before me that had fallen flat. I arrived at the bar to find my match waiting for me. After our introductions, it became apparent that this girl was here on exchange. This made me think the date was going to go one of two ways: she was either here to experience the pleasure of a Kiwi man or here to just chat and make friends.

Although conversation flowed smoothly, it was a hard task trying to establish commonalities between us. It was a likely culture clash and was going to make this an uphill battle. She was keen on the idea of playing pool though, so after finishing our food and drink tab I suggested we headed off to a nearby bar for a few games.

Before leaving, I had the bartender (a GC) pass over a rose I'd stashed there earlier in the afternoon. Every girl likes being surprised on a date, so surely this was going to spark some emotion from her. I handed her the rose and she took it with what could only be described as the best poker face I'd ever seen. Fucking great.

After a couple of rounds of pool (I've seriously never seen anyone play so shit) we began walking back to my place. Once back at the flat, I took her to my bedroom and could still sense I was getting nowhere with her. It was time for the coup de grace. I picked up my guitar (conveniently located beside the bed) and serenaded her with a stunning rendition of "Give Me Love." She stared at me blankly. Turned out she had no idea who Ed Sheeran is and had never heard any of his songs. Fucking great.

We shared a few kisses but it was obvious things weren't going anywhere. She then wanted to head home, so I gave her directions to her flat and let her walk back out into the night. I tried my best *Critic* readers; I tried.





## PEARLER

PAINTINGS BY EWAN MCDUGALL, POEMS BY SARAH MCDUGALL  
GALLERY DE NOVO - EXHIBITED UNTIL MARCH 2014

*"I am an Expressionist painter. I rarely plan a painting or do preparatory drawing. I commence the work with a quick wash of strong, primary colour and then begin to hurriedly paint figures of people, animals and hybrid creatures. I add crude marks for volcanoes, hills, sea, buildings, boats, clouds, sun and moon, working with vibrant impasto. The painting forms, and informs me as to what it is. The last stroke is always the title. Above all I prize spontaneity, colour and a good dose of irony. I love being a painter."* - Ewan McDougall

**E**WAN MCDUGALL IS A WELLINGTON-BORN artist who is based in Dunedin. He was educated in Oamaru, where the North Otago painter Colin Wheeler taught him painting. From there, Ewan attended the University of Otago, gaining an honours degree in Political Studies in 1971, before working as a junior lecturer and tutor at the University. After his time at the University, like most other "artists," he took some time off to travel and to experience. During the 1980s he travelled extensively, working numerous jobs here and there at pubs, fast food places, mines and on oil rigs (so bohemian), before finally moving home to New Zealand with his partner, Sarah McDougall. In 1988, he was referred to Queen Mary Hospital in Hamner Springs for treatment for addiction, a time that subsequently provided much inspiration for his earlier, and later, work. He began painting during his rehabilitation and developed a dynamic

personal style using thick, richly pigmented oil colours, inhabited by personal references to his outrageous and somewhat volatile lifestyle; a style that continued on into his later work, as displayed in Pearler.

McDougall has been painting full time since 1988 and has had 64 solo exhibitions in New Zealand regional galleries, dealer galleries and numerous group exhibitions – as well as exhibiting internationally. He is a figurative neo-expressionist, and using various brushes, knives, and his fingers in his studio, he creates works of wild excess, vigour and ecstasy with oils that are scraped, squeezed and splattered on to canvas, manifesting images of the memories that permeate his mind. There is a certain element of warmth in his passive-aggressive spontaneity that remains unforgettable, and above all there is a delicate sense of honesty, reflection and self-deprecating humour present

in all of his works.

Pearler, an exhibition and book of paintings and poems which celebrate the 30-year wedding anniversary – the Pearl Anniversary – of Ewan and Sarah McDougall and their creative life together; they collaborate to recount their past 30 years together. The exhibition and limited edition book is composed of seven poems to which Ewan has responded in paint, followed by eight of Ewan's paintings, to which Sarah has responded with poems. Paintings with titles like "Happiness Junky" and "Bad Mona Lisa," which feature childlike figures floating in empty spaces of vibrant colour, encapsulate the wild freedom that exists in their shared intimacy. McDougall states in his introduction to the book, "many of the themes and paintings owe a great deal to the fun, frivolity, chaos and pain of the past, as well as what I think of as the redemption. I am now free of mind-altering substances and today my mind is free to alter the world."

Art writer David Eggleston comments, "His wild-looking, clown like figures, swollen lips and squashed boxers' noses, painted viscerally and set adrift to bob and weave in eerie landscapes."

McDougall's bold and cavorting figures; scrawny-armed dancing stickmen grinning under the sun with candy-striped guts and wide, red eyes, leave an indelible impression of care-less drinking, drug fuelled fun and delightfully undignified oblivion; a familiar state for most. I was inspired.

By Hannah Collier | @HannahCollier21



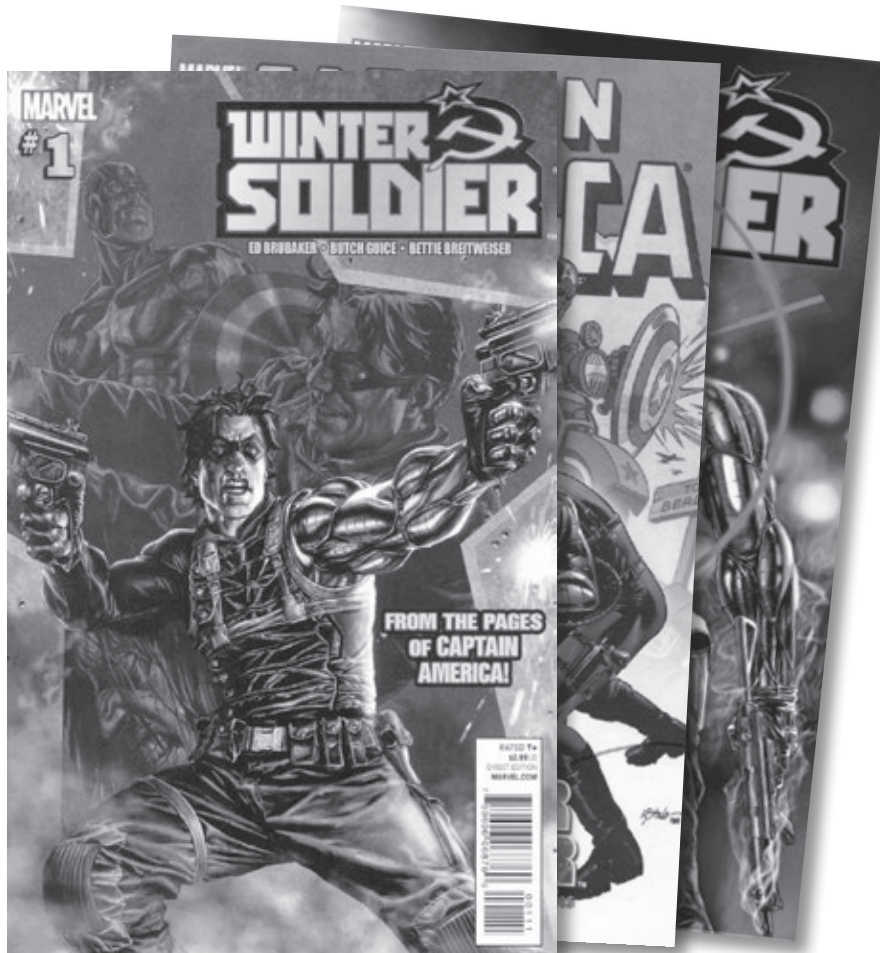
## CAPTAIN AMERICA: WINTER SOLDIER

BY ED BRUBAKER

**E**D BRUBAKER'S FIRST TWO COMIC BOOK-ARCS of Captain America tell the story of the Winter Soldier, a Soviet assassin and super-spy tied to Steve Rogers' past. Published in 2006, this book was the subject of much controversy, as it became clear within a few issues that there was a very real possibility of Bucky, Captain America's iconic sidekick, being brought back from the dead. That's over fifty years of meaningful, sacrificial death, which would break the golden comic book adage "only Bucky and Uncle Ben stay dead." Sullyng the memory of the American boy hero would have earned Brubaker a great deal of fan boy-hate ... if this weren't such an expertly crafted story in nearly every way. It breaks free of the "cape comic" status quo by telling a consistently gripping tale of espionage, mystery (murder mystery, even), responsibility and friendship.

The initial threat to Captain America is Cap's archenemy, the Nazi Red Skull. In an attempt to create a weapon of mass destruction (a "cosmic cube" or Tesseract, as you might know it from the Avengers), he must kill thousands of innocents. This sounds straightforward enough, but Brubaker creates a real aura of menace about the Skull, and with artist Steve Epting they make him scary and downright creepier than the villain has been in years. When intelligence informs Cap that the mythic Winter Soldier from the Cold War assassinated the Red Skull, he goes looking for the assassin. Captain America finds him, and sees a young man who appears to be a slightly older version of James "Bucky" Barnes, his World War II sidekick. Cap is understandably distraught and believes that somebody is playing mind games with him.

Brubaker's ability to tell both a personal and epic story at the same time is what makes it so engrossing and entertaining. Captain America fights to protect innocents against acts of terrorism, while his alter ego Steve Rogers struggles against his burden as an icon of freedom and the idea of Bucky as a murderer. This America-centric story seems enough to make us in the



rest of the world turn away in indifference, but Steve turning his back on his government and fighting for more moral reasons instead gives everyone something to root for. As his partner Sharon Carter suggests, Captain America is at his best when he fights for what's right, not for what he's told. He's a man of freedom and morals, he's susceptible to sadness and rage, but he's a human and this is a story of humanity and self-identity above all else.

Although the narrative steals the show, the art is absolutely gorgeous. A guest artist will crop up here and there, but most of the credit goes to Steve Epting. He manages to give the book an ominous dark feel, while never feeling monotonous or depressing. His style is grounded in a gritty realism that lends itself well to the human

narrative style and gives the action sequences a fierce, fluid energy, and dramatic lighting in more sombre scenes.

This book is extremely accessible, and clearly written to be easily consumed by those new to comics, and not bogged down by lore. It offers a solid introduction to the Marvel world, especially for those wanting to learn more about where the film *Winter Soldier* (which is coming out in theatres on 3 April) came from and who those characters are. And for those who fell in love with this story as hard and fast as I did, Brubaker went on to write another whopping 7 years of Captain America stories for Marvel, which never stop being entertaining and refreshingly thoughtful.

By Brandon Johnstone | @bwjohnstone



### Dr David CLARK MP for Dunedin North

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A+

## BLUE IS THE WARMEST COLOUR

DIRECTED BY ABDELLATIF KECHICHE

**B** *BLUE IS THE WARMEST COLOUR*, DIRECTED BY Abdellatif Kechiche, has been praised by some as the best movie of 2013, as well as unanimously winning the Palme d'Or at Cannes and being nominated for a BAFTA and Golden Globe. After watching the film myself, it was easy to see why.

(Warning: Unless you want complete lack of eye contact, followed by several years of awkwardness, do not watch this film with your parents).

*Blue Is the Warmest Colour* follows Adèle (Adele Exarchopolous), a quiet and reticent

high-school student with a passion for English and French literature, as she discovers her sexuality and enters into a relationship with Emma (Lea Seydoux), an art student several years her senior.

Exarchopolous is cast excellently in the role of Adèle and plays the part with perfection, shifting effortlessly from an introverted teen struggling to accept her sexuality in the face of her peers, to a fiery young woman who is head-over-heels in love. Seydoux is also a natural fit for her role, as she embodies a mysterious allure and has such powerful onscreen chemistry with Exarchopolous that you could mistake their romance as also happening off-screen.

Despite limited screen time, the supporting actors all do a wonderful job judging, accepting or flirting with Adèle depending on their role, and

help form some of the best scenes in the film. In one particular scene Emma meets Adèle's parents, whose disapproval of her artistic and free-spirited personality is obvious through the veneer of their social niceties, forming an almost palpable tension.

In *Blue Is the Warmest Colour*, Kechiche combines a brilliantly written script with subtle yet captivating cinematography and two exceptional performances from Exarchopolous and Seydoux. This film will intrigue, appal and engross the audience from the very first scene. In what has been a strong year for cinema, *Blue Is the Warmest Colour* is a film that demands attention amongst its peers and could certainly claim to be the best film of 2013.

By Nick Ainge-Roy | @CriticTeArohi



E

## WINTER'S TALE

DIRECTED BY AKIVA GOLDSMAN

**I** HAVE LIMITED SPACE FOR THIS REVIEW, SO I'LL just go ahead and start my list of "A Thousand Things Wrong with *Winter's Tale*," and we'll see how far we get. Big number one: cast. Colin Farrell couldn't sell the main character, a thief named Peter Lake, for a moment. With only his

two trademarked facial expressions to peddle in every scene he appears (the "Puckered-Brows" and then the "Getting Teary"), he is less the expressive Zoolander and more the proverbial plank. Russell Crowe, too, transparently did not believe he was a demon of the underworld and/or an Irish gangster, and neither did I. The females in the cast were utterly forgettable as they had meagre relevance to what passed for plot. Oh, yeah, the plot is that Peter Lake is pursued by a demon while trying to pursue true love.

The story arc was trivial to the point of absurdity, and told clumsily. Every time things look dire for Peter Lake, SUDDENLY A GIANT GUARDIAN ANGEL FLYING HORSE APPEARS AND SAVES EVERYBODY, and thus the emotional stakes were zero. The director also relied on the dialogue to do all of the work, and to make it clear why the story had taken the latest contrived turn,

frequently characters would walk into shot, go on a giant one-sided spiel about their entire life story, and then finish by explaining what they were doing in that exact moment. Wow, that's bold. Like, Tommy Wiseau bold.

The love story of Peter Lake and "The Red-Headed Girl" barely pays off. Because of her weakness from tuberculosis, she could die if they ever hooked up, and it was plainly moralising at us (read: YOUR WICKED LUST WILL BRING RUIN). This love story makes *Twilight* look like fucking Titanic. So in summary, *Winter's Tale* was the most pointless two hours I ever spent staring at a screen, and that's including the time my friends and I stayed up until 3am watching a fake-fireplace video on YouTube.

Also, terrible wigs.

By Andrew Kwiatkowski | @CriticTeArohi

CLASSIC  
FILM**MISERY (1990)**

DIRECTED BY ROB REINER

**D**ESPITE HAVING OVER 30 OF HIS NOVELS adapted for the big screen, only one Stephen King movie has ever won an Oscar, and that is *Misery*. *Misery* invites the audience into the home and mind of perhaps King's most perplexing creation: Annie Wilkes. Annie is a clean-living, conservative nurse, whose wholesome lifestyle only allows for one simple passion: the *Misery* Chastain book series.

So imagine Annie's absolute glee when by a freak twist of fate the series' author Paul Sheldon crashes his car on the outskirts of her home. With two broken legs, no personal phone and a blizzard raging outside, Paul is forced to stay in the middle of nowhere, to be nursed in the home of his supposed "number one fan." But there's a problem: Annie has just completed the final book in the *Misery* series to discover that the title character, her life hero, has been killed off once and for all. Distraught and outraged, her sanity slowly begins to unravel as she punishes Paul for what he has done, and imprisons him in her home until he re-writes the ending.

The "small town religio harbouring psychotic feelings and blood thirst" is certainly a common character type, but is brought to the next level



by Kathy Bates' absolutely stellar performance. Bates' Annie is equal parts sickly sweet, unintentionally hilarious and balls-shrinkingly scary. It's a testament to her performance that she could make a polite, plump, middle-aged nurse be voted the 17th most terrifying villain of the last 100 years by the American Film Institute.

*Misery* does contain some suitably unpleasant violence (you think Annie's threats are empty, until you discover they're not) but the beauty of the film comes in the moments

of psychological thriller. Nothing makes you squirm more than watching Annie shaving Paul's face, slowly and intensely confiding in him the deep personal level on which she connects to his work. Naturally, Bates won the Oscar for that year and Annie's phrase "you dirty bird" became the funniest insult to come out of 1990. Get amongst it – every self-respecting Civic Video will have numerous copies.

By Rosie Howells | @CriticTeArohi



B-

**NON-STOP**

DIRECTED BY JAUME COLLET-SERRA

**A**LMOST THE FIRST SHOT OF *Non-Stop* IS Neeson's grizzled Air Marshal pouring whisky into his morning coffee, so you know you're dealing with gritty Neeson, not *Love Actually* Neeson. But then he sentimentally touches the picture of his daughter taped to the roof of his car, so you know he's got a heart. No, this isn't *Taken*'s damaged but ruthless ex-CIA Bryan Mills. This is alcoholic but committed Bill Marks. Totally different guy.

Actually, the body-count isn't that high, relying on suspense rather than brutality for the majority of the film, and there's a pretty decent "who-dunnit" mystery throughout. Is it tough-looking bald guy? Blonde bunny-boiler with older man? Stereotypically Arabic guy? Surprisingly, they're all portrayed by impressive acting – it's actually a shame we don't see more of them.

The action stays fresh and the pace is true to the title – and that's the main problem. These people are stuck in a metal tube with a possible murderer and/or hijacker. Where's

the claustrophobia? The wild accusations? The overwhelming feeling of helplessness? Despite being told repeatedly that there are 150 people on this plane (goddammit!), it never feels like it – just Marks' few suspects getting in one or two lines as he charges around the plane, never quite earning your sympathy.

I liked *Taken* because it stayed just on the right side of convincing me that, yeah, actually, if you kidnap an ex-CIA man's daughter, he might well have a particular set of skills, and he might well use those skills to kill people in inventive ways. *Non-Stop* barely convinced me that they were on a plane.

I can't fault it on being a big-budget, technically serviceable thriller. The cinematography is pleasant, if pedestrian, the actors are talented enough, and the script fulfils the title's promise exactly as you'd expect. The flight angle just feels a bit tacked-on, nothing more than a rushed third act political point and an automatic stake-raiser. *Non-Stop* is distracting for exactly its run-time, and then you will never think about it again.

By Simon Broadbent | @CriticTeArohi





## MEXICAN MEATBALL SOUP

**W**HO NEEDS A MAN TO WARM YOU ON THESE increasingly chilly Dinners nights when you have Mexican meatballs?

It seems to be every Thursday that the girls of SC have a romantic dinner together, with smooth jazz for lovers, wine, and balls of meat. The consumption of dinner was punctuated with comments such as "I don't know why guys think jack hammering is a thing," "I need more clitoral stimulation," and of course "I just really want sex. I must be ovulating." Living with med students is the best. Post romantic dinner we proceeded to booty shake, transforming everyday household activities into sexual dance moves with aerosol cans and grown women against kitchen surfaces. Feminists everywhere wept a little bit. The general public should be slightly concerned that these ladies are also the future of New Zealand medicine.

This meatball soup is cheap as chips to make. It is a basic tomato and vegetable soup paired with poached meatballs, cumin seeds and a tonne of coriander.

The meatballs in this contain rice, rather than

breadcrumbs. You also cook them in the simmering soup rather than pan-frying, which makes them extra moist and wonderfully healthy.

### METHOD

1. Sauté the garlic, onion, carrot and celery in the vegetable oil until the onion becomes soft and translucent. Add the cumin seeds, chilli, coriander and salt, and sauté for a further two minutes. Add the tinned tomatoes, the tomato paste and the chicken stock. Bring to the boil then reduce the heat and leave to simmer for 15 minutes.
2. Roll the mince mixture into small balls and place gently into the simmering soup and then cover. Leave the soup to simmer for 20-25 minutes. Check to see if the meatballs are cooked by cutting one in half. The centre should not be pink. If brown, sample to see if rice is cooked. If the rice is still crunchy, leave to simmer for another 5-10 minutes to finish it off until it is soft.
3. Serve with a wedge of lime or lemon squeeze over the meatballs with plenty more coriander and sour cream.

### INGREDIENTS (SERVES 4)

#### MEATBALLS:

- > 400g lean pork mince
- > 3 tablespoons long grain rice
- > 1 egg
- > ¼ cup fresh coriander, chopped
- > ½ teaspoon salt
- > ½ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- > 1 teaspoon cumin seeds

#### SOUP:

- > 4 cloves garlic, minced
- > 1 onion, diced
- > 3 carrots, diced
- > 3 sticks of celery, diced
- > 1 good handful of chopped coriander stalks (or leaves)
- > 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- > ½ teaspoon salt
- > 1 tablespoon cumin seeds
- > ¼ teaspoon chilli powder
- > 2x400g tin of tomatoes
- > 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- > 2 cups chicken stock





## THIEF

DEVELOPED BY EIDOS  
PUBLISHED BY SQUARE ENIX  
PC, 360, PS3, XBONE, PS4

B

**O**VER THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS THE VIDEO game industry has been overwhelmed by mass layoffs. Eidos Montreal laid off a large number of their staff, Irrational Games laid off over 100 people and Disney Interactive laid off 700 people. Understandably, these layoffs have concerned people. Why is it that some of the world's biggest developers appear to be cleaning house? Well, first of all, this actually happens all the time. Developers take on large numbers of employees to finish a game and when it is finished they let them go. The timing isn't coincidental either: the reason that all these layoffs are happening at the same time is that the financial year is about to end and these companies need to clear their books. Finally, and this may seem like a contrary statement, layoffs can be a good thing. Well, for games at least. Often, retaining the same staff for every game can lead to their games becoming stagnant and uninspired. For example, Eidos Montreal just laid off a large number of their employees and this may well be a good thing because if their latest game, *Thief*, is any indication, that studio is in desperate need of some fresh new talent.

The latest *Thief* game developed by Eidos Montreal is actually a reboot of the beloved *Thief* series of which the first game, *Thief: The Dark Project*, was released in 1998 and the last game, *Thief*,

*Deadly Shadows*, was released in 2004. *Thief*, like its predecessors, is a first-person stealth game. However, unlike most other stealth games on the market, the game's emphasis isn't on silently taking out enemies, but rather in avoiding them completely. Your goal instead is to steal as many valuables as possible without detection. Often this goal is secondary to a story objective, but considering that it makes up most of the gameplay and the story is rather forgettable, no doubt stealing will become your primary objective.

The game is set in a town with the aesthetic and tone of a British city in the midst of the Industrial Revolution and is only ever referred to as "the city." As a thief, of course, you only ever explore at night, so the city is always foggy, dirty and dark. The gameplay graphics are actually quite impressive, particularly on next-gen consoles and PC, and it is quite easy to get immersed in the reality of the city while exploring. However, it is when the game tries to communicate with you that this immersion is harshly broken.

The story is a mess both in content and execution. You play as Garrett, a master thief who returns to the city after the events revealed in the prologue. I won't spoil what these events are, except for that they are an absurd mess of unnecessary dark fantasies. He returns to find that the Baron has overruled the city and that a terrible plague is sweeping the city. Garrett decides to use the chaos to his advantage. There is certainly great potential in this premise; unfortunately it is never realised. This is mainly due to the fact that it never

finds a direction to drive the game in. Garrett is never sure if he is just out to make money, or to vindicate himself and be the city's hero.

The mediocrity of the story seeps into many other aspects of the game, including integral components such as the sound design. In a stealth game it is crucial that players be able to ascertain where enemies are, using all of their senses. Sound is a big part of this, however, in *Thief* the sound is unjustifiably vague. If you are in a house stalking around, when a person talks it sounds as though they are right next to you regardless of whether they are on the other side of the building or 2 feet away. It is this kind of laziness that exemplifies the issues this game has.

The only real way to enjoy this game is to try and block out all of its weak points and let oneself be immersed in the world and gameplay. The stealing itself is very fun. The game allows you to approach situations as a ghost without ever being detected, the opportunist who knocks enemies out to clear the way, and the Predator who has no qualms entering to open combat.

I wish those who lost their jobs at Eidos Montreal all the best, however, this is a studio that's known for amazing games such as *Deus Ex* and if fresh blood is what they need to return to that pedigree, then I support it. *Thief*, sadly, is a game that only has moments of awesomeness to offer in a sea of mediocrity.

By Baz Macdonald | @kaabazmac





PROFILE:  
**IAN HENDERSON**  
(FISHRIDER RECORDS)

**T**HE DUNEDIN MUSIC SCENE IS CURRENTLY undergoing quite a resurgence; at the forefront of that is Ian Henderson. Owner of Fishrider Records, he has over the past few years released a slew of local talent, helping Dunedin music find a more international audience. Ian talks to Adrian Ng about the Dunedin music scene, his exciting new compilation, and the Fishrider Sound.

**Tell us about Fishrider; what do you feel has made it as recognised as it is today?**

Is it recognised? I'm not sure. It had a really good piece of luck in 2012 when an album by Opposite Sex attracted some attention overseas. Up until that point the label was really just The Puddle albums and a means to an end to release my brother's music. It wasn't taken seriously as a label. Not even by me. But releasing Opposite Sex made me realise that it was much more exciting and satisfying to release new music by unknown young artists that no-one else would ever release, and find an audience for them.

The reputation of Dunedin for this type of music has grown over the years as more people discover music from the past and realise wonderful music is still being made here. People overseas romanticise Dunedin and its music.

**You've gathered some tracks for an upcoming project you've got lined up. Are you willing to share a bit of knowledge on this compilation you've got in the works?**

Fishrider will be releasing a compilation LP and magazine called *Temporary – Selections from Dunedin's Pop Underground 2011 – 2014* about June, I hope. It will be our 13th release so

FISH013 will be 13 bands and 13 songs. Some of it is new, some unreleased and unheard. It is a very cool collection of music by some of my favourite people.

It is a very personal selection of songs by the young bands I love the most. It was pretty easy to choose because I just made a list of all the bands I had seen multiple times. It is not meant to be representative of "Dunedin music" – it is just my personal fantasy "Pop Underground" scene.

I've had the idea of a compilation for a while but Loulou Callister-Baker gave me the inspiration to turn the idea into reality. She interviewed me last year for a Critic article on nostalgia in relation to music. Loulou was looking at music from the perspective of a 20-year-old, experiencing being part of something in Dunedin involving music made by a wide group of people she knew which she thought was special. She was experiencing being part of a music scene for the first time and realising these were memories of people, places and sounds she would carry with her throughout life.

I can look back on a few decades where my experiences were in part defined by music and music scenes both here and also overseas. But I also worry about how coherently things are documented in a digital era. So that leaving a record – quite literally – was part of it. The *Temporary* title reflects the transient nature of music and young musicians here. Dunedin is a place people leave or pass through, so sometimes bands and scenes here can be quite fleeting – which can be frustrating when you love them!

But the main driver from a practical business perspective was I realised that the little bit of international profile the label had meant a compilation might be viable and a good way to promote a wider range of bands and their music. All the bands I would happily release on Fishrider if that was practical, so the compilation is a good way to share a bit more of the kind of Dunedin music I love with the world. I have the networks to sell it in the UK & Europe and in the US and there is an interest in what we are doing here, so why not? These kinds of compilations were how I discovered a lot of great music – compilations based on a label, a region, a scene.

**What was your initial perception of the Dunedin music scene and how does it compare to the scene of present?**

I came back to Invercargill from a few years living in the UK in the early 1980s with a collection of UK post-punk music. A friend raved about this great new band and played me something by

The Clean off their first EP. I said "that's rubbish." In my defence, it was played on a crappy little tape recorder. But it didn't take me long to fall in love with The Clean. Within a few years I was harassing the local newspaper to cover local music in their Saturday music page and they said "why don't you do it?" I have never really stopped telling people what I think they should be listening to and why.

I visited Dunedin as much as I could and I saw some great gigs here and when bands came to Invercargill, but I didn't experience very much of the scene in the '80s apart from that and through my brother. By the time I had moved here in 1996 the Flying Nun and Xpressway era "scene" had all but gone. There was another "scene" around Arc cafe and its Arclife label for several years from the late 1990s. There has always been great music made here. What comes and goes are the focus points for a scene – creative communities like The Attic is today, venues, organisers and promoters, record labels.

I think the scene today is as good and vibrant as it ever was. I see people making music now for the same reasons as they did in previous eras. There is still the lack of ambition and that "nothing to lose/ nothing to gain" mindset Shayne Carter said was the strength of alternative music made here. I still love how musicians I see here just do their own thing and don't really care about "making it." There's a kind of honesty and freshness that comes with making music for yourself and your friends.

**What are the elements you look for in an artist? What makes you think "Oh, I want to release this?"**

First thing is I have to really love the music and want to play it all the time and need to have that record in my collection. That passion for the music is the most important. Second most important thing is I have to know and like and respect the people. Life's too short to work with difficult, unrealistic people, particularly when you are doing it for love – putting hours of time and effort and money into those people just for the reward of releasing their music.

**Is there such a thing as the "Fishrider sound?"**

All the bands on the label are selected on my taste and all fit a very loose "underground pop" aesthetic, so who knows? I think there was a 4AD sound and a Postcard Records sound and, early on, a Creation Records sound, so I think it is a good thing for a label to have a musical identity.



## A- SPEEDY ORTIZ REAL HAIR

CARPARK RECORDS; 2014 (USA)  
NINETIES, ALTERNATIVE

**O**N **REAL HAIR**, THE FOLLOW-UP EP TO THEIR excellent 2013 LP *Major Arcana*, Speedy Ortiz once again prove that they're not just rehashing '90s indie rock, but taking all the irony, angular guitar lines and fuzz that characterised that decade, and making it their

own. Yes, they sound like Pavement, Slint and Dinosaur Jr, but they're more than just a faded copy of what was. Rather than making you wish you were in '92 hearing *Slanted and Enchanted* for the first time, Speedy Ortiz make you glad to be around in 2014 and show that there's still plenty of room to innovate in indie rock.

Speedy opens this EP with their most poppy and immediate track to date. They're a band that usually makes you work for the hooks and melody buried within layers of grunt and dissonance, but on "American Horror" it's just infectious guitars, big choruses, and the classic quiet-loud dynamic perfected by Pixies 25 years ago and utilised by pretty much every indie rock band since. However, the angularity returns on "Oxygal," with both the lead guitar line and front-woman Sadie Dupuis' wiry voice bouncing around, matching up occasionally and ultimately harmonising beautifully in the chorus as she wistfully asks for a camera-shy fleeting lover to be in a picture with her; to prove it was real. The Pavement influence shines through on "Everything's Bigger," with an intro that wouldn't be out of place on *Crooked Rain, Crooked Rain* and

borrowing a little melody from possibly the most Speedy Ortiz-esque Pavement track, "Platform Blues." The closing song, "Shine Theory," serves a similar purpose to "No Below" on their last album, showing that Speedy can do beautiful and heartfelt just as well as heavy and biting. It's the slowest and gentlest track on the record, with touches of acoustic guitar in the intro and a sweet melody that helps to blunt Dupuis' naturally sharp tongue.

For all they owe to the indie rock canon, Speedy Ortiz have managed to craft a sound that is undeniably their own. There are few guitar bands around today that can claim that – Parquet Courts are another exception. What separates Speedy from their blander contemporaries is the level of personality Dupuis puts into her songs and an apparent refusal to become a caricature of her influences. More reinvention than revival, this band is doing to '90s indie rock what Tame Impala have done to '60s psychedelia, bringing it into the present on their own terms and creating music that could only exist today.

By Peter McCall | @CriticTeArohi

## NEW THIS WEEK / SINGLES IN REVIEW

**H**HEY! DO YOU LIKE FREE STUFF? THIS WEEK WE are giving away Clap Clap Riot's new album, titled *Nobody/Everybody*. We've got it on compact disc and apart from a very small coffee stain, it's in pretty fine condition. So how do you win? Just email [music@critic.co.nz](mailto:music@critic.co.nz) with your name and you will be entered into a one-of-a-kind, exclusive draw. So don't miss out! Also, don't forget to catch the band at Chick's Hotel on 15 March where they will be joined by the talented Sherpa. It could be a pretty special night.



### PERFECT PUSSY - INTERFERENCE FITS

Distorted vocals over a shimmering, melodic wall of guitars. Punk, but not in the stereotypical brute force, shout-shout-shout approach. Perfect Pussy instead showcase some interesting shades on a seemingly limited spectrum.



### BAD SAV - BUY SOMETHING NEW

Sonic, biting and dark. Bad Sav combine an ethereal quality with a subtle fuzziness, culminating in a brooding, neon soundscape. Tied together with a haunting vocal melody, which is both circular and captivating.



### MIGUEL - SIMPLE THINGS

A track from the new season of HBO's *Girls*. Miguel's smooth voice shimmers over a grungy, distorted guitar riff. Though this track in terms of its melodic content is intrinsically a R&B song, the rock influence makes for quite a strange fusion. Sometimes I'm not quite sure if it works. But there's something about it. It's down-tempo, smooth and kind of gutsy.



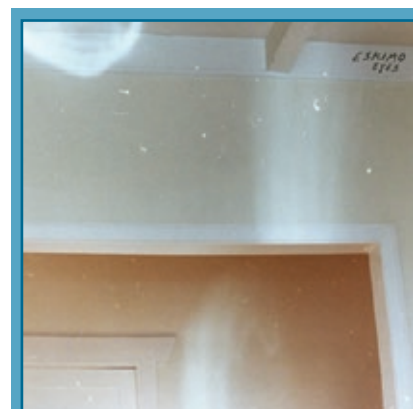
### MOVEMENT - LIKE LUST

Atmospheric, moody track from Sydney trio Movement. "Like Lust" is hypnotic in its execution, with vocals swirling through a glaze of psychedelia. Bringing elements of electronic music to a standard rock set-up of bass/drums/guitar, the group produce something quite unique.



### METRONOMY - I'M AQUARIUS

I was supposed to review their album *Love Letters* this week but I ran out of time. This star sign themed song is smooth and infectious. The track is centered around the vocal mantra "I'm Aquarius," this melodic onslaught is coupled beautifully with countless sensual "shoo-do-do-aah's" in the background. All caught up in a down-tempo wonderland.



NZ DOWNLOAD OF THE WEEK:  
**ESKIMO EYES - I CAN'T THINK**  
SELF-RELEASED 2013 | ELECTRONIC, LO-FI

**M**Y FRIEND DANIEL TOLD ME SOME sad news the other day. Ike Zwanikken's house recently caught fire and a large portion of his possessions were destroyed. Ike Zwanikken creates beautiful, lo-fi electronic music under the moniker Eskimo Eyes. His amazing EP *I Can't Think* is available as a name-your-price download from [eskimoeyes.bandcamp.com](http://eskimoeyes.bandcamp.com).





## INTERVIEW: DEBORAH LAMBIE MISS NEW ZEALAND RUNNER UP

**D**EBORAH LAMBIE IS A STEREOTYPE-SMASHER. She's a medical student here at Otago, a beauty queen, and an award-winning speaker. **Josie Adams** sat down to talk to her about the jet-setting life of a pageant pro: talents, inner beauty, and demilitarised zones.

### Why did you enter Miss New Zealand?

I just thought it would be really fun. Something new and challenging. I really enjoyed Miss Otago, so I thought, "why not?" You had to send in photos of yourself, and I already had photos because I'm with Aliana [of the Ali McD modelling agency]. Why not send them in?

### Are you still modelling?

A little bit! Last year I did all pageants, so I'm not sure whether I'll do different pageants now, or ... I'm not sure what I'm going to do now. I'd definitely like to keep modelling; it's so much fun, just in a different way to pageants.

### How is it different?

Modelling is about showcasing a designer's work, whereas pageants are more about your personality and how you relate to people. It's just a different job, really! Modelling's about the clothes and being a coat hanger, but this is about

letting your personality shine.

That's really interesting, because I guess a lot of people view pageants as being old or overly traditional. That's cool that it could be more empowering than modelling.

It can be. I found for me it really helped my confidence. Modelling did a little bit, but then this has a lot. It's such a cool thing to represent your country and go overseas, so that's been a really big boost for me. It was something I never thought I could do.

### Where did you go?

The top 20 finalists from Miss New Zealand went to Thailand for two weeks, and that was awesome. We got to watch elephant polo, ride elephants, ride horses on the beach ... we got to stay at the most amazing hotels, the nicest in Bangkok. We had meals out, did a really cool photo shoot on the beach and went swimming.

For Miss World University in South Korea we stayed in Seoul; I wasn't prepared for how cold it was! It was something like negative fifteen degrees! I'd got back from a trip to China and it was cold there, but nothing like Korea. Some



girls wore pantyhose and open-toe shoes, and sometimes even bare legs, I don't know how they survived! We went ice-fishing and four-wheeling on the frozen lakes. We also stayed in Hwacheon, which is the closest town to the border between North and South Korea. We went to the demilitarised zone, which was crazy, and actually really sad. I knew a little bit about the situation, but I didn't realise how bad it was. Each girl got buddied with a soldier: all men in Korea are conscripted from the age of 18 for a year and a half, so we got to talk to them about it, and how they felt about the war.

### What was the general sense you got?

That they really don't want to be at war with North Korea, and that they want a peaceful resolution. There are obviously lots of barriers to that happening.





**I didn't realise there were so many world competitions.**

Neither! It's a whole industry! Even in New Zealand – and I'm still learning about all this, too – there's Miss Universe New Zealand, Miss University New Zealand, Miss World New Zealand ...

**So Miss World and Miss Universe are different?**

In Miss World you have to have a talent ... Actually, at Miss University you could have a talent as well!

**What was yours?**

In Miss World University the talent section is just for fun, and doesn't count toward your overall score. I decided not to do one – I thought it was better to sit it out than to do something average! What could I do? Is anyone sick in the audience? There were 40 contestants, and maybe 15 didn't do the talent section.

**What kind of talents did they have?**

Mostly dancing. Dancing's good if you're a dancer, you know? If you're not a dancer ... not so good. One girl sung and she actually won the talent competition. [whispers] She was terrible. She was such a nice girl, but even she was really surprised when she won! Maybe the judges thought it was traditional.

**What's the weirdest talent you saw?**

Three girls did belly dancing, which was really cool. Miss Zimbabwe did an acting skit! She's a comedian, so her's was hilarious! It was cool, and it stood out. Miss Canada did martial arts!

**Which was your favourite of all the different pageants?**

Probably Miss University, because I didn't have any expectations. I was so happy to even be there. I wasn't worried if I won or not, and then I did end up winning the award for best speaker, which was really cool. That's the nicest way to be: if you're super stoked just to be there and then you end up doing well, then it's such a bonus.

Lots of the girls were really competitive, but



if there's only one girl who can win, there is a good chance you will end up disappointed. After the final lots of girls were really gutted, which I thought was a shame. I thought, just chill, because you're awesome. You got here.

**What was your speech on?**

We all had to do three three-minute speeches: one on ourselves, for the judges; then there was an international forum on the environment; and then another one on peace. They collate your scores from all of them.

**Were you worried about your accent?**

I should have been! You always think you don't have an accent, but I definitely do! But English is my first language, and I spoke slowly, so I think the judges didn't have too much of a hard job understanding me. Some of the girls whose English wasn't very good were at a bit of a disadvantage.

**Do you think it's unfair that it was in English?**

It would have been better if there were translators for the girls who didn't speak English. It shouldn't be about what language you speak. Nevertheless, the girl who won was from Mexico and could speak virtually zero English; it obviously didn't matter too much. 1st was Mexico, 2nd was Zimbabwe, and 3rd was Brazil.

**What would your number one tip be for anyone entering Miss Otago?**

Have fun, be yourself and don't worry about losing too much weight! Your natural body size is what you look best at. That's what I really noticed when I was over there [in South Korea]. There were girls that were so much skinnier than me, but being that skinny wouldn't look good on me. There were girls that were much curvier, and

that wouldn't look good on me either. So yeah, just be happy with your own body!

**That's such good advice to hear in a beauty competition!**

I genuinely think it's true! It's not always easy to remember when you have to wear your bikini in front of lots of people, but I really think that it's true. If you're enjoying yourself and having a good time, then that's when you'll look the best.

Also, these are subjective competitions. Remember that it's hard for the judges – in my opinion there's no such thing as a best person, but they have to choose someone.

**You've experienced so much and had so much fun, and never even won anything.**

I haven't! I was 2nd runner up in Miss Otago, 2nd runner up in Miss New Zealand and ... I guess I did win Miss University New Zealand. That was chosen from my CV and photos so it was slightly different.

**What are your final thoughts on all this?**

I feel so lucky to have had all these opportunities! It's so easy to do the dumb girl thing: "Oh, it was so awesome!" I've tried to be honest as well, but it was awesome!

By Josie Adams | @JosieAdams69





## LETTER OF THE WEEK

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

### You did a rhyme!

Some people make money,  
and do silly things.

I collect ant's feet,  
and spider's wings.

Some people have mansions  
to put their things in.

I keep my life's work  
on the head of a pin.

**Sam the Dutch Sailor**

### This guy's got a Tiny Temper

To the fuckwit who booted my car on Knox street on Thursday 6th of March at 9 pm fuck you buddy.

Now that you are 18 I suggest you read the Crimes Act, section 269 may interest you. FYI the cost of the tail light was \$180. I'm a student on a low income, I don't have that kind of money to throw away.

There were many students from the Colleges walking down Knox Street at that time and you were with a group or at least one girl. So there are a few people who know who you are, and may have realised by now that you are a bit of a dick head.

I'm offering \$100 to the first person who drops your name and a bank account number into my letterbox or the following email account [hundy@orcon.net.nz](mailto:hundy@orcon.net.nz).

This offer will not expire.

Alternatively go and see the campus Cop.

Thanks a lot Asshole  
Happy Guy

### Wow, what a keeper. #TeamSavannah

Dear Savannah,

In response to your letter in last weeks *Critic*, I certainly am not missing your saggy vag lips. Next time you ruin my life remember to take your 2 sizes too small leggings out of my car (bitch couldn't work then with that ass anyway)

Take your cold regards and shove them where the sun don't shine.

Suck a fat one,

John

### It was the outstanding spelling that did it

Dear *Critic*

I recently had published an article in your esteemed organ that may have been misconstrued as deeply critical of your Editorial processes. Nothing could be further from the truth. Incidentally, I believe that your new policy of publishing the names, addresses and telephone numbers of your critics (see my letter) is a fine example by which that same Editorial finesse can be justly admired.

Hawkins

Contact details can be found on page 44 of *Critic*, Issue 3, 2014

### See page 20

Dear *Critic*,

I just wanted to say that I genuinely enjoyed Max Callister-Baker's feature in issue one – is there any chance that he has more lined up? It was incredibly humorous but without feeling like it was trying too hard – a perfect travel/

humour piece all-in-all!

Sincerely,

Sophia

### It's called a plunger

Dear *Critic*,

What's up with there being next-to-no cafes open at 7:15 am? I had a very early meeting and was dying for a coffee, but shit it was hard to remedy.

I mean, seriously! 7:15 isn't really that early. Maybe for a student – yeah, for sure, you can't get much earlier. But all the big kids of this world are well up and hopping around by then. Dunedin isn't just a student town, y'know? Open for the other people that support the place once in a while!

Sincerely,

Teetotaller

### You call that a name?

Dear *Critic*,

OW, FUCK! What a wipe-out! I was just sitting down at my desk to write a letter to you about café signs [Editor: see below] when I whacked my knee incredibly hard against the desk. I am in so much pain. Fuck!!! Anyway, my friend said that I should write a letter to you, so here I am.

Please fix it. Please? Does Doctor Nick know anything about sore knees?

Cheers,

*I feel so old now*

### Robbing everyone's Roy

Dear *Critic*,

What's up with Rob Roy dairy kicking everyone out at 10pm these days? For the last two nights I have been there at five to ten and they've been resolutely staunch about not serving anyone



after ten. Even if there's a huge line, which there tends to be, they basically just say "sorry, fuck off," which I'm pretty sure would upset management. I mean, for the sake of the poor widdle empwoyees going home 15 minutes late at most, the turnover would be quite high and directly proportional to how quickly they can make ice creams. It seems really silly, y'know?

Their theme song should be as follows:

[Singing]

Should we go to Rob Roy?

I want an ice cream

I hear they close at five to ten.

Love always,

Augustus Gloop

## Critic completely agrees

Dear *Critic*,

I've started noticing a really frustrating phenomenon recently, and that's the prevalence of café/restaurant signs being left out significantly later than the corresponding business is open. Just think about that for a while. Can you see why it's annoying?

You think all hope is lost. You're running on vapour. And then ... thank the Heavens! It's an open lunch spot! Boosting, using the last of your vapour in doing so, you stagger rather quickly to the sign, weave around, and open the door.

"Closed, sorry!" You hear, the door hardly even ajar.

Well, why the fuck would you leave your "Open"

sign out, bragging about how wonderful your all-day breakfasts are? Grumble grumble grumble ... But FUCK!

I would really like to see this improve.

Yours,

Bacon Muncher

## #BringBackCallum

Dear *Critic*,

Why is there some random person on Facebook pretending to be the Editor of *Critic*? We all know it's Zane – but who's this other fellow? Hit me up if you want to know who's masquerading as you.

Love,

A concerned fan

## She's our gold fish

Hi,

I refer to your letter in issue 3 entitled "We love her, too." I know it's talking about that ace news reporter Josie Cochrane, or "Josie C," and I assume it's written by the equally ace Feature Writer Josie Adams, or "Josie A." But who the fuck is Josie B? Although hiring two writers called Josie could be passed off as a coinkidink, hiring a third and having all the surnames line up A – B – C seems a little silly to me. Is Josie B fake? A literary device, maybe?


Love,

Joseph

## LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be 200 words or fewer. Deadline is Thursday at 5pm. Send letters to [critic@critic.co.nz](mailto: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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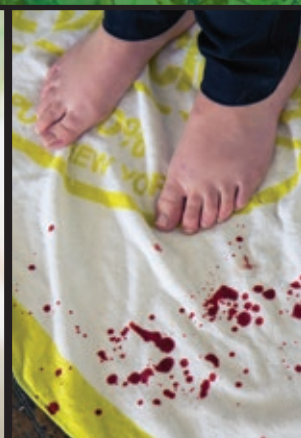




# Critic

## Issue 04 COVER SHOOT

Alex Lovell-Smith  
Daniel Alexander  
Sam Clark  
Claudia Herron  
Zane Pocock







## President's Column

**"Let's talk about sex, baby / Let's talk about you and me / Let's talk about all the good things / And the bad things that may be / Let's talk about sex"**

There are a whole range of types of sex, sexual positions, and sexual diseases. There are things that are great for girls, and great for guys. Some people have great sex together, and some great sex by themselves, and that's OK! As long as you consent to the sex, and you feel good about it after, who the fuck cares!? And hey, if you reach your goal, congrats!

The things that I hear my friends talking about that really worry me when it comes to relationships and sex is; when you feel like you have to sex with someone so that they love you, or when you walk

away from a sexual interaction and you don't feel respected. It works from the outside as well; when you discriminate others

because of the decisions they make sexually, that's really not helping the situation. Step in and talk to your friends if you're really worried.

The reality is; we are all humans, we're animals. Relish in the moment, and be free. But ensure you value each other, neither sex are just slabs of meat that you can judge because of your own insecurities. If you've got a girl or guy that you are dating, make sure that you make them feel valued in your relationship and show them how much you appreciate them. Take them on a date, buy them flowers, chivalry is not dead, dates are super cute!

Remember to throw on a condom and lube because if you don't got the rubber, they'll be no hubba hubba (as some dude who sounded like Scribe used to say). A nasty rash or an unplanned baby is the kind of surprise that you don't want in your university year! Even if you are using contraception like the pill it won't protect you from that genital contact which is the breeding ground for numerous sexual diseases!

It's also OK to be celibate and just say no. Respect your body, and respect you. You are always more than enough, sex is never a measure of your self-worth. Don't forget to love yourself <3

*Ruby Sycamore-Smith*

Ruby Sycamore-Smith

## ousa recreation Course of the Week – Digital Photography

**When?** Starts this Tuesday, March 18

**Where?** OUSA Recreation Centre

**What?** The course covers digital camera and photographic basics, how to take care of your camera, downloading images, practical shooting, printing, shooting techniques, image manipulation and enhancement, concepts of light, accessories, software and other hints and tips.

**Where to enrol?** Pop into the centre or head to [www.ousa.org.nz/recreation/](http://www.ousa.org.nz/recreation/)





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