

WHERE THE WILD THINGS AREN'T

Josie Adams explores what it's like to spend a full day "working hard" in the Central Library. **PAGE 20**

THE GREAT WALL OF INTERNET

Loulou Callister-Baker takes a look at the model of exercising control over the Internet: China. **PAGE 24**

WHAT IS HAPPINESS, ANYWAY?

From hedonism to genetics, Allison Hess strives for an answer to a hefty question. **PAGE 28**

ISSUE 07

April 07, 2014
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By Josie Adams

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Coming to terms with the ever so tricky "what do you want to do when you finish your degree?" may require a hunt to find what it is that makes one happy. From hedonism to genetics, this is an exploration of the balance to strike between instant gratification and lasting effort/reward.

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“
*In the red chairs next
to the stairs on the
first floor, I saw the
most terrifying person
I have ever seen; and
I've seen Richard
Dawkins.*
”

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ABOVE:

From "The
Great Wall
Of Internet"

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Allan Millar's
Hunting and Fishing

Thanks to:
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EDITORIAL 07

KEEPING CHECK ON THE EXEC

WITH THE OUSA EXECUTIVE'S FIRST QUARTERLY reports being presented last Tuesday, it's about time we checked in for an overall look at their performance. And for the first half of the meeting I was (somewhat surprisingly) pleased with their effort. It seems that almost everyone is finally contributing varied and valuable viewpoints and, simply put, they've picked up their game since earlier meetings. They are starting to look like they may well deserve recognition as being quite a strong group, and Ruby is proving to be a very competent leader despite the criticisms that follow. This is a credit not to be awarded lightly, and as such there are some big exceptions that need to be addressed ...

Two-faced politics is the most obvious. Ruby, who doesn't seem to like conflict, was in my opinion quite admirable last week in letting Nali and Nick moan on and on (and on, with strange dramatic statements such as "I'm about to cry") about Jordan in his absence. This was a complete turn around from the faked amicability towards his efforts in earlier meetings, and it highlights the importance of the Executive actually airing their grievances face to face rather than hiding and waiting to pounce on each other's backs. You could tell that Ruby somewhat wanted to cut it short, but getting that sort of Executive discussion on record rather than hiding behind Committee of the Whole is a commendable change from what I had feared we may come to expect.

It's not only Ruby who seems to dislike conflict, however, with the Executive more or less failing to address their weakest link. Ryan's report said numerous times that he was "all over that." The problem, quite simply, is that he's not. I felt like Brydie (who's been showing very strong leadership) moved to lead the charge on calling him out when she objected to him saying they have a good working relationship (not that they have a bad one *per se*, but rather that there's been no occasion on which they've worked together). But the rest of the Executive just didn't listen to what I thought was an incredibly loud start gun.

This was quite surprising, and I think it's likely that Ruby knows of the general disappointment in Ryan's performance. Unfortunately



*"Ryan's report said numerous times that he was 'all over that.'
The problem, quite simply, is that he's not."*

her avoidance of conflict came through in this particular instance when it would have been good to encourage the others through some more debate. Heck, passing these reports decides whether the Executive members get paid their full honorarium or not.

The final big critique is that because of how long the meeting was (approximately three hours – next time the agenda should be shorter when quarterly reports are being presented), it felt like the Executive were more keen to rush issues through than deal with them properly. Being in a representative role is a tiring, long-working, and often thankless task, but that's what you sign

up for. If the Executive needed to sit there until midnight to sort things out, then quite frankly they should have just taken a coffee break and damn well done exactly that.

Further coverage of the Executive meeting can be found on page seven. And remember to vote in the by-election for Education Officer. This is one of the bigger portfolios on the Executive; the winner will hold a lot of sway in the direction of OUSA. Candidates can be found on page eight.

Zane Pocock
Critic Editor



ON-LICENCE OPPOSED FOR YET ANOTHER DUNEDIN VENUE POLICE CONCERNED "SECOND TIME HE HAS LET A LICENCE EXPIRE"

YET ANOTHER POPULAR DUNEDIN VENUE IS risking closure after its on-licence expired and a new application was opposed by the Police and the Medical Officer of Health. Popular music venue Queens Bar at Queens Garden will face a hearing before the Dunedin District Licencing Committee on 11 April where opponents to the licence will present submissions, with the committee ultimately deciding the fate of the Bar.

Dogtown Limited has applied for an on-licence for Queens Bar for the hours between 8am and 3am the following day. The Companies Register lists Ian Robbins as the sole director of the Company, and Robbins is listed as the applicant for the on-licence in the report to the DLC. The report indicates that Robbins intends to continue using the venue in a similar tavern format to previously and he intends to host various live music performances as well as operate as a café during the day.

Critic spoke with Dunedin Liquor Licencing Inspector Tony Mole who reported on the application himself, along with the Police and the District Health Board. He said the opposition to Ian Robbins' application stemmed from his suitability, and he mentioned this was the "second time he has let a licence expire," the first being when Robbins held a licence at another popular music venue, Chick's Hotel. The police report

to the Committee indicated that the previous licence for Queens expired on 14 December 2013. Robbins contends he knew it was due to expire but failed to notice when it had.

Following the expiration, the premise was assessed by the working parties when Robbins applied for a new on-licence. "When we assessed the premises, Robbins' answers to some of questions were very vague" and they "added to the impression Robbins is unfit to hold a licence," said Mole. The Police report indicated that Robbins was "struggling to grasp some fundamental aspects of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012," when they visited the premises on 10 March. They were particularly concerned that Robbins was the sole duty manager employed by the business, the application was poorly completed, a lack of low-alcohol beverages were on offer, and musicians were at times allowed to collect cover charges at the door, a function that should be performed by a licenced security guard.

Medical Officer of Health Marion Poore indicated that the Dunedin Alcohol Partnership had also met with Robbins and, based on that meeting, opposed the application for an on licence due to "the suitability of the applicant." Poore shared a similar sentiment to the Police and felt Robbins had "questionable knowledge and awareness" of the new legislation and definition of intoxication,

evidenced by his lack of knowledge that offering low alcohol beers is a condition of his licence. She was also concerned with Robbins "not having appropriate systems, staff, and training to comply with the law; and the proposed trading hours." The knowledge and training of door staff, as well as security, was an issue in regard to prohibiting minors from purchasing alcohol.

The District Licencing Committee will hear arguments from the Police and the Medical Officer of Health who will "give explanations [as to] why Robbins is unsuitable." Mole said Robbins may put together his own report for why he should be granted the on-licence. The Committee will be governed by Deputy Chair Andrew Noone, and also include Colin Lind and former Cabinet member David Benson-Pope.

Mole said that it is "up to Robbins to get people to speak on his behalf" at the hearing, and it is "not like a council meeting where there is a public component." Upon hearing all submissions a decision will be made and, should the Committee decline the application, there will be "room for Robbins to seek an appeal" to the Alcohol Regulatory Licencing Authority. However, he added, "Unfortunately the process is not a quick process."

At the time of print, Robbins was unable to be reached for comment and it was unclear if he would be presenting a defence at the hearing.

By Claudia Herron | @Claudia_Herron

EXECRABLE "BUTTERFLIES" RUSH REPORTS

THIS WEEK'S EXECUTIVE MEETING WAS MORE akin to a marathon, clocking in at nearly three hours long, with a disappointingly large amount of the meeting taking part in Committee of the Whole, which Critic does not have the right to report on.

Despite this, Ruby competently chaired the meeting and the Executive as a whole rose to what their political roles expected of them, offering some good insight into many of the matters discussed. One slight slip-up on Ruby's behalf saw her introduce a group by saying "these people are here to talk about OUSA and the Cook," before moving into Committee of the Whole for 45 minutes. A motion was later moved in the meeting that a working party exploring a partnership between OUSA and OUMSA be formed.

The College Committee Minutes, presented by Brydie, revealed the Vice Chancellor has mandated that all colleges must use internal services for their balls, limiting them to University venues such as Union Hall and the Aquatic Centre. A number of Colleges were "not happy," saying that students "don't want to have to eat at the food court or dance in Union Hall." Despite the rationale being pretty clear to everyone that the University wanted to keep money internal, Unicol had little concern considering "nowhere else would take them."

The Grants Committee minutes and recommendations were received and recommendation approved, as were the club Affiliations and Disaffiliations. The Disaffiliations were only mildly questioned, with Henri concluding, "If they're not going to be part of the OUSA family, that's fine."

The Boots Riley visit to Dunedin sparked questions about whether OUSA were paying their \$500 sponsorship deal toward his flights twice, considering that Radio One, which somewhat falls under OUSA's wing, also contributed to the event. It was eventually understood by everyone that this would not be a double payment, with Nick quickly adding that "this is not commercial sensitivity, this is just addition," to those slower on the uptake than himself. According to Ruby,

the sponsorship deal was just another part of the "money-go-round," reminding everyone of how last year's President Francisco Hernandez had phrased the financing of OUSA and Radio One.

Ruby steered the exec well when it came to presenting the first quarter reports and asked each of them about their challenges in the quarter. Henri spoke to his report first, saying that his role was slightly different to previous officers with the demise of Unisports, but he was commended for being "super on to it," and "always in the bullpen." His apparent competence is obviously deeply embedded in him after he said "nothing I've really had to do in life has been soul crushing hard."

Brydie felt she'd come into her role "blindly" but said that she was enjoying the position and was particularly positive about the Colleges Committee; something the previous Officer had been less successful with. Her report was received by all with "snaps for Brydie," given her good performance in the role.

The chair was passed to Ryan in order for Ruby to give her report, which she referred to as being "a bit meaty." She reflected on her first quarter as President as being "pretty full-on" and said that she had "definitely aged." While Ruby seemed content with her performance over the quarter, she apologised for being hard on the others, and added a classic Ruby sentiment to the report, saying, "I just want you guys to really fly as beautiful butterflies."

Ex-Education Officer Jordan's report was dealt with in his absence, with a number of Executive members particularly vocal about Jordan's performance. It was suggested multiple times the meeting be moved into Committee of the Whole, but the two most vocal opponents of Jordan's report, Nali and Nick, vehemently declined. Eventually, Nali voted against receiving Jordan's report, and Nick and Brydie abstained. The Executive do appear to be slightly two-faced at times, especially considering Jordan's resignation was initially received with a motion by Nick to give him a group hug, a tone considerably different to that which his report was considered in his absence.

Nick's report "ticked all the boxes," in his own

opinion. His major criticism was towards Ryan, regarding the two not getting onto Internal Policy and Committee matters concerning both of them. Despite the criticism, he was "sorry to call you out," but it appeared to be an issue he had also encountered with Zac Gawn, last year's Admin VP.

All received Kamil's report and he was acknowledged for his work on the International Food Festival as "the king of the food festival." Nali's report only included part one, with her citing she "didn't know there was a part two and part three," but that she would "do them again." Despite her only partial report, it was received, and Nick added she "seems pretty stressed out most of the time, but that's a good sign."

Hamish apologised for missing O-Week, and said time management appeared to be a challenge for him when at one point he was holding two jobs and papers, but he has since dropped one of those papers. He humbly added that he "didn't see much success for myself," acknowledging he'd been doing a lot of "aiding" for others. But his report was received positively and he appeared to not be giving himself as much credit as was his due. Kurt also acknowledged missing O-Week, due to a conflicting internship, but his report was received with no objection, and he was particularly happy with the progress of quiz show University Challenge.

Ryan's report was perhaps the biggest disappointment of the meeting, but with it coming at the end of a near three-hour meeting, the fatigue of everyone led to a rushed run through. He did acknowledge that Hyde St had taken up a lot of his time because it was a "very needy child," and it seemed a lot of his other responsibilities had taken a back seat to the event planning. While Ryan said he was mostly happy with his workplace relations, Brydie questioned her own involvement with Ryan on a working level, citing that the two had not worked together and it wasn't clear what was required of her. Despite being a valid criticism, Ryan's Hyde St priorities were not questioned any further and the meeting was speedily closed with his report being received.

By Claudia Herron | @Claudia_Herron



APPLICATIONS FOR 2014 NOW OPEN!

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NO GOODBYE TO BY-ELECTIONS CHUTIPONGPISIT VS. FAULKNER VS. HARRIS VS. SCHEP

THE RESIGNATION OF EDUCATION OFFICER Jordan Taylor has prompted the start to what promises to be another year of by-election folly. While the nominees include current Recreation Officer Henri Faulkner, which may see a shuffle around of the Executive, there are also a number of fresh faces. Should Henri

take out this by-election, his vacated Recreation Portfolio will make way for another glorious phase of compelling by-election coverage, and the certainty that there will be something to report in news.

A by-election forum will be held in the Main Common Room on 8 April at 12 noon, with

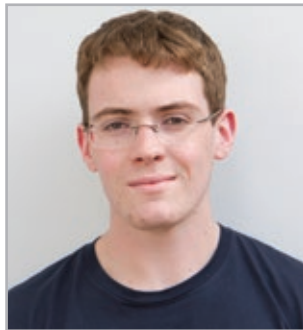
President Ruby Sycamore-Smith acting as MC. Voting will be open on 7 April at 9am and will conclude on 10 April at 4pm, with the results to be announced anytime from 4.20–4.30pm.

According to the OUSA Constitution, the Education Officer is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the education affairs of OUSA and ensuring the academic interests of members are represented, respected and enhanced.



KULLASIT CHUTIPONGPISIT

Hello, my name is Kullasit Chutipongpisit. I am a first year postgraduate Doctor of Clinical Dentistry student specialising in oral pathology, studying and diagnosing all the lumps and bumps as well as cancer in the mouth. Yes, you can get tooth cancer – more or less. I also graduated with a BDS from here in 2011 and because I love EDUCATION at Otago so much I had to come back here after a two-year stint working as a dentist in Wellington. Education at this university is World-class and by voting for THE LONGEST NAME on the voting form you can be sure that this will be maintained =) Kullasit Chutipongpisit BDS



HENRI FAULKNER

Hey,
My name is Henri Faulkner, I study third year microbiology and I am your current Recreation Officer for the OUSA.

This year so far has been amazing and so I am really keen to step up my involvement with the OUSA to help out you guys even more. I am a firm believer of when you truly want something there is nothing in this world that can stop you. That being said, there is no point in having anything tie you down so that your reach for the stars isn't any harder than it already has to be.

I want to make sure that once you graduate from Otago there is NOTHING STOPPING YOU from reaching your potential, no bullshit government policies or dickhead lecturers/supervisors.

NOTHING.



LAURA HARRIS

Hey there!
I'm Laura and I'd love to be your 2014 Education Officer. I have a passion for education and am aspiring to become a teacher. I have prior experience working with OUSA managing the Are You Okay service.

As your education officer I hope to:

- Push for positive change with the student allowances.
- Advocate for the stress free exam models, including Puppy time.
- Improve the Class Rep System.

I want to work alongside OUSA and Student Support to bring you the best education experience you can have here at Otago.

Vote for proven results. Vote Laura Harris.



MATTHEW SCHEP

Hi! My name is Matthew, I'm a 23-year-old studying towards a Bachelor of Primary Teaching and a Bachelor of Arts (Sociology and Politics), and I would love to represent you as Education Officer for 2014. In my spare time, I do volunteer work for UN Youth NZ, an educational charity. As a teaching student, I am acutely aware of the need for strong representation for students on educational matters. I see the role of Education Officer as an intermediary between the University and the students, and I want to create a regular forum for students, to listen to their concerns, and to bring them to the faculty. I also wish to revitalise the Education Committee, and to review existing educational support networks to ensure that all students are being looked after.



Funding Available for Student Performances

Up to \$1500 per project is available to support University students and staff fund public performances (e.g. comedy, dance, theatre, film, music).

Applications to the Division of Humanities Performing Arts Fund close **30 April 2014**.

Visit otago.ac.nz/performingartsfund **or email** rebecca.cornelius@otago.ac.nz



OUS A HYDE NO MORE TICKETS TO KEG PARTY 1118 TICKETS VANISH IN TWO MINUTES

GENERAL ADMISSION HYDE STREET TICKETS sold out in record time last week, with the 1118 tickets available gone within two minutes of release. 3500 tickets were available with priority going to Hyde Street residents, their friends and residents on surrounding streets, and the remaining 1118 being sold as general admission. An online registration system was this year put in place, where all attendees registered their details and an emergency contact online, with wristbands pickup and payment available from the OUSA main office this week.

Senior Events Coordinator, Rachel Enright,

said there is "no chance" of additional ticket sales as the current numbers were agreed upon by the tenants, OUSA and safety stakeholders. She says the current allocation is the "fairest balance" and "safest number we can push [the allocation] out to while still keeping it an epic party."

OUSA want to make the event "sustainable so that it can continue for future Otago students," but have increased the price of tickets to \$5 for guests of residents or \$10 for general admission. In 2013, OUSA covered a large proportion of the expenses. However, the change will see attendees cover a greater proportion of the services available.



Enright says, "The end goal is that the party will keep on cranking for years to come without causing trouble for anyone involved."

For those who missed out on tickets to the event, making the most of a dress up opportunity is still possible with the Warehouse's attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the most onesies worn in one place, taking place at 12.30pm on the Saturday of Hyde St.

By Josie Cochrane | @JosieCochrane

RESEARCH LEADS TO "PLEASING ... SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE" UNIVERSITY CLOSE TO 69'ER

THE UNIVERSITY HAS RISEN 20 PLACES AND remains top among New Zealand's research institution rankings after coming 67th in the 2013 Nature Publishing Index Asia-Pacific. The index ranks nations and institutions on the number of research articles they put out each year and the number of which are published in the 18 Nature-branded journals.

Critic spoke with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (research and enterprise) Richard Blaikie who said the results were "pleasing" and reflect the

University's "sustained excellence." "Our staff are engaged in fruitful international collaborations at the forefront of scientific progress across many areas of enquiry." He added that the rankings show "how globally connected and influential our research truly is," and compliment the University's earlier ranking as New Zealand's top university in the citation components of the annual Academic Rankings of World Universities (ARWU) and the QS World University Rankings.

The importance of the University's vibrant

research culture "underpins its excellence in teaching and professional training," with the University's aim to continue "as a national leader in research-led teaching," according to Blaikie. He said prospective overseas students and staff are increasingly considering the rankings when choosing where to study or work, "so it's great that we continue to feature so strongly in them."

Researcher publications from Otago cover a variety of disciplines including biochemistry, mathematics, marine science, medicine, physics, and women's and children's health.

By Nina Harrap | @CriticTeArohi



STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON UNIVERSITY COUNCILS

I'M GLAD TO SEE CRITIC HAS ALREADY SOUNDED the alarm about the Government's proposed changes aimed at removing student membership from university councils. It makes me angry to think that students will be excluded from decision-making at the highest levels.

A growing body of evidence proves what already makes intuitive sense: a diversity of views at the boardroom table is critical to good decision-making.

In order to exclude students, the Government is eliminating from law the provision that council

members must include student representatives. As *Critic* has pointed out, this means there do not need to be any students on university councils to legitimise them.

Simultaneously, university and wānanga councils will be reduced from 12-20 members to 8-12. And in future, three or four members will be appointed directly by Government.

Unfortunately, narrowed representation is what we have come to expect from a Government intent on attacking student rights and access to education. It follows the introduction of voluntary student association membership (VSM) and aims at further silencing students who have been vocal political critics.

It's hard to believe Government appointees will be as robust in their criticism of Government policies.

Student input into university councils is important for ensuring universities retain a role as a critic and conscience of society. Student representation also makes sure universities

remain great places to learn, study and live. After all, who knows the university experience better than students themselves?

The Government's proposal to silence the student voice on councils undermines the important role you and your representatives play in democracy and decision-making on campus. It is a big leap backwards.

As your local MP, I want make sure that you are represented on university councils, and that you have a strong and independent student association. I am proud to belong to a political party that believes in having those involved in learning and teaching on the governing bodies of universities. It is a good thing, and adds value to the decisions being made.

If you're as angry as I am about this retrograde step, please make a short submission to Parliament and be heard. For help making a submission, visit labour.org.nz/unicouncils

Column by David Clark | @DavidClarkNZ

OVERLY KEEN SCARFIE MAKES APP TO PULL PERFECT FOR FRIGID PEOPLE WITH NO FRIENDS OR GAME

A NEW SOCIAL NETWORKING IPHONE APP MADE for Scarfies has been launched across Dunedin. The app, called KEEN, is the brainchild of Auckland University student Philip Chen, who was later joined by Canterbury student Nelson Shaw and Otago student Laxman Popli. KEEN is based around a simple premise: if you're wanting to do an activity but lack the mates, a simple hash-tagged post on KEEN allows others to join this activity with you. The activity could range anywhere from playing a game of touch, or building a sandcastle, or even to just some beers in the sun.

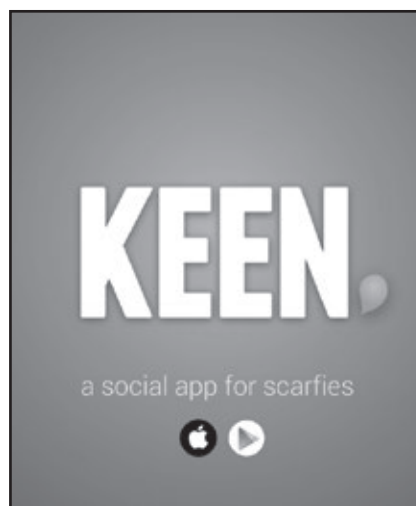
The inspiration for KEEN began with a girl – specifically, as the answer to the age-old question, "How do I ask her out?"

"It was one of those times when you meet someone and some kind of lightning strikes," Chen states. "I wanted to see her again. [But] asking a girl to 'hang out' can be pretty awkward when there's no context, [it would] be much easier if there's a way to start with something of a

mutual interest."

KEEN has gone from strength to strength. "KEEN is an app that's all about spontaneous social experiences," comments Popli, fellow Scarfie and marketing manager of KEEN. Popli explained that the University of Otago was chosen as the home ground of the app, due to the "free-spirited" and "open-minded" nature of the students. "We'd like KEEN to be a way to help bring a little more of the [Otago] scene and culture to the rest of NZ, and maybe the world." He added that KEEN would ideally sit alongside Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram and would help "enrich people's lives through spontaneous social interaction."

Keen was launched exclusively to University of Otago students in summer school this year, but Popli expresses the desire to expand to other universities around the country, and eventually break into the U.S market. The app was conceived under Lightning Lab, a business accelerator programme at Victoria University, and has attracted international attention from investors. At the



beginning of January, the developers met with United States' start-up AngelPad, founded by ex-Google employees. While KEEN was unsuccessful, they were incredibly happy to make it to the top 50 of over 2000 applicants, and were invited to apply again in the next round.

The app is free to iPhone and Android users, and has already attracted upwards of 130 users.

By Emily Draper | @CriticTeArohi

ousa elections
otago uni students' association

EDUCATION
OFFICER

BY ELECTION

VOTE NOW!

Voting is open from 9am 7 April - 4pm 10 April
Do it online at voting.ousa.org.nz

A LEAP OF FAITH INTO THE GROUP OF DEATH ...

TO THE LIGHTWEIGHT, 3D-PRINTED EXTREME sports desk and we all know that New Zealand is a popular destination for extreme sports junkies. However, for some people, bungee jumping, skydiving, jet boating and flirting with Austrian backpackers in Queenstown for a weekend is just not extreme enough these days. First-world problems.

Ever since the Red Bull enema-taking extreme adrenaline junkie Felix Baumgartner stepped off a little platform nearly 40 kilometers above the New Mexico desert and fell from the edge of space, reaching supersonic speeds and breaking records on his successful return to earth, people have been looking to this feat as inspiration for the next step in extreme sports. We may be talking about hyper sports here, people.

For those who don't pay attention to space

and all that cool stuff, the space race is on; we are going back and we are leaving pretty soon. You have probably seen Richard Branson promoting his Virgin Galactic brand for years and many other private companies like the very Austin Powers-sounding Bigelow Aerospace and their inflatable space hotel. These guys have been quietly setting themselves up to take advantage of the emerging space tourism market. But that is probably for oil-rich Texans, not hyper sport pioneers.

Seeing as Baumgartner and his crew adapted weather balloon technology to take him up to altitude, there was no need for nerdy rocket scientists and expensive, exotic fuels. This will help keep costs down and, as the technology is further refined, it will become accessible for everyday people to experience. With recent speculation and rumours about Back to the Future-style hover

boards becoming a reality, all of this technology is closer to reality than we realise.

People are dreaming up plans for a "space station to sea level" race, a kind of extreme triathlon where you jump from space, land on top of a mountain which you then ski down as far as you can until you reach a motocross bike to take you to the finish.

What about combining a space jump with the advances in wingsuit technology?

A less extreme idea is to have a "space ballet." With 25 miles of free fall space, entire aerial operas on the same scale as North Korea's huge arirang performances are being envisioned to light up the sky with colour by forming huge shapes and formations. Who doesn't want to see a 5000 person sunflower spinning back down to earth?

By Daniel Lormans | @danbagnz



ENGLAND

UEFA – Union of European

Football Associations

Population: 53 million

Currency: The British Pound

Capital: London

Language: In the Queen's English, the national football team is called "the three lions."

FIFA World Ranking: 12th

Qualified: Top of Group H

Fun Fact: Win or lose, the rabid English press will tear them to pieces, like a wound up Staffordshire Bull Terrier with its negligent owners' copy of the Daily Mail.

History: Struggled to top an easy qualifying group and followed that up with some poor form in their recent friendly matches.

Key Players: In-form Liverpool striker Daniel Sturridge and Shrek-impersonator Wayne Rooney will need to score to overcome the firepower of the other big teams.

Prediction: First game against Italy is crucial. They will probably make twats of themselves once again.



ITALY

UEFA – Union of European

Football Associations

Population: 60 million

Currency: Euro

Capital: Rome

Language: In lovely Italian, they call their team "Azzurri" because of the blue uniforms

FIFA World Ranking: 8th

Qualified: Top of Euro Group B

Fun Fact: The team's blue shirts are linked to the colours of Casa Savoia (House of Savoy), the rulers who unified Italy into a republic in the late 1800s.

History: Four-time World Cup winners and were runners-up at Euro2012.

Key Players: My main man on FIFA 14 Stephan El Shaarawy and the entertaining and unpredictable Mario Balotelli, who is like the Dennis Rodman of football.

Prediction: Fully deserve to go through but they can't afford to be too cautious, which has marked their recent performances.



URUGUAY

CONMEBOL – Confederación

Sudamericana de Fútbol

Population: 3 million

Currency: Peso

Capital: Montevideo

Language: In poetic sounding Spanish, La Celeste means "the sky blue one."

FIFA World Ranking: 6th

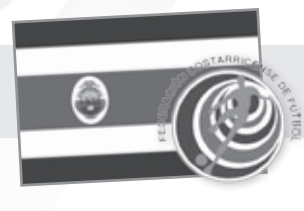
Qualified: Beat Jordan 5 - 0 in a play-off

Fun Fact: Their top-three most-capped players are all named Diego. So is the guy in seventh place.

History: Reigning South American champions and finished fourth at the last World Cup in 2010.

Key Players: A very solid squad. Liverpool hit-man Luis Suarez is one of the most prolific strikers in world football and record scorer for Uruguay.

Prediction: If Suarez continues his Premier League form and doesn't intentionally handball, bite or racially abuse anyone, then they should go through.



COSTA RICA

CONCACAF – Confederation of

North, Central American and

Caribbean Association Football

Population: 4.5 million

Currency: Costa Rican Colón

Capital: San Jose

Language: In Spanish, Los Ticos – which is also an informal demonym for a Costa Rican.

FIFA World Ranking: 34th

Qualified: Runner-up in qualifying group

Fun Fact: Costa Rica is recognised as one of the "greenest" countries in the world and shares many similarities and values with New Zealand.

History: Fifth world cup appearance. A lot of people will be surprised to see them there again this year.

Key Players: Wellington Phoenix striker Carlos Hernández and his teammate Kenny Cunningham may not be key players but they may be familiar names.

Prediction: They would have struggled in most groups and certainly have no chance here.



CRITIC TACKLES ELECTION YEAR A TALE OF TWO MPS

IN THE LAST WEEK AND A HALF, OTAGO HAS BEEN graced with the presence of two MPs – Judith Collins and Gareth Hughes. While I didn't attend Judith's cocktail soirée (the \$30 entry fee was out of my poor student price range and it was all the way at Luna Bar), I did have a chat to Todd Dickens, chair of the Southern Region Young Nats, about his experience with the Justice Minister. Gareth's event was a (free) talk about "disruptive technology," and I was able to get my Zoe Barnes on and talk to him in person.

#JUCO

Judith Collins, affectionately known as JuCo by her Young Nat contingent, is an MP who continually touts the importance of "hard work" in getting yourself up in the world. She has recently been the subject of a fair amount of spotlight, as the New Zealand representative at the UN Universal Periodic Review (on human rights), the main MP involved with the family law reforms, and, of course, the subject of the Oravida scandal that left some calling for her resignation. Todd Dickens, however, thinks very highly of her ...



1. If you could summarise your evening in a paragraph or two, what would you say? Describe Judith for us?

Bloody sensational. Judith is a superb woman, and although she is well known for her style and persona, it will always take you back a wee bit in person. For someone who is so bold, she holds a striking sincerity that does get conveyed across the camera very well.

She spoke on her portfolios and on life in Parliament itself, giving an analysis of her fellow MPs that goes a tad further than the famous 140 characters will allow. Fascinating stuff for us Pol Majors. She was also asked a bit on her younger life. She completed her Masters while practicing law in her 20s, and, at the same time, owned a restaurant. She would be up at 6am everyday to bake cheesecake to be served, and would often cover shifts if need be. Because "that's what you do when you're young and want to get ahead..." She doesn't align to ideologies so much, but is a woman of firm principles. I admire her work ethic immensely.

2. Did Judith have anything to say about student policy?

She focused on her own portfolios, which was what we had requested; her general words to the Young Nats were mainly that of praise. Thanks for the work we do in both policy and campaigning for the Party, it is obvious the amount of effort many Young Nats put in – and it is great when that is recognised.

3. Recently Judith has been in the news for the Oravida scandal. Did she have any wise words about the affair?

She cares very deeply about the export market that is NZ dairy.

4. Unfortunately, Judith has blocked me from Twitter, meaning my banter fix is seriously restricted. Are there any gold quotes you can remember from the night?

She mentioned being able to remain contrite for a week, but there is work that needs to be done. If as many people were so determined, my God, we'd have a productive wee state.

GARETH.ORG.NZ

Gareth's talk focused on three "disruptive technologies," or technologies that have the potential to completely shift paradigms within their respective fields. The first, solar, is something the Greens have advocated for years, and comes with its own recent policy package; the second, the internet economy, was accompanied by the revelation that Gareth has been working on an Internet Bill of Rights (to be released by the time this is published). He'll be crowd-sourcing response. The third, 3D printing, was approached to the extent that he argues New Zealand should be investing in the technological apparatus before the market becomes saturated and to keep us ahead of the curve. It's also really cool to look it.



1. The IPCC report came out yesterday, heralding a wide variety of responses – what do you think is the most critical thing NZ must do at this stage?

Well we've got to reduce our emissions. We're on a track to increased emissions in New

Zealand. We've got the highest per person rates in the world; we've got a Government that's gutted the carbon prices, pouring tens of millions of dollars down oil wells, and borrowing billions for motorways. We actually need to act, reduce our carbon, and I believe that's where the business opportunities for the country lie as well.

2. The US and China aren't doing enough, and NZ only accounts for 0.2 per cent of emissions. So why should we act?

Well we should act because we're a much smaller percentage of the world's population. So actually we're using an unfair share of the earth's atmosphere to put out pollution. Now, also, everyone only pays a small amount of tax. Anyone could also use that argument, "I only pay a small amount of tax, why should I bother, so maybe I'll stop." We don't allow that in the tax sphere, and when it comes to this global challenge, which seriously risks our civilisation, we've all got to take on our fair share; and if China and America aren't going to act, New Zealand needs to act as an exemplar. If even New Zealand won't act, it's going to be very hard for the rest of the world to act, too.

3. Being a student and being sustainable is often seen as "too expensive." How do the Greens propose to reconcile this disconnect?

Well, I think we can help students save money and be more environmental. For example, our solar scheme, where tenants can approach their landlord to make it easy to get solar panels. We've subsidised insulation in the past; we'd like to see more energy efficiency advice given to people. Because, actually, there're a tonne of ways you can save money by using less carbon or having less of an environmental footprint. It's about giving people the advice.

4. The IPCC report also said we may have to sacrifice some native species if we don't act, and Tim Groser said climate change should be left to "natural processes" – so which three native endangered species would you save?

I'd try and save all of them, of course, but the species I love are the Rockhopper Penguins, which we know are impacted by climate change; they're some of the funkiest penguins with the most attitude out there. Obviously our iconic world's smallest Maui's dolphin, which are sadly also going extinct from fishing impacts, and then the tuatara, because this guy has been on the planet for literally hundreds of millions of years; older than the dinosaurs. It would be a tragedy

to see him go extinct, on our watch, because of our actions.

5. Reject, (re)elect, realign: Nick Smith, Ruth Dyson, Andrew Williams.

Well, I would reject Nick Smith ... re-elect Ruth Dyson, realign Andrew Williams. [Where? Where'd you realign him to?] Where? Well, I'd like to see NZ First support more environmental initiatives, I understand they're voting against our Members' Bill to clean up the Black Drain; the Tarawera River. It's disappointing not to have their support on this Bill.

YOUNG POLITICIAN

CURWEN ROLINSON OF NZ FIRST

A GREAT MAN ONCE SAID THAT JUST BECAUSE you might not care about politics ... was no surefire guarantee that politics doesn't care about you.

Regrettably, if you look around our politics today, it seems *exactly* like Kiwi politics doesn't care about us. I mean, look at the choices. Labour (who first imposed tertiary education fees) seems mostly to care about who's leading Labour. National (who took away your student allowance) look like they care most about their rich mates. Meanwhile, the Maori Party has a clear race-based focus, and ACT just cares if you're a rich white male in the Epsom electorate.

NZ First is different. Our dedication to the people of New Zealand is right there in our name. We put the "hard work" back in Labour, and the "ise" back in National. Come 2014, we *will* begin regaining ownership of Kiwi assets; campaign hard for a Universal Student Allowance & reduced fees; and ensure that no matter what race you are, we'll help you win.

NZ First is committed to delivering that. Because we care.

GREATEST HITS

IN THE SPIRIT OF iD FASHION WEEK, THIS YEAR'S Greatest Hit goes to David Clark, who featured on local Dunedin TV for his very own modeling experience. Strutting his stuff in a beautifully made red blazer by Tamsin Cooper, David looked well at home on the catwalk. Considering fashion crimes amongst politicians are addressed with almost as much ferocity as real crimes, it comes as a relief to see one of the parliamentary lot looking sharp. Hit up the Dunedin TV website to catch the man in action. "A model MP" indeed.



GREATEST SHITS

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU GET TO WELCOME A NEW party to the political stage, and it's certainly not every day that they debut with a home-made movie. Unfortunately for the Internet Party, their choice of homemade movie was, in all honesty, a bit frightening. It featured actors

pretending to be John Key and Obama, with the plot being that they just had to steal the Internet Party's manifesto. Of course, once Obama read it, he loved it! While it was nicely shot and the actors at least sounded like their intended figures, the entire project was outrageously cringe-worthy. A personal favourite moment was when John referred to himself as "John Dotcodotnz." Weird.


POLITWEETS

 **Judith Collins** @JudithCollinsMP · 53m
@InfinitelyPro only if you think money grows on trees. Are you Russel Norman in disguise?
Expand ↩ Reply 🔄 Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More

That's the banter we love from Judith

 **Gareth Hughes** @GarethMP · Apr 1
In the lead up to #NZVotes2014 I'm excited to launch an Internet initiative soon. From today I'm changing my name to gareth.org.nz
Expand ↩ Reply 🔄 Retweeted ★ Favorited ⋮ More

Kim Dotcom, John Dotcodotnz, now gareth.org.nz

 **Paula Bennett** @paulabennettmp · 23h
Stuck at add airport for last 3 hours. Bill English won't play scrabble with me
Expand ↩ Reply 🔄 Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More

Still unsure if this is a fake account or not, but it's funny either way

 **Clare Curran** @clarecurranmp · 22h
@RachelRayner @steviejnz Riverton has awesome #cheeserolls
View conversation ↩ Reply 🔄 Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More

The hunt for the perfect #cheeserolls continues

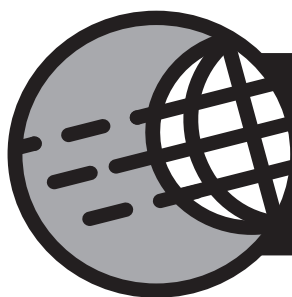
 **Asenati Lole-Taylor** @asenatitaylormp · 2h
Rt. Hon. Winston Peters at 7%, I will be Minister in next Government
Expand ↩ Reply 🔄 Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More

This is a fake one. No idea why anyone would choose Asenati to imitate though

 **Greenpeace NZ** @GreenpeaceNZ · 6h
The IPCC report heralds utter climate chaos for New Zealand ... meanwhile @SimonJBridges and @AdvantageNZ announcing more deep sea drilling.
Expand ↩ Reply 🔄 Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More

Amazing logic

 Retweeted by Russel Norman
Advantage NZ @AdvantageNZ · 5h
@GreenpeaceNZ @simonbridges drilling holes in the sea floor while looking for oil means sea levels will drop. #problemsolved
Hide conversation ↩ Reply 🔄 Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More



NEWS IN BRIEFS

BY CLAUDIA HERRON | @CLAUDIA_HERRON

WORLD WATCH

CROATIA | A Constitutional Court has upheld compulsory vaccination laws against nine infectious diseases, despite 10,000 people signing a petition claiming vaccinating healthy children poses a threat to their health. Mandatory vaccinations for diseases such as hepatitis, measles, whooping cough, and diphtheria began as early as 1999, and have contributed to a dramatic drop in disease.

AFGHANISTAN | For the first time in seven years, US military forces in Afghanistan suffered no combat casualties during a full calendar month. Since conflict began more than 12 years ago, this marks just the third time that no US service members have died in combat during a month.

PITTSBURG, USA | A 14-year-old six-grader's science fair project has revealed the US Government could save up to \$400 million a year on ink, simply by using thin-stroke Garamond rather than Times New Roman.

LONDON, ENGLAND | A 12 year University College London study revealed that a health diet should include 10 portions of fruit and vegetables, twice that of New Zealand's recommended intake. The study showed people who consumed at least seven portions of fruit and vegetables daily were 42 per cent less likely to die from any cause over the course of the study.

GRAPEVINE

"72kg? Heifers! Considering the average height [of women] is about 5'6", lardos, bunch of lardos."

New Zealand Television presenter Rachel Smalley, who left her microphone on air in an advertisement following a story that said an emergency contraceptive pill was less effective in women weighing more than 70 kilograms. She subsequently said the comment was "meant for off-air."

"We've got a tragedy unfolding, because there's one thing that's as sure as the sun rising in the east is that transgender women get raped in prison, and it's almost an inevitability for people in her situation. Of course prisoners are an unpopular sector in society, but they're still humans, and human rights apply to them and should be vigorously protected."

Lawyer Kelly Ellis, who has previously represented transgender women facing time in men's prisons, expresses her disappointment after a transgender Oamaru woman was sent to a men's prison, despite a request for home detention.

"I don't think anybody knows exactly and precisely what she's been arrested for. The randomness of these things is one of the areas of concern. But what she's been charged with appears to be an offence against attacking the holiness of Islam, which gives substance to [Internet postings] being the reason."

UK MP Andrew Stunell, after it was brought to his attention that a British woman had been locked up in Iran for five months and fears execution after she posted derogatory comments about the country's government on Facebook.

"As a general response, this is a good approach as children tend to run around outside and therefore breathe deeper. Besides those children whose asthma may be exacerbated by pollution and who would then need to increase their medication, the main issue is related to pollution exposure on a chronic basis, as current evidence indicates that lung growth is restricted. If there is no subsequent catch-up lung growth, then this respiratory deficit is carried forward through life."

UK Professor Frank Kelly, the chairman of the Department of Health's committee on the medical effects of air pollution, commenting on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' warning of "very high" levels of pollution which led to healthy schoolchildren being kept indoors.

BEST OF THE WEB

critic.co.nz/rednecksilo

It only takes one redneck and a sledgehammer to take down a silo.

worldometers.info

Live world statistics on population, government and economics, society and media, environment, food, water, energy and health.

critic.co.nz/rednecksilo

A list of hideouts that heroes use to turn distressing situations into triumphant successes.

patatap.com

Turn your keyboard into a melody maker with moving shapes.

critic.co.nz/doge2048

A dog of a timewaster, but so addictive.

critic.co.nz/italiancokementos

An Italian "scientist" claims to have set a new record in the Coke and Mentos experiment by adding a Durex condom and a dash of Nutella to the concoction.

Out Watch

SEX AND DRIPPING SPOONS

DENMARK HAS COME UP WITH AN INNOVATIVE way to increase birth rates – and we like it! Though we're a little mystified about the encouragement for "elderly and gay couples" to participate ...

Urged to 'do it for Denmark'

A DANISH travel company is offering a three-year supply of nappies and a family holiday to anyone who falls pregnant during a trip to the country. It is even throwing in a free pregnancy test and ovulation calendar.

Try our aged pecorino grated over Watties spaghetti and you will turn it into an Italian feast. I guarantee your guests will say: 'How did you make that?'

Um, no, I think your guest will be thinking twice before accepting a dinner invitation from you again! Sounds less like an "Italian feast" and more like an "I'm-lazy-and-drunk feast."

Best part of day slip-sliding away

The best part of the day sure is slip-sliding away for these kids ... far, far away! Looks more like a day of pain, tears and bruised butts. On a side note: the name of the event "Stride, Ride and Slide" sounds more like the name of a B-grade porno.



Stride, Ride and Slide at Logan Park yesterday

Science still lags behind fixing ever-dripping spoons

Cancer, disease, space exploration, green energy — research topics for simpletons! A real scientist would research something that's really important in the world. This is a "conundrum that has broken the back of every scientist" and requires immediate attention to end the suffering that dripping spoons inflict worldwide.

Is this an indication that Mr Whippy will be putting nuggets in his soft serves? That's an interesting combo ... Add some sprinkles and a flake and I would give it a try.

Whippy eager to taste success with Nuggets

By Kristen Stewart and Allison Hess | @CriticTeArohi

FACTS & FIGURES

Fancy Ketchup



In the United States, ketchup that is labeled "Fancy" simply has a higher solid concentration than other ketchup.

Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood.



In every episode of *Seinfeld* there is a Superman hidden somewhere.

Orcas kill sharks by torpedoing up into the shark's stomach from underneath, causing the shark's internal organs to explode.



The Gorillaz's hit song "Clint Eastwood" was written by rapper Del The Funky Homosapien after he read the book title "How To Write A Hit Record." The song made it to 57 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart and ranks 96th on the UK Top 100 songs of the Decade for 2000-2009.

1.118 meters tall

The Guinness World Record for the tallest living dog, a Great Dane named Zeus.

Queue

The only word in the English language that is still pronounced the same way when the last four letters are removed.



Three eyelids

Camels have three eyelids to protect themselves from blowing sand.



FRESHER FLU

BEING A FRESHER IS TOUGH; YOU STILL STUDY for terms tests, people give you filthy looks when you go to the Octagon, you think people give a fuck about your hall and the order in which you chose it. You also get blamed for a lot of shit like ruining Hyde Street, signing up for flats in May and making us all sick. You dicks.

The Fresher Flu is that wonderful bug which, much like freshers themselves, runs rampant through the halls of Dunedin and spills out onto the street, making everybody's life worse as a result. Like New Zealand's Got Talent, it's a complete misnomer; Fresher Flu is not related to freshers or the flu.

Throughout the world people talk about the "flu" as if it's a cold that levelled up and evolved after a bit of a battle with our immune systems. In Dunedin we slap the word "Fresher" in front of it because fuck first years, amirite? Really, "the flu" only refers to Orthomyxoviridae: a very specific family of RNA viruses that leave you in a worse state than a quick game of Scrumpy hands before your floor BYO.

The Flu is a pig of a bug that sees most people bed-bound and miserable for 4-5 days. Along the way you'll experience fevers, chills, rigors (uncontrollable shaking like a polaroid picture and jerking like a pubescent boy with uncapped broadband), muscle weakness and extreme fatigue. You'll also have the classic cold-like blocked nose, runny nose, sore throat and whinging little bitch syndrome.

Typically people with the flu who show up to their doc don't believe the diagnosis. They come in expecting "meningitis" or something equally as dramatic and generally spout something like "I've had the flu before and this is nothing like that." In reality, what they've had before, and

what we call the Fresher Flu, is a different viral infection of the upper airways.

There are a whole heap of viruses that cause those sorts of colds – most commonly, rhinovirus. Most of the symptoms of a cold aren't really because of the virus itself, but because of the immune and inflammatory reaction the body mounts against it. The fevers, pain, difficulty breathing and buckets full of mucous all come from the body trying to kill off the bug on board, which is why so many roads lead to Rome when it comes to airway infections.

As the symptoms are caused by your immune system, and your immune system is reacting to a virus, antibiotics won't help at all. Antibiotics only work on bacteria, and not all antibiotics work on all types of bacteria. There are strict guidelines on when to give antibiotics for respiratory infections but, like the "David Clark for Dunedin North" Facebook page, not many people follow them.

It's actually pretty hard to pick a bacterial infection from a viral infection in the clinic. The parts of the historic chest exam we used to rely on have been shown to be pretty poor at determining which is which. Largely, it's a numbers game – viral infections are ridiculously more common. And most of those occasional bacterial infections don't require antibiotics to be cleared in a young, otherwise healthy, group.

But it's hard to say "no" all the time when people relentlessly ask for things. It's why Mum always bought you candy at the supermarket, it's why you subsequently developed Diabetes, and it's why a lot of people end up on antibiotics for no reason. Next week we'll talk about why that's so dangerous – spoiler: it involves shitting yourself to death.

By Dr Nick | @CriticTeArohi



TO PEE OR NOT TO PEE ...

Unfortunately, too many students consider the dilemma posed in the title on our campus every day. And not because we're a navel-gazing bunch, obsessed with hypothetical problems, but because of the very real gender segregation in the bathroom facilities provided by the University.

I am guessing that most of you don't think twice when nature calls; you just find the nearest public restroom and walk in the door with the stick man or stick woman, depending on your gender assigned at birth, with no stress or worries. If this is your experience, then you should count yourself as lucky and recognise this as a privilege.

For many others on campus, the simple act of going to the toilet can cause distress and anxiety. I know people who have been yelled at, pushed out and barred from toilets because they don't fit someone's assumptions of what it is to be male or female. This is especially a problem for trans* people and folk with a non-binary gender identity, but it also can be a problem for people who just present a bit androgynously.

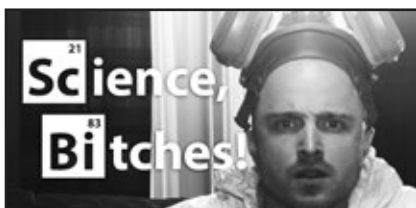
Have you ever stopped for a second and asked yourself why we have this segregation? Surely it belongs to a by-gone era where we assumed everyone was straight and therefore thought we should have segregation to make sure people didn't get up to any hanky-panky in the toilets. This argument is now redundant with around 10 per cent of the population identifying as queer or questioning.

Perhaps you have had the pleasure of spending your first year at a residential college and got introduced to the notion of gender-neutral bathrooms, also known as bathrooms. Here you would have found yourself sitting down to evacuate your bowels, right next to a stall where someone with a different gender is making a stool of their own. It might have been a bit strange for a couple of days but then you got over it, right?

So why not extend this principle to the whole of the University? Email me your responses!

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

"The Fresher Flu is that wonderful bug which, much like freshers themselves, runs rampant through the halls of Dunedin and spills out onto the street, making everybody's life worse as a result. Like New Zealand's Got Talent, it's a complete misnomer; Fresher Flu is not related to freshers or the flu."



MOON WALKING AND MONKEY BUTTS

WHAT DO WASABI ALARMS, FARTING FISH, bat blowjobs, dogs' bollocks, and undead salmon have in common? They were all subjects of Ig Nobel prize-winning research! Now, if you've never heard of Ig Nobel Prizes, get excited. Far funnier than Darwin awards, they acknowledge research that "makes you laugh, then makes you think."

Started up in 1991, the Ig Nobel Prize was the sarcastic sibling to the Nobel Prize, awarding anti-achievements. For instance, the recipient of an Archaeology prize was a French scout troop whose members diligently removed some graffiti from a cave, which turned out to be 15,000-year-old cave paintings.

Nowadays, the Ig Nobel prize has a different purpose. At the turn of the century, the Ig Nobel

prize stopped being about ridiculing the unfortunate recipients, and started recognising legitimate research that also happened to be hilarious. These are some of my favourites:

- 1. Wasabi Smoke Alarms.** Fire alarms are great if you can hear them, but what about deaf people? Turns out, Wasabi powder is the perfect solution – it disperses through the air quickly, doesn't catch fire, and is damn good at waking you up from a deep slumber. There's a fine balance, though, between waking you up and knocking you out, so a chemistry prize was given to scientists who determined the optimal density of this airborne wasabi.
- 2. Frosty footwear.** Living in Dunedin, we all know the perils of walking down icy hills in inappropriate shoes. But what exactly is the most appropriate footwear? Our very own Otago physics researchers showed conclusively that wearing socks over your shoes is the way to go if you plan on arriving at Uni in one piece on a chilly morning.
- 3. Farting herrings.** During the cold war, at least one Soviet submarine was found straying into Swedish waters. Understandably, the Swedes were less than impressed, and embarked on epic "submarine hunts," which were continued

when submarine sounds were recorded. Except, it probably wasn't submarines. It was herrings. Apparently, they communicate by farting.

- 4. Moon walking.** Jesus could have walked on water – and so can you! Well, as long as you're on the moon. By artificially reducing the gravity (putting someone in a semi-supportive harness), and giving them flippers, a relatively fit person can actually run on water. But it ain't graceful. I would recommend finding the video.
- 5. Zombie salmon.** It seems that deceased salmon can actually respond to visual stimuli, at least if you do your stats badly. An MRI scan was done of a dead salmon, while it was being shown different pictures. And they got statistically significant results. However, a proportion of all results will be false positives – and if you have a lot of data, there will be a lot of false positives, so you've got to correct for that otherwise your results will be bullshit.
- 6. Monkey butts.** We recognise faces, chimpanzees recognise butts. Even by looking at a photograph, chimps can pick out their buddies from behind! That would be a strange kind of identity parade ...

By Elsie Jacobson | @ScienceBitches_

Plan ahead –

PIMS and your eVision portal will not be available over mid-semester break



eVision will be upgraded over mid-semester break and will be unavailable from

**9pm Wednesday 16 April until
8am Wednesday 23 April.**

PIMS will be decommissioned at
9pm Wednesday 16 April.

After the upgrade eVision will include the information on timetables and exams that you would normally find in PIMs. You will also find more information like your fees, results, and options for picking papers.

Some items will be unavailable for slightly longer:

- change of course forms will be unavailable from **Saturday 5 April until Sunday 27 April**
- requests for academic transcripts will be accepted but will not be processed from **Tuesday 15 April until Monday 28 April**

For further information, contact the University Information Centre.

0800 80 80 98
university@otago.ac.nz

askotago
www.askotago.ac.nz



\$20 MILLION UPGRADE WILL SEE WIRELESS ACROSS ALL CAMPUSES AND SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED NETWORK SPEEDS

THE UNIVERSITY'S INTERNET HAS FOR SOME time been plagued by criticism due to its inconsistent speeds, varying performance and general unreliability. However, a key project for Information Technology Services (ITS) this year is the overhaul and significant upgrade of the University Network and Wireless Network. With over \$20 million set down to complete the project, the wireless service across campus is to be extended across all University campuses and network speeds are to be significantly improved.

The improvement seems undeniably necessary when the network currently hosts over 18,952 devices every day, according to the 2014/15 ITS Divisional Plan. In 2013, the CIO 100 ranked the University of Otago as having the ninth largest network in the country. *Critic* spoke with ITS director Mike Harte who said that when the network upgrade is finished, "our suppliers reckon this will be the single biggest local area network in the country – that's how big it is." He highlighted the sheer number of devices attached to the network, emphasising that 20,000 students all have more than one wireless device, from iPhones and smartphones to laptops and tablets.

Harte is quick to sympathise with the incompetence of the current systems. "For the last few years, students have been moaning – and quite rightly so – about the speed of the Internet." He

said that this "has always been a big issue, along with the reliability and signal of the network." He describes the current network as going "up and down like a yoyo. My team are trying to keep it together with number eight fencing wire; they lift up rocks, little things scurry out."

"This is not just an upgrade. This is a complete rebuild of the University network from scratch."

A process of "putting together a business case of upgrading the existing network" was prompted a couple of years ago, and with over \$20 million of capital approved, Harte reiterated, "this is not just an upgrade. This is a complete rebuild of the University network from scratch." The need for a new network can be partly attributed to the old network's incapacity to handle modern traffic loads, and the difficulty of merely upgrading that network. "When the old network was built there was no such thing as YouTube. Now the single biggest user of our broadband network is YouTube." The new network will enable ITS to increase speeds without having to replace the physical infrastructure, simply by upgrading the software.

The primary focus is currently the wireless network, but Harte is quick to acknowledge that

without a wired network, there would be no wireless network. The network upgrade takes two paths: a complete upgrade of the wired network and the subsequent upgrade of the wireless network. "The wired project progresses in advance of the wireless – we need to lay the [wired] system for it to work." Harte elaborates, "that means all the fibre-optics in the ground are being replaced completely, so that there is no one single point in fail." This will ensure that where there are areas where only one cable goes to a certain building, one lost cable will not put the entire building out, largely due to different and multiple paths to each significant point in the network being put in place. Once complete, there will be around 90 kilometres of fibre-optic cable in place.

The wireless infrastructure is to have a bigger capacity, faster speed, bigger pipes, and bigger fibre, and, "come July, we will start to see people coming onto the new network," according to Harte. From that, the wireless will roll out across all campuses so that every major building and certain outdoor areas will have access. Harte describes it as "ubiquitous wireless, basically."

As to why there has been no official announcement of when the new network would be up and running, Harte said that his team is currently working through the timetable and they would publish it as soon as they can. Harte said that



they will be presenting their material in a number of formats, but will also be holding public forums and publishing visual guides to show the progress of the upgrade, particularly a heat map of the campus highlighting what areas of campus have been connected to the new network. "You'll be able to see [the area] start to go red, as [the connection] expands out, and as more and more buildings get connected."

The new wireless ports that are being installed are much faster and much more reliable than what is currently available, and already over the Christmas break, an extra 100 wireless access points were installed in the Central Library. Although these ports have reduced an element of congestion, they are still on the old network, at the old speed. "The ports in the wall at the moment are 100 megabits per second. We are going to at least one gigabit per second, which will be the slowest port on the network. And this network may have the capability to blow that out, depending on the needs. The new wireless ports we are putting out there are much faster and much more reliable."

A significant part of the infrastructure currently in use will become redundant as a result of the project. "All the stuff that sits in the core is being totally replaced. It's outdated. It's getting past its use-by. It's getting into an unsupported mode, and is at the end of its useful life." Ultimately, this means a huge amount of expensive material will be worthless; one single box, which sits at the core of the network, can be worth several hundred thousand dollars. "So that's why the project itself is costing around \$20 million. It is not an insignificant amount of money, but by the end of it you are going to see really fast Internet speeds, and much better wireless capabilities right across the campus wherever you go."

Some have speculated that the upgrade will

supersede that of the speed on offer under the Gigatown promotion currently underway, which sees the winning town have access to gigabit speed as long as users have Ultra Fast Broadband capabilities. However, Harte distinguishes what the campaign has to offer as "meaningless" because of the University's need to service staff and students and the network's capacity to already offer such speeds. "We are doing gigabit to every desktop at a minimum, to every port in the wall, with the capability of going faster. But you don't [always] experience a 10 gigabit speed." He adds that while a gigabit pipe enables there to be a lot of traffic on the network without noticing derogation, a user may experience gigabit speed if there are no other users but that is "different to having a gigabit speed in your home dedicated to one or two people."

"The new network will have no student proxy server for either the wired or wireless network"

Coming hand-in-hand with the network upgrade will be the demise of the dreaded student proxy. Harte said that student proxy servers have been in the network forever and provide a means for students to authenticate their right to access the network, and help to identify inappropriate Internet activity from users. However, as anyone with a tablet or smartphone will know, the proxies "don't play friendly," and make Internet use incredibly frustrating. The new network will have no student proxy server for either the wired or wireless network but we won't see this change "until we are pretty close to the end of the project." In the mean time, the ITS team have developed the "student wireless bypass" which bypasses the student proxy. While he said there were still teething issues with a few particular apps, in general, the bypass appeared to be working well and a lot of volume appeared to be going through the bypass.

The University selected Dimension Data as its preferred Network Services Partner largely due

to its huge area of expertise, and one of the contract negotiation points was that they open a business here. Dimension Data are an international company with 60 offices in 13 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Harte said that Dimension Data would be used "right through the design process." "They are responsible for the installation, but right up front from the design of the network to prototyping it, testing it, and implementing it. Then [Dimension Data] will play a role afterwards in terms of supporting [the network]. When something goes wrong, they'll be helping fix it. So it's a big contract for them."

The complexities of such a colossal project are well articulated by Harte. "It's quite a difficult process. You've got an existing network and then you've got this new one you're building. There might be some services, like blackboard, the management system, etc., that all sit in our data centre and those servers all sit in our network because you need a network to talk to this stuff. Then you are building a new network that these things aren't on. It's a very complex business to gain access before you can turn this old network off. It's a gradual process, bit by bit, building by building."

By Claudia Herron | @Claudia_Herron





WHERE THE WILD THINGS AREN'T

BY JOSIE ADAMS

I AM NOT A VERY GOOD USER OF THE LIBRARY. I came once in first year for the comfy red couches, and I stayed because when you bump into people you vaguely know there and engage them in conversations, while they're busy, they're not allowed to yell at you – because you're in a library. The library may be the main source of my thriving social life, but for most people it's where study happens. I dared myself to spend an entire day in Central Library "working hard" and discovering the ins and outs of the place, along with the Science one, which many Health Science students call "home."

I arrived at eight in the morning on a Tuesday, and all was quiet. I didn't know the stairs in there

could creak, but when the only other source of noise pollution is the shy, determined scribbling of early-morning nerds, my large and imposing footsteps came in like a wrecking ball. I kept climbing up and up, afraid of the death stares I was getting from the tops of studious faces only just visible over their already-overheated laptops. In my haste to climb away – there were no PE students around to protect me, should I be set upon by an enraged pack – I discovered the very top floor. It's higher, even, than the little armchair haven people always take the elevator to. The floor is no more than two metres wide, and it juts out of the wall to form a border around the top of the library. Desks, all practicality and no comfort, line the floor. No one here speaks, ever. I tried to press myself against the wall and slide along it, as far from the fragile glass railing (the only thing stopping me from plummeting

to my quick and quiet death) as possible. I sat down at a desk, all shaky knees and vertigo. I stared at the ceiling, visualised myself punching some bad guys (I find it soothing), and tried to calm my nerves. I couldn't. The oxygen up here was too thin for breathing exercises.

I went down a level and into the celebrity squares to get my own little panic room. I placed all my things on the desk and opened my book, but before I could read anything the second floor workstations caught my eye. What in the blazes? Those things are swastikas! It wasn't a hallucination; there are actually swastikas on the second floor of Central Library. My vertigo came back and I crawled back down the stairs, relieved that no one was around to see me, especially not Nazis.

I kept crawling down until I reached the ground floor, which I kissed with relief, and then muttered a few lines about factory farming so that the four people using the computers would think I was a performance artist and not recovering from a five-minute freak-out. I saw the morning sun gleaming through the wide windows near UniPrint, and I saw the close, solid ground outside lit up by that sun, and I knew where I would sit.

Mid-morning came around, and I was hungry. I had sworn not to leave the building all day, so had packed a Vitago for a snack (it's like Up&Go, but without the Weet-Bix). I chose Vitago because the worst thing a person can do in a library is eat noisily; I'm talking about you, hipster girl who hangs out on the first floor

and his laugh lines had become canyons. His mouth never closed, but instead uttered low, staccato laughs; another thing issuing from it was a steady stream of giggle spittle, which sank into the deep, dry cracks of his skin. I watched him for a few minutes, working up the courage to approach him. I engaged him in conversation, and he showed me three YouTube videos and a series of pictures of owls with the faces of cats. This man did not have Internet at home. Everything else was normal, but he was reduced to using only the Uni's Internet. He, and other shells of people like him, are why the internet has been deemed a basic human right.

I tiptoed away, afraid that if I roused him too much out of his stupor I would inadvertently kill him. I backed into what I have termed the

"Red Room." It's dark, the only chairs are couches, people have probably had sex here, and the presence of books, while a constant in the library, seems more potent somehow. Everyone was reading, not writing, and they all wore glasses. Were they wearing glasses because reading had worn their eyes out? Or was it because it was too dark to read without them? Had their eyes deteriorated because of the dark, or was it because they'd suffered

from too much sun earlier in life? Perhaps they were all here because they must now congregate in the most shadowy parts of the library, where sunbeams won't be concentrated into their eyes like blinding knives of light.

I curled up on one of the armchairs and half-heartedly did some readings before discovering that the Red Room is where the comics are. Lunchtime hit. I was still not allowed to leave the building, but I let myself go to the Campus Shop. Nothing of adequate size there is dairy-free, so I bought two Nerdaliciouses and some "Frooze Balls," which sounded exciting at the time but made me hate everything later.

I sat on one of the ground floor chairs and watched people come and go. The law students arrived long after the sun had started heating up the ground, so they came without the overcoats and scarves that I did. They walk mainly in groups of three, and are often bedecked head-to-toe in Karen Walker. The law students are beautiful and proud, and in their prides they climbed to the desk-filled savannahs of the second and third floors, where their golden manes flowed in the breezes generated by the lithe moments of each other's lean, tanned muscles. No one knows how or why they are so beautiful – but with the only other aesthetically pleasing discipline being Commerce, one can only guess that the key to eternal, ethereal beauty is evil.

I followed them up to the first floor and found my own flock: the Watchers. Mostly Anthropology and Psychology students, they fill the red fields of plush surrounding the stairways and lining the centre of the room. These people are not sure whether they're arts or science; all they know is that they must observe. They fulfil this sacred duty by searching the groups climbing and descending for leaders, social behaviours, and spiritual expression; by shoving pens into their faces in order to gauge society's reaction to walruses in the library; and by reading page after page of irrelevant Wikipedia pages about the Stanford Prison Experiment, Elizabeth Báthory, and the Trobriand Islands. Occasionally their observations will devolve into field notes, which they post on their friends' Facebook walls. They are often arrogant, annoyingly verbose, and loud. They fill up all the comfortable chairs and don't even do any work. I am one of them, so I fully admit that we clutter up the library, and if we weren't so afraid of the outdoors we'd be better off giggling on Union Lawn. I joined them for a reinvigorating chat.

It was around 4pm when I cheated; I left the building. There is a stretch of hallway behind the library, and a window that links the two. I was safely inside Camp Nerd when a man waiting at the coffee cart in the corridor began to tap on the glass. I tapped back irritably. He continued to tap, even louder, apparently under the impression I was tapping to demonstrate a shared love of disturbing the peace and not hammering out "shut the fuck up." I had to go to the coffee cart

"IN THE RED CHAIRS NEXT TO THE STAIRS ON THE FIRST FLOOR, I SAW THE MOST TERRIFYING PERSON I HAVE EVER SEEN; AND I'VE SEEN RICHARD DAWKINS."

and is always eating an apple. Frick you, and your apples, too! I really hate you, and also that curly-haired guy who sniffs viciously every ten seconds. You can both go to heck. Anyway, the Vitago was a mistake; things with straws are very noisy – so embarrassed, I sucked down the whole thing in one go.

While I did this, I went for a walk. In the red chairs next to the stairs on the first floor, I saw the most terrifying person I have ever seen; and I've seen Richard Dawkins. He was dressed youthfully, but his countenance was that of a monster man fresh from a thousand-year stretch in solitary confinement. His skin was stretched into a gaping, Joker-esque mask,

"APRICOT," THEY PROMISED; "HEALTHY," THEY THREATENED; "THESE WERE A BAD CHOICE," I SAID TO NOBODY, BECAUSE IT WAS 7PM ON A TUESDAY IN CENTRAL LIBRARY AND ONLY SUCKERS WERE STILL HERE.

and confront him – I had to. Unfortunately, he had taken his coffee and disappeared by the time I got there, so I had to pretend I was waiting for a friend in one of the many red chairs lining the hallway. It's important to look like you know what you're doing at all times, lest people think you're a fresher.

I took the opportunity to watch people passing through the hallway. The only people in here were staff on breaks and students hiding from predatory ex-friends. There was a lingering man who took it upon himself to educate all who passed him about the facts of life, as he saw them. "The vagina," he advised the two sniggering men next to him, "is the most dangerous thing known to man. I learned that in intermediate." Minutes later, he preached his motto, "use me, abuse me, or lose me," to a small ginger Uni staff member. Perhaps he is a masochist; this would explain how he continues to gain knowledge of the supposedly lethal vagina. In some instances, I concluded, it is wise to stay in the library.

Dinnertime came and went, and all I had was Frooze Balls. The Tupperware salads I'd been so repulsed by earlier in the evening seemed like a banquet in a box compared to my vegan yumyums. "Apricot," they promised; "healthy," they threatened; "these were a bad choice," I said to nobody, because it was 7pm on a Tuesday in

Central Library and only suckers were still here. I cried with hunger and boredom onto the balls, and the saltiness I re-absorbed boosted my mood. There is nothing like tasting one's own tears to provide a motivational dose of self-pity.

Downstairs at the computers, where I'd migrated to, one guy was working his way through a giant pack of Burger Rings and a Choc Bar. He knew how to roll. My laptop is currently in two halves and has a half-blackened screen due to a very enthusiastic bout of Sonic Sega All-Stars, so I can be found at these computers most afternoons. I'd never been here at night, though, and there was a surprising amount of people hanging around. I did a quick survey, and found that the majority of users were postgrads, exchange students, and hardcore gamers. Many of us past third year have

long forgone the custom of bringing a laptop to uni. They're heavy and breakable, and the library's computers have much quicker internet. The gamers here had purpose-built home computers that were far from portable, and the exchange students didn't think we had computers in New Zealand.

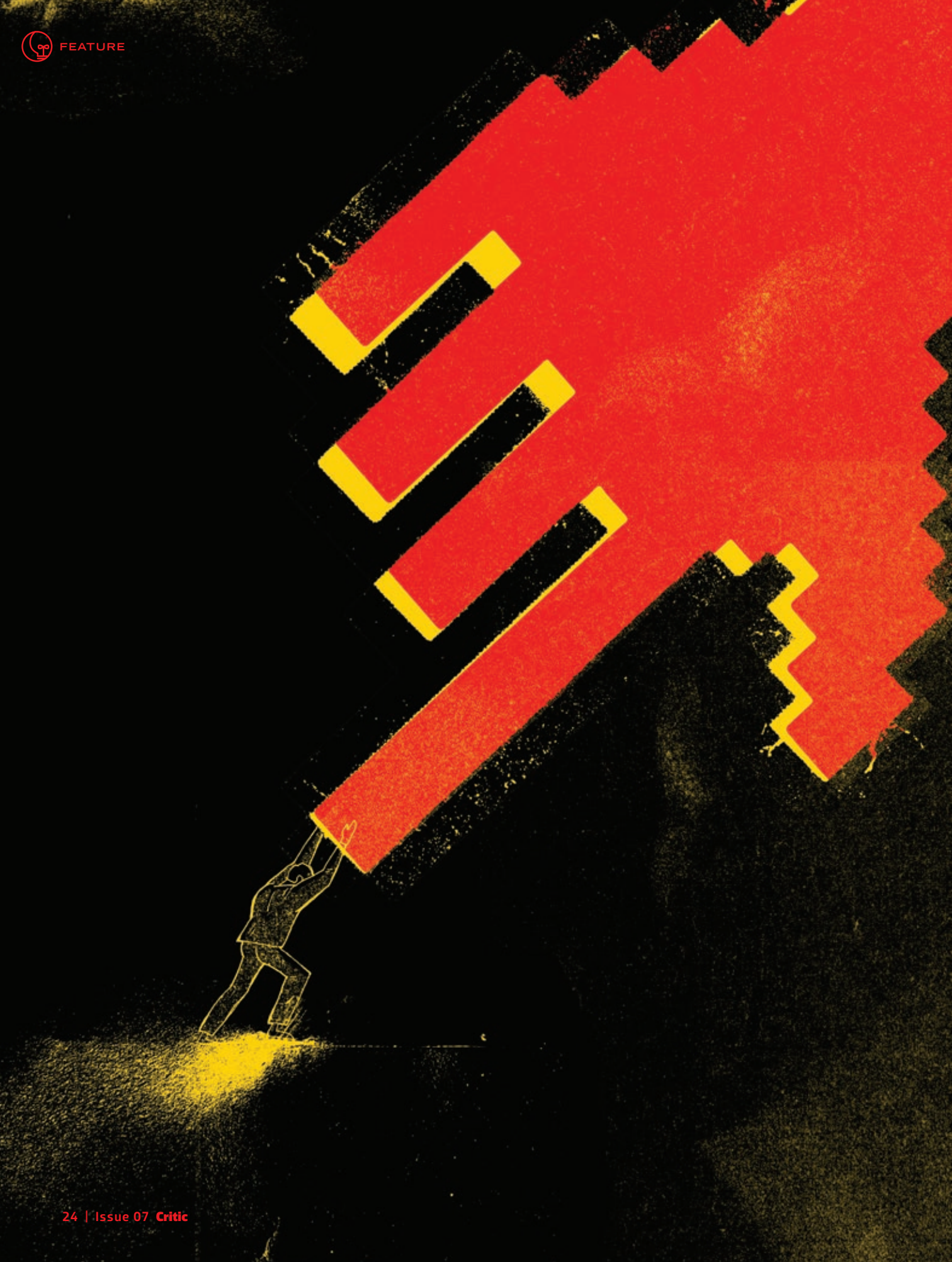
Night had fallen, and people were still here. I was reclining woefully on a first floor couch, attempting to remember the outside world and thereby regain my will to live, when I noticed that some of the people around me seemed

familiar. They had been here as long as me – nearing twelve hours now. They looked lonely, or sad, and I wondered what they'd been doing here this whole time. I sat down next to one and cracked a bad joke about the library being warmer than my flat, and immediately engaged her attention. She was here, she explained, not because her flat lacked internet but because her flat is so despicable she would prefer to live in the library than return to dark, dank halls where an enraged flatmate could be hiding in every shadowy corner, or where, even on the sunniest day, frostbite floats on the breeze that drifts through her crappy cardboard walls. She was thin from a diet of being embarrassed to eat alone in public, and tired from the early mornings and late nights problem avoidance requires. I told her she was welcome to come and hang out at my place any time, after which she looked at me like I was a bit weird, and I left.

My day in the library was an emotional roller-coaster for both me and those I interacted with. I spent my study breaks bothering American exchange students for answers about their study habits and scribbling madly like a T-rex to hide the sweat stains on my armpits caused by the nerves associated with approaching someone for comment. By the end of the night, I could be seen blindly and haphazardly stumbling through the first floor, overcome with relief and the need for isolation after fulfilling my daily "talking to strangers" quota.

People go to the library to study, but they stay for the habits they form on their breaks. Everyone is happy to be interrupted, and no one will say no to a Nerdalicious. Everyone deals with the library in their own odd ways. There was Mr Tall, Dark and Handsome who wound his way slowly and mysteriously through the first floor aisles; there was the gaggle of paper airplane makers in the second floor study rooms; and there are the slow-mo fight-dancers we've all seen on Overheard @ Otago. A whole day in the library proved to be too much for me, but proved it to be a home for more than just Health Science students: this is not just a study room; it's a social space, a lounge, an internet cafe, and a haven.

"EVERYONE DEALS WITH THE LIBRARY IN THEIR OWN ODD WAYS."



The Great Wall of Internet

With the news these days constantly filled by reports of governments exercising power and influence over the Internet, Features Editor *Loulou Callister-Baker* takes a step back to look at a country with years of experience: China.



S A TOOL FOR DEMOCRACY, THE

Internet is a threat to authoritarian regimes. It is decentralised. It has a non-hierarchical character. But it also has a ubiquitous nature – a far-reaching, everlasting presence – which some may view as power. This is why, in the early stages of the Internet's commercialisation and public accessibility in China, the Chinese Government's attitude towards the Internet oscillated between two poles of "explicit support" and "political mistrust."

However, regardless of the Government's uncertainty, by June 1998, a national survey showed 1,175,999 Internet users in China. By the end of 2009, this number had exponentially grown to 384 million users. The extreme rate of growth of Internet use and availability in China, as well as the realisation that the Internet "could not be shut off at will" (an early example of this being the fax transmission sent to China by Chinese students abroad to distribute information about the events happening on Tiananmen Square in May and June 1989), forced the Chinese Government to be proactive in setting up an extensive framework of control in order to maintain its

authoritarian rule. Defying previous conceptions of what it meant to be online, China created a distinct national Internet.

Since the Internet was first available in China in 1987, the Chinese government has used a multi-layered strategy to control online content and monitor online activities at every level of Internet service. Several political bodies manage this strategy, including: The Central Propaganda Department (which ensures that media and cultural content follows the official line as mandated by the Chinese Communist Party); and the State Council Information Office (which oversees all websites). By employing a huge amount of cyber police, engineers, developers, web monitors and online propagandists to censor and guide Chinese Internet users, the Chinese government has created a virtual "Great Wall."

Although the precise workings of Internet censorship in China remain unknown, there is a growing understanding of how aspects of censorship are achieved. Gmail (and other Google services), Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and thousands of other foreign websites are either

firewalled in China or work extremely slowly or only sometimes (unless accessed through means like virtual private networks).

On domestically operated websites like Sina Weibo (China's biggest commercial microblogging network), government-funded censors delete posts that could be seen as politically incorrect. This is normally done through targeted keyword searches like "Tibet independence" or "Tiananmen Square." A list obtained by the China Internet Project in Berkeley found that over 1,000 words including "dictatorship," "truth" and "riot police" are automatically banned. Stemming from this process is the Government's primary strategy for shaping content, which is to hold Internet service providers and access providers responsible for the behaviour of their customers, which means business operators have little choice but to actively censor content on their sites. Business owners therefore use a combination of their own judgement and direct instructions from propaganda officials to determine what content to ban, therefore establishing their own type of "self-censorship."



The Chinese Government also enlists individuals, who are sometimes prisoners searching for a means to get their sentences reduced, to write comments and posts in support of the Chinese Communist Party – the group has been called the "50 Cent Party" due to the small sums they receive for their patriotic posts.

If any breaches of censorship or violations of acceptable content occur, website owners hosted inside China can be warned or shut down. Furthermore, individual Internet users who post or distribute information deemed harmful by authorities have been threatened, intimidated, or thrown in jail – most often on national security charges, such as "subversion." Because of these actions, a range of international organisations and groups have viewed censorship and media restrictions in China negatively. In 2013, the international non-governmental organisation Freedom House ranked China 179 out of 196 countries in terms of press restrictions (the higher the ranking, the more restrictive). Additionally, in a 2011 report to the United Nations by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, great concern for China's control on the Internet was expressed. The Special Rapporteur was "deeply concerned" with China's "mechanism used to regulate and censor information on the Internet," especially as they were becoming "increasingly sophisticated" but still remained largely "hidden from the public." The Special Rapporteur also expressed concern for the criminalising of legitimate expression online resulting in the imprisonment of bloggers around the world, citing 2010 Reporters Without Borders statistics that showed 72 individuals were imprisoned due to the content of their online expression in China that year.

However, despite the extensive frameworks of censorship established in China, the Internet still has become a central means for civil, social and political exploration for Chinese citizens online (otherwise known as "netizens"). As Tai Zixue states in his book, *The Internet in China*,

"[b]ecause there is no judicial independence in China and courts often collude with Government officials, Chinese netizens may understandably redress what they perceive as unfair and unjustified by taking issues into the virtual court of appeal on the Internet and thus swaying the tide of public opinion."

The Internet (despite censorship) allows for the dissemination of information, the organisation of online petitions and offline protests, the

"The Chinese Government also enlists individuals, who are sometimes prisoners searching for a means to get their sentences reduced, to write comments and posts in support of the Chinese Communist Party"

extraction of varying degrees of responsiveness and accountability from the authorities, and the affection of government decision-making concerning important social, political, and diplomatic issues. This is because the Internet, as Zixue views it, has "transformed the traditional concept of space by transcending and blurring geographic and political boundaries," with a "defining feature of cyberspace" being its "spacelessness." The Internet has thereby empowered individuals, as well as groups, to bypass conventional regulatory mechanisms, established by both China's government and domestic Chinese Internet companies, by creating a brand new realm of human communication and connection.

The "decentralised nature of cyberspace has tilted the power into the hands of the individuals

and marginal social groups" in an array of ways. This has in turn presented, as Zixue observes, "opportunities for activists to form into networks of collective action that would not be possible otherwise." Similar protests would have been much more difficult to organise in real-world China; it would have also been impossible to organise a protest with such speed and with such popular participation off the Internet. Thus, online activism has become a "revolutionary force" in the evolving dynamics of social (and political) movements in China. This shows the ability of the Internet to connect similarly minded users into collective action. The online world has not only become a place where activists can share news, it is also a forum to exchange views and work out further actions. As Zixue writes, "While conventional media may fulfil a limited function for these purposes, the Internet has surpassed all mass media in that it can bring in massive participation in issues and topics that may lie outside the official agenda."

The online reaction to the Government and the mainstream media's involvement with the train incident near Wenzhou, Zhejiang province on 23 July 2011 shows a situation of relative triumph for online civil society in China, as well as the Chinese Government's inability to censor all online content. The high-speed train collision resulted in the deaths of 40 people and almost 200 injuries. China's Central Propaganda Department sent directives to the mainstream media to stop coverage – with journalists being told not to "investigate the causes of the accident" or to "question" the official account, it was also explicitly stated that, "[t]here must be no seeking after the causes [of the accident], rather, statements from authoritative departments must be followed." Other media orders by the Central Propaganda Department included limiting the coverage to only "positive news or information released by the authorities," for example, "people donating blood and taxi drivers not accepting fares." However, the online response to the directives and the further reporting of the incident, including reports on

“When a country is so corrupt that one lightning strike can cause a train crash ... none of us is exempt. China today is a train rushing through a lightning storm ... we are all passengers.”

the literal covering up of the derailed train cars, greatly limited the effects of the directives.

In response to the authorities urging reporters to focus on rescue efforts rather than the causes of the crash, one micro-blogger called Kangfu Xiaodingdang wrote, “We have the right to know the truth! [...] That's our basic right!” One of the most popular comments on Sina Weibo read: “When a country is so corrupt that one lightning strike can cause a train crash ... none of us is exempt. China today is a train rushing through a lightning storm ... we are all passengers.” Although, like any social media website, the majority of Weibo's content is apolitical, the reactions to the incident on Weibo, which caused China's official media to cease from ignoring the incident, shows the possibility of political subversion online where Chinese netizens can demand more Government accountability and transparency.

An earlier established, but still continuing, group that over time has illustrated the effect of the Internet on social movements in China, is the Tiananmen Mother Group. This group consists of parents who lost loved ones during the Tiananmen Square massacre on the eve of 4 June

1989. The group demands accountability from the government despite continuous harassment, threats, surveillance and detainment by the Chinese authorities. The Internet became essential for the Tiananmen Mothers to communicate to the public in China and around the world. It was through this means that the group could publish witness accounts, victim lists, and statements from victims' parents on the Internet that have been collected by the group over the years. It has also been a medium through which the Tiananmen Mothers can publish their open letters, public statements and news releases over time. This widespread online and offline, national and global, support for the Tiananmen Mothers Group campaign has exerted large pressure on Chinese authorities in how they handle the group. Therefore, when in 2004 three of the Tiananmen Mothers were arrested, the online reaction worldwide to news of the arrest led to their releases in less than a week.

The Xiamen anti-PX protest provides yet another example of an event where an active online civil society in China created real-world impacts. The protest involved tens of thousands (or an estimated amount between 10,000 to 70,000 people) of protesters marching through the streets of Dalian demanding a nearby petrochemical plant be shut down. The event, which lacked the necessary protesting permit, was organised through social media websites such as Sina Weibo and Renren, despite the efforts of censors to remove comments calling for action. The city government, in reaction to demands of accountability, listened to public opinion and adjusted its decision accordingly, which led to the order of the petrochemical plant to be shut down. The state-run Xinhua News Agency concluded that the eventual construction of the PX plant “may have helped lay a cornerstone that boosts ordinary Chinese people's participation in policy making.” However, the Xiamen protests are still seen as the exception rather than the rule.

Although the Chinese Communist Party's censorship of both traditional media and the Internet is certain to continue, the rise of civil societies online in China means that the CCP and the government can no longer maintain absolute

control of mass media and communication. These three cases also reveal the emergence and development of a trend of online protesting in China.

The Internet has allowed for an increase in the democratising of communication of information in Chinese society and created a public sphere for Chinese Internet users to engage in public debates on social and political issues, which in some significant cases has extracted a certain level of accountability from the government. These online protests and signatory campaigns are becoming frequent ways for Chinese netizens to express their discontent with the status quo and call for attention from authorities. The Internet has allowed for a growing body of autonomous individuals. It has also changed the traditional role of conventional media in Chinese life. Consumers of media have taken more control in what they want to read about which has led to an increase in human interest stories and social events.

Despite China's extensive and prolific Internet censorship regime, as Zixue writes, “as the Internet has fundamentally transformed, and will continue to transform, every aspect of Chinese society, the actual course of events may not follow exactly what the Chinese regime has mapped out both in the short term and in the long run.” Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, writing for *The Guardian*, expresses a sentiment shared by many pro-democratic individuals and groups when he wrote, “China may seem quite successful in its controls, but it has only raised the water level. It's like building a dam: it thinks there is more water so it will build it higher. But every drop of water is still in there. It doesn't understand how to let the pressure out. It builds up a way to maintain control and push the problem to the next generation. It still hasn't come to the moment that it will collapse. That makes a lot of other states admire its technology and methods. But in the long run, its leaders must understand it's not possible for them to control the [I]nternet unless they shut it off – and they can't live with the consequences of that. The [I]nternet is uncontrollable. And if the [I]nternet is uncontrollable, freedom will win. It's as simple as that.”



WHAT IS HAPPINESS, ANYWAY?

By Allison Hess

AS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, WE ARE at a defining time in our lives. We are furthering our worldly education, learning to be adults and earning degrees; all of which will propel us into the rest of our lives – jobs, careers and families. My own university career is very nearly coming to an end, which means friends and family are continuously asking that scary and tricky question: "So what do you want to do when you finish?" After furrowing my brow and looking helplessly about, I usually say: "I just want to do something that makes me happy." This John Lennon-esque answer is vague to say the least but seems to adequately satisfy the questioner. After all, isn't happiness what life's all about? Isn't the whole aim and purpose of human existence intertwined with achieving a lasting state of happiness?

But what exactly is happiness? And how do we come about attaining a lasting state of happiness? With these questions swimming around in my mind, I channelled my inner Sherlock Holmes for some old fashioned sleuthing.

Defining Happiness

While happiness may be a single term, it is quite an elusive concept. From Aristippus in the ancient world to Robert Nozick in contemporary times, philosophers over the centuries have struggled to come to a consensus on the definition and source of happiness. As far as I could work out, philosophers who write and theorise about happiness typically split the term into two senses.

Firstly, happiness is simply a state of mind. This kind of short-term happiness is characterised by a range of positive emotions that we feel when we are momentarily content or full of joy.

Secondly, happiness can refer to a life of well-being or flourishing. In this sense, long-term happiness is more than just an emotion; rather, it concerns what benefits a person, makes them better off and serves in their best interests for the long run.

With this definition under my belt, I went to the people. I began casually asking friends and family what happiness was to them. The answers I received varied from "I'm just glad to be alive after last night," to "Whiskey and titties,

what more could you need?" Some answers came from a deeper place: "Happiness is leading a healthy and peaceful life, loving and trusting that you're loved," and "Doing something of a higher purpose and finding meaning in who you are."

These answers roused my razor-sharp skills of deduction, leading me to believe happiness is a very subjective and personal concept; no wonder philosophers struggle to see eye to eye. Nevertheless, I began to see the difference between short-term and long-term happiness. For instance, "whiskey and titties" would definitely be considered a form of short-term happiness. They will provide fleeting feelings of enjoyment and pleasure. Short-term happiness such as this seems to be all around us; for me it comes in the form of ice cream and watching *West Wing* reruns. These things are easy and comfortable, give me joy and make life more pleasant right away.

On the other hand, "doing something of a higher purpose and finding meaning in who you are," sounds a lot more like long-term happiness. This answer corresponds with acting in your own best interests for meaningful and lasting happiness.



So, which is more important?

Well, that depends on who you ask.

For the ancient philosopher Aristippus of Cyrene the goal of life was to seek external happiness – enter a philosophy of happiness called “hedonism.” Aristippus is considered the founder of hedonism, a school of thought that promotes a single and universal aim for all people: pleasure, pleasure and more pleasure. Hedonists believe pleasure is the only intrinsic good while pain is the only intrinsic bad. Aristippus taught that we should not postpone available pleasure for the sake of future pleasures. In our time, hedonism takes form in pop philosophy movements: “Y.O.L.O.” or “Life’s short.” This line of thinking is usually used to justify the pursuit of immediate and gratifying pleasure, for example, “Exam tomorrow? Drink tonight ... YOLO.” This line of thinking focuses on gaining immediate short-term happiness: right now is all that matters.

Now, if you were to ask Aristotle, he would give you a somewhat different answer. He is in agreement with Aristippus about happiness as the ultimate goal of life; however, Aristotle believes happiness consists of the fulfilment of our human capacities. He taught that meaningful happiness is not something that can be gained or lost in a few hours, rather it is a long-term achievement measured by how well you have lived up to your full potential as a human being. Aristotle looks at happiness broadly, as the enrichment of human life over the course of a lifetime. For example, that person proclaiming Y.O.L.O. and drinking the night before an exam may be getting what he wants and enjoying his social and inebriated night out but he would not, in Aristotelian philosophy, be counted as doing well or leading a happy life.

Modern-day society seems to be predominated by the pursuit of instant gratification. Everyone seems to prefer quick, instant pleasure or relief. This can be seen in our love of fast food: why take the time to cook a meal when you can pop over to Fatty Lane and grab a Big Mac combo? Seeking instant pleasure can be an important factor in boosting mood and sentiment by making you feel joy and contentment, albeit

temporarily. And, anyway, if our lives are made of individual moments, won’t we be happier in the long run if we continue enjoying ourselves in the now? Aristippus would certainly agree.

However, contemporary philosopher Robert Nozick certainly does not. Nozick refutes hedonism in his book *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, by means of a thought experiment he calls “The Experience Machine.” Think along the lines of *The Matrix*: a machine that simulates reality. However, instead of subduing the human population, Nozick’s machine gives you the opportunity to think and feel unending hedonistic pleasure: writing a great book, making friends, watching an entertaining movie, anything you want for the rest of your life. Obviously there is no such machine but Nozick tells us to imagine (hence “thought experiment”) that “superduper neuropsychologists” could indeed stimulate your brain in such a way. Your body would still exist, but it would be destined to float around in a tank with electrodes sticking out of your head. Nozick asks his readers if they would plug into the machine, pre-programming all their life experiences to maximise pleasure. Would you?

Nozick argues that if experiencing pleasure is all that matters in life then everyone would plug into the machine and have no reasons not to. But, since we do have reasons not to plug into the machine, hedonistic pleasure is therefore proven not to be the ultimate form of happiness. In case you didn’t come up with any reasons not to plug into the machine, Nozick gives you several: humans want to *do* certain things, not just have the experience of doing them; plugging in limits us to a man-made reality and therefore puts limits on what we can make; and, most obviously, we want to *be* a certain sort of person, not an indeterminate blob floating around in a tank (unless you’re into that kind of thing).

Another problem with only pursuing short-term happiness with a strict Y.O.L.O. attitude is that it can come at a great cost for a chance at future happiness. Some forms of short-term happiness are harmless in the long run, like spending your night off in bed with a bowl of ice cream and *West Wing* reruns. It may not contribute to any lofty life goals but, at the same time, it does not jeopardise your future in any concrete way.

However, there are examples of immediate but intense moments of happiness that can conflict with any future possibility of pleasure or enjoyment. At the most extreme, we can call on the example of Ervin McInness. The rapper uploaded this tweet, “Drunk af going 120 drifting corners #FuckIt YOLO” only minutes before skidding out of control, crashing his car and killing not only himself but four others. This momentary pleasure led directly to death and removed all future chances of pleasure for McInness. While this is an extreme and rather stupid course of action, it is nonetheless a valid example showing the dangers of pursuing short-term happiness at the expense of a chance at long-term happiness.

Striking a balance

Temporary and lasting happiness do not have to be in opposition; rather, a balance could and should be struck between the two. With this thought in mind, I felt my Sherlock Holmes senses tingling; I must be close to the truth!

Often the lesser good promises immediate pleasure and can be very tempting while the greater good is painful and requires some sort of sacrifice. Aiming to achieve lasting happiness requires us to make choices, keep an eye on the future and on the ultimate result we want for our lives as a whole. Returning to our previous and more relatable Y.O.L.O. example, it may be tempting and more enjoyable to drink large amounts of alcohol with friends the night before an exam but you know squandering valuable time before said exam will not help you out in the long run. After the exam is the perfect time to enjoy yourself and splurge on whiskey and titties. Balance is struck when you can enjoy short-term fun without endangering a chance of long-term happiness.

Easier said than done

Having come to the conclusion that short-term happiness should be had in moderation and long-term happiness should be the ultimate goal to strive for, I began wondering how one would go about achieving this balance and

attaining lasting happiness. As wonderful as it sounds, is it even attainable? Or will we spend our entire lives resisting the temptations of instant pleasure to save for an abstract idea? A variety of magazines, books and websites recommend all kinds of steps and formulas to become happier, but many are superficial, pre-disposed and unhelpful (telling me to smile even if I don't feel like smiling is really not effective, I tried it). For almost every page written on the virtues of some method there exists another page refuting that method and praising another one. But, while there is no magical formula, some advice is sounder than others and empirical research helps us to separate the pretenders from the contenders.

WEALTH

Everyone has heard the classic adage, "Money can't buy you happiness," yet many people believe they would be happier if only they had more money. Despite wishful thinking about the effect winning the lottery would have on your life, research has shown increased income does not significantly raise levels of happiness. According to happiness researchers Bruno Frey and Alois Stutzer, co-authors of *Happiness and Economics*, once we reach a threshold where we have sufficient income to take care of our basic needs, there is minimal correlation between wealth and life satisfaction. Once you're out of poverty, having more money – even a lot more money – does not make you significantly happier.

FRIENDS AND SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

The importance and value of friendship cannot be undervalued and its strong connection with living a happy life is further corroborated by empirical research. Excellent social ties have been found to be an extremely reliable indication of happiness, as discovered by Ed Diener, alias "Dr Happiness." In his study of very happy people, every single one of them maintained exceptional social relationships, proving that "it is man, who is essential to man's happiness."

GENETICS AND ATTITUDE

As it turns out, happiness does not rest entirely in our own hands. As Sonja Lyubomirsky, a prominent American happiness researcher, concludes in her book *The How of Happiness*,

"50 per cent of a given human's happiness level is genetically determined (yet another thing to thank our parents for) and 10 per cent is affected by external living conditions."

50 per cent of a given human's happiness level is genetically determined (yet another thing to thank our parents for) and 10 per cent is affected by external living conditions. However, the remaining 40 per cent can be influenced by the mind of a person. According to Lyubomirsky, focusing your mind on that remaining 40 per cent is the key to lasting happiness. She promotes the power of positive psychology: we should avoid negative thoughts, focus on the positives of our lives and be grateful and live by principles such as helpfulness and forgiveness. Research also finds that happiness can be due to religion, accomplishment and meaning. While research is powerless when it comes to answering the age-old question of whether God exists, it has nonetheless revealed that religion can make people happier. Participation in religious services, spirituality and prayer has all been shown to contribute to happiness. To achieve happiness we also must be able to look back on our lives with a sense of accomplishment and pride: positive psychology encourages us to identify ambitions and develop strengths needed to achieve them. And, finally, meaning. Studies show that people who dedicate their time to something greater than themselves

are happier than people who don't. To feel the work you do is consistent with higher values strengthens wellbeing.

"Gaze into the abyss and the abyss will gaze back at you"

As I researched all that the Internet had to offer on the topic of happiness, with bloodshot eyes and drool pooling on my chin, I became increasingly aware of the unhealthy obsession I had begun to develop. What had started as an off-the-cuff answer to those asking about my post-university future had turned into a fanatical hunt for happiness. After reading that the conscious pursuit of happiness and nonstop evaluation of one's happiness could actually prove to be detrimental to achieving lasting happiness, I took a step back from the computer and wiped the drool from my chin. The more we focus on chasing and catching lifelong happiness the more likely we are to be disappointed and unhappy. The pursuit of happiness may be the ultimate purpose of human life, but it's also the biggest damn paradox I've ever heard of.



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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 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.

♂ ALBERT

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE BEEN ON A FIRST DATE – SO DON'T GET YOUR hopes up, guys. My daringly romantic ginger friend assures me this is an experience not to be missed. But he's a hard act to follow. Having worked up an appetite at the prospect of a free dinner, I decided to break tradition and start the date sober. At least, that was the plan.

I made an exception for a free wine at a poster evening on the way, threw on a blazer and arrived punctually at Di Lusso. I had hardly started drinking round two when she arrived. With a selection of food ordered, we kicked off with introductions: major, hometown ... the usual. Almost immediately, it was fairly clear that, apart from being near-broke students and rather hungry, we had almost nothing in common.

But it didn't matter. She was beautiful, friendly, and the conversation and drinks flowed easily. The bartender had a keen eye for an empty glass and served more food than either of us knew what to do with. The drinks were a convenience rather than necessity; it wasn't long before we were talking like reacquainted friends and I'd nearly completely forgotten it was a date.

My flatmates had arrived and made themselves comfortable at a nearby table, one even sporting a new, rather creepy, handlebar moustache. They had invited themselves to spy on me but it didn't take long for them to turn their attention to the selection of Belgian beers. During the inevitable bathroom break, I told them they could leave when it suited them.

After light topics like our studies and travel experiences we somehow ended up discussing more sensitive topics without any apparent awkwardness. Having covered atheism, past relationships, and illnesses running in our families, inevitably, the bar tab ran dry and we gave up on the plethora of pub food. She was going to a friend's place nearby so we walked there, exchanged numbers, and parted ways. Thanks for a surprisingly enjoyable evening.

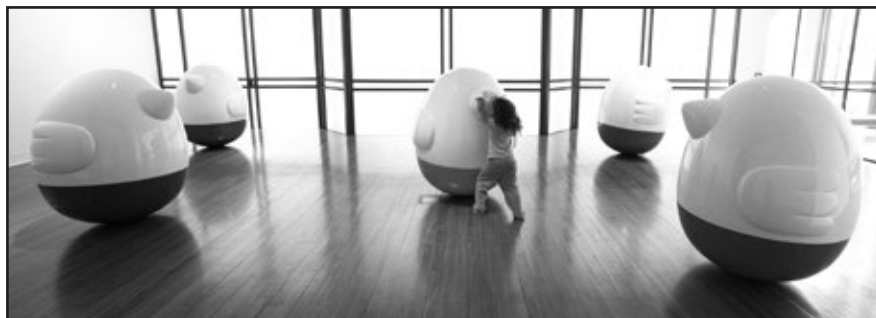
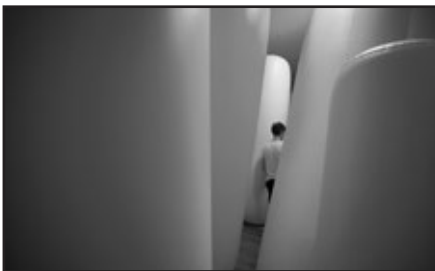
♀ ELSA

IN DECIDING WHETHER TO GET WITH A GUY, I ASSESS THREE THINGS: SENSE OF humour, height, and dick size (this can be done by observing his crotch). My date was nervous (red flag!); he kept swirling his wine glass. I couldn't tell if this was an attempt at sophistication or to stop him shaking. It took him 45 minutes to drink this glass.

We were opposites. Blind dates generally lend themselves to discussing exclusively sex – it's like a fucked up sort of foreplay. You assess if the person is as sexual as you or, better, more. Sex was not hinted at or mentioned throughout our date. Essentially, I attended what felt like a Genetics lecture (but for three hours). I left the date feeling like I had enough knowledge to complete my own PhD in the subject.

I was impressed that he came in a suit. I wasn't impressed that he was a vegetarian ... I love meat more than pretty much anything. He mentioned his ex about four times ... (red flag two!) He was a nice guy but sadly didn't fall into the "nice guy, bad man" category. He talked more than me to the point that I felt like I was the male. You cannot have sex with a personality or your therapist and, quite frankly, I felt like his. He talked, I listened. It's the most quiet I have ever been aside from when I have a dick in my mouth and physically cannot speak. He was intelligent and he walked me to the party I was later attending. All in all great food, drinks and yarns.

The night became more interesting after the date. At Alibi I was feeling pretty confident and managed to pash two members of an Otago cricket team. I took the second one home with me. His cologne was making me rather aroused. We ripped each other's clothes off and got down to business. He was muscly as fuck. I sucked his ear – this drove him crazy. We went to sleep spooning as the sun came up. I was exhausted but finally satisfied.



MOAMOA BY SEUNG YUL OH

DUNEDIN PUBLIC ART GALLERY
EXHIBITED UNTIL 27 APRIL

THE FIRST SURVEY EXHIBITION OF KOREAN-New Zealand artist Seung Yul Oh, MOAMOA is presented as a decade-spanning retrospective. Aptly, the title translates to "gather gather" or "gather together" in Korean, and engages an eclectic array of sculptural, interactive work from the artist's oeuvre. It's remarkable just how exceptional the selection is – for an artist of only 33 years old, Oh has left the curatorial team spoiled for choice, but they pull it off in a captivating way.

Tied together by Oh's ongoing exploration of rejuvenation and restlessness, a large number of the works here are put into motion by viewers interacting with them; a sort of sculptural performance. Immersion is also key with these works – whether it is the transparent inflated mass peering over the first-floor balcony, or "Periphery," a maze of roof-height yellow PVC pillars to navigate and squeeze through. Each of these pieces, although they've been exhibited before, are in a way original works produced for this retrospective, as their layout and interaction

within each new setting informs much of their presence and meaning.

Of particular interest is the collection of super-re-alistic bowls of noodles. They are otherworldly, humorous and captivating, and they bring to mind fellow Korean-New Zealander Jae Hoon Lee's brief foray into similar territory – the latter making plates of fake sushi that gave away their phony consumerist nature by being hung on a wall. The meals here shine wet – they're fresh looking, even – but this time the give-away is a beautiful and haunting realisation that the chopsticks, responsible for a long strand of food emerging from the bowl, are hovering in thin air. They comment on the absurdity of global cultural commodification, presenting a plastic and fake re-interpretation of the over-simplified, Westernised and omnipresent "global cuisine," something that is certainly well explored in Dunedin.

A big take-away from the exhibition is that the work is really fun. Although conceptual art can be highly enjoyable for some (myself included), it can often be interpreted as overly complicated and, quite frankly, makes satirical commentaries such as those seen in Portlandia seem quite understandable, even for those who "get" it. Oh expertly navigates a middle ground

here between the aesthetic, the conceptual and the engaging, and works such as "Periphery" or "Sphere Square" are certainly that. Forcing viewers through both large and tight communal spaces, the chances of bumping into others in what feels like an alternate reality, or getting completely lost in what is actually quite a small space, creates a fluid dynamic between the space, the work and the audience that is ingenious in its universal ability to engage with as much or as little thought as you desire.

"Oddooki," originally commissioned by Te Papa in 2009, is a great conclusion to the exhibition and could be an accidental summary of the collection. Featuring a collection of egg-shaped birds, the classic "chicken or the egg" question raises doubts as to where such a varied collection, and early career, should start or end. Chiming when rocked, they also epitomise the interactivity and playfulness of Oh's collected works.

Exhibited for another three weeks, this exhibition is not to be missed.

By Zane Pocock | @ZanePocock

Oddooki 2008 – fibreglass, resin, stainless steel, sand, two-pot automotive paint (Collection of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa); **Huggong (variation 3) 2013** – polyvinyl chloride (PVC) (Courtesy of the artist & Produced with the support of Creative New Zealand Toi Aotearoa); **Periphery 2013** – polyvinyl chloride (PVC), sand (Courtesy of the artist and One and J. Gallery, Seoul); **Pokpo 2010** – fibreglass, automotive paint (Courtesy of the artist and Starkwhite)



DAVID MERRITT

POETRY

LANDROVERFARM PRESS

IT'S SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT TO REVIEW JUST ONE of David Merritt's works, considering they tend to come in a one-poem format (speaking of which, this is the way I personally think most poetry ought to be absorbed). However, it is possible to purchase his e-books or works through the humble Landroverfarm Press website.

I think I just rather miss the sight of David sitting on a bench surrounded by booklets made of banana boxes and Reader's Digests, stamped and inked by him.

I've been apt to view David as an older (definitely not self-proclaimed) bohemian-type poet, in that he is full of cynicism and loathing toward the publishing industry and their agendas, dislikes people his own age, is intelligent, perceptive by nature and enjoys a good yarn. He has now left the South Island, but remains dear to Dunedin.

David sums up one of the key tenets behind the existence of zines and the alternative DIY culture behind the movement when he states: "The publishing industry is one of the most wasteful industries in the world. About 30 or 40 [per cent] of everything that's published ends up just pulped. I wanted to make my books out of the detritus of established publishing. And I wanted to pick the worst writers; the Jeffrey Archers, the Reader's Digests, the Mills and Boons from the 1960s, the romance novels, the crap espionage books that get produced in bulk numbers every year."

The presentation and content of his works indicate a sense of humour and a decent dose of poignancy in many cases. After a few chats, years ago now, at various times with Merritt, I came to see some of his unique experiences and views through the pages which he self-markets.

From I AM INORGANIC III

I AM INORGANIC AND MY WORK WITH INVERTED
COMMAS IS SIMPLE

...

I EMPLOY MINIMUM WAGE SLAVES AS MY SHOP
ASSISTANTS

I DRIVE A LATE MODEL AUDI CONVERTIBLE AND
HAVE AN EXOTIC

HIGH MAINTENANCE YAPPY DOG,
INBRED BEYOND ALL RECOGNITION.
ENOUGH.

By Michaela Hunter | @CriticTeArohi

THE ATTACK

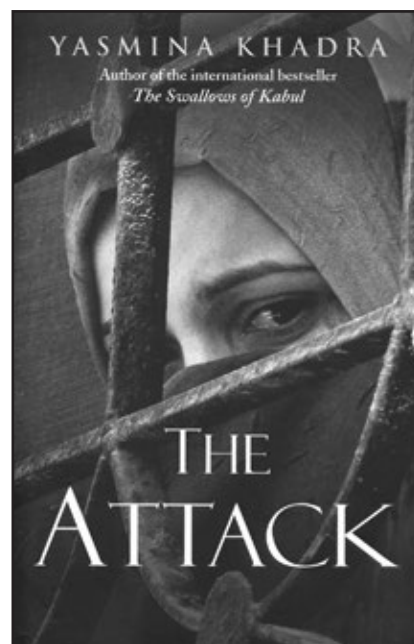
BY YASMINA KHADRA

LIKE WAR ITSELF, THIS NOVEL IS A HARROWING read. It opens with the description of a sheikh's car being bombed. We hear of torn bodies lying shattered on the ground from the force of the explosion, which is detailed vividly. The narrator talks of watching the explosion occur; his own body being blown back with the force of it, watching the followers of the sheikh try to recover the sheikh even though he is most likely dead. The narrative of the prelude ends with the narrator's realisation that only a thin shred of flesh attaches his leg to his body and that the observers already think he is dead.

After the prelude, it is revealed that the narrator is an Arab surgeon based in Israel. Shortly after this introduction, the surgeon and his colleagues hear the sound of an explosion and prepare for what they know is inevitable: the effects of a suicide bombing. Our surgeon narrator endlessly operates on countless victims to the point of complete exhaustion. Not only this, but he deals with the backlash of being a Bedouin Arab in a country where being an Arab means suffering hate from the Israelis of his country that runs deep.

Hate is one of the main themes of *The Attack*. Not only does the violent bombing show the effects of such a feeling, but it also explores what might inculcate such visceral emotion in a person. Early on it is revealed that the surgeon's wife is responsible for the suicide bombing. The marital relation allows a unique chance to explore the psychology of a terrorist: from the perspective of one who loves the killer in question. This is one of the best features of the book. Without it, the complicated rage that Amin feels towards terrorism would not be believable, nor would such insight into the mind of a suicide bomber be achieved.

But, all in all, it is Khadra's exploration of the religious sentiments that drive terrorist action that is the most successful aspect of this. As someone who has had no experience of Islam, I really enjoyed how Khadra carefully weighs his own obvious dislike for suicide bombing through the view of narrator, against the heavily involved Muslims that Amin meets in his journey to find an explanation for his wife's behaviour. In the book, some of the Muslims believe that there is no greater glory than defending your beliefs and



"Hate is one of the main themes of The Attack. Not only does the violent bombing show the effects of such a feeling, but it also explores what might inculcate such visceral emotion in a person. Early on it is revealed that the surgeon's wife is responsible for the suicide bombing."

country, while some hate the senseless nature of bombings, believing it a waste and useless. Khadra carefully balances the two different views so that the extremists seem overzealous and addicted to war, against the peaceful nature of the non-war believers.

Khadra is an ex-soldier that writes under his wife's name, because he was concerned about the backlash. Which is understandable, given that this book very ruthlessly rips apart human nature to find out what causes a person to think that taking their life and others' will have any effect whatsoever. Khadra flawlessly discusses the impact of different races and religions in the war torn Israel to produce a book so well thought out and emotional that the reader cannot help but be impacted by it. As a nice final touch, the book concludes with the explosion that occurred in the prelude.

By Nicole Newton | @CriticTeArohi



B

CUBAN FURY

DIRECTED BY JAMES GRIFFITHS

I F I WERE TO MAKE A LIST OF FILMS I THOUGHT would never be made, I'm pretty sure a Nick Frost dance flick would make an appearance. But, what do you know, Nick Frost – who you might know as the big guy from *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz* – is indeed the star of *Cuban Fury*.

Not just any kind of dancing, but the passionate salsa. We follow Frost's character Bruce, a once hopeful Salsa star that, after an unfortunate series of events, gave up his love of dance to become an engineer. That is, until his new boss Julia reignites his passions for salsa when he

discovers that this may be the key to her heart.

This 90-minute rom-com is truly as cheesy as its premise sounds. However, there is just enough British comedy, flair and vulgarity to turn a cheesy concept into a fairly fun experience.

The cast play a big hand in this. Frost gives a great performance and plays Bruce's social awkwardness perfectly, which makes his transformation into a confident salsa machine all the more rewarding. This is made even more pronounced by the fact that you spend the first half of the film convinced that a big guy like Frost couldn't be a great dancer, only to have him drastically change our minds.

Despite an overtly American structure and

story, the comedy itself is still very British, as the film was set and made in England. Chris O'Dowd (*Bridesmaids*), who plays Frost's adversary, displays some of the most profoundly vulgar, but truly British, sexual innuendos and euphemisms you have ever heard. Plus there is a dance battle between Frost and O'Dowd that will be hard to forget.

Cuban Fury has some moments of great comedy, awesome dancing and some surprisingly well written character scenes. However, despite these attributes it is still at its core a cheesy rom-com aimed at American audiences.

By Baz Macdonald | @kaabazmac

B-

POMPEII

DIRECTED BY PAUL W.S. ANDERSON

TO ME, A MOVIE ABOUT A DEVASTATING VOL-canic eruption that engulfed an ancient Roman society sounds like a big enough event to encapsulate a 90-minute epic. Unfortunately, director Paul W.S. Anderson disagreed with me, opting instead to jam in the plots of three or four other movies around this event for good measure.

For those unaware, there was indeed a volcanic eruption from Mount Vesuvius in the year 79 A.D. that destroyed the neighbouring Roman city of Pompeii. Anderson's *Pompeii* tells the story of the days leading up to the disaster through the eyes of young Scotsman Milo, played by Kit Harrington (Jon Snow of *Game of Thrones*), who is an enslaved Gladiator. The film opens with Romans raiding his village of Scottish horse warriors in the Highlands. The three story elements of *Pompeii* are all unapologetic carbon copies of

film plots from *Volcano*, *Gladiator* and *Braveheart* respectively. This is made even worse by the cheesy Romeo and Juliet-esque narrative that arises from our heroes' romantic entanglement with the local politician's daughter. Needless to say, *Pompeii* has nothing original to offer.

What it does have to offer, however, are some interesting character performances and kickass action scenes.

The aforementioned character performances come mostly from Keifer Sutherland as a visiting Roman Senator. His stylised performances reminded me of many we saw from early films about Ancient worlds, such as *Ben Hur*. The rest of the cast did a commendable job as they managed to deliver their lines with some authenticity despite the cut and paste nature of the script.

If nothing else can be said for this movie, in the very least it acts as an interesting recreation of the eruption of Vesuvius itself. I'm no geologist, but the events surrounding the eruption seemed reasonably authentic and



were often awe-inspiring in their scale and destructive power.

I couldn't help but wish that Anderson had spent a little less time creating a forgettable, and stolen, narrative and instead focused on the reason people will go to see this film. Just give us more volcanic eruptions! Jeez, it's not that hard.

By Baz Macdonald | @kaabazmac

CULT
FILM

THE WICKER MAN (1973)

DIRECTED BY ROBIN HARDY

WE ALL KNOW THAT REMAKES CAN BE diabolical, and the second *The Wicker Man*, from 2003, was exactly that. It features the best of the worst Nicolas Cage, including some downright terrible acting and strutting his swag in a bear suit. However, the original film is of a much higher calibre, and appeals to movie buffs and casuals alike.

Based on the novel *Ritual* by David Pinner (1967), Sergeant Neil Howie (Edward Woodward) is sent to a remote Scottish island to investigate the disappearance of a young girl. He encounters a pagan community that enjoys naked dancing around the maypole, sex in fields and harvesting orchards rather ... fruitlessly.

Sergeant Howie meets the Lord Summerisle (Christopher Lee) who sports a not-to-be-missed wonderful tweed jacket, turtleneck and bob haircut combination. Howie, a devout Christian, expresses his concerns at the lack of Christian morality on the island and quickly realises that all is not well. The search for the missing girl continues with our faithful Sergeant uncovering more and more disturbing scenes.

This film is an excellent exploration of the occult and conflicts of faith. The islanders believe

in a plethora of different gods and rely on their blessing for a good harvest. Howie is exasperated by their efforts to grow fruit on an unsuitably craggy island yet they religiously continue. The atmosphere is quaint and at odds with the ominous undertones rumbling away, and the respective strong faiths of each party lead them to do things they would rather not.

Overall, *The Wicker Man* is a classic in all senses of the word. It manages to disturb yet

keep the audience engaged in the twists and turns that challenge them to not ignore what is right in front of their noses. A strong performance from the cast and a curious soundtrack makes it a must-watch if you enjoy horror films without splatter or generous amounts of CGI. And there is always the remake that was so bad that the original film's crew disown it.

By Tim Lindsay | @CriticTeArohi



D-

NEED FOR SPEED

DIRECTED BY SCOTT WAUGH

IHAD LOW EXPECTATIONS FOR *NEED FOR SPEED*, but apparently, not low enough. The plot consists of everything you've seen before in a car racing movie: redemption, bravery, misogyny and cliché phrases such as "he's like a brother to me!" But the film's tired tropes were the least of its worries. The inherent issue with *Need for Speed* is that street racing is stupid and

selfish, and it's difficult to regard the protagonist, Tobey, as a hero for doing something that is putting hundreds of innocent lives at risk, FOR NO GOOD REASON. As much as the film tried to construct the other non-racing cars on the road as inconveniences, it's hard to forget that they are full of ordinary people, who probably don't want to die so that Tobey can show the world how a "real man races." *The Fast and Furious* series escapes this feeling of imminent death through the use of CGI, but *Need for Speed* was

filmed completely with real stunts, giving the races an air of reckless stupidity rather than adrenaline and excitement.

In addition, *Need for Speed* showcases the worst racial stereotyping I have seen in recent years. The film's one non-white character, Benny (bizarrely played by Kid Cudi – WTF), may as well have been named "The Black Guy" as he ate up most of his screen time by twerking, wearing doo-rags, and referring to everyone as his "boy."

The big pity with *Need for Speed* is that Aaron Paul and Imogen Poots are class acts, and the film makes them sink to its level. Poots is the film's major redeeming feature, and it is no surprise that it becomes significantly more enjoyable once she is given more screen time. Unfortunately, this doesn't come until the second hour. Oh, did I forget to mention that *Need for Speed* is two and quarter hours long? It's all about quantity, not quality. If you're a devoted *Breaking Bad* fan wanting to support Aaron Paul in the next stage of his career, wait for his next film ... if he's ever hired again.

By Rosie Howells | @CriticTeArohi



LAZY PEOPLE'S FOCACCIA

FIRST MADE THIS LOAF AS A HANGOVER CURE FOR a good friend of mine. After he participated in a terrible game of "take one for the team and finish the bottle of awful Teacher's Whiskey," carbohydrate was required to soak up the night before. It was accompanied with a day spent on the couch watching movies and good lashings of butter.

I call this "lazy person's focaccia" because I speed up the rising process in a warmed oven, I use instant yeast rather than dried, and I use plain rather than high grade flour, so the dough is softer and easier to knead.

I top my focaccia with olive oil, rock salt and rosemary, which I usually steal from the neighbour's bush down the road.

To speed up the rising process, preheat the oven to 100 degrees on bake. Take your kneaded dough, lube it up with a good slosh of olive oil and rub it all over the surface of the dough ball. This will prevent it drying out in the oven. Once the oven is up to temperature, whack the dough in a bowl, pop it in the oven then turn the oven off. Leave for 15 minutes before removing and rolling out again.

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 100 degrees on bake.
2. In a large bowl, stir together the flour, yeast and salt. Make a well in the centre.
3. Add the olive oil to the water then pour the liquid into the well of the flour. Using a butter knife, stir the dough until it comes together. Tip out onto a floured bench and knead. Sprinkle over more flour if it is too sticky (which it will be.) You may need to use up to a cup as you knead. You want the final dough to be smooth and soft. This dough won't be as stiff and stubborn as normal bread dough since we are using flour with a lower gluten content (the protein which makes a dough stretchy).
4. Pour some olive oil onto your hands and rub it all over the dough ball. Place the ball in a bowl then pop it in the warm oven. As soon as the dough goes into the oven, turn the oven off. The residual heat will be enough to raise the dough quickly.
5. The dough won't rise very much but it will become quite soft. Remove from the oven after 15-20 minutes.
6. Preheat the oven again to 200 degrees on bake.
7. Line a baking tray (or pizza tray, in our case) with baking paper. Roll out the dough until it is 15-20mm thick and flip it onto your baking surface. Use the tips of your fingers to cover the surface with indents. Spread a good few sloshes of olive oil over the bread and spread it over with your fingers (we are too lazy to find, and then dirty up, a pastry brush!). Sprinkle over the rock salt (amount depends on your taste) and the rosemary leaves. Whack it in the oven for 20-25 minutes until the surface becomes golden and when tapped, a hollow sound is produced.
8. Serve straight out of the oven with butter, avocado, chutney – whatever, really (the fridge was rather barren)

INGREDIENTS

Makes one really large loaf that should really be shared by at least six people, not two ...

- > 4 cups plain flour (plus up to another cup to sprinkle over as you knead it in)
- > 2 teaspoons instant yeast
- > 2 teaspoons sugar
- > 2 teaspoons salt
- > 300ml warm water
- > ¼ cup of olive oil
- > rock salt, rosemary and more olive oil to top it with.



A-

INFAMOUS: SECOND SON

DEVELOPED BY SUCKER PUNCH
PUBLISHED BY SONY
PS4

LATELY THERE HAS BEEN GREAT DEBATE ABOUT the function of hyper realistic graphics in games. Some gamers think that this move towards hyperrealism isn't creating better games and that many games that steer away from realism and use a stylised art style are better products. There is no right or wrong answer to this debate, of course; there will always be a place for stylised art games just as there will always be a demand for realistic games, especially as they become more and more realistic. The debate to me has always seemed silly, because, of course, it totally depends on not only the personal preference of the gamer, but also the artistic vision of the developer. However, I do think that there are some genres that do favour a style. In particular, with super hero games, the more realistic the better.

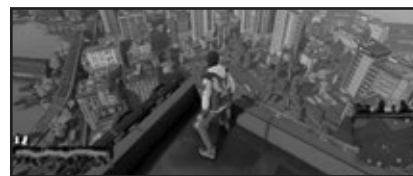
To me this is what is so great about Sucker Punch's new instalment in the Infamous series, *Infamous: Second Son*. If a game is going to give me powers, I want everything but my powers to be absolutely grounded in reality. In this way, the surrealistic nature of the amazing things the game allows me to do are grounded in reality, making them all the more satisfying. Stylised art styles emphasise the idea that anything is possible and, after all, where is the fun in being able to do anything somewhere where anything is already possible. Sucker Punch has expertly used the technology Sony makes available to



make the most bad-assly realistic super power game to date.

For those who haven't already played an Infamous title, the Infamous universe is filled with ordinary people who, through a series of events, have gained control over elements within the world. These people are called Conduits. While the early instalments in the series dealt with your conventional elements such as electricity, *Second Son* has expanded the idea of what people can be Conduits of greatly. The story follows Delsin Rowe, played by gaming's greatest actor, Troy Baker (Joel from *The Last of Us*). Delsin is an anti-establishment artist living on a Native American preserve in Washington State. That is, until the new Military Department for the control of Bio-Terrorists (as they call Conduits), called the DUP, fortifies nearby Seattle. When a transport vehicle crashes in Delsin's town, he discovers he can sponge the powers of other conduits by touching them. Now a conduit himself, Delsin sets out to stop the DUP.

Sucker Punch use motion capture, the power of the PS4 and the talent of motion capture artists, to create undoubtedly the best realised story in the Infamous series, as well as the best story currently on the PS4. The characters are all well written and performed; and the story, though often a little cheesy, has its own distinct style thematically and tonally. A big part of the story is the ability to allow players to choose if Delsin is going to be the hero or the villain, hence the title *Infamous*. This morality system plays out beautifully with the gameplay by allowing players a diverse range of ways to play that either lend themselves to good or evil actions. For example: an enemy is surrendering – do you restrain them or execute them? However, despite the success of morality in the gameplay, your moral choices



have no real effect on the story beyond moments where the game presents you with good or evil choices. This is a shame, as the story really lends itself towards Delsin being a hero as the canon choice, meaning that, even if you are playing him as evil, the cut scenes and story still feel as though you are playing the good guy.

The story of *Second Son* is admirable, but the real feat of this game, as I stated earlier, is the gameplay itself. Never in a game have I felt as powerful as *Second Son* made me feel, or been given so many avenues in which to channel said power. These avenues are the four different powers that you gain throughout your time in Seattle. You first power is "smoke," which has the aesthetic of a combination of embers, smoke and fire. Playing with smoke has the feel of a shotgunner: you aren't particularly agile and are most effective at close range. Each of the four powers you gain in the game have their own play style like this, and all of them make you feel a different form of badass. Like Sucker Punch, I won't give away what the other three powers are because there is a real joy in waiting to find out what you'll get to do next.

Infamous: Second Son is a very well made game, with a stylised and well performed story backed up by some of the best gameplay available on any platform. The scale, skill and execution of this game meet what I've expected, and been waiting for, from a next generation game.

By Baz Macdonald | @kaabazmac



A

PERFECT PUSSY SAY YES TO LOVE

CAPTURED TRACKS (USA); 2014
PUNK, ALTERNATIVE

CLOCKING IN AT JUST UNDER 23 MINUTES, *SAY YES TO LOVE* is furious and relentless, so much so you almost try to inhale twice as slow to compensate. Buried in a constant layer of noise and feedback, its violence is tremendous. It's visceral and it's unmerciful, it's loud and it's obnoxious. Yet at the same time it's spectacular, it's joyous and it's blissful. This music is sharp. It cuts and it keeps gnawing, and soon it starts to sting. Like the way a fresh wound stings, like the way your insides swell and wince right after your heart is sliced in two. That wondrous and simultaneously devastating euphoria.

Say Yes To Love is Perfect Pussy's debut album and follows their self-released demo EP, *I Have Lost All Desire For Feeling*. Hailing from Syracuse, New York, the group have attracted quite a large following over the past few months, and deservedly so. Fronted by the mesmerising Meredith Graves, she is joined by Ray McAndrew on guitar, Garrett Koloski on bass, Greg Ambler on drums and Shaun Sutkus on keyboards. The band have become renowned for their live shows, which apparently involve the throwing of instruments off bridges. That energy and passion, amongst other things, is definitely apparent on this first offering.

Though riddled with distortion, McAndrew's guitar lines are lustrous and melodic. Meredith's vocals are often muffled and affected, whether with



a slight delay, or a crunchy overdrive. They are brutal, pretty and viscous. At times they even border on catatonic, such as on "VII" where they dive in and out in swirling madness. Tracks such as "Interference Fits" showcase a jagged fragility, interplaying slicing feedback with an undercurrent of melody. "Driver," "Bells," "Work" and "Advance Upon The Real" are propulsive, spiky punk songs, layered with beautiful glints of instrumentation. Each track flows seamlessly into one another, forming a cohesive experience, glistening yet contused around the edges.

Say Yes To Love is that moment you felt the world collapse around you, then you blinked and realised you were still breathing. You lie there, unashamedly revelling in a state of sheer catastrophic beauty, laughing atop a surface littered with broken glass. "I want to fuck myself!/I want to eat myself!" Meredith Graves screams, and for some reason it all makes sense.

By Adrian Ng | @TrickMammoth



A

YUMI ZOUMA YUMI ZOUMA

CASCINE (USA); 2014
DREAM POP, ROMANCE-CORE

YUMI ZOUMA IS A NEW ZEALAND TRIO NOW based in New York and Paris. At first a collaborative project between Charlie Ryder and Josh Burgess (both from Bang Bang Eche), the two eventually joint forces with vocalist Kim Pflaum. After having completed a number of tracks the group were quickly signed to alternative pop label Cascine records, home to artists such as Keep Shelley In Athens and Erika Spring. With dreamy vocals and a penchant for nostalgia, Yumi Zouma undoubtedly fit right in.

Right around 15 minutes in length, this four-track EP is drenched with astounding, dream pop splendour. Most impressive is the group's knack for beautiful vocal melodies. This and their flawless pop-song construction has each hook flowing smoothly to the next. Pflaum's vocals are sensual, fragile, and float soft and streamlined; seamlessly weaving in, out and around the lush, watery instrumentation.

"A Long Walk Home For Parted Lovers" sets the tone immediately. Synths are smooth and clean, bass lines are brooding but with a layer of velvet. You can almost imagine this record playing in a dated eighties movie. Two lovers sitting as the sun sets, staring into each others eyes, then a silhouette of the both of them locked in a kiss. "Sálka Gets Her Hopes Up," "The Brae" and "Riquelme" all carry over the same sense of nostalgia and dreamy romance and are all equally as infectious.

Yumi Zouma demonstrate a real talent for pop craftsmanship and seem to have molded a little space of their own amongst the many legions of dream pop groups. This EP is romantic and moody. Both a sunset and a pair of eyes to get lost in.

By Adrian Ng | @TrickMammoth

NEW THIS WEEK / SINGLES IN REVIEW



DIE! DIE! DIE! - CRYSTAL

New single from Auckland based noise poppers Die! Die! Die!. A more evenly paced, introspective tune compared to their previous output. "Crystal" is melodic, more reserved yet still familiar. An interesting shift in direction from the group.



SZA (FT. CHANCE THE RAPPER) CHILD'S PLAY

Smooth new single from vocalist SZA. Sensual, neo-soul with Nintendo and Street Fighter references. Chance The Rapper joins in with a few verses and harmonises nicely as the song reaches its climax.



DEATH AND THE MAIDEN FLOWERS FOR THE BLIND

New single from Dunedin based trio. Mesmerising vocals wrapped around a nocturnal, shadowy soundscape. Subtly sinister, and beautifully constructed.



SWANS - A LITTLE GOD IN MY HANDS

Swans return, and with a groove. Following last year's *The Seer*, "A Little God In My Hands" is a little more light hearted. But of course, it's still Swans. The rhythm section is funky, the vocals are still pretty frightening, the chorus is killer.



POP STRANGERS - COUNTRY KILLS

New track from upcoming album *Fortuna* from now-London based art-poppers. "Country Kills" features an interesting, off kilter verse, leading into a sweeping chorus. This is topped off with some beautifully written guitar playing in between.

NZ DOWNLOAD OF THE WEEK:

RACE BANYON

WHATEVER DREAMS ARE MADE OF
SELF RELEASED; 2013 **ELECTRONIC**

ELECTRONIC PROJECT FROM WELLINGTON based musician Eddie Johnston, also of Lontalius. Some deeply immersive tracks, soulful, dark, and beautiful. *Whatever Dreams Are Made Of* is available as a name-your-price download at racebanyon.bandcamp.com.



A+

MAC DEMARCO SALAD DAYS

CAPTURED TRACKS (USA); 2014
INDIE POP, CHILL-CORE

NEAR THE END OF 2012, I PURCHASED MAC DeMarco's second LP, 2, on the back of hearing "Ode to Viceroy" – a sweet love song for his favourite brand of low-cost cigarettes. It was refreshing, genuinely funny and somehow beautifully sincere – I hadn't heard anything quite like it. However, neither me, nor the artist himself could have predicted his projectile rise to indie-stardom that immediately followed. Indie-kids everywhere fell in love with not just the music, but the man himself. What followed for Mac was a gruelling one-and-a-half-year tour that took him and his band all over the world – including sets at Primavera Sound, two Pitchfork festivals and even a few stadium shows opening for Phoenix. His third full-length, *Salad Days*, sees him coming to grips with growing up, losing his anonymity, trying to stay chill, and how it's all affecting his relationship with his sweet Kiki.

Based on the opening few tracks, you'd be forgiven for thinking this record was stylistically an extension of 2. A number of songs, including the title-track, stick to the upbeat twangy guitar lines and funky bass combo that's become Mac's signature sound. Make no mistake, there's plenty of bouncy twang-jams on *Salad Days*, but the use of a synthesiser, most notably on the creepy/

sexy track "Chamber of Reflection," adds a dynamic that separates this album musically from its predecessor.

The song writing on this record is more focused and meaningful than on either of his previous releases. He manages to maintain the simplicity of songs like "My Kind of Woman" but ties them to solid emotional ideas, each of them different – all killer, no filler. Little spoken adlibs add a bit of classic DeMarco levity to some of the darker tracks. He ends "Goodbye Weekend" simply with "ah! gigi bungsu!" ("wisdom teeth" in Indonesian). At the end of instrumental closer, "Jonny's Odyssey," he thanks us for joining him and assures us we'll see him again soon. The pleasure is all ours, Mac.

You'd be hard-pressed to find another current indie act that matches Mac DeMarco's sincerity and straightforwardness (especially on a heavily concentrated hype-band label like Captured Tracks). What allows his music to flourish in such a typically ironic scene is his acute sense of the difference between seriousness and solemnity. The silliness and lack of melodrama doesn't detract from the genuineness of what he's singing; it just makes it a bit more real. *Salad Days* is the sound of a guy completely at ease with himself – yeah he's got some issues, but y'know, that's life, man. What's the point of getting all worked up? – "take it slow, Brother."

By Peter McCall | @CriticTeArohi



INTERVIEW: RICHARD PARKER ORGANISER OF THE FETISH BALL

"We trans-morph modern and ritual craft forms, interweaving them into an artistic experience with you as part of the pattern."

— WWW.SKINPUPPETS.CO.NZ

ALTHOUGH PRACTICALLY NO ONE WILL ADMIT it, most of us have a fetish of some kind. Maybe you've got a normal-ish one, like enjoying having your ass slapped in bed, or maybe you've got a not-so-normal-ish one, like wanting nothing more than to cover your partner's feet in peanut butter and then lick it off while they sing songs from *The Lion King*. Hey, consenting adults and all that. The Dunedin Fetish Ball is coming up on 3 May and incorporates pretty much every fetish you've ever heard of, and a whole heap you haven't. Nina Harrap caught up with organiser Richard Parker, a.k.a "Night Dragon," to discuss suspension, strippers, and the shaping of pain into pleasure.

Is this the first Fetish Ball held in Dunedin? I can't say I've ever heard of one until now!

I'm told there have been other fetish balls in Dunedin, but to the best of my knowledge this is the biggest, most flamboyant, most adventurous fetish ball that Dunedin's had. It's not something that's hidden behind another event or saying, "This is something to be ashamed of." It's a reasonable display of various forms of art and we're quite proud of what we do. This ball is going to be a bit of a plethora, a complete range, of some of the more interesting forms of fetish that are currently available that people find entertaining.

Would you say this is an event that appeals to students?

I hope so! Some of the performers are students.

I've always been interested in this, and presumably I was student-age at one stage, although not at university. It's not a matter of a student being interested in it, it's a matter of people wanting to test their limits, people wanting to enjoy an alternative evening out, people seeing things that they didn't expect to normally see.

What's the most extreme act that you've got planned for this year's ball?

Probably the hook suspensions and needlework that's going on. We've also got Sideshow Steve doing a glass walk. I'm going to be doing the commentating, and I'm going to give him a bit of a hard time from stage while he bounces up and down on the broken glass, and then I'm going to say, "the theme of this ball is supposed to be fire and ice; I don't see any fire and ice here!" So he's going to set the glass on fire and then proceed to walk back down it. That's reasonably extreme! [laughs] And the most extreme suspension that's definitely going to be done is with Michelle (Needles NZ) – we're going to be having her bounce up and down on somewhere between 2 and 4 metre bungy cords, and then she's going to come down and do a hook in her back and somebody else will pull her across the stage.

What makes this ball different to other fetish balls?

This ball is different because we have some acts specifically lined up for [people attracted to men]. Usually fetish balls consist of guys hitting



girls, guys doing things to girls, girls running round semi-naked, and it's a very [straight] guy-orientated atmosphere. This year we have a male stripper coming along; we have Mr and Ms Bobbitt, which is going to entertain hugely, because it's essentially torturing a male; and we've got Serenity coming along from Stilettos, and she's hopefully doing a pole act then selecting a "random" individual – who obviously isn't at all random – from the audience, and taking to him with a stock-whip. However, to be fair, the stock-whip is fairly soft and it's going to be coated in cochineal so the red lines aren't actually going to be blood, because I don't really want to spend half my evening stitching up somebody's back for entertainment. That's an example of fetish where it's going to be partially illusion rather than reality.

Are there any common misconceptions about fetishes that you'd like to address?

A lot of people see [fetishes] as somebody spanking somebody or hitting them or doing that type of thing. I don't get off on that; it's very basic, primitive, in my opinion. There's nothing wrong with it, it's just not what I'm interested in ... I think everybody has fetishes of one form or another. Some of my fetishes are definitely not for everybody; some other people's fetishes are definitely not for me ... I'm more interested in "what can we do that's extreme, that's not common, and that scares the hell out of a lot of people."

What sort of reaction do you get when people find out about the sort of things you're interested in?

In my business, I get to talk to five or six clients a day. I've got various "things" hanging around the place and at least one every day will ask me what it is we're involved in, and I'll tell them. And usually, they're extremely interested. We don't get anybody going "Satan, get thee behind



me;" we do get people going "I never thought of that," or "that would be interesting," and things like that ... The worst we get is "Oh no, that's definitely not my thing." We have barristers, lawyers, accountants, professionals say, "Oh, I'm really interested in it but no, I'm not going," because it affects their standing. But we've had others that have gone along regardless!

So if you don't mind me asking, what's your fetish?

It's important to remove the word "fetish" from "sexual." Traditionally, fetishes are associated with sexual feelings or sensual feelings, whereas I tend to look on fetishes as an insanely intensified interest in something. Like, I'll be showing up at the ball in full cowboy regalia, and I don't mean chaps. I have a fetish, I like cowboy boots, which I'll be wearing, I'll be wearing an American cowboy suit, cowboy hat – that's something which I like and it's part of the fetish that I enjoy. However, I'm also going to be the one that's sticking large needles through people and getting them to bounce up and down on bungy cords or fly on steel wings.

How did you first start to realise that you had a fetish?

When I was in my late teens, I mixed with a group of individuals who watched the movie *A Man Called Horse*. This was well before the Internet or computers, and we looked at it and went "we can do that!" and preceded to do so at a number of parties – in a style that's entirely unacceptable today, I should point out. From there, somebody made a bet one night that we could suspend somebody on hypodermic needles, and so a group of us wound up doing that, and I guess I've just gone from there. I didn't see myself as

part of a fetish or BDSM community for years; I didn't see myself not part of it, I just didn't think about it. I just did stuff which was interesting and unusual to me.

Your partner, Sylvia, works with you in a lot of your performances. What's that like?

What I do with my partner, it's very special. Sylvia and I suspend other people, and that's nice, and in fact there's going to be some of it going on in Dunedin. At the ball, if I do anything with my partner, you'll see that there's an entirely different connection and feeling that goes on between the two of us. We absolutely bond.

What's a memorable, unusual experience you've had with fetish?

Waterboarding is a torture form where you basically put the feet higher than the head, so the person can't suffocate, then proceed to cover the face with a cloth and pour water over them. And they think they're suffocating. Most people will last under 5 minutes with that. I've known individuals who, 20 minutes later, are still going, and they're going "this is the most incredible thing that's ever happened to me." It's kinda like the first time somebody gets into a gyroscope. They either get sick, or they don't care about it, or they go "this is incredible, don't let me out of this thing."

How would you describe the feeling of a fetish experience?

It's a transformation; it's the same as with high-stakes athletes, like cyclists. Cyclists are a really good example. When they're cycling they get to the stage where it's so painful and their body creates endorphins and the endorphins create a pleasurable situation. They can still feel the



pain, but they've got all this other stuff coming through. I used to do long-distance running; you get to the stage where you get through that pain barrier and you're there, you're focussed; you're in the scene. That's what I like about this.

What do you love the most about fetishes?

There'll be Zylah and Headmaster2 [at the ball] and they'll be doing some suspensions on stage with rope. Now that's something that I find incredibly beautiful, but I can't do it. It's not that I don't want to do it, it's just that my head won't remember knots! So that's a fetish that I'm involved in because, visually, I like what I see. The fetishes I'm involved in started out as experiments. I've done them for so long, they're just – they're interesting. I'm amazed at the ability of the human body to take pain and, through the use of endorphins, turn it into pleasure. It just absolutely fascinates me; it's the closest I've seen to magic, near as I can work out.

The Fetish Ball will be held at 8:30pm on 3 May at Sammy's, 65 Crawford Street. Tickets available from Cosmic, \$40 plus booking fee.

By Nina Harrap | @CriticTeArohi



LETTER OF THE WEEK

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

We stand corrected – interesting point, too. Stay tuned for an investigation.

Dear Ed,

I am writing to correct a factual error in a recent *Critic* article, "Periodic Relationship Tabled at AUT, Too Much for Otago". In the article, Clayton Weatherston, who brutally murdered Sophie Elliott in 2008, is described as being Sophie's tutor at the University of Otago. This is incorrect. In fact, Clayton was Sophie's lecturer.

The article's mistaken representation of Clayton as Sophie's tutor is easily understood, as this is the description that most commonly appears in the mainstream media, and that has been repeated so many times that it has become something of an accepted truth. Nonetheless, for historical accuracy, I think it is important to get the facts straight in this respect: Clayton was Sophie's lecturer for paper ECON375 in the Department of Economics in 2007. As now, I was a member of the department at the time of this horrific crime.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Hansen
Associate Professor
Department of Economics,
University of Otago

Critic hears ya.

Hi *Critic* and Loulou

I know it's been a while since your Happy Avatar; Dead Human article but I only just read it and think it is a good read. It links in well with something I was reading on why young people don't vote. The fact that every time I look to my future, it is full of debt and trying to sell myself to prospective employers (a very unappealing and even depressing task). I look around myself and I see the people on the top of the social hierarchy scratching each others backs and treating most people as a commodity, the environment falling to pieces and the worst is all these problems seem too big for me to make a difference.

That's where escapism comes in. When everything seems so hard I game, read, watch TV shows and just surf the internet. I have used escapism as a means of coping with things that upset me since primary school and I often find myself awake at two or three in the morning simply because I don't want to give my mind the chance to wander to my worries, whether they be the big problems I mentioned earlier or smaller more personal things.

I guess the point I'm trying to make is that addiction implies that the fault lies at least partly with the afflicted, where as I see this excessive escapism as a symptom of a major social problem.

Helen

Case closed. Let's move on.

Dear *Critic*,

I am very disappointed that the critic letters page was used to facilitate what I feel is harassment and bullying against me by Margi MacMurdo

Reading. Her single minded and vehement hatred of cannabis has caused her to make outrageous statements. Please *Critic*, don't give her any oxygen. Criticism of my politics from any other quarter is most welcome.

Sincerely,
Abe Gray
MSc Botany
Senior Lab Leader
CELS 191 Health Sciences First Year

Editor's note:

This line of conversation is now closed.

Margaret Thatcher Pez dispenser

dear critic, product idea:

Margaret Thatcher pez dispenser. Pull her arm and pills drop from her arse
George clooney wouldn't know what hit him!

Also, Whoopie Goldberg should have been a pro wrestler. "The Nun"

Like a virgin touched for the thirty-first time:
1337 Selekt4h or what ever

R.E. Issue 2: Rec Centre Refurbishment.


Please take the lateness of this letter as a direct comment on the stress caused by the refurbishment and associated delays.

Your account of the refurbishment was all rainbows and unicorn poop, to which I have several objections. So please enjoy the comment of a concerned tramping club member and understand that these are in no way the official view of the tramping club committee.

Firstly I take objections to the renovations being

LETTERS POLICY

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



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DUNEDIN NORTH ONLY

based on feedback, we never gave feedback asking for our gear to be fumigated. Nor we're we consulted until after the plans were finalised, despite our club being the most affected by this upgrade. We were left scrambling to make it work and things were only finalised for us one week before the build was due to finished hmmm... And we are currently still lacking door handles!

You made mention of space and flow. Well we now have one third of the space we used to and flow through two inbetween rooms to get from our meeting room to our gear room. Pretty sure that's not what you or the architect were going for. Apologies in advance to people trying to use the SJS Lounge during our meeting times.

As for needs, more exercise is exactly what the members of our outdoors club needed, so nailed it there!

Regards,
Concerned member of the largest club on campus!

P.S Club's day in Union Hall has been done before, so not as groundbreaking as people think.

President's response:

Dear Tramping Club Member,

The \$2M refurbishment consultation began in early 2012 and included feedback from Rec Centre users, direct discussions with clubs and Exec testing opinions with students directly, which led to a concept plan and paper in November 2012. All of this was discussed openly at Exec meetings, reported on in Critic and the ODT and published on our website and Facebook.

It was clear that the plan to move from a dark hidden entrance to a light open entrance in about mid-2012 was going to negatively affect the Tramping Club the most. This led to discussions about use and storage systems. Apart from storage and accessing equipment, the focus was on the four big tramps each year and drying facilities.

We explored converting half of the OUSA garage into a drying space but abandoned that idea. In the end the best solution that allowed all parties to get the essentials that they needed was to move our vans out of the garage for the tramping club to use for the four key drying times a year and dedicate the garages to that purpose over that period.

Part of the solution we arrived at with the club was ensuring customised joinery worked to make better use of their smaller storage space, retain external access to storage and have sliding door on both sides of the entrance to the Rec Centre. This is a design feature that allows the Tramping Club to spread out from their store through the lounge space and into the Otago Room – a bigger space than previously held. So yes, it was what the architect was going for.

A project of this size in a building with the many uses of the Rec Centre is a dance of compromises. The Club got less than it wanted but considerably more than the original plan.

We got a building that will be warmer in winter, safer, has more functional space and it just feels nicer.

There is still a bit of work to do on furniture and fittings. It's not quite unicorn poop yet, but that's what we're going for.

Much love
Ruby xxx

We know what you're talking about. Wowzers.

My dearest Critic,

Just a quick little message to bring this exceedingly important issue to the public forum in the hope something might be actioned. For all of you who don't know ... you can borrow free picnic rugs from OUSA main reception, YAY OUSA W0000! They are especially useful on the ever-damp union lawn. Unfortunately the fancy OUSA-branded picnic rugs don't seem to have

been washed in a million years. Some smell like vomit, most just smell like damp scarfie. Surely OUSA possesses a washing machine or has some sort of cleaning company?

I've brought up the fact that they should be cleaned with the reception staff a few times now. But clearly I've been ignored. Chase them up for me yeah?

<3 A picnic frequenter

President's response:

Dear Picnic Frequenter <3

We love that you love our fancy picnic rugs, we hope that they make you feel fancy sitting on them too!

Mostly our rugs manifest in a bouquet of sweet summer sun and the breezy breath of the gold-finch. However, one or two appear to have notes of mustiness creeping in and crowding out the usual glory of the rugs aromatic delight. We're sorry you don't love the smell of damp scarfie, they're off to the cleaners this very week after their use in the Relay For Life.

Much love
Ruby xxxxx

Critic agrees, see our coverage on p.6

Dear Critic,

The fact that Queens did not get their liquor license renewed sucks. More than anything the reason behind the opposition to their application is what pisses me off, the general gist of which is that the duty manager doesn't really understand the legislation and fails to understand the importance of host responsibility.

It is my opinion that the usual crowd at Queens seems to be more mature people going there to enjoy some decent music, and have a couple of beers or whatever. The majority of other bars, not

CONTINUED ...



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naming names, especially those frequented by students are more representative of people going to the bar specifically to get as drunk as possible and end up shitfaced. It's ridiculous that these bars continue to operate serving alcohol to people who are clearly intoxicated, falling over, vomiting, fighting and being a general nuisance. Those managers are the ones who don't understand the idea of host responsibility.

I would claim this to be some kind of conspiracy if I was that way inclined.

Alex

NOTICES

100Percent

100Percent is back! Want to be a tutor or need tutoring? Use your time and talent to make a difference locally and globally- join the movement. Visit www.100percent.org.nz to find out how. 100Percent- it's time for change.

WESTPAC: Dump Coal or We'll Dump You!

The gorgeous slice of kiwiana paradise known as the Denniston Plateau is in jeopardy! The mining company Bathurst Resources Ltd. wants to mine this luscious land that is presently rich in rare species - including our dearest homie the kiwi. "Nooo! How do I save Denniston Plateau??" you ask?

Well, Bathurst is short of funds and very new to the mining scene, so they're relying on Westpac to fund them. Because Bathurst failed to meet some of the requirements of their loan, Westpac can pull out whenever they like and stop this project altogether. So how do we make Westpac dump Bathurst? Easy peasy lemon squeezy. If you're with Westpac you can "make the switch": cancel your

account and change to a bank that does not invest in fossil fuel companies. On April 11th us nature-lovers are meeting outside Westpac (Moray Place) at 12pm to make a statement and cancel our accounts together, then snip our cards in unison. Westpac will not be pleased as they pride themselves on

sustainability and will not want this kind of negative publicity. Let's get enough people cancelling their accounts so that Westpac will dump this coal project! Even if you're not with Westpac your support will be more than welcome!

For more info hop on <http://350.org.nz/the-westpac-bank-switch/> and you can join the event by searching 'WESTPAC: Dump Coal or we'll dump you! Mass account closing action' on Facebook. You have the power to keep our country beautiful so take a stand and do it!

Shared Agendas Lunch Time Theatre

Do you know what's happening at this week's Lunch Time Theatre? Neither do we, and we're organising it!

Shared Agendas is an improvised chaotic meeting of dance, theatre and music.

April 10th and 11th, 1pm, Allen Hall Theatre.

Join in the performance; take a seat.

Chairs,

Shared Agendas Production Team

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are seeking volunteers for clinical comparison studies of market brand-leading drugs alongside generic formulations of those drugs. If you fit this criteria;

- ✓ Male or Female, between 18-55 years
- ✓ Have no medical condition
- ✓ Non-Smoker (for at least six months)
- ✓ Not on medication (excluding female contraception pill)
- ✓ Not taken any drugs of abuse

All participants will be remunerated for their time and inconvenience

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President's Column

Two minutes, 1118 GA Hyde Street tickets sold out. You guys are crazy keen to get in for an epic Hyde Street!

Hyde Street is easily one of the highlights of the year, and it's such an honour for those who live on the street, you get to host the legendary party! Here at OUSA we are so stoked that we are able to help

you guys organise an awesome event and we really appreciate the support of the tenants and all the stakeholders involved.

A massive thanks to Rach from Events and Ryan Edgar, your Vice President. They have been mixing and mingling with all the Hyde Street residents to make sure 2014 is the party of the year! It's mean to see everyone getting so amped and organising some mean themes for the year. Make the most of dressing up and go hard on your costumes. You never know, this might just be the weekend you meet the love of your life, or the love of your night haha.

So the residents have got you guys sorted with hours of entertainment. At OUSA we've been looking at some tough security and support from our wonderful emergency services and your favourite, the Are You OK? team. These guys are all there to make sure that you have a good time. If you get into trouble, or your mate is just having a rough time, hit these guys up for some extra

help. No one needs to cry over some spilled keg, OUSA have you covered!

Each year Hyde Street gets better and better, so if you're a first year and you've missed out don't worry, the time will come. And if you refreshed the page a minute too late to get a GA ticket, don't worry, RE-O is just around the corner, and then you can party even harder! Numbers are tight and shit always sells out, especially on a street as skinny as Hyde.

Don't forget to have an awesome time, eat up so you can last the day! Eatings never cheating when you win! Stay safe, look after your mates, respect the team and have a mean weekend! So much love for you all.

Ruby Sycamore

Ruby Sycamore-Smith xxxxx

Ps. Get voting in the OUSA Education Officer by-election this week until Thursday, vote online at voting.ousa.org.nz

Queer Wellbeing Survey – be in to win an iPad!

Want to go into the draw to win an iPad and participate in some important research? Fill out a quick, anonymous online survey about how safe it is for queer students enrolled at the University of Otago. It doesn't matter what your sexuality is, we want to hear from you! Fill it in online here at bit.ly/queersupport

OUSA Education Officer By-Election: VOTING OPEN NOW

Voting in the OUSA Education Officer by-election is open now! Let us know who you want sitting on the executive for you by voting quickly and painlessly at voting.ousa.org.nz



Semester One Photo Competition winners!

Wow what a competition! 134 individual entrees and all of a fantastic standard. There can only be 1 winner however so bragging rights go to **Keryn Speight** with his photo "Long Time Waiting".

Our other placegetter's were: 2nd - Katherine Rose Vles, 3rd equal - Yin Hsien Fung and Kanoko Sano, 4th - Megan Woodhead.

Highly commended: Jon Keyzer, Alex Carrol, Amanda Gosh, Ella Williams, Emily Poon, Kate Cory Wright, Laura Roberts, Magnus Holding, and Tyler Bilecky

If you would like to check out the entries we've posted them on the OUSA Facebook page. We will also have them up in the centre from this week.

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