

## FEATURES

### 18 CONFESSIONS OF A QUIDNUNC

Passive aggressive behaviour can make for a miserably infuriating existence. Living with passive aggressive flatmates is the worst, but being the passive aggressive flatmate is exponentially more troubling.

BY MAYA DODD

### 22 ADULT, I AM NOT

"Help! I need an adult!" I cry upon discovering that my lamp is still not turning on, even though I've replaced the bulb and tried it out on five different power points. No, you don't need an adult, my self-affirming internal monologue says, you are an adult.

BY LYDIA ADAMS

### 26 MY VEGAN WEEK

Kirsty Gordge undergoes a vegan lifestyle for a week to learn the whys and hows of veganism. It is not a diet; it is a lifestyle. It is not just about food; it is about animal testing. And if you do it properly, it won't restrict your life to lettuce and carrots.

BY KIRSTY GORDGE

## NEWS & OPINION

- 04 BY-ELECTION
- 05 EXECRABLE
- 06 NEWS
- 10 INTERNATIONAL NEWS
- 12 POLITICS
- 14 NEWS IN BRIEFS
- 16 SPORT

## COLUMNS

- 40 LETTERS
- 42 SCEPTIC SCHISM
- 42 CRUSH ON CAMPUS
- 43 DAVID CLARK
- 43 WHOLE LOTTA LOVE
- 44 SCIENCE, BITCHES!
- 44 BACK OF THE CLASS
- 45 ODT WATCH

## CULTURE

- 30 FILM
- 31 FOOD
- 32 ART
- 33 MUSIC
- 36 BOOKS
- 38 GAMES
- 39 HOROSCOPES
- 46 LOVE IS BLIND



# ONE EXECUTION TOO MANY

» IT'S NOT JUST BALI

It's terrifying that in the twenty-first century, in a time when we are supposed to be so much more knowledgeable, so much more civil, we're just not. I know "we" seems harsh — it's another country, it's not us, it's not the same.

The thing is, it is. We are all humans, born in the same generation, born in families, requiring the same basic essentials, and yet somehow the rights we get depend on the luck of what country we end up being born in. Bali, where the two Australians and six other drug smugglers were executed last week, is only 12 hours away by plane. The United States is only 14 hours away.

We have all this additional knowledge, all this research on how many cases there have been of people wrongfully sentenced to death, or how being unattractive or anything but a white English speaking person, means you're more likely to receive a harsher sentence. Yet, even though most of this research was conducted in the US, the death penalty still exists.

One of the arguments for executing the people in Bali, for people not being so compassionate towards them, is that they knowingly smuggled drugs out of Bali — to a place where they knew the death penalty was the punishment for drug smuggling. Yes, what they did was stupid. Yes, what they did contributes to a preposterous number of deaths every year.

But those other deaths are also a result of other people's stupid behaviour. Should people really be killed for being stupid?

In a story by Henry Napier this week, he quotes David Shearer, Labour's Foreign Affairs spokesperson speaking of agreements to be made with Saudi Arabia, where human rights are also horrendous. "If we decided to make human rights the issue by which we had free trade agreements with other countries, we wouldn't be doing very much trade in the world," he said.

Well, maybe we should cut down on our trading. If that's what it takes. Obviously, it's not simple, but right now it seems that National is out for the dollars and Labour is out for criticising National. I'm pretty sure humans, in general, are good people; maybe many are stupid, but mostly we're after a peaceful world. If politicians weren't so focused on being party politics, of belonging to one side or the other, a lot more could be achieved, in both New Zealand and overseas.

We show no signs of standing up to the US, a country that still hangs on to the death penalty. Is this because falling out with them would be a bit scarier? Does our government want to stay buddies with the big dog? The US doesn't receive near the same criticism for its cold, inhumane behaviour. Killing someone by lethal injection doesn't make them any better — in fact, in a country that claims to be so much better than everywhere else, it's almost more disturbing.

Whilst you ponder how fucked the world is, in an attempt to do what we can for those in Nepal, we've started an appeal for those affected by the earthquake in Nepal. We're hoping we can get everyone to give \$5 to our Givealittle campaign and raise \$50,000 to send to the Red Cross. Give what you can — even if it means skipping a coffee today.

Josie x



**JOSIE COCHRANE**

CRITIC EDITOR

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# Critic

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# By-Election Nominations

» SIX CANDIDATES FOR CAMPAIGNS AND EDUCATION

## EDUCATION OFFICER



**Zachariah  
Roy Al-Alami**

Hi, my name is Zachariah. I am running for the position of Education Officer.

- Let's be honest, nobody really understands the bureaucracy that plagues the University; so, I want to keep it short and simple on what I am advocating for
- Increasing a strong first year achievement. Decrease the number of drop out freshers (yes get your degree's). We want you to stay.
- I support the raising of the '7.0 EFTS LIMIT'. This extends how long we, as students, can study with a loan. The University should have an obligation to support their students' future.
- There has been talk that Hyde St will not go ahead next year. I strongly support this event to continue, as it has been at the University since the dawn of time.
- Education is the reason why you're here (along with the scarfie lifestyle) and a strong voice is what YOU want, so YOU can get the most out of it.

Educating the children since 1995.

Cheers,  
Zac



**Laura  
Harris**

Hi, I'm Laura and I am running for re-election as your Education Officer.

As 2014 Education officer I:

- Established and helped co-run lunchtime events during Summer School.
- Pushed for the class rep system to be improved.
- Had trigger warnings for lectures on sensitive material successfully implemented.

This year I would like to:

- Focus the Recreation Centre as a study space around exam time.
- Create an 'Education Network' of students to

promote representation from all departments.  
- Continue to ensure that access to academic support is of utmost priority and readily available to all students.

Vote for experience you can trust.  
Vote Laura Harris.



**Anton  
Hovius**

Tertiary education is no longer free, and most of us will leave university \$22,000 in debt for our degree alone. Sure, chuck out that letter from IRD, but stop to look at the number of zeroes there, and consider what you're getting for that... they don't match up.

There are simple things that can be done; live streaming all lectures, fixing exam special considerations problems, and lobbying against the 7 EFTS student loan limit (for you med students), but we need to be willing to push hard for these desperately needed changes and more. So please vote for me.

## CAMPAIGNS OFFICER



**Nick  
Findlay**

Nick here,

Lets not waste time. As campaigns officer I want improve life for students by championing your views.

Here's what I want to get behind; continuing Hyde street and without more restrictions- we're all adults here we don't want babysitting, opposing any DCC change to local alcohol policy without taking into account student views(we live here too). Greater representation of the student body on the university council and greater support for clubs/societies and improving the sub par standards of flats.

Basically you just have a good time and get decent degrees.

Back me to back you



**Henry  
Napier**

I'm not here to make sweeping claims about how I'm going to save the scarfie lifestyle. It doesn't need saving. In my experience, students don't need help having a good time.

What I do care about is areas where OUSA can really help. A key focus issue of mine on is night time safety. There is currently no campaign that help protect students, or help them protect themselves, from that kind of danger. That's something I want to change.

I will campaign my hardest for any issues that are key to OUSA and to students. I'm dedicated to this role and have students best interests at heart.

It's alright not to care about student politics, just let me care for you.



**Sean  
Gamble**

Hey, I'm Sean and I study 3rd year Law and Politics. I believe OUSA's Campaigns have been great and I want to continue to support them with some new approaches.

My experience is:

- I have campaigned for campus groups for the past 3 years
- I have been Treasurer and Secretary of university clubs
- I am organised and willing to put time into Campaigns
- I once got 155 ups on Yik Yak (lol jokes it was 77)

What I would like to do for the Campaigns role:

- Increase communication between OUSA and students when it comes to campaigns
- Engage more students in OUSA's campaigns

Vote Gamble for Campaigns



# OUSA Buys 11,308 Bottles off Students

BY LAURA MUNRO

The meeting was taken up by discussions of Planet Media Dunedin Ltd (PMDL). As of the end of March 2015, PMDL owes \$240,367.87 to OUSA. The issue was discussed for an hour in committee of the whole due to commercial sensitivity. The executive moved that it would not call on the debt pending the review of the board's short-term report.

The executive accepted the university's count of student numbers. Including satellite campuses, there are currently 19,058 students enrolled at the University of Otago.

The executive then went into committee of the whole for a second time when discussing the University Bookshop.

President Paul Hunt said a suggestion had been made that Student Support brief the executive regarding the committees they are involved in. However, "it may have constraints and Student Support may not agree". None of the executive opposed the idea.

Finance Officer Nina Harrap said the Bottle Buy Back scheme "went exceptionally well ... I was absolutely blown away." OUSA bought 11,308 bottles from students, 964 of these from a group from Cumberland, Hyde and Hope streets. Leith Street had the greatest number of

bottles, with Dundas, Castle and Hyde having large numbers also.

The executive has been asked to sell tickets for the FIFA Under-20 World Cup. OUSA was asked to purchase a minimum of 100 tickets per day and would be given another 100 for free. OUSA would make 50 cents profit per sale; however, if all tickets were not sold then there would be a financial loss.

"Will this take up an undue amount of time at reception that could be better served doing the usual course of business?" asked Recreation Officer Johnny Martin. "Are we sure we'll sell all of those tickets? Cos if we don't, we're going to lose potentially quite a bit of money," added Harrap.

Vice President Isaac Yu said he was "quite skeptical about how effective" this would be. "I don't think the gain is big enough to go forward with this."

The executive voted on the proposal. With only three members for the idea, it was decided against. The executive instead plans to promote the event on the OUSA Facebook page.

Yu said he had spoken to a former OUSA Events employee who, Yu said, believed there was "a lack of fiscal responsibility in the current

events department". There also "should be more emphasis on smaller events". However, students he had spoken to preferred a few big overseas acts compared to a larger number of local acts. Yu will meet with the executive in terms of the events review soon.

The OUSA 125th Anniversary is set to be held in May. The celebration is likely to cost more than originally planned, so the Financial and Expenditure Committee will be asked for approximately \$10,000. OUSA Secretary Donna Jones asked executive members to volunteer for as many events as they can. ●

## BY-ELECTIONS

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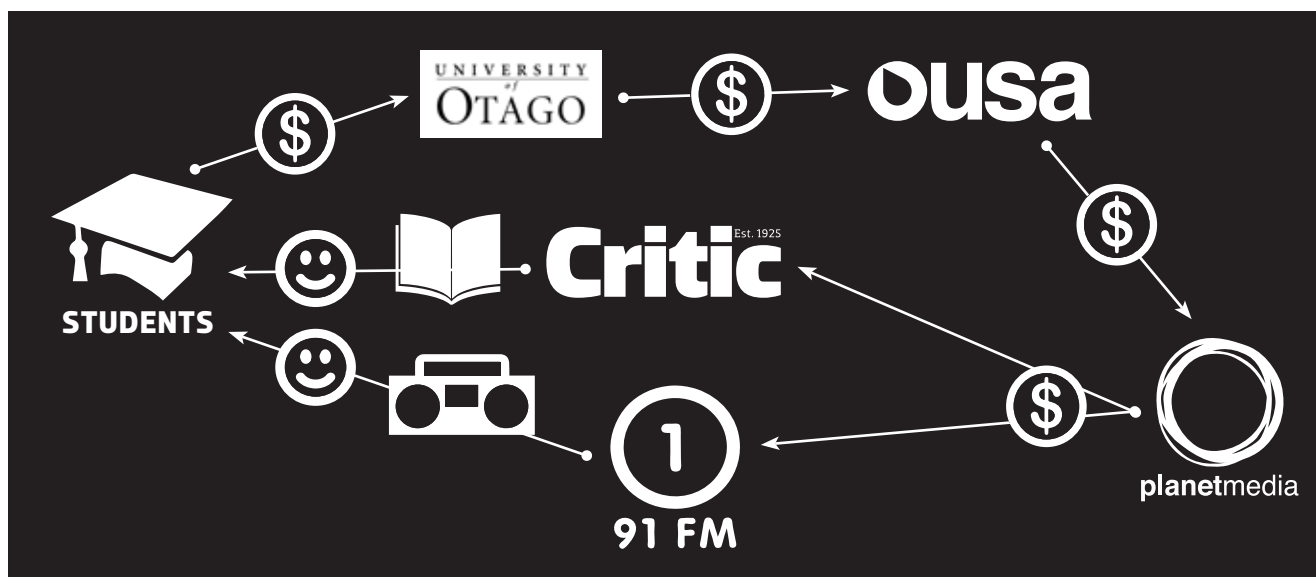


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# Planet Media Dunedin Ltd. Insolvent

» SEVERAL YEARS OF DEBT TO OUSA REQUIRES REVIEW

BY LAURA MUNRO

In a meeting on Thursday 30 April, the OUSA Executive decided not to call on the \$240,367.87 it is owed by Planet Media Dunedin Ltd, pending a review from the company's board. The debt is as of the end of March 2015 and encompasses accumulated debt from the last several years.

PMDL, founded in 1998, was set up to house Critic and Radio One as a fully owned subsidiary of OUSA. PMDL is now insolvent, which means that if all assets were sold, it would still not have the funds to pay the money it owes.

PMDL is a not-for-profit organisation, so even if it did make any money, the profits would go back to OUSA. However, being insolvent means the company's board, half of whom are OUSA Executive members, must reassess its operations as board members could be personally liable.

The University of Otago gives a set sum of student fees to OUSA each year through the Service Level Agreement (SLA). Part of this sum is allocated to PMDL, whose cost centres are Critic, Radio One and a Planet Media Sales team.

OUSA CEO Debbie Downs said: "There's always funding going through, it's the funding that's having to go through over and above

what we've agreed to is where the problem comes in."

PMDL has been in debt to OUSA for a number of years, but Downs said the reason a call on PMDL has to be made now is because the problem is getting worse each year. "Income is further down this year than it was last year. The problem is escalating," she said. As income declines, expenses continue to rise.

Downs said the university has said it is not able to increase the SLA each year — "anything we want to add to the SLA is going to be a hard ask".

Vice-Chancellor Professor Harlene Hayne said: "Given the financial constraints facing the university sector, I applaud OUSA for taking a closer look at the services they are funding. I encourage them to make each dollar count and stretch their funds to serve the largest number of students possible."

The decision to demand the money owed is up to the OUSA Executive. No date has currently been made to call for the debt, and Downs said it is "too soon" to say when, "or even if", it will be asked for.

"That's a decision that will need to be made based on the [Planet Media] board's recom-

mendations and the board's review of the workings and operations."

Downs, who is also the General Manager of PMDL, said her biggest concern in her position as GM is "identifying new income streams" for the company. "There's two ways to balance a budget, you either increase your income or decrease your expenditure. While I do believe there will be some expenditure that we can find that we can decrease, the biggest concern is where do we identify those new revenue streams from, and that's difficult."

When asked how expenditure would be decreased, she said it was still too soon to say, and depends on the upcoming review.

The review of PMDL will look at previous reports and financial statements for the company. This review will be given to the board in a meeting over the next few weeks, and decisions regarding both short-term and long-term strategies will be made.

The review will look at understanding the student demand for Critic and Radio One, understanding activity levels for the respective services (i.e. studio usage, volunteer hours), understanding income streams and expenses, and understanding the implications of a change to the organisation. ●

# Greens Want Rid of Plastic Bags

» PLASTIC BAGS A "SYMBOL OF OUR THROWAWAY SOCIETY"

BY JOE HIGHAM

**O**n 21 April the Otago Greens on Campus held the first of 28 nationwide meetings introducing the Green Party's plastic bag scheme. With 40 attendees, the group introduced the campaign, which aims to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bags in New Zealand.

Green Party MP Denise Roche, who holds the waste portfolio for the party, was the keynote speaker of the meeting. Roche revealed that New Zealand uses up to one billion plastic bags per year, with the majority of them being in use for only 12 minutes. An average of one million plastic bags are used in the world every minute.

Roche said plastic bags are "the symbol of our throwaway society ... they pose a big threat to our unique marine life, are extremely difficult to get rid of in an environmentally

responsible way".

According to Roche, regulation of single-use plastic bags is an "important step to protecting New Zealand's 100% pure reputation, keeping safe New Zealand's unique marine life and transitioning to a greener future".

The Green Party is hoping to generate a public voice on the issue in order to give the government reason to get behind the plan. The aim is for the National Party to declare plastic bags a priority under the Waste Minimisation Act.

"Many countries such as Ireland, Bangladesh and Rwanda, as well as many other states in Australia and the United States, have already taken action on reducing plastic bags. By declaring plastic bags as a priority product, we can begin to plan to reduce their usage and consumption," stated Francisco Hernandez,

Roche's senior executive assistant stated.

Nyssa Hayne-Parker, the Co-ordinator of Otago Greens on Campus said the event "was a great success".

"We had a really positive turnout from members of the wider community. That is great because it means we're helping to contribute to building wider community awareness and enthusiasm for issues like these, which we believe are important for us as the younger generation."

Roche, however, said she was only "reasonably happy with the turnout", though said there was "a good mixture of students, activists and members of the public".

"It was a great opportunity to connect people across different groups, educate people about the problem and encourage people to take action on the issue." ●

# Mayor Sympathetic to Prosecution Clyde Landlords

» FLAT DEVELOPER FACES FINE FOR ILLEGAL CLYDE ST ALTERATIONS

BY DAMIAN GEORGE

**M**ayor Dave Cull says he feels for the owners of a Clyde Street student flat, who are facing prosecution after taking on a property that had undergone illegal alterations.

Alan and Kay McKay bought the 99 Clyde Street property from its former owners in December 2013. They are now seeking retrospective resource consent after work was done to create two extra rooms by knocking out walls in the living room.

The additions mean the property has 13 bedrooms, two more than the allowable number for the three-unit property.

Cull says although both parties are in line to face disciplinary action, the buyers have been hard done by.

"Whoever knowingly broke the law is the one who should face the consequences."

However, the council's Resource Consent Manager Alan Worthington says there is a buyer beware element to the situation and the

McKays will have to pay the price for that.

"Unfortunately they didn't apply for a LIM (Land Information Memorandum), which would have pointed these things out. There is some sympathy there but, ideally, when you're making a significant investment like this, you do the research.

"It is a live matter and the consent application is still in progress, but there is some likelihood the owners will face some repercussions."

Worthington did not want to speculate on the likely punishment for the owners or the original developers. However, he hinted it was safe to assume the punishment for the developer would fall in line with that handed down last year to student property landlords who made similar alterations.

In that case, the landlords sub-divided two-bedroom units on three separate sites over three years, and were fined \$15,000 for each.

"This case is really stimulated by those ones from last year," said Worthington. "The judge ruled the alterations were not a major issue in isolation, but cumulatively they were a concern."

"The infrastructure is getting on in some of these properties and there is a limited capacity for extensions. Those extensions compromised the infrastructure around water and waste."

Council Planner Daryl Sycamore recommended in a recent council hearing that resource consent be declined as it would set a precedent for similar applications.

In response, Conrad Anderson, representing the McKays in the hearing, said granting consent would not create a precedent as the person who built the rooms will more than likely be prosecuted.

The property has a current rateable value of \$1.43 million. ●

# DCC Cutting Shares in "Unethical Companies"

» COUNCIL VOTES IN ETHICAL INVESTMENTS POLICY

BY JOE HIGHAM

**O**n Tuesday 28 April the Dunedin City Council voted in favour of an Ethical Investments Policy, meaning shares it owns in "unethical companies" will be phased out. Eight councillors voted for the policy and seven voted against.

The vote represented a final decision on the matter, and follows on from a vote last year in which a majority voted to dissociate the council from such investments.

Councillor David Benson-Pope said the DCC currently has shares in companies such as tobacco, armaments and, more recently, fossil fuels. The DCC plans to shift away from industries that are widely considered unethical and only obtain shares in what are seen as ethical industries.

The money invested in such industries has come from the Waipori Fund, which was

created after the Waipori Electricity Scheme failed in 1999. As of June 2014, its value stood at approximately \$74 million.

Although the vote was passed, it did so by very little. Councillor Jinty MacTavish said she thinks "it's a shame" that some councillors "couldn't see fit to support a clearly articulated request from our constituents, on an issue that's pretty critical for humanity".

"Ethical investing isn't a new thing, but it is growing in popularity," said MacTavish. "At the time the council first endorsed development of the policy, Dunedin was just the 23rd city in the world, and the second outside of the United States, to support a policy excluding the fossil fuel extraction industry from our portfolio."

Benson-Pope said he was "proud of the principled decision" and the move

was "sensible, logical, principled and overdue".

Hillary Calvert, ACT Party member and councillor for the Central Ward of Dunedin, was one of the seven who voted against the policy, saying it is a "luxury Dunedin cannot afford".

Calvert said "a vote for divestment was a vote for hypocrisy ... [if] those wanting to eliminate fossil fuels were serious about their concern, my view is they should set an example by not flying about the place".

Benson-Pope said he is "not a supporter of Act policies", nor does he "consider being principled a luxury".

The policy will be phased in over the next few years. MacTavish said: "The policy is effectively a 'negative screen' policy, meaning that we decide what not to invest in and screen it out." ●

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# Hospital Uses Compass to Search for Food

» FLOW-ON EFFECT TO BE "TERRIBLE FOR EMPLOYMENT AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY"

BY BRIDIE BOYD

**T**he Southern District Health Board is considering drastic changes to the food sourcing for local hospitals and contemplating the use of an outsourcing company, the Compass Group.

Currently, hospital food is sourced and made locally, providing jobs and income to companies based in the region. It is argued that outsourcing meals to the Compass Group would have serious economic ramifications.

John Ryall, National Secretary for the Service and Food Workers Union (SFWU) says that if the deal goes ahead, they plan to take legal action. The union is involved in mediation over the Auckland District Health Board's decision to outsource its hospital food.

The union believes that up to 20 percent of southern hospital food workers could find themselves looking for alternative work if the talks with the Compass Group are successful.

Anna Huffstutler, Southland SFWU Organ-

iser, says the SDHB has been "reasonably fair in hearing our side". However, "they haven't been able to give us enough information to comment fully on the proposal."

Huffstutler said the SFWU's key concern is that "the quality of the food will be greatly affected" by the new model.

"Frozen meals from Auckland cannot compare to fresh, locally sourced and produced food," she said. "We are also very concerned about the job losses, and the loss of business for the local suppliers. The flow-on effect would be terrible for employment and the local economy."

Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull says he is doing his best to ensure that any changes to the food sourcing will not have a negative impact on the hospital. However, he is not as concerned with the outsourcing talks as the union.

"At the moment, my concern is for the economic well being for Dunedin and Otago.

Although, I am aware that a number of DHBs need to agree to work with Compass Group for this to happen."

Glenn Corbett, Managing Director of Compass Group, wrote an opinion piece on the discussions which was published in the Otago Daily Times in late April.

"Quality will not be compromised. Consistency in both food and nutrition quality are key deliverables for Compass NZ, and an audit programme that includes patient satisfaction surveys will consistently measure this

"There will be more menu options for patients, including 25 percent more choice on breakfast menus and 39 percent more choice on lunch menus, as well as increased options for snacks, desserts and beverages," wrote Corbett.

Corbett argued that they aim to minimise job losses and already employee 50 full-time and 700 casual roles in the region. ●

# Otago Dentistry Ranks 8th in the World

» AUCKLAND SMASHES US IN EVERYTHING ELSE

BY LAURA MUNRO

**T**he QS World University Rankings for 2015 have been released. Otago was the only New Zealand university to place in the top ten for a subject area, scoring 8th in Dentistry.

The University of Otago also ranked 31st in psychology, three places behind the University of Auckland, which ranked 28th.

The University of Auckland had the most subject areas, 13, ranked in the top 50. The University of Otago was second with two placings. The University of Canterbury, Victoria University of Wellington, Massey University and Auckland University of Technology (AUT) all had one placing. The University of Waikato and Lincoln University had no placings in the top 50.

For medicine, the University of Auckland placed in the top 100 in the world, and the University of Otago ranked in the top 150. The University of Auckland also ranked in the top 100 for pharmacy and pharmacology; Otago again only ranked in the top 150.

The University of Auckland ranked as the top in New Zealand for law at 33rd. Victoria University of Wellington was second, ranked 45th. The University of Otago and the University of Canterbury ranked in the top 100, and the University of Waikato ranked in the top 150.

For chemical engineering, electrical and electronic engineering, and mechanical, aeronautical and manufacturing engineering, the University of Auckland ranked in the top 100. The University of Canterbury ranked in the top

200 for these categories.

The University of Auckland ranked 43rd in the world for civil and structural engineering; the University of Canterbury ranked 44th.

Overall, the University of Auckland received the top place in New Zealand with a rank of 92nd in the world. The University of Otago was ranked 159th, the University of Canterbury was ranked 242nd, and Victoria University of Wellington was ranked 275th.

Massey University was ranked 346th, the University of Waikato 401st, Lincoln University 411st and AUT 501st. ●





# European Migrant Crisis: 800 Dead

» REFUGEES FROM AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST DIE IN SHIPWRECK

BY OLIVER GASKELL

**M**ore than 900 migrants are feared dead after a boat capsized in the Mediterranean Sea on 19 April. The 20-metre-long fishing boat capsized off the Libyan coast as a large merchant ship approached it. It was filled with refugees attempting to escape turmoil in Africa and the Middle East.

A survivor told the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office that around 700 people on board moved to one side hoping it would save them. This toppled the boat.

On-going efforts to collect the bodies have so far found only 28 survivors. The UN has confirmed 800 deaths, but it is likely that the exact total will never be known.

As Italian rescue ships were attempting to aid survivors, another distress call was received as a second migrant vessel crashed near the Greek island of Rhodes.

The event brings the number of refugees who have died trying to reach Europe this year to around 1600. Last year, 3500 migrants died attempting to reach Europe.

This has been labelled the worst migrant shipwreck in history.

The tragedy has put pressure on the European Union (EU) to raise funds to help those

involved, as well as to possibly reevaluate its immigration policy.

Interior ministers and senior police officials from the 28 countries of the EU met in Luxembourg for what was meant to be a routine meeting but turned into a crisis session recognising the need for urgent action to be taken.

Federica Mogherini, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy said in a press statement: "With this latest tragedy ... we have no more excuses ... the main issue here is to build a common sense of European responsibility."

The recent events have led the EU to plan military action against those who organise people-trafficking voyages.

The EU's Triton Patrolling Service will be reinforced, and attempts have been made to obtain a military mandate to destroy people smugglers' vessels. These actions are part of 10-point plan by the EU to combat current immigration patterns.

"The dire situation in the Mediterranean is not a new nor passing reality ... the 10 actions we have agreed upon today are the direct substantial measures we will take to make an immediate difference," said Mogherini.

The decision to take military action has not gone without criticism. UN Security-General

Ban Ki-moon has urged the EU to reconsider taking military action in order to prevent future migrant death. "There is no military solution to the tragedy in the Mediterranean," he said in a press statement. "What is crucial is to have a global approach that takes into account the roots of the problem, the security and human rights of migrants and refugees, such as having immigration channels that are legal and regular," he said.

Karim Lahidji, the President of the International Federation for Human Rights echoed Ban Ki-moon's sentiment. "As long as legal and safe channels of access to the EU are not established, these people will continue to brave the sea in search of protection and a better life, and the bodies will continue to pile up on Europe's border," said Lahidji in a press statement.

Flavio Di Giacomo, a member of the International Organization for Migration, believes that military action could endanger many more refugees and migrants, as he said in a press statement: "If you destroy the boats so that migrants cannot leave, they are then stuck in Libya, which is in crisis."

170,000 migrants arrived in Europe from Libya in 2014, and around 25,000 have so far made the journey this year. ●



# Nepal Quake Jolts 8 Million Lives

» PRIME MINISTER EXPECTS DEATH TOLL TO REACH 10,000

BY **ANGUS SHAW**



**M**ore than eight million people across three countries have been affected by the Nepal earthquake, which occurred on 25 April 2015. According to Nepalese officials, 5000 people have been confirmed dead and 6500 injured. Numbers are expected to increase as rescue teams scour remote villages.

Nepalese Prime Minister Sushil Koirala said in a statement that the death toll "could go up to 10,000".

The epicentre of the 7.8 magnitude quake was located in the Ghorka district of Western Nepal, destroying buildings in the capital of Kathmandu and severely damaging surrounding rural areas.

Since the quake, thousands in Kathmandu have spent several nights outside, too afraid to return home due to the severity of aftershocks. Many have also fled the city as supplies run low.

The surrounding countries of India, China and Bangladesh have also faced devastating

effects, leaving over 450,000 displaced by the tremors. In many villages, up to 70 percent of houses now lie in ruins.

The quake marks the worst earthquake in 80 years since Nepal-Bihar earthquake of 1934.

The under-resourced Nepalese government is struggling with relief efforts. The prime minister insists: "The government is doing all it can for rescue and relief on a war footing." However, many of the survivors have grown angry with the government's slow relief effort as the country remains in desperately short supply of food, water and other essentials.

With this lack of supplies, the fear of an outbreak of disease now looms. International aid has begun to arrive, though the UN estimates that 1.4 million remain in need of food aid.

Rescue and aid workers have struggled to reach areas around the epicentre because the erratic weather early on in the week made

it difficult for helicopters to land. Once the weather cleared on Tuesday, greatly needed supplies were able to be relayed to smaller villages. Significantly contributing to the relief problem is the fact that Nepal has only one international airport.

New Zealand has so far contributed \$1 million to the relief effort. "New Zealand's contribution will be provided to agencies that are active on the ground and have the capability to provide immediate assistance," Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully said in a statement issued last Sunday.

USA, Critic and Radio One are fundraising for the NZ Red Cross until the end of Semester One exams. With a target of \$50,000, donations can be made via our Givealittle page: [givealittle.co.nz/cause/ousaappeal](http://givealittle.co.nz/cause/ousaappeal) ●

# Bali Nine Executed

» SUKUMARAN AND CHAN PUT TO DEATH BY 12-MAN FIRING SQUAD

BY **ZAHRA SHAHTAHMASEBI**

**A**t 12:30am on Wednesday 29 April, two Australians, Myuran Sukumaran and Andrew Chan, were executed on Nusa Kambangan Island in Central Java.

Sukumaran and Chan were among eight other drug smugglers who were put to death on the same day. The men included four Nigerians — Okwuduli Oyatanze, Martin Anderson, Raheem Agbaje Salami and Silvester Obiekwe Nwoli — along with a Brazilian, Rodrigo Gualarte, and an Indonesian, Zainal Abidin. A ninth prisoner, Mary Jane Veloso, was also set to be executed but was granted a temporary reprieve.

According to the Guardian, Brazil's foreign ministry confirmed that Gualarte had been diagnosed with schizophrenia twice.

The men faced a 12-man firing squad and, in their last act of defiance, decided not to wear their blindfolds. The men sang the chorus of "Amazing

Grace" before their deaths; this was broken by the crack of gunfire.

It is said that Sukumaran and Chan passed quickly and that all eight men were confirmed dead at 1:02am Indonesian time.

Sukumaran and Chan were arrested in 2005, along with seven other Australians, after attempting to smuggle eight kilograms of heroin from Bali to Australia. The group later became known as the "Bali Nine".

The pair were labelled as the ringleaders of the gang and found guilty of providing the money, airline tickets and hotels to their drug traffickers.

In 2006, they were sentenced to death by firing squad — the first time the Denpasar District Court has issued the death penalty for drug trafficking.

Protests calling for a halt to the executions

were held outside the Presidential Palace by Indonesian activists on 28 April. An overnight candlelit vigil was also held in Sydney, to no avail.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott has condemned the executions and has withdrawn his ambassador from Indonesia for consultations.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said in a press statement that she is "deeply disturbed" by the actions of the Indonesian government and claims that there "will have to be consequences".

Despite claims that Chan and Sukumaran were fully rehabilitated after serving 10 years in prison, Indonesia's President Joko Widodo was not swayed. Widodo insisted the deaths had to happen in order to combat Indonesia's illegal drug trafficking crisis.

The families of the two men tearfully pleaded for the lives of their loved ones to be spared, with Michael Chan saying that his goodbye to his brother "was torture ... there has to be a moratorium on the death penalty".

Sukumaran's brother Chintu said he knew that their deaths would be "a waste ... if these nine people die today, it's still not going to stop anything". ●

# Māori Party Takes Back Seat in Water Rights

» PARTY CLAIMS RIGHTS NEED TO BE "SORTED OUT BETWEEN IWI AND THE CROWN"

BY POLITICS EDITOR HENRY NAPIER

**T**he issue of Māori water rights has had a resurgence in New Zealand politics. The government recently turned down a proposal from iwi to award Māori permanent water rights. The proposal sought to discard the existing system of water allocation, whereby water rights can be granted through local council consent on a renewal basis.

The Māori Party has remained surprisingly neutral over the issue, despite Māori rights remaining a top priority for the party. Māori Party co-leader Te Ururoa Flavell recently appeared on TV ONE political interest show, Q+A, where he said his opinion on Māori water rights was not relevant. He claimed water rights "are issues to be sorted out between iwi and the crown".

Flavell explained that the party's role was to facilitate an open dialogue between iwi and the government. However, he refused to comment on whether he supported the iwi bid to reclaim water rights. Flavell confirmed that the issue remained important to the party.

The Māori Party has remained as a coalition partner to the National government since 2008, which has stirred controversy concerning the Māori Party's priorities.

Political commentator, Dr Bryce Edwards, said the Māori Party is "[no longer] as crucial as they were 10 years ago ... 15 percent of New Zealanders have Māori ancestry or identify as Māori, [but] the Māori Party only gets one percent of the vote".

Edwards said, "it's hard to say whether [party co-leader] Flavell has any influence ... It's hard to know what goes on behind the scenes." In terms of public debate, Edwards said the Māori Party is no longer relevant.

When asked whether they had lost support due taking a backseat on Māori issues, a representative of the Māori Party said they "had played a really strong role in advocacy, and certainly do not agree with everything National do".

"In fact," said the representative, "[the Māori Party] probably oppose more of the legislation that National puts up than some of the opposition parties do". ●

# Key Unlocks Another Trade Door with Saudi Arabia

» HUMAN RIGHTS TAKES BACK SEAT IN SAUDI TRADE TALKS

BY HENRY NAPIER

**N**ews of a trade agreement with Saudi Arabia has come amid controversy over human rights. Prime Minister John Key recently confirmed that he is seeking a trade agreement with the nation, visiting last week to meet King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Key admitted in an interview with ONE News that "[Saudi Arabia] has some human rights that we absolutely don't support and don't agree with". However, he pointed out that other countries New Zealand has trade and diplomatic ties with "also have human rights discrepancies that we would not support or agree with".

Key explained that a free trade agreement with Saudi Arabia would yield "a much stronger relationship, from which we can talk about a range of issues".

Labour's Foreign Affairs Spokesperson David Shearer has said that he believes human rights has not been a priority in the National government's foreign policy.

"The only time [Key] has specifically mentioned a human rights situation was in 2007 concerning Zimbabwe ... [Human rights] is not something that is front and centre for the government by any means."

Shearer said: "If we decided to make human rights the issue by which we had free trade agreements with other countries, we wouldn't be doing very much trade in the world."

Shearer pointed out that China is a nation where human rights remain an issue, though New Zealand still extensively trades with that country.

Saudi Arabia has been notable for its human rights violations, particularly with their women's rights and their capital-punishment laws where beheading is still used as a means of the death penalty. ●







## In My Opinion: Henry's word The Credibility Earned through Bi-Partisan Support

**T**he opposition's role is to criticise the government. In doing so, it usually tends to highlight the negatives and avoid the positives. Yet too often, when asked what they think of good policy, opposition MPs will turn around in disagreement, regardless of what they truly believe. They disagree purely because it is a proposal from the government.

This type of attitude has plagued the opposition for too long. Last week David Shearer and Metiria Turei were interviewed on Q+A about what they thought of a free-trade agreement

with a state notorious for disgraceful human rights. Turei led with a flow of typical talking points, focused on the shortcomings of the deal and highlighting areas of neglect on the prime minister's behalf. Yet Foreign Affairs spokesperson David Shearer remarkably ventured away from the blind criticism approach, and the result awarded him credibility.

Shearer, who is notable for his former employment in the United Nations, outlined exactly what the government had been arguing concerning trade agreements with states that had

human rights discrepancies. Shearer didn't praise the government, but he argued the same reasons, not to score bipartisan points but because they were right. Such a message paints an opposition that knows exactly what it believes in. It would be hard to determine exactly what that is for the current Labour Party, besides overarching themes of "social justice" and "egalitarianism".

There seems to be a perception that Labour is waiting for the issues to arise out of the government's mistakes. A type of waiting game where National will eventually trip itself up. Obviously this is an oversimplification of Labour's strategy and its role but, regardless, perception does matter.

If Labour can manage to promote exactly where it stands on policy areas despite the actions of the government, as Shearer did with foreign policy, it might just encourage a perception that Labour is a party that knows where it's going. Not just a party that waits its turn. ●

POLITWEETS



**Pebbles Hooper**  
@pebbleshooper

I bet john key feels broke as fuck with all those Saudi billionaires 🤔



**Patrick Gower**  
@patrickgowernz

John Key met Saudi Arabia 2ic Crown Prince Muqrin yesterday. The King dumped him overnight. #royalpurge



**Reed Fleming**  
@reedfleming

Maybe because I'm already feeling delicate, but I've never really been affected by news like I have been by #Bali9. Unbearably sad story



**Patrick Gower**  
@patrickgowernz

Saudi Arabia business consultant John Lockwood says John Key would be arrested for assault for pony-tail pulling here



**Dr. Thomas Paul**  
@DrThomasPaul

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# News in Briefs

BY MAGNUS WHYTE



## world watch

### 1 SWITZERLAND

Switzerland has topped the annual World Happiness index produced by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, an initiative of the United Nations. It was closely followed by Iceland, Denmark and Norway, with Togo, Burundi, Benin and Rwanda the least happy nations of the world.

### 2 CHINA

Chinese authorities say they will push to end the practice of having strippers perform at funerals. The culture ministry has condemned as "uncivilised" the practice, which is used to induce more people to attend the funeral. Large crowds are seen as a mark of honour for the deceased.

### 3 YEKATERINBURG, RUSSIA

A group of 50 elderly women pensioners who helped the Russian war effort against the Nazis have been treated to a party at a funeral home. The women were slipped business cards with the funeral home's details. One attendee said: "This is horrible ... I still have some life ahead of me, it's too early to go to a funeral parlour."

### 4 TOKYO, JAPAN

A drone carrying a tiny amount of radioactive material has been found on the roof of the Japanese prime minister's office in Tokyo. Police say "minute" levels of radiation were detected on the drone, but the amount was too low to be harmful to health. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe wasn't in the building at the time.

### 5 KENT, ENGLAND

A Labrador puppy is in the dog-box after he left a trail of destruction that resulted in setting his new home on fire. While his owner was out, Stanley (the puppy) leapt onto the cooker and switched it on, causing a fire that killed his fellow pets — Dave (a parrot) and Vinny (a hamster). The home was badly damaged by smoke, but Stanley was carried to safety.

### 6 INDIA

A leading figure of the Hindu Nationalist Group has claimed that drinking milk from non-Indian cows could make children turn to crime. Shankar Lal has encouraged gated communities in India to keep their own herds of cows, although they have to be the "virtuous" Indian breeds.

### 7 ABINGTON, SCOTLAND


A sheepdog called Don has caused traffic chaos after driving a tractor onto a motorway. Farmer, Tom Hamilton, was examining lambs in a field when he left his collie on the seat of the tractor; he then turned around to see the vehicle crash through a fence, career down a hill and zoom across the road. The dog started the vehicle by leaning on its controls. No one was hurt.

### 8 COLORADO, UNITED STATES

A man who had had enough of his troublesome computer shot and killed it in Colorado. Lucas was issued a summons by the Colorado Springs police after he shot his computer eight times in an alley. Hinch was issued the summons for discharging a firearm within city limits, which he called a small price to pay for justice.

### 9 AUSTRALIA

Students in Australia are being asked to design Australia's next multimillion-dollar national park using the popular computer game, Minecraft. Entrants have been asked to incorporate spaces for activities like hiking, mountain biking, scenic vistas and campsites.




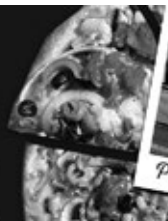
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# Grapevine

"I've been an Aston Villa fan all my life, I literally opened my mouth and I was going off-piste about the fact that in Britain you can be a supporter of the West Indies, a supporter of Manchester United, and a supporter of Team GB. I was then busking about other things you can support and was ... I don't know what happened to me, it was just one of those things."



**British PM, David Cameron** has been hit hard on Twitter about saying in a speech that he supported the football team West Ham when he is actually an Aston Villa fan. Mr Cameron's remark came in a speech about his plan to increase opportunities for ethnic minorities in Britain. In the heat of the election campaign, the British Labour Party's former communications chief, Alastair Campbell, was unforgiving on Twitter, saying Cameron was "out

of touch. Phoney. Believes nothing."

"During the past 12 years, we have witnessed the North Korean program growing from having the option for a bomb in 2003, to having a handful of bombs five years later, to having an expanded nuclear arsenal now."

**Siegfried Hecker, nuclear scientist, Stanford University**

North Korea tested its first nuclear weapon in 2006, three years after it withdrew from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Today scientists around the world are worried that North Korea's nuclear arsenal may be expanding. However, no one knows just how many nuclear weapons North Korea possesses, nor the capabilities of these weapons, and this is highly worrying for the international community.



"We take the person's clothing, we extract the smell, which represents more than fifty molecules, and in four days, we reconstitute it in the form of a perfume in an alcohol solution."



A **French perfume-maker**, Geraldine Savary, plans to bottle the scent of your loved ones. The company's owner was inspired when her father died seven years ago and she missed the smell of him. Now the company, Kalain, is set to launch its product, which uses previously worn clothes or used linen to recreate the distinct smell. A bottle of your dead loved one's scent will set you back €560.

"She had a housing problem, right? And Marleny, I have approved it already, as part of the Great Housing Mission of Venezuela, you will get an apartment and it will be given to you in the next few hours."

A Venezuelan woman has had her wish for a house granted by the **President of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro**, after she made her point by hitting him on the head with a mango. Marleny Olivo threw the fruit at the president while he was driving a bus through the central state of Aragua. The mango had a message on it which pleaded for his help. Mr Maduro displayed the mango with her telephone number on it during a live television show afterwards.



"After the first incident, we thought the cow was starving, so we increased the supply of fodder and water, but it still continued chasing after the sheep."



**Charles Mamboleo, a Kenyan farmer**, was shocked to see that one of his cows had given up its usual vegetarian diet in favour of eating sheep. Charles Mamboleo discovered the cow feeding on a sheep one morning, having apparently gored it to death. While cows are herbivores, developing a taste for meat could be a sign of nutrient deficiency according to a local agricultural officer.

## FACTS & FIGURES



### Cows

can have regional accents.

### The Bible

is the most popular shoplifted book.

### Some insects

can live up to a year without their heads.

### Pigs

It is physically impossible for them to look up to the sky.

### Cats' urine

glows under a black light.

### More than 50%

of the people in the world have never made or received a phone call.

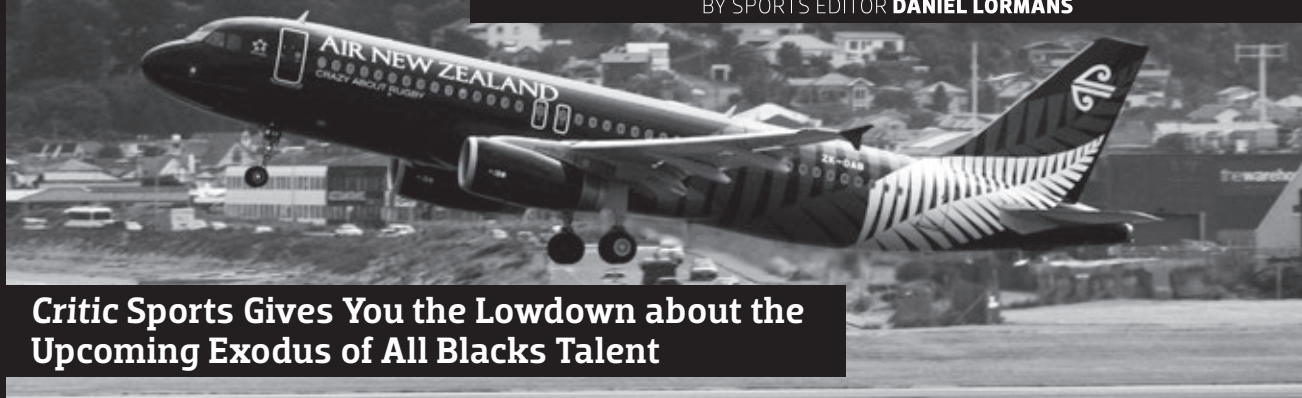
### 30% of women

swallow when they engage in oral sex with their partner.



# Should I Stay or Should I Go?

BY SPORTS EDITOR DANIEL LORMANS



## Critic Sports Gives You the Lowdown about the Upcoming Exodus of All Blacks Talent

**W**ith the Super Rugby season well past its halfway point, attention is starting to shift towards the end-of-season Rugby Championship and, more importantly, the World Cup in England. Since taking over the top job, All Blacks coach Steve Hansen has presided over one of the most successful and dominant periods of New Zealand rugby history. After this year's (hopefully successful) defence of the World Cup, Hansen faces the difficult task of managing a major reshaping of the team, with a number of key players either retiring or choosing not to sign a new deal with the NZRU.

Several nouveau-riche clubs of the French Top 14 competition have been opening up their chequebooks to poach some of our best current players and future prospects. Former Highlander and current Crusaders first-five Colin Slade has committed himself to a three-year deal with ambitious French club Pau, newly promoted from the second division, which is reportedly worth about \$800,000 per season.

Current All Blacks centre Conrad Smith will be joining Slade at Pau on a two-year deal worth a similar amount. Smith has 85 caps for the ABs, the most capped centre ever, and most likely would have hit the 100-test mark next year had he stayed on. Unlike most players, Smith has

a legitimate degree, an LLB from Victoria University, to fall back on when he retires from rugby. His All Blacks and Hurricanes teammate, Ma'a Nonu, is also taking up a two-year contract offer at current French champion club, Toulon. Nonu played in Japan for a short time after the last World Cup before unsuccessful stints with the Blues and Highlanders. Both of them heading off at the same time leaves a big hole in the centre of the park for the All Blacks to fill.

Dan Carter is heading to Paris with Racing Metro to take up a three-year contract worth at least \$2 million per season. This will make Carter the best-paid rugby player in the world. It will be his second stint in France; he played for Perpignan over the 2008 season but was hampered by an Achilles injury that meant he played only five games. He leaves as one of only five players to reach 100 caps and as the all-time top record scorer with 1455 total points. With Aaron Cruden ruled out for the rest of the year through his knee injury, this opens the door for another first-five to step up into the All Blacks squad. This could be the chance for Highlanders sharpshooter Lima Sopoaga to get a well-deserved shot at the black jersey.

Current All Blacks captain Richie McCaw will become the most-capped player in rugby history at the World Cup and will retire at the end of this season even though this hasn't been announced officially yet. His leadership on and off the field has been invaluable over the last 14 years, and he will pass the torch to his loose-forward partner and Crusaders teammate Kieran Read. Front-row pair, Kevin

Mealumu and Tony Woodcock, are also set to retire at the end of the season.

The promising young duo of Charles Piutau and Francis Saili have resisted the lure of the French clubs and will instead head to Ireland, with Piutau signing for Ulster and Saili signing for Munster. Waisake Naholo, who has been in fine try-scoring form for the Highlanders this season, may have spoiled his chances of an All Blacks call-up this year by signing a two-year deal with Clermont. Like Piutau and Saili, Naholo is still only 23, so the three of them could return to New Zealand after their stint in Europe and play their way into the squad for the 2019 World Cup in Japan.

However, securing the services of all these players does come at a price, with many of the French clubs running up large debts recently and only two of the Top 14 clubs recording a profit last season. There is a sense that these big-money contracts could be a flash in the pan; current debt levels are unsustainable, so players are looking to cash in while they can. A recently signed \$100 million dollar broadcasting deal does point towards a more solid financial future for European rugby.

Despite the amount of talent about to head overseas, the NZRU says it has no plans to change its eligibility rules, which state that only a player currently playing in New Zealand can be selected for the All Blacks. While it can't offer the huge money available in Europe, it hopes the lure of the black jersey will be enough to convince people to stay, at least while they are in their prime. ○

# SPORTS SNIPPETS>

## GOLF

Lydia Ko has pulled off another win in the LPGA Classic in San Francisco, banking another \$2 million.

## NETBALL

Winless ANZ Championship team, the Tactix, is facing closure unless new investment can be found.

## FOOTBALL

English football teams, Watford and Bournemouth, have sealed their promotion to next year's Premier League.

## FOOTBALL #2

Auckland City FC has won its fifth straight Oceania Champions League, earning another shot at the FIFA Club World Cup. The team finished third last year.

## TENNIS

"Selfie-sticks" have been banned from next month's Grand Slam tennis tournament at Wimbledon.

## MOTORSPORT

Kiwi rally driver, Hayden Paddon, has injured six spectators in a crash during the Rally Argentina.

## What's Wrong with the Crusaders?

BY DAMIAN GEORGE

**A**s I watched the struggling Blues take on a resurgent Crusaders team last weekend, the absence of Dan Carter was obvious.

Even though Carter has been wearing the number 12 jersey recently, you could be forgiven for forgetting he has even been on the park. Colin Slade kicked the goals, Mitchell Drummond and Tom Taylor kicked in general play, and these three players — along with Ryan Crotty — did most of the running from first and second receiver. While Taylor and Slade were running the cutter, bringing Crotty and Nemani Nadolo into the line, Carter was a spectator.

Carter's position as New Zealand's best first-five of all time is undisputed, although he has been hampered by injuries in recent years. But Saturday's performance against the Blues was well below the standard we are used to seeing from him. It is unclear whether he is being wrapped up in cotton wool at the request of All Blacks management, or is just not being trusted by the Crusaders coaches anymore. In any case, Carter is not in the same league as the current leading first-fives, and his inclusion in the All Blacks World Cup squad is definitely at risk. The few tests of the reduced Rugby Championship leading up to the World Cup will be his last chance to show he is still up to the task.

## Super Rugby Standings (After Round 11)

		PLAYED	WON	LOST	BONUS POINTS	TOTAL POINTS	PREDICTED TOTAL AFTER ROUND 12
<b>1 (NZ LEADER)</b>	<b>Hurricanes</b>	9	8	1	6	<b>38</b>	<b>42</b> (win vs. Crusaders)
<b>2 (AUS LEADER)</b>	<b>Brumbies</b>	10	6	4	7	<b>31</b>	<b>35</b> (win vs. Waratahs)
<b>3 (SAF LEADER)</b>	<b>Stormers</b>	10	7	3	2	<b>30</b>	<b>34</b> (win vs. Cheetahs)
<b>4</b>	<b>Chiefs</b>	10	8	2	5	<b>37</b>	<b>42</b> (BP win vs. Rebels)
<b>5</b>	<b>Bulls</b>	10	6	4	5	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b> (win vs. Lions)
<b>6</b>	<b>Highlanders</b>	9	6	3	4	<b>28</b>	<b>33</b> (BP win vs. Sharks)
<b>9</b>	<b>Crusaders</b>	10	5	5	5	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> (BP loss vs. Crusaders)
<b>14</b>	<b>Blues</b>	10	1	9	7	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b> (win vs. Force)

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An illustration of a person with voluminous red hair, wearing a red jumpsuit, sitting in a doorway. They are holding a pink hairbrush to their hair. The doorway is framed by dark blue walls. To the right, a blue, wavy shape is partially visible. The background inside the room is a warm orange-brown color.

# CONFESSIONS OF A QUIDNUNC

MAYA DODD

Passive aggressive behaviour can make for a miserably infuriating existence. Living with passive aggressive flatmates is the worst, but being the passive aggressive flatmate is exponentially more troubling. As the fair and forever-on-the-fence sleuth that I am, I compiled a list of stories from both sides of the spectrum for you to relate to as you wish. P.S. for those of you frowning at the title, a quidnunc refers to "an inquisitive and gossip person". No offence, but it might be an idea to read a book.



**A**s we head into winter, the trending topic of conversation has begun to shift. Whispered gossip sessions in the library that once consisted of that "friend" who slept with TWO guys on Thursday are now turning into pissed-off rants about that flatmate who used the dryer for half an hour just to shrink her jeans. The honeymoon period of living with your friends has come to an end, and now your only outlet for all their annoying little habits is to complain to a third party. I decided to ask around a bunch of people to get their candid confessions about partaking in, or suffering from, the passive aggressive behaviour that stems from being genuinely sick of your flatmates not even halfway into the year.

Like the majority of us "basic bitches" (What? It's a thing now, I might as well use it), I enjoy a good scandal. The Otago Uni Confessions page has been my go-to for procrastination since forever ago, but sadly its contribution has diminished significantly. Instead I've had to find other ways to squander valuable studying time, like watching endless clips of cute animals or sprawling on my flatmates' beds and complaining about how many internals I have due. Luckily for me, passive aggressive antics in flats never get old, and

people are always willing to dish the dirt on their not-so-blissful living arrangements.

**Thin-Walled Problems:** "We had very thin walls at my old flat. One of my flatmates got really sick once and so was coughing crazy loud — everyone could hear him. Instead of trying to ignore it, another flatmate began imitating his harsh spluttering in some stupid attempt to show how annoying it was."

The Urban Dictionary (UD) definition of passive aggressive is: "a defence mechanism that allows people who aren't comfortable being openly aggressive get what they want under the guise of still trying to please others. They want their way, but they also want everyone to still like them." UD hit the nail on the head with that one. There are so many different ways to create animosity within a flat, and cleanliness — or a lack thereof — plays a huge part in instigating passive aggressive encounters.

**Kitchen Bitch:** "If someone in my flat had left their dirty pots on the stove or dishes in the sink, I would take said crockery and find somewhere else for it. Say, their bed. Or if I was feeling especially generous, their pillow."

**He's a Keeper ... Or Not:** "My old flatmate used to leave passive



# MOST OF US TRAIPISE THROUGH YEARS OF FLATTING WITH SLUMPED SHOULDERS AND FEET DRAGGING WHEN WE REALISE THAT LIVING WITH FRIENDS ISN'T AS EXCITING AS SLEEPOVERS WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE.

aggressive notes for us to read, instead of confronting us in person. Things like, 'If the rubbish bin is full, take it out!' and 'If the compost bin is full, empty it.' My personal favourite was 'If the floor is messy, don't be afraid to vacuum it outside of the week-end chores. P.S. Stop eating my meringues!!!!' We hadn't eaten her stupid meringues. Her boyfriend's friend had."

How Not to Feng Shui: "Last year we decided to move the furniture in the lounge to get more of a feng shui vibe. We spent a good chunk of the morning shifting it around, and by the end, we were pretty stoked with it! We had to be at uni for the rest of the day, and when we finally got back home, one of our flatmates had put everything back to its original position. She never even mentioned it afterwards, just pretended like nothing had happened. Safe to say, she killed the feng shui."

If you have never experienced a passive aggressive fight, you a) have your head in the clouds, or

b) are one of the few lucky ones to have surpassed the confines of "friendship" and moved into that special place reserved only for family where arguments abound and forgiveness is not only a requirement but an expectation. Either that, or you take your altercations "outside" — you shout a couple of insults, throw a few punches, get it all out in the open and then go out for dinner afterwards. There aren't many out there who are as lucky as this, however. Most of us traipse through years of flattening with slumped shoulders and feet dragging when we realise that living with friends isn't as exciting as sleepovers would have you believe.

How Much is Too Much?: "My old flatmate had A LOT of sex. Like so much. And we could never keep up. I came out of my room one day and saw a naked boy running on the tiles, dripping wet. He slipped and I thought he was going to smash his head and I'd have to give this nude man CPR. Anyway, one time I was trying to study but she was having the

loudest sex in the next room. It was night-time so I couldn't just go to the library. Instead I sat in the lounge and started blaring Destiny's Child until they came out and then proceeded to make really awkward conversation ... I think I'm the bitch flatmate."

Avoiding passive aggressive feuds is not easy, but fight and forgiveness is better. I know that I can fight with my brother until the sun goes down, but I'll always forgive him a total of two seconds later. He may take a little longer to exonerate me, but, hey, we're not all saints. It is the polar opposite of passive aggressive behaviour because it gets everything out in the open in a very confrontational way.

The Plight of the Night Owl: "In my first ever flat, downstairs we had one flatmate who was an early bird, so he got up at 6am every morning. However, the four of us upstairs were all night owls, so we would all stay up until 2–3am talking/watching TV/playing games, etc. Obviously, this would keep him awake and



it would piss him off. Instead of confronting us about it ... he'd just blast music when he woke up at full volume in order to punish us. Good. Times."

Winter is upon us and, with it, the source of many a passive aggressive argument: the dreaded electricity bill. For as long as there has been electricity and house sharing, there have been arguments concerning power usage. Even back in my family home, I distinctly remember being told to turn off lights in unused areas of the house or to cut the power to my stereo after vacating my bedroom (my parents are the vocal save-the-whales type so, for them, conserving energy was a no brainer).

You're Clean Enough: "When the boys were taking too long in the shower we used to turn on the hot water or flush the toilet to get them out of there quick smart. We also disabled our flatmate's heater and made him find all the pieces as a 'nice' way to tell him that he was using it too much."

Anti-Confrontational: "My friend used to stay at my flat a lot last year. She didn't use any electricity over and above what I already used on my own. In the middle of winter, one of my flatmates posted an angry status on our flat page complaining about a \$10 increase in the power bill. Another flatmate then commented, asking whether the increase was due to the 'extra addition' to our flat. Instead of confronting me about it, they just skirted around the problem and expected me to get the hint."

Boiling Point: "My flatmate posted on our Facebook group over the

holidays to let us know how much we each had to chip in for the electricity bill. She finished by saying: 'This seems a bit high for so early in the year. Maybe we should consider drinking less tea because boiling the kettle seven times a day is a bit excessive.' Seriously? Shorter showers or not using the dryer wasn't the first thing that came to mind?"

Yes, the arrival of winter will bring out a new side to your flatmates that you may not like and, yes, you'll all get pretty snarky about the mess or the excessive showering or the unnecessary use of the dishwasher. So what? Suck it up. Sit your flatmates down and talk to them about it, instead of fluffing around the edges of the problem by dropping ambiguous hints and passing vague comments. If surviving the next seven months is a priority to you, then you must embrace the art of confrontation. It'll get you places no passive aggressive note ever could.

Will it be passive aggressive of me to leave this article on each of my flatmate's beds once it goes to print? Do you think they'll get the hint? Maybe I should put a sticky note on it, like: "I think you guys would really enjoy this. I like hot water as much as the next person. It would be super cool if you remembered that next time you shower." Followed by a smiley face, just to keep things classy. o

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# ADULT, I AM (NOT)

BY LYDIA ADAMS

"Help! I need an adult!" I cry upon discovering that my lamp is still not turning on, even though I've replaced the bulb and tried it out on five different power points. No, you don't need an adult, my self-affirming internal monologue says, **you are an adult.**

**N**o one teaches you how to be an adult. There's no sudden "a-ha" moment of realisation when you are crowned "Ms Adult". Instead it is far more likely that you will gradually stroll through life's perpetual light drizzle and one day notice how absolutely drenched you are. Being a "grown up" is all about perspective.

From the late and great author Maya Angelou's perspective, adulthood is all a big charade. "I am convinced that most people do not grow up," she wrote in *Letter to My Daughter*. "We marry and dare to have children and call that growing up. I think what we do is mostly grow old. We carry accumulation of years in our bodies, and on our faces, but generally our real selves, the children inside, are innocent and shy as magnolias." Dr. Seuss had a similar opinion, saying, "Adults are just obsolete children and the hell with them."

If some of the weirdest and most wonderful literary minds on Earth struggled to come to terms with being an adult, then it is little wonder that I find the thought of being "responsible" somewhat daunting.

As a frequent daydreamer and mind-wanderer, I often find myself zoning out in the middle of the day and silently pondering the complexities of life. Among these complexities regularly comes the dilemma of adulthood: Am I an adult? Do adults even exist? Legally, yes I am, but in every other aspect, hell to the no.

In an effort to better understand what being an adult is all about, I approached the most professional adults I could think of: my grandparents. Mavis and Roland Adams are both originally from Dunedin and have, between them, more than 140 years worth of worldly experience. They have raised three boys, one of whom turned out all right — my Dad. When asked about their experiences of emerging into adulthood, Mavis was quick to point out the differences between growing up "then" versus growing up now. "When Rolly and I both grew up, there were no such things as teenagers; they didn't exist. Teenagers were an American invention from the mid-50s. When we left school to work, even though we might've only been 16 at the time, we were adults."

Rolly, who attended Otago Boys High School, is a man who within the last year not only underwent hip-replacement surgery but also learned how to use Google. He has

travelled the world, lived in a brothel and found solace in a ride-on lawnmower, and he spent his first ever pay (17 shillings and a sixpence — around \$15 today) on a Morse key for his radio set. "His father nearly killed him!" Mavis says. "He was absolutely aghast that [Rolly] should

waste his money when he was supposed to bring some home and pay for his board." Responsibility for oneself came far earlier for our forebears than it does for many of today's youth, but that doesn't mean we have it easier. "I see what young people have to go through," says Rolly, "and I sure am glad I'm not [one of them]."

Mavis states that she finds a person's sense of responsibility to be equivalent to their sense of adulthood. "[Being an adult] is about having responsibility," she says. "That's what sort of wakes you up to the realisation that you're a grown up; supporting yourself, no longer being dependent."

Although this is my third year living away from home and my parents have relocated to a different continent, I still feel substantially dependent on them. Through carefully timed Skype calls and text messages, my emotional requirements are met via "Hello? Can you hear me? Hi! I miss you!" and "Goodnight/morning xxx" moments. If being independent means I can't Snapchat my Dad a picture of my laptop screen with the caption, "HELP WHAT IS THIS?", then honestly I don't know if I want it.

I knew my adulthood dilemma couldn't be something that I was suffering alone, so I decided to "take it to the streets", as it were, to gauge how others feel about growing up.

Upon being asked the question, "When did you realise you were an adult?", many people had to stop and think for a while. Sarah Thomas (19) said: "I'm not, but buying my own toilet paper for the first time came pretty close." James Stevenson (32) said: "When socks for Christmas became exactly what I wanted." Matt Hughes (25) said: "Somebody called me 'sir' at the supermarket. I had an internal meltdown and went home with a tub of hokey pokey just to prove I'm not [an adult]."

"It was Margaret Atwood who said 'I believe that everyone else my age is an adult whereas I am merely in disguise,'" said Julia Reynolds (24), "and there are few quotes I feel I can relate to as much as I relate to that one."

Taking into account the wisdom of both the consulted "professional adults" and the numerous members of society on the streets, I compiled a list of the ways in which I and people of my generation may or may not be properly functioning adults (this is, of course, in no way definitive).



## Five Signs You're Not Yet a Functional Adult

- #1 You have no idea where your money goes, or you know exactly where it goes (see: alcohol and online shopping) and have no desire to accept or change this behaviour.
- #2 Your inability to plan ahead means that you will often spend significant amounts of time doing nothing in particular. Although this may seem great at the time, it is unproductive.
- #3 You don't have a laundry routine and always seem to run out of clean underwear when you need it. N.B. Buying new underwear does not excuse you from the massive amount that still needs to be washed.
- #4 You have several morning alarms set at 15-minute intervals, and you still manage to hit "snooze" almost every single time.
- #5 You still call your parents to help fix everything and hope that they can make all your problems disappear.

## Five Signs You Might Be Turning Into a Functional Adult

- #1 You feel more accomplished after paying bills on time than you do after finishing an entire season of your favourite TV show in one day.
- #2 You go to the supermarket before you've completely run out of food.
- #3 You fold your laundry on a semi-regular to regular basis.
- #4 You've stopped stressing out about accomplishing certain things by certain ages. So your three-year degree is taking four and a half years, so what? Keep doing you.
- #5 You no longer feel the need to sugarcoat things when giving advice and/or excuses to friends (e.g. "I think you're being an idiot, which is fine, and I don't want to come out tonight because I truly, deeply don't want to.")

The blog *Hyperbole and a Half* is run by Allie, who uses both her artistic talents on Paint and her wonderful sense of wit to detail experiences from her life. One of her entries, "This is Why I'll Never be an Adult", fits in perfectly with the adulthood dilemma I am currently observing. She writes: "A few times a year, I spontaneously decide that I'm ready to be a real adult. I don't know why I decide this; it always ends terribly for me." Like my grandparents and the innocent bystanders I approached on the street, Allie agrees that adulthood as a concept is inherently flawed. Those of us on the precipice (see: anyone aged 18+) might struggle

with the independent, responsible side of growing up, and as Allie puts it: "It is important for me not to surpass my capacity for responsibility. Over the years, this capacity has grown, but the results of exceeding it have not changed."

Undoubtedly for many of you readers, the following scenario will be somewhat familiar: It's the first day of Semester One, it's a new year and you've promised yourself a new attitude towards studying. You attend all of your first week's lectures, you've checked your tutorial and laboratory times don't clash, and if you're really on top of things you may even have done one of the assigned readings. The second week goes similarly well, and soon you're so proud of your initial efforts that you think: *Hey, I should treat myself for this — I deserve a break.* Cue the beginning of the end. Henceforth comes the all-too-familiar period of procrastination with *Game of Thrones* binges.

The issue with this scenario is not the procrastination and responsibility-avoiding so much as it is the guilt-spiral associated with it — the idea that until you feel like an adult, you're not succeeding. Why must we beat ourselves up so much for it? As the renowned philosopher, Hannah Montana, once said: "Nobody's perfect! I gotta work it! Again and again 'til I get it right." Being an adult involves accepting responsibility for the actions you make, accepting and growing from them.

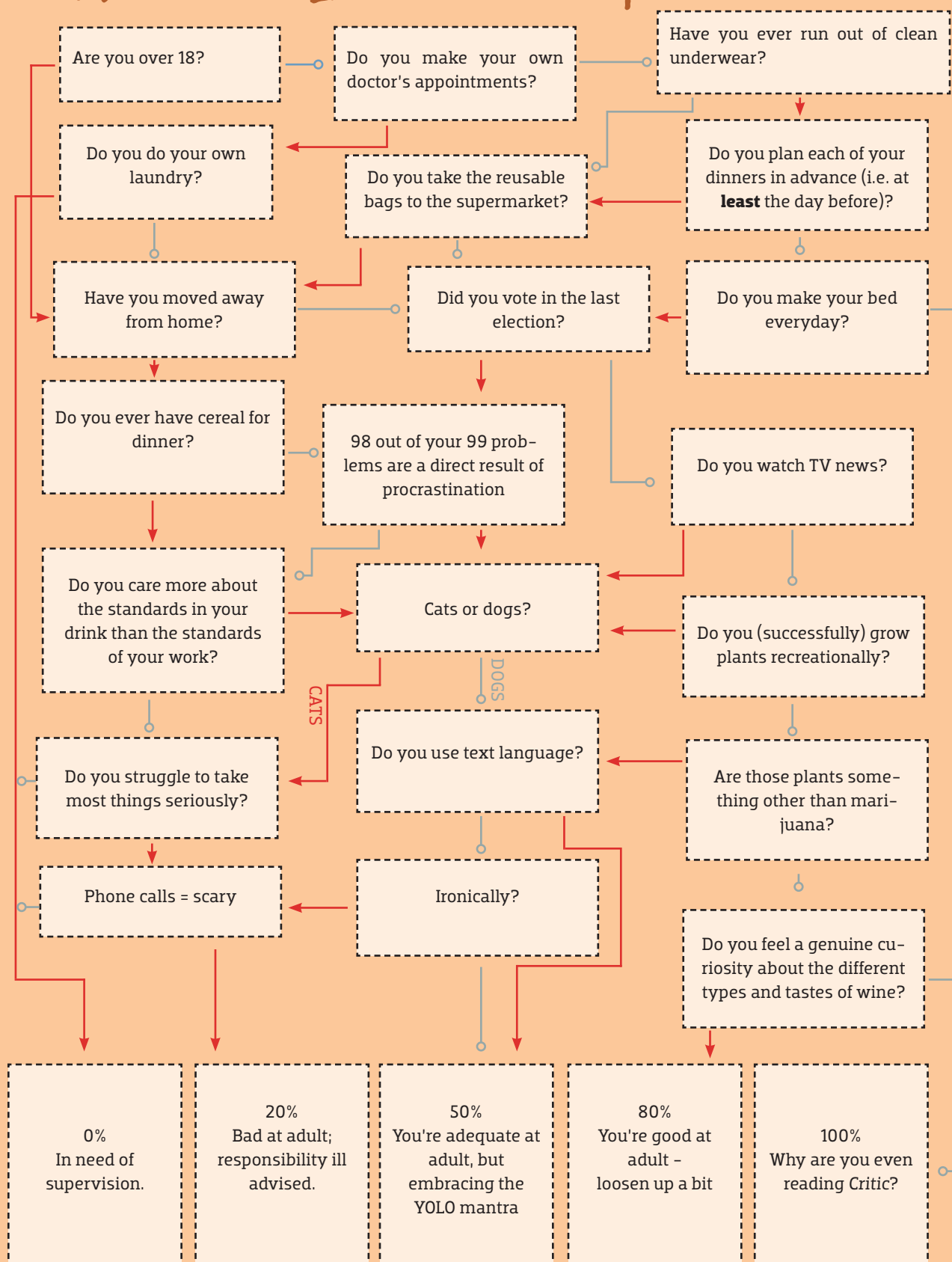
Nobody walks into their kitchen, notices the pile of dirty dishes and gets excited about the thought of washing them. Household chores and responsibilities are generally very annoying, but as we grow older, our reasoning changes. When you were a child and your parents asked you take out the rubbish, you did it not because you wanted to but because you were told. Through your emergence into adulthood, however, you will take out the rubbish not because you have been told, but because you enjoy living in a house that doesn't smell like a dumping ground.

If an adult is defined as someone who has fully developed into a functioning person, then can anyone really be an adult? There's always room to grow. "I may be in my 80s," says Rolly, "but I'm not the same person I was 10 years ago."

After further examination, albeit in a fair amount of darkness, I deduce that the bulb and lamp are both fine, so it must be the power points stuffing up. *The circuit board!* With my phone's light guiding the way, I find the circuit board and take a peek inside. Switch number 11, "power points", is off. I switch it back on, and across the room my lamp comes to life. See? Who says I can't do this adult thing? ●

# HOW ADULT ARE YOU?

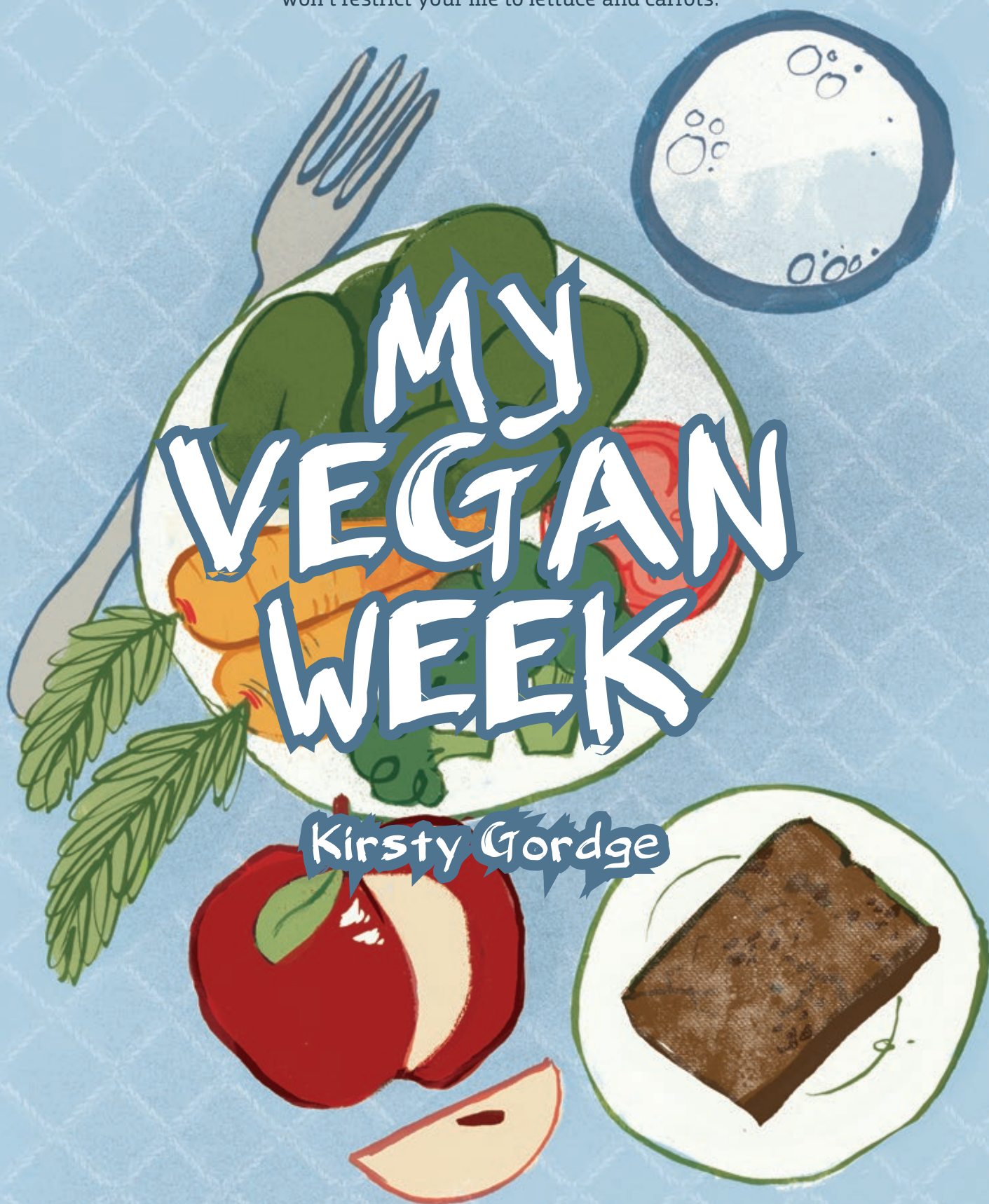
YES   
NO 



Kirsty Gordge undergoes a vegan lifestyle for a week to learn the whys and hows of veganism. The three main enlightenments are: It is not a diet; it is a lifestyle. It is not just about food; it is about animal testing. And if you do it properly, it won't restrict your life to lettuce and carrots.

# MY VEGAN WEEK

Kirsty Gordge





## Prep Day

As I opened the fridge, I realised my shelf was full of dairy: milk, butter, cheese, yoghurt. Moving it all to one side, I indulgently drank the rest of my milk and made way for the vegan food I was about to fill it with. I made pumpkin soup: onions, spices, pumpkin, water, all boiled up and whizzed to a pulp.

I also made vegan pizza with wholemeal wraps, tomato paste and veges. (I didn't realise that cheese is indeed a binding agent of pizza that keeps all the toppings on, that my cheese-less pizza might not be as pro as I thought and that I should have probably looked up a proper recipe).

Third creation: vegan brownies made with oil instead of butter and eggs. They obviously weren't that bad because my friends managed to wolf down half of them without knowing they were vegan.

## Day One

Snowing. Of course it is. The day I decide to cut the main fat supply out of my diet, it snows. Typical.

**7:20am** Tried my usual breakfast of porridge oats and dates, substituting my usual milk for almond milk (not as creamy, but bearable), and a blackcurrant and apple tea.

**9:20am** Hungry. Another tea.

**10:40am** Headache. Coincidence? Probably.

**11:00am** Three brazil nuts. Recommended daily dose.

**12:15pm** Lunch of pumpkin soup. Reluctantly swapped the glorious butter on my toast for peanut butter. Flatmate tried to compliment the flavour match. I saw through it. We ate in silence.

**12:30pm** 1 plum and 1 brownie.

**1:00pm** Paracetamol

**3:00pm** Nap. What is happening to me?

**6:15pm** Dinner of egg-free pasta, chickpeas and chopped tomatoes, with a homemade pinenut, parsley, basil and olive oil pesto dolloped very elegantly on top.

Slept like a baby. A hungry baby.

## Day Two

**8:15am** Oats, dates and almond milk again. More milk today, and it's getting better. More herbal tea.

**10:00am** Lunch of vegan pizza (Yes, lunch at 10am. Continuous uni lectures in the middle of the day do this to you).

**11:30am** MoonBar (seeds and nuts).

**12:00pm** Five almond nuts.

**12:50pm** Banana.

**2:00pm** I ate four bits of brownie.

**3:00pm** Strawberry and mango tea.

**7:00pm** Brown curried lentils with chickpeas, onions and carrots — TOO MUCH CURRY POWDER.

**7:40pm** Three plums.

**8:00pm** Sauna to sweat out the curry powder.

## Day Three

**8:00am** Oats with soy milk this time, and a banana. Soy is marginally better than almond! More tea.

**11:00am** Two dozen green grapes.

**12:00pm** Apple.

**3:15pm** Crackers and brownie slice.

**7:00pm** Homemade wedges rubbed in fresh rosemary with salt and pepper, topped off with a Speights, of course.

**9:00pm** Kiwifruit, orange and brownie slice.

## Day Four

**8:30am** Muesli with soy milk. Soy milk tastes like wood. A glass of warm water with apple cider vinegar.

**12:00pm** Leftover curried lentils in a toasted sandwich. I was skeptical too but anything can go in a toasted sandwich. Decided to cook something fancy for Friday night.

**2:00pm** Called Tayla O'Driscoll, a passionate vegan, to find out how to do it properly. Twenty minutes later, feeling very enlightened.

**4:00pm** Running errands in town in the rain, getting agitated. Told to eat some food and stop being so hangry.

**4:30pm** Back at home and starting to make vegetable stock from scratch. Hooned half a loaf of ciabatta in the meantime.

**5:00pm** Stock boiling, still hungry, ate a civilised "marmite on toast" to tide me over.

**7:00pm** Finally our dinner is ready! "Hearty vegan polenta and kale soup with miso and toasted sesame oil" is done! Very tasty, different and wouldn't be too time-consuming if using ready-made stock. Stayed full all evening.

## Day Five

**8:30am** Muesli with soy milk and banana. Tried soy milk in normal tea, and it wasn't bad. Definitely a love-hate relationship with Mr Soy.

**12:30pm** Pumpkin soup with two slices of bread.

**2:30pm** Stewed plums.

**6:30pm** Risotto with homemade vegetable stock, mushrooms, kale and onion.

**7:00pm–1:00am** Alcohol and McDonald's chips — vegan, yay!

## Day Six

**10:30am** Porridge oats, dates and soy milk.

**11:00am** Leftover risotto.

**12:00pm** No fruit left! Ran up to Coupland's for apple juice (really not the same ...)

**2:00pm** Made some homemade wedges again. Just because.

**4:00pm** Got advice from Courtenay Van Westbrook, another hearty vegan, and was feeling less alone in the new lifestyle. Glad to hear that I have been eating



a "normal" vegan breakfast. Feeling proud!

**6:00pm** I realised that some margarines are vegan! What have I been doing all week?

**6:30pm** Reheated polenta, kale and miso soup with margarine on bread — better.

**7:30pm** Baking! Tayla gave me a lovely recipe for afghans which ended in me munching on three before bedtime.

### Day Seven

**8:00am** Porridge oats and dates — I didn't even notice the milk was soy instead of dairy this morning.

**10:30am** Juice and an afghan.

**12:00pm** Beans on toast! A very normal meal that is vegan without thinking about it.

**7:30pm** Leftover risotto, yum.

### The Aftermath

I thought that when it was over I would drink a litre of milk to make up for all the cows I saved over the week, but there was actually less celebrating than anticipated. What was I actually celebrating? That I'd managed to go a whole week without causing indirect harm to animals? That I could now continue on with my indirectly-harming-animals life? This led to some pretty heavy life evaluation.

This seven-day trial has enlightened me not only about how many products involve animals in some way, but also how dairy is promoted as necessary to our diet. I am not completely converted for now; I did eat dairy and a little meat on the eighth day. But the week of being vegan changed how I think about the lifestyle — I'll carry on buying vegan hygiene and cosmetic products, as well as avoiding super-processed meat from Fatty Lane. I could even happily eat vegan meals a few times a week.

Being vegan is not a weight-loss diet, clearly. I gained 200g over the week, which is a pretty normal fluctuation anyway. It is simply a moral choice to consume an animal-free diet.

As explained by Tayla, we don't actually need meat to survive. She believes that because New Zealand's meat and dairy industries constitute a huge part of the economy, we have been falsely led to believe we need animal products in order to be healthy. This is good for the country — and yes, can be part of a balanced diet. However, if you choose to opt out of the industry altogether, you are not harming your health. There are many plant-based sources of calcium, such as dark leafy greens and nuts. Just because you aren't consuming butter, milk or cheese, it doesn't mean you're going to get osteoporosis.

After a few days I got into the swing of it and started eating normal foods again, just without meat or dairy.

A vegan life doesn't mean a life of tofu either. Falafel is a tasty and versatile non-meat option and can be used to make burger patties and "meat"balls. It takes a wee bit more of an effort to get all of your vitamins just like you do in a "normal" diet. But it isn't difficult and you soon get used to it. The first time you go to the supermarket, cancel your plans for the rest of the day, because you'll spend hours reading nutrition information. But when you have learned what you can and can't have, and which brands are reliable, it's a piece of cake (vegan cake, that is). And because you are no longer buying meat and dairy, it's reasonably cheap.

After a few days I got into the swing of it and started eating normal foods again — just without meat or dairy. Something that might put some people off is how inconvenient it can be. But you can still eat out. There are many restaurants in Dunedin that have plenty of vegetarian options to choose from. Making the meal vegan is a matter of negotiating with the waiter about removing an ingredient. You will soon learn which places are willing to accommodate.

Vegans are also careful to check what is in cosmetics and hygiene products, that they aren't tested on animals or contain any animal products. Many "safe" brands are listed online, which saves the hours of checking all the bottles in the store. They aren't all expensive, and some can be found in Kmart or at the supermarket. Even buying leather shoes and taking certain medication do not sit right with some vegans. Research is required, and of course personal guidelines have to be set. Leslie Lawker tried being vegan



for a year because she heard that if everybody were vegan, it would solve world hunger in three days. After a year she decided that the world was still hungry and she might as well have her bacon. But, as Courtenay reminds us all, "If you want to do it bad enough, you will find a way to stick to it."

No one is a perfect vegan; sometimes people slip up and make mistakes. Vegans are vegan because they are unhappy with how animals are treated and believe that sentient beings don't deserve or need to die for humans to live. Such strong views often lead to stereotyping and policing of behaviour.

Not every vegan is going to try to convert you. Although some feel very strongly about educating others (Tayla sees meat cooking in the pan as a "disconnected body part" and is quite disturbed), some vegans will not discuss it. Courtenay believes it has to come from within; it's a big commitment that you have to WANT to stick to — if you're doing it just because someone told you to, then it probably won't last. Courtenay stated: "People do it not so they can yell at you how bad of a person you are for killing animals, but because they want to improve the inhumane treatment of animals in slaughterhouses, or stop the environment being destroyed by deforestation or intensive farming."

### Learn more:

A programme called Farmwatch shows undercover footage of New Zealand farms, investigating them, exposing them and leading to rescue of the animals.

**Earthlings** is a documentary that can help people understand why vegans are vegans, and maybe even influence you to become one.

**Veganism and Animal Rights Society** (VARS — a University of Otago community). Can be found on Facebook and is full of people right here in Dunedin who will educate you about veganism and support you if you are considering taking up veganism.

[features.peta.org/how-to-go-vegan/](https://features.peta.org/how-to-go-vegan/) Peta provides a step-by-step guide on what to buy, what to make, and where to eat to fit a vegan life.

**Livevegan.org** Live Vegan provides everything from cooking, socialising and shopping in ways that follow veganism.

### Vegan Brands to Get You Started

Earthwise cleaning products  
 Body Shop cosmetics  
 ELF for make-up  
 Red Seal toothpaste  
 Original Source bodywash  
 Organic Care shampoo and conditioner







## The Age of Adaline

» DIRECTED BY **LEE TOLAND KRIEGER**

REVIEWED BY **SHAUN SWAIN**



There's a special kind of disappointment when a film's premise is extremely promising, presented well and then ruined by acts of "love" that endorse stalking and manipulation as valid responses to superficial admiration. *The Age of Adaline* is an epic romance-fantasy film that wastes its vast potential and bites its own tail.

After an accident reminiscent of comic book superhero origins, *The Age of Adaline* tells the story of a woman called Adaline Bowman

(Blake Lively), who has not aged past 29 for almost eight decades. Every decade, she changes her name and moves to a new location for fear of attachment to people she will eventually have to lose. Her isolation is shattered when she catches the attention of philanthropist, Ellis Jones (Michiel Huisman), in a typical "boy-meets-girl" fashion. The narrative becomes complicated when it is revealed that Ellis's father, William (Harrison Ford), may know more about Adaline than we should expect.

*The Age of Adaline* cleverly blends the delicate and meticulous composition of classical cinema with the artistically fluid editing of contemporary cinema by switching frequently between the present and flashbacks to the past. In doing so, the film seamlessly creates a captivating look into Adaline's life. In fitting with this combination of styles, Blake Lively gives an incredible performance as both a naive woman and a wise person, with many years of experience hidden behind her youthful eyes.

Unfortunately, no matter how beautiful the film is, I cannot shake off the eerie disgust of Ellis's actions. From his constant observation of Adaline before they officially meet to tracking down her workplace and even her home — any of this character's redeeming qualities remain to be seen. His complete disregard for boundaries, consent or interest becomes his principal trait, which completely alienated me from appreciating the central relationship — a major sin in romance films.

*The Age of Adaline* builds itself up with grand performances and unique stylistic decisions but, ultimately, drives its potential off the edge of a cliff and into a ravine with the problematic relationship between Adaline and Ellis. ●

## Napoleon Dynamite

» DIRECTED BY **JARED HESS**

REVIEWED BY **ELLA BORRIE**

CULT

It's impossible to have a lukewarm reaction to *Napoleon Dynamite*. The film divides people — you either adore its low-key absurdity or find it totally pointless. In fact, the movie is so polarising, it broke Netflix's algorithm. The website couldn't accurately recommend the movie to viewers and they offered \$1 million to whoever could fix their software. *Napoleon Dynamite* was an unexpected cult hit, so something about this low-budget, arthouse film obviously struck a chord.

*Napoleon Dynamite* (Jon Heder) is just a dude living his uninteresting life in a tiny desert town. His classmates are insufferable and his family is bonkers. Our hero is constantly having to deal with his brother Kip (Aaron Ruell) and Uncle Rico's (Jon Gries) misadventures in

cage-fighting, time travel and selling crapware. One day, Napoleon befriends new student, Pedro (Efren Ramirez), and together with the quiet Deb (Tina Majorino), they put on an underdog campaign for Pedro in an effort to help him win class president.

Nothing concrete ever really happens in the film and it often feels directionless. However, there is something comforting about a film with no clearly articulated purpose. The characters hopelessly try to fulfil their personal quests for love, the glory days and friendship. It feels very real to see normal human desires being played out against a backdrop of pointlessness.

The success of *Napoleon Dynamite* hinges on a script full of ridiculous one-liners such as "It



took me, like, three hours to finish the shading on your upper lip" and a circus of unexpected characters and situations. The film ultimately offers one clear message: friendship gives us a sense of purpose. Pedro promises everybody's wildest dreams will come true if they vote for him and, at the end of the film, Napoleon's wildest dream — of having a friend to play swing-ball with — is realised.

*Napoleon Dynamite* is kind of a cruddy high-school film, but I think it has more substance than stereotype. Jared Hess combines the mundane with the eccentric to concoct a strange movie that will warm your heart with its sparky brand of blandness.

Vote for Pedro. ●



## Avengers: Age of Ultron

» DIRECTED BY **JOSS WHEDON**

REVIEWED BY **LAURA STARLING**



**T**he Marvel Cinematic Universe's latest instalment, *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, brings us back to the team, but now they're working together and combining their powers to form a more cohesive and effective team that makes for one hell of an entertaining, fun and clever film.

With the superheroes functioning as an unshakeable collective, the team raids a Hydra outpost where the terrorist organisation has been conducting ethically questionable experiments on humans with Loki's scepter. Two humans whom Hydra were experimenting on are twins and new characters to the series, Scarlet Witch/Wanda Maximoff (Elizabeth

Olsen) and Quicksilver/Pietro Maximoff (Aaron Taylor-Johnson). From the offset, they appear to be the main antagonists, but this transitions over time.

A concept introduced by Tony Stark/Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.) in the first film becomes the main villain in *Avengers: Age of Ultron* — an artificial intelligence program called "Ultron". In an effort to protect the earth from alien attacks and ensure world peace, Stark and Bruce Banner/The Hulk (Mark Ruffalo) find and use artificial intelligence (AI) from the gem of Loki's scepter to complete Stark's program. However, Ultron turns out to be an insane and murderous AI, who intends to

help the planet but not in the way Stark had planned. With Stark and Banner having kept the project a secret from the rest of the group, tension builds among the members as they attempt to fight an immortal, crazy, powerful AI let loose on the planet.

*Avengers: Age of Ultron* is very much a sequel, so be warned. This instalment will go over your head without the context from the first film and the other Marvel films. Then again, it could just seem like your typical action film. Action films often fall into the tropes of having no character development and serious dialogue, but director and writer, Joss Whedon, supersedes these potholes by allowing the superheroes interesting character development and frequently offering jokes and jabs right the way through. ●



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# Chicken, Mushroom and Coriander Dumplings

BY SOPHIE EDMONDS

Dumplings are probably my favourite international dough and meat combo. After making three lots of dumplings this weekend, I thought it was time to share another of my favourite varieties.

**Y**ou can put whatever you want in a dumpling; any combination of mince, vegetable and herb will usually work. It is very hard to go wrong, so I recommend you experiment using some of the sad-looking vegetables in your fridge. Feel free to add sad vegetables to this recipe; I am all about reducing food waste, and these are a perfect way to give new life to the limp carrots and celery sticks of this world.

You can buy dumpling wrappers from Asian supermarkets for a couple of dollars. You could also make them yourself, but who would really want to put themselves through the torture of having to wait even longer to have dumplings in their life? You can also buy bamboo steamers at such supermarkets. I got mine from Kmart, which happened to be cheaper than my local at the time. A stack of two will set you back around \$10.

Dumplings can also be fried. Heat up a good sloshing of oil in a large frying pan over a medium to high heat. Cook on each side until golden all over.

oil for a couple of minutes to soften them. Combine the chicken, vegetable mix, ginger, oyster sauce and salt in a bowl.

2. Take each dumpling wrapper, dip your finger in some cold water and run it around the edge of the wrapper to wet it. Place a teaspoon of filling into the centre, fold the wrapper in half, then press the edges together firmly. Repeat until the filling or the wrappers run out.
3. To steam the dumplings, place a bamboo steamer over a saucepan of simmering water. To stop the dumplings from sticking, spray the base of the steamer with oil or brush on some sesame oil. Arrange as many dumplings as you can within the steamer without them touching each other (they tend to stick together once they cool). Place the lid on the steamer and leave to cook for 12 minutes. Serve these with soy sauce while the next lot cook.

## INGREDIENTS

MAKES 60

- $\frac{1}{3}$  of a green cabbage
- **10 large** button mushrooms
- **5 cloves** garlic
- Sesame oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$  **a bunch** of coriander (more to taste if you wish)
- **300g** chicken mince
- **3cm knob** of ginger, grated
- **2 tablespoons** oyster sauce
- **1 teaspoon** salt
- 60 dumpling wrappers
- soy sauce to serve

## METHOD

1. Shred the cabbage, mushroom and garlic very finely either with a knife or a food processor. In a large frying pan, sauté batches of the cabbage, mushroom, garlic and coriander in hot sesame



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## Art Online

BY LOULOU CALLISTER-BAKER

Although it didn't begin with a neigh, a horse certainly drew a global audience's attention to the use of the internet as a medium for art. The Twitter account, @Horse\_ebooks, which published seemingly automatic, computer-generated anecdotes like "Everything happens so much" and "Is the dance floor calling? No" attracted nearly 200,000 followers, who were charmed by the odd, nonsensical Tweets. Dedicated fans, however, were devastated when they found out that what they thought was a hilarious and silly bot Twitter account was actually run by a BuzzFeed employee, Jacob Bakikila, and his friend, Thomas Bender. But, as several commentaries on the "scandal" testify, the artistic endeavour of the humans behind @Horse\_ebooks shows the wonder and obsession that perceived machine-related randomness can generate in humans throughout the world.

Linked to projects like @Horse\_ebooks in their use of the internet to display and facilitate artistic endeavours, online exhibition spaces are becoming more prevalent. One such online gallery, @rt b@by (www.artbabygallery.com), was listed in the Dunedin Art Society newsletter as something to check out. Managed by Grace Miceli, @rt b@by "aims to be an inclusive

site that celebrates multimedia artists in the beginning of their career[s]." The site is particularly interested in artists (also known as Young Internet-Based Artists) who consider digitality to be central to their practices.

When I recently viewed the website, which displays artists' work on a monthly cycle, it was showing a smart and relatable collection of work by a young New York artist called Jordan Barse. On @rt b@by's main page, the viewer can examine Barse's works simply by scrolling left. The first image on the page is of a mural or achievements board at school featuring photos of boys, parties and surveys. The following image is a portrait of an adolescent (or just past it) boy with ruffled hair and half-lidded eyes, perhaps the partner to a drunken hookup with the artist.

After these first two images are two close-up images of the single-page surveys depicted in a much smaller format in the first image. The surveys are headlined "PLEASE BE AS HONEST AND SERIOUS AS YOU CAN POSSIBLY BE" and contain cringe-worthy questions about the time the artist and the survey-filler hooked up, who came on to whom and their current relationship status. On Barse's own website, which documents a collection of her art

projects (and from which a range of pieces has been pulled for @rt b@by), she describes this part of the show as selections from a three-year "ethnographic exploration of a college experience" shaped by Barse's direct participation in its notorious "hookup culture".

Viewing art in this way is unsettling at first. It is hard not to treat it like scrolling through an infinite series of unconnected images on a Tumblr dashboard or Instagram feed. The 24/7 access to the show (so long as you have a computer and an internet connection) seems to detract from its significance. The work is removed from the potential social and contextual space of a physical gallery and shifted into the restricted rectangular space of your computer screen. Competing with the infinity of the internet, which is available all at once to the casual browser, means that the artist must push themselves to make work interesting in this flat, 2D medium. And anything "published" or "displayed" online in one setting runs every risk of being taken, altered and distributed everywhere and scrapped of any link to its original artist or purpose.

But, viewed in a different light, these qualities can make the medium exciting and fantastically relevant to our times. While challenging as a practice, the reframing and relevance of art online expands the possibilities for art. Click a link and learn to rethink. ●



## Gorillaz Sound System

» GIG REVIEW

REVIEWED BY **BASTI MENKES**

As a big Gorillaz fan, I was intrigued by the curiously-titled Gorillaz Sound System coming to Dune-din. Sure, the name gave away that it wasn't going to be a bona fide Gorillaz show, and I had no delusions that Damon Albarn might walk out onstage. The show was presented as a semi-official DJ set comprised of Gorillaz songs, with Jamie Hewlett's unmistakable

illustrations serving as a visual backdrop ... Or so we were led to believe.

Perhaps I let my optimism run a little wild when I envisioned an energetic mashing-up of Gorillaz material, à la Daft Punk's *Alive 2007* album. I couldn't wait to hear how a song like "Rhinestone Eyes" could be cleverly juxtaposed with, say, "O Green World".

The possible combinations of Gorillaz beats and songs began to fractal outwards in my brain, and before I knew it, I was really damn excited for this show. What a mistake that was. When my friends and I lined up outside the Glenroy Auditorium, tickets in hand, little did we know just how colossally fucking disappointed we would be only forty minutes later.

Granted, Gorillaz Sound System started out okay. The first thing we heard was an obnoxiously bassy yet still recognisable rendition of "Feel Good Inc.", complete with kaleidoscopic visuals. A wealth of Gorillaz material continued to play out on the screen above, showing the cartoon apes getting up to all sorts of mischief. There were seizure-inducing additions to Hewlett's drawings, sure, but what the screen threw at us was predominantly Gorillaz. Unfortunately, the same could not be said of the music.

After just five minutes, I could not for the life of me identify any Gorillaz material in what was being blasted from the speakers. What started off as "Feel Good Inc." soon devolved into a fuzzy, nondescript racket, the likes of which you could catch at Suburbia just about any night of the week. My friends and I exchanged bewildered glances. Surely this couldn't be happening. We had paid fifty bucks to hear Gorillaz. Why was such a minor fraction of what we were hearing actually by Gorillaz?

This assault of ugly, run-of-the-mill dance music continued, with pinches of Gorillaz very occasionally thrown in. I began daydreaming, more intrigued by the BYOers in double denim I had seen in *Indian Summer* earlier that evening than the show. But when "Clint Eastwood" got a cringey drum and bass redux, I decided I had had enough. I thought of staying until the fifty-minute mark so that I would have at least gotten a minute of concert for every dollar I spent. But I couldn't do it. Crushing disappointment and with the early symptoms of a migraine appearing, I left.

If you ever see the words "sound system" on a gig poster that aren't preceded by the letters "LCD", avoid said gig. Don't hesitate. Don't give it the benefit of the doubt, or think that it may be even faintly close to the real thing. Just keep on walking. ●

## Singles in Review

» REVIEWED BY BASTI MENKES

## Tracks This Week



## Jamie xx

## "Gosh"

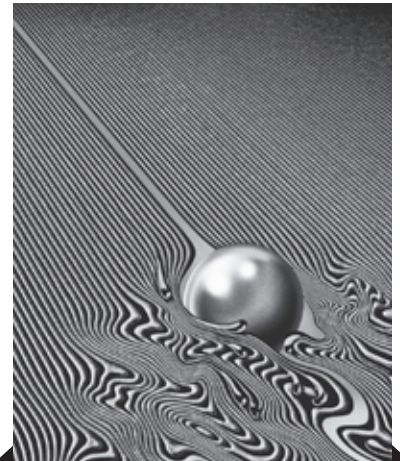
**B**ritish producer Jamie xx is a master at making a handful of ingredients sound like a lot. Despite the understated style of his indie pop band, The xx, Jamie is able to take even their most diminutive compositions and make them sound vast. A good case in point is The xx's song "Intro", a two-minute exercise in restraint. Despite the song's slight composition, Jamie's delivery of its percussion and crumbling guitar lines makes "Intro" feel immense. The first track from Jamie xx's imminent debut solo record *In Colour*, "Gosh" is another minimalist song that still manages to pack a punch. The sonic and rhythmic precision with which Jamie weaves together the skeletal strands of "Gosh" makes it as exhilarating as the most maximalist of rave tunes. And when the moment of intense gratification arrives, it is in the form not of a bass drop but of a disarmingly bittersweet keyboard melody. If the rest of *In Colour* is as thrillingly minimal as "Gosh", it may just end up being the best dance album of 2015.



## Muse

## "Psycho"

**A**fter misguided attempts to mix up their sound with pop and dubstep on *The 2nd Law*, new single "Psycho" sees Muse return to the hard-hitting alternative rock of albums like *Origin of Symmetry*. Though not as cringey as some of their material, "Psycho" still suffers from an uninspired cock-rock riff and paper-thin lyrics about military conditioning. The classical-inspired virtuosity Matt Bellamy brings to the table doesn't enrich the guitar or bass as it did on "Hysteria", but instead is relegated to the vocals. As a result, "Psycho" ends up sounding like Freddie Mercury singing over a third-rate Marilyn Manson riff. If it is representative of Muse's upcoming album, *Drones*, "Psycho" is a saddening portent indeed.

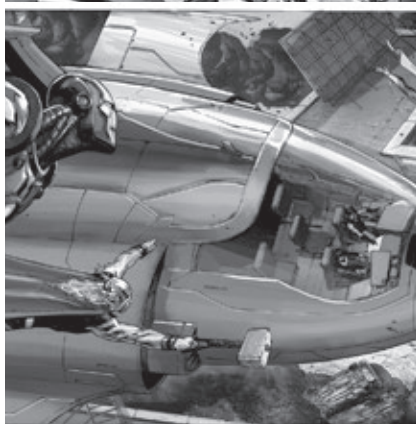


## Tame Impala

## "Cause I'm a Man"

**T**ame Impala is but one of a glut of recent indie rock bands that spend every note trying to sound like someone else. Just like Unknown Mortal Orchestra and Connan Mockasin, Tame Impala desperately emulates the production and melodic styles of its musical heroes. The results are perfectly crystallised, nostalgic homages to 60s psychedelic rock that have absolutely no personality of their own. Though a welcome change of pace from Tame Impala's last album, new single "Cause I'm a Man" suffers from the same derivative nature as previous work. Instead of opting for a modern take on The Beatles — as on previous singles like "Elephant" and "Feels Like We Only Go Backwards" — "Cause I'm a Man" goes out of its way to tell you that it belongs in the realms of the woozy, synth-infused, soft-rock nothingness that you can find just about anywhere on Soundcloud or Bandcamp these days. If you want to hear modern psychedelic pop that actually has blood coursing through its veins, go listen to Mac DeMarco, who is at least able to bring a modern anxiety and cognitive dissonance to the tie-dye sounds of yesteryear. If you've got a stock image of a palm tree as your desktop background and just love to kick back to some real chill sounds, then the toothless and unimaginative "Cause I'm a Man" is the song for you.





## Avengers: Rage of Ultron

» WRITTEN BY **RICK REMENDER**, ART BY **JEROME OPEÑA**

REVIEWED BY **BRANDON JOHNSTONE**

**A**vengeurs: *Rage of Ultron*, written by Rick Remender and with art by Jerome Opeña, is Marvel Comics' latest original graphic novel, this time about a logical, learning robot/AI (artificial intelligence) that just wants to kill everything alive. Long-time Marvel readers will know this AI, Ultron, as an iconic villain created by founding Avenger, Hank Pym (the original Ant-Man). This isn't just coincidental timing: it's cross-promotion for Marvel's latest film: *Age of Ultron*.

The first fifth of the book is dedicated to backstory, covering ground that's been heavily-trodden. Thankfully, this isn't as tedious as it sounds. Remender manages to knock out an endearingly faithful rendition of 80s-esque superhero dialogue without weighing the pages down with exposition. It's a solid entry point, especially for casual or new comic book readers, with a cast of well-known faces such as Captain America, Iron Man and Beast, among other legacy Marvel characters. It doesn't ask a lot of you, just that you push through the more confusing areas of implied backstory.

At the core of *Rage* is the relationship between Ultron and his creator or "father", Hank Pym, and to a lesser degree another father-son relationship between Ultron and his creation, the Vision, a less murder-y android. Unfortunately, this relationship doesn't always ring true, forcing strange hypocrisies into the mix. For a world full of gods and souls, Pym sure likes to tell the reader that there are no gods or souls. Also there's a weird, unexplained conflict between Pym's assertions that Ultron is an AI and statements about Ultron being his child. It feels like Remender is trying to make a symbolic statement here, but any revelation about the humanity of complex AI is lost to the noise around it.

This isn't the first or the fifth time Ultron has threatened Earth's Mightiest Heroes, but *Rage of Ultron* offers some deep insights into Hank Pym (or as Tony Stark describes him, "self-doubt personified"), his insecurities and his

longing to prove himself to his peers. Watching him force out words that carry much more confidence than the man behind them is one of the most interesting components of *Rage*, and hits much harder than any grand, sweeping gesture in the story's climax. Pym has struggled with depression, anxiety and identity issues in the past (Pym's two most well-known actions are creating an "unemotional" murderbot and beating his wife). As such, it actually feels genuinely empowering to see this broken, regretful man take control in an attempt to develop as a person.

The plot itself, Ultron's ploy to take over all life in the universe, is duller than it sounds and almost feels like an afterthought. The stakes are suddenly so high that it's hard to really care about them. The character interactions are infinitely more interesting than watching the Avengers beat down robot after robot or Ultron becoming insanely powerful.

Fortunately, even if there weren't a word in the book, the art is jaw-dropping. Opeña and Remender frequently collaborate, and clearly have a solid rhythm and consistent tone (even if that tone is usually "oh shit, the world's ending, we're all screwed"). Nobody ever looks lifeless, every character looks full of power, pain or speed. Earth's Mightiest Heroes are even realistically proportioned (relatively, anyway).

*Rage of Ultron* is a fairly balanced book, full of interesting characters but lacking in plot direction. The climax is charged with emotion instead of just pure action, which is great to see as cape comics often get caught up in their own spectacle. It's a solid 3 out of 5, but could swing heavily in either direction depending on the reader's inclination towards story or art, plot or character. ●





## Monster Hunter 4 Ultimate

» NINTENDO 3DS, NEW 3DS | DEVELOPED BY CAPCOM

REVIEWED BY CHEYANNE INTEMANN



The Monster Hunter series is unlike any other; the games are pretty much a genre unto themselves. When you pick up *Monster Hunter 4 Ultimate*, or *MH4U*, you're going to be pitted against some of the most interesting, intimidating monsters you've ever seen — and expected to conquer them all. The monsters range from a creature who stands double your height to a 440-metre-long snake-like dragon that literally winds around a mountain, destroying parts of it in the process, to kill you.

New players can enter the series with no prior experience. It won't take you long to get into the real meat of the game — the large monster hunts. There are no warning circles, cones or flashing user-interface elements. The first time you face a monster it may end in frustration, but that just makes the eventual kill all the sweeter. The combat system is simple to learn, and difficult to master. The weapon movesets have rhythm, but the hunters

themselves don't have the effortless grace of *Devil May Cry* or other action games, with animations interruptible only by the monster trying to kill you.

The story in this latest edition is similar to the last games; it is more of an amusing thread to tie the monster slaying together than an epic tale. The non-player characters all have surprisingly light-hearted dialogue for people living with giant, raging beasts terrorising them constantly. Unlike other *Monster Hunter* entries, there are multiple towns as you progress. Of course, you're still pretty much going to have to solve all of each town's monster-related problems, and supply them with materials to boot — all the while enduring the amusing pet-names they call you.

You have a wide range of weapons to learn how to wield, each with its pros and cons; *Monster Hunter* may have one of the widest and most well-balanced weapon ranges I've

ever experienced. These, along with the rest of your gear, are created using parts from the monsters you hunt. The scarier your foe, the better weapons and armour it will make.

The largest new addition to *MH4U*, other than new weapon sets, is the vertical movement mechanics. Thankfully, there is no swimming this time — all of the new movement mechanics are built around climbing, jumping and falling. It is now possible to mount a monster, which is an encounter that starts with a lot of stabbing and ends with either you or the monster landing ass-up.

*MH4U* is as challenging as it is rewarding. Without any kind of difficulty options, no levelling (save for your fuzzy feline friends) and a steady upwards difficulty curve, new players may find the game intimidating. Progression is entirely based on gear, so to make your next hunt easier, you need to master the hunts you're already doing. Getting the parts you need is somewhat luck-based, so there is going to be grinding. *Monster Hunter* is not a game for the impatient.

The grind, and in fact the whole game, becomes better with friends. Multiplayer is where this game really shines, with a whole separate set of quests and monsters meant for multiplayer play. These quests can be taken on alone, but the game supports internet play so why wouldn't you?

The customisable touchpad from *Monster Hunter 3 Ultimate* returns with even more control. Unfortunately, *MH4U* shares its drawback: the 3DS system. With a different control layout to the older Playstation Portable games, camera control is more difficult with the D-pad. The lock-on system from *MH3U* returns, which helps, but for optimal control you will need the New 3DS system or a Circle Pad Pro add-on, which gives you a second joystick.

*Monster Hunter 4 Ultimate* offers a rewarding and rich gameplay experience unlike anything outside the series. With countless hours of gameplay, an immense amount of content and multiplayer capabilities, it certainly delivers bang for buck. I'd recommend grabbing the demo from the 3DS store first, however, because if you don't enjoy the combat, there's not much else to it for you. ●



# horoscope

Do you struggle with making basic life decisions? Worried about never bumping into your campus soulmate, or whether to eat two-minute noodles for every dinner this week? Fear not, chums, for I, Madame McMystery, have gazed deep into the cosmos to reveal the secrets the planetary alignments hold in store for you!

(Disclaimer: Madame McMystery is not responsible for any physical or emotional damage caused by the interpretation of her predictions and subsequent actions influenced by them).

## Aries



An apple a day keeps the doctor away, but a banana each day will bring you a bae. If you are already in a committed relationship, avoid bananas for a week or two. If you are single and lonely, go bananas!

## Taurus



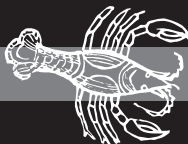
See that plastic cup full of wine at the party on Saturday night? The one that seems to have been abandoned by its owner? Do not drink it. At least, not if you want to avoid getting herpes.

## Gemini



You will find yourself waking up in a puddle of vomit one cold grey morning this coming fortnight. I'm not sure which part you will find the worst — that it's not your vomit, or that there are identifiable chunks of tuna in it.

## Cancer



A change to your desktop background will lead to a new friendship starting up. Choose wisely, as an ironic "My Little Pony" background will lead to being followed by a plague of new brony buddies.

## Leo



Go forth and be bold this week! State what you want and you shall receive. In saying that, be realistic — no one is going to draw you a bath of melted chocolate just because you asked nicely.

## Virgo



You have recently undergone a spiritual awakening. Do you hear the sound of the drums? The carefree chanting uplifting your spirit? Fly away, young caterpillar, your time has come. Carpe diem this shit.

## Libra



Jupiter is ascending over your stars this week — it is a good time to reinvent yourself. If you get stuck for ideas, the marvellous DIY fashion guide that Critic printed two weeks ago should help you out.

## Scorpio



Towards the end of this week, all the questions you've been asking about your love life will be answered. This is not a good thing.

## Sagittarius



Dude, you are smooth as all hell. Go practice your best pick-up lines on the streets this week. It appears Capricorns are on the hunt for love around this time — asking if people born between 22 December and 19 January are feeling Capri-HORNY should work a treat.

## Capricorn



Shove your study to the side — there is love to be found! Venus is still high over your sky, meaning that finding a special someone is on the horizon. Whether you're shaking your money-maker at Suburbia or chilling out at a house, true love will find you.

## Aquarius



Throwing apples at people wearing green this week will bring you great fortune. Granny Smith = career advancement; Eve = study skills; and Jazz = the ability to pick up the saxophone instantly.

## Pisces



You may think that going to lectures is a great idea, but for the start of this week, it's not. A freak accident will lead to a foot injury and temporary agoraphobia. Save yourself the trouble and keep away from lecture theatres for the next three days.



# Hear Me Out!

Sometimes a 200 word letter doesn't quite cut it.

Give us great chat to **critic@critic.co.nz**

and we might print your whole rant.



On Friday 1 May, McDonalds' workers around New Zealand went on strike to protest zero-hour contracts and demand higher wages. Their union, Unite, has already convinced most of the other fast-food companies to offer workers a fairer contract. McDonald's are the last ones looking for a fight. The author is a McDonald's crew member in the South Island.

**GOING** on strike is scary, but it's also very exciting. It's not like other kinds of protest. You're not just showing up to the city square at 3pm, marching down the road shouting about the war/the environment/the Illuminati lizard people then going home to obsessively search Facebook for photos with you in them. Instead, you have to walk off your own job, under the watchful and perhaps slightly disapproving eyes of the shift manager.

Normally these are the guys in charge, the ones who tell you what to do, but for this one moment, on this one day, life gets flipped-turned upside down and you take control. It's exciting, but it can also be very scary.

In the days leading up to the strike you sneak conversations with your coworkers while the managers are out back. You remind them that the union is negotiating for us all to get secure hours and higher wages, and that the bosses are refusing to budge. You argue that if we strike, it'll show the company that we mean business, and it'll put us in the media — which, for once, are overwhelmingly on our side. Everyone knows zero-hour contracts are bullshit.

You ask them what we're going to remember ten years from now: the day we stayed inside and followed the rules like good boys and girls, or the day we walked out and went on strike? What will we be most proud of? What story do we want to tell?

Not everyone is immediately or easily convinced, but it's surprising (almost amazing!) how easily some people are won over. It's not necessarily who you might have thought. Some people are keen as soon as the word strike gets mentioned. There are rebels everywhere, and this time it's for a bloody good cause.

As the day of the strike grows closer and closer, you become nervous. That's normal. When you're asking someone out to see a movie and grab a drink or twelve, or when you're hosting a party at your flat, a part of you always worries about the worst-case scenario. Maybe she won't like your shoes? Maybe he won't think you smell good? Maybe no one will show up, and you'll be left all alone in an empty lounge, drowning your sorrows in cheap whiskey and potato chips before falling asleep in a puddle of your own vomit and tears?

It doesn't tend to turn out like that though. Chances are you go to the movies, dance badly at some bar afterwards, then go home for a bloody good night. Chances are you worry about who's showing up so long and hard you forget you never rock up to a party on time either, and before you know it all your friends have arrived fashionably late and the only problem becomes an imminent shortage of those little red plastic cups.

There are haters, of course. There always are, and they are always gonna hate. Some people

are anti-union (usually for a variety of rather confused and ill-informed reasons), some people are too scared to rock the boat, some people have just accepted they get paid the minimum wage and don't think they deserve better. Those people are the saddest of all.

In the end, though, who cares? You don't have to bring everybody out with you. You can strike by yourself if you want! If you bring even one other person out with you, you've already won a big victory by convincing another person that collective direct action and solidarity with fellow workers can get the goods. If you bring more than one person out? Well, you're a working-class hero, and that's always been something to be.

If we strike, we can win. If we don't, we will lose. We deserve to win, because we're worth more than minimum wage. We deserve to have secure hours. We're in the right, and the rich, greedy, stingy bosses are in the wrong. It's as simple as that. ●

# University Book Shop



## LETTER OF THE WEEK

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## Come Collect Yo Tank!

Hi!

Would love to rehome your fish....Please. Here's a wee offering for the trade.

Swimming with the fishes, real fishy business, shaking off their scales and replacing them with bristles, use them to do my dishes, put them in the sink and let them swim/ scrub my skilletts, then cook them in said skilletts, I like detergent flavoured fillets, helps with my fishy smelling fissures, something to do with kissing on my pretty little pris'ners, but then again for instance, one time I had a turtle, special pet friend, Bertle, he made my mornay curdle so I slapped him Winny Churchill, put him in my fisherprice with half a cup of persil, my whites weren't very white but at least a lesson learned still. So...as you can see I know some things about the world of gills and fins, not just an amateur collector I'm eclectic in my dabble-ings, a true officianodo of aquatic exploration, the Jacque Cous-teau of micro sclae fish life manipulation, I don't know why I told you, I don't know what you think, but I hope you liked my sotry, if you didn't then I guess you might just findh yourself doing dishes in my sink.

(Courtesy of Herbert Harris)

Thanks,  
**Freja Wall**

## "I'm not a BB" LOL, yea sure ;)

Dear Critic,

The fashion issue was amazing and Anthony Gordon is awesome. I am not a BB but at least I know what it is now. Love and kisses,

**Lisa Scott**

## Get Yo Sexy On

Hi Critic,

Do you know what I'm sick of?  
Neither do I. I just felt like writing a letter and this is generally how they start out lol.  
I just want to say that Critic is great, but the blind dates need to have weirder sex stories. It's so lame these days.

Hope all is going well,  
**Love from me**

## Yes, Listen Peeps!

To girls at Otago Uni,

Please stop walking home alone!  
It's so easy to assume that Dunedin is safe and nothing bad ever happens. This would be nice, but it's not the case.

Walking home late at night is super dangerous. I know everyone does it, I've been guilty of it too, but it is not worth the risk!

If it's past 11oclock and you're a female walking home alone you can call campus watch on 0800 479 5000 and they will drive you home.

It's a free service and it's there to protect us, so use it!

**xoxo your decoy mum**

## We Beat Aussies. Always.

Hi there, I am considering studying P.E at either a New Zealand or Australian instituon.

Could you please tell me more about the town of Otago and alos the campus atmosphere.

Sincerely,  
**Liam O'Connor**

## Not A Metaphor!

Hey guys, 5th year student here. Been reading Critic since my very first day and still loving it. I'd also love to grab that fish tank as I was given a pair of Axolotls by a Zoology professor a while back and at the moment they're just chilling out in a warehouse plastic storage bin with some water and pond weed, but nothing interesting for the little guys to keep themselves occupied (when they're not pretending to be dead the little shits) so a nice tank that I can keep clean for them would be fantastic.

I guess if you wanted a daily rant about something I'm sure I could come up with something involving John Key or Bruce Jenner or Nepal.

I'm also going to feel really silly if this was just a metaphor and not an -actual- fish tank.

Cheers,  
**J**


### LETTERS POLICY

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


## NOTICES

### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: SCI-FI AND FANTASY SHORT STORIES

Paper Road Press is seeking submissions to At the Edge, an anthology of liminal New Zealand and Australian science fiction and fantasy stories. Payment \$30 for stories 3000-5000 words; \$50 for >5000 words. Submissions close 31 July 2015; visit [paper-roadpress.co.nz/submissions-3/at-the-edge/](http://paper-roadpress.co.nz/submissions-3/at-the-edge/) for more information.



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I fucking hate when people quote song lyrics on here, it always just reminds me of somebody that i used to know 167

2h 2 replies

Everyone's sexual problems in Dunedin would be sorted out if monkey bar just reopened 187

1h 2 replies

It's ok I'll just get 168% on the final exam 281

Overhead : "mum, unicol is one of the academic colleges" 528

3h 2 replies

If you ever feel bad about your choices remember you're not the Otago student who joined ISIS. 245

3h 1 reply

Leaving your hall room messy and full of alcohol to give the year 13s a true look at next year 177


2h 1 reply

I have 2 male flatmates, ones secretly gay, the other is secretly homophobic. Watching them interact makes my day 362

2h

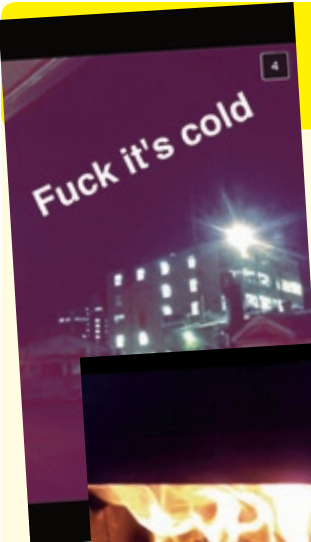

The university's really cranked up the heating in central to fool the year 13's on open day 72

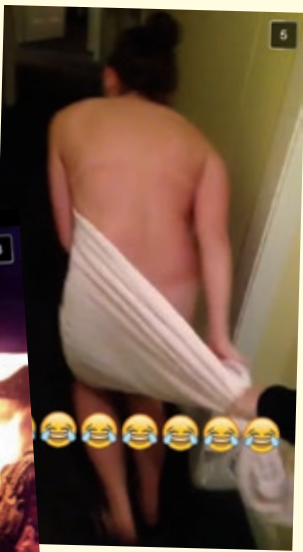
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## Cold Reading

BY WEE DOUBT

**Y**ou are the kind of person who can go to a party and feel great, have fun and talk to lots of people. But when you get home and you go over the things that you said, you suddenly regret how you were behaving. You keep people a little bit at bay when you are first getting to know them, but if you allow them to get close to you, then you are a loyal friend and are very hurt if that friendship is betrayed. You have a creative pursuit you have never properly realised, and you regret not pursuing it more.

These are "Barnum statements", designed to relate to almost everyone who reads them while also appearing quite specific in their assessment of your character. They are one of the tricks used in "cold reading", a method by which a complete stranger can seemingly tell you everything about yourself without being psychic and without any prior knowledge of what you are like. A skilled cold reader will make it seem as though the meaning is coming from their words and not from you. Many will quickly fire a string of words at the sitter so that they only have time to process the ones that apply to them personally, while forgetting the others. Another technique a cold reader will use is to ask a question such as "have you been eating a lot of vegetables?", to which both a "yes" or a "no" can seem like a hit and will give the reader more information to work with.

Cold-reading techniques are used by illusionists and mentalists during "mind-reading" tricks, and also by tarot readers, palm readers, psychics and mediums who claim to be able to gain knowledge about living strangers and even their dead loved ones by supernatural means.

Natural intuition and skill at analysing the character of strangers based on their appearance and body language can be so finely tuned as to seem like paranormal phenomena. If you are young, you are probably wondering what you should be doing with your life or are having relationship problems. If you are old, you may be wanting to talk to your dead parents or spouse. If you are dressed like a uni student, you may have money problems. All of these things can be extrapolated and used in the cold-reading process.

Some people may use these techniques unconsciously and really believe they have psychic powers. But many will cynically exploit vulnerable, grieving people for their money, knowing full well that they are adopting ancient techniques of cheap magic tricks to fool people into thinking they have second sight.



## That One That Loves The Lecturer

BY CLOUDY

**A** few weeks ago I had an epiphany about attractiveness – it was when you put up your hand up in our lecture. At that moment I had the seemingly life changing realisation that 1. you exist and 2. you are attractive. But this attractiveness isn't all about the symmetry of your face, the effortless way your dark hair sits, your sophisticated amount of facial hair or the melt-worthy sound of your voice (you'd be getting full marks regardless), it's about the obvious brains you have held up in that beautiful head!

It was also at this same moment, I decided to make the \$84.50, I'd spent on a new version of the course book, worth it. I would make a greater attempt to read that brick of a book, in order to, catch your attention with my equally infallible knowledge and, in turn, win your heart. Whether my flawless plan works or if the tell tale bags under my eyes are a turnoff, we are yet to find out. Nevertheless, you should definitely claim a commission on my fees from the University because you are providing a great incentive to both be here and work hard.

I don't want no dumb hottie. I want you. You surpass my media influenced, cultural beliefs of who my dream man is. You don't need to be holding a sensually titled Dolce & Gabbana fragrance to be my one. You are the one my friends warned me I'd fall for; the suitably complacent, philosophical thinker, unfazed by outwitting the lecturer. Where did you acquire this knowledge? Why do you just wistfully stare off in the distance like that? You're deep.

The thing is, I'm mysterious too, or at least I get the feeling I am. I won't say I try, but I unintentionally (as I've been told) come across as an ice queen or the unattainable vacant girl. In saying this, I can't deny it is my secret dream to be serenaded by Peter Andre with his '96 #1 hit (only in NZ on the year of my birth) 'Mysterious Girl' ... so maybe it is just a facade I put up, but still the question arises -how can two mysterious people ever be together? What if we're a match made in Ice land? Please, let's not make this a frozen tragedy! Let's melt our cold shoulders, so that we may swim in the deep end of philosophical musings together!



## Flatting Life

BY DR DAVID CLARK, MP

I have many fond memories of my years flatting at Otago and elsewhere. That said, there's good reason I chose to spend 11 years living at Selwyn College — one way or another.

First-time flatting is when you learn a bunch of things. First off, how good the food actually was at your college or boarding house last year, how warm it was and how good the friends you made there were. It is also when you see who got flatmate selections right, and who got them spectacularly wrong.

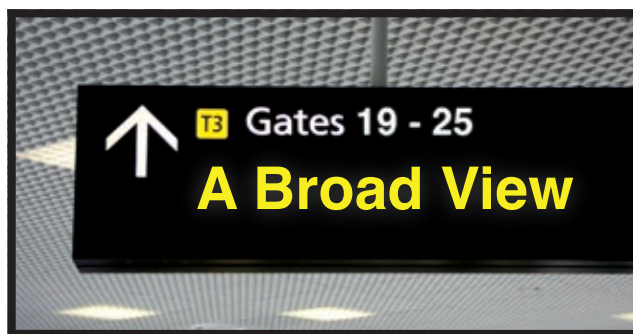
There are many views on flatting with close friends. The consensus seems to be that flatting with besties has downsides that are seldom outweighed by the upsides. Actually it is a lot harder to have frank conversations about annoying flatting habits when there's a friendship at stake. Flatting with people you'd like to get to know better is less risky; it's easier to hold on to the friendships you've already got, and chances are good you'll make a few new ones.

What is undoubtedly also true is that you learn a lot about yourself when you flat with others. You learn how much mess you can tolerate, and whether the stress of living with clean-freaks is preferable. You learn whether cooking cost and convenience — or gourmet and atmospherics — float your boat. You learn how much you're willing to pay for flat location vs. quality.

And you almost always find that after flatting for the first time, you'll never make the same choices again.

Same is true in your selection of landlords. After hearing tales of a few friends who've been on the wrong end of a bargain, you'll be unlikely to be so cavalier in your approach to property and the people who run it. If you do find yourself poorly served, remedies are possible. The Citizen's Advice Bureau has acres of advice. And a big chunk of the work community law centres perform relates to tenancy disputes.

I've encountered one or two psychopaths, but most landlords are pretty good. They're generally fair-minded people looking to save for retirement. You treat them fair, and they'll do the same. They were young once too — and probably have their own flatting tales to tell.



## Overcoming Stranger Danger

BY EMMA COTTON

A Broad View is written by different international students each week who wish to share their impressions of their time here or unique experiences. Email [critic@critic.co.nz](mailto:critic@critic.co.nz) if you are an international student wanting to tell your tale.

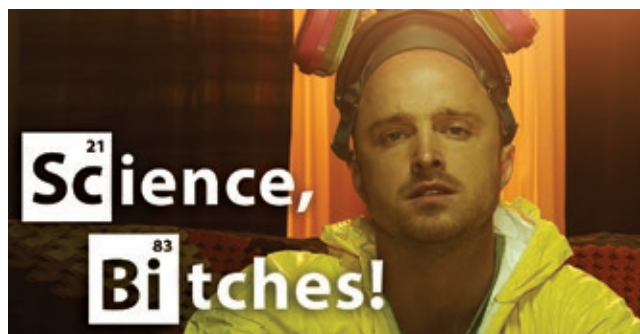
Most Americans would never think to hitchhike. We've heard the stories about murders and assaults and countless victims who have gone missing. Most Kiwis, however, don't seem to think twice about sticking their thumbs out to hitch a ride. This country's wanderlust nature and lack of inter-city transport have deemed hitchhiking a regular thing.

Personally, I wouldn't do it. The risks are too obvious. I cringe at the thought of trusting someone I've never met before. But, for me, exploring is a necessity, so I shell out the money for rental cars, and over the break my flatmate and I headed to Mt Cook. We were just leaving Timaru when we saw two girls standing on the side of the road, their thumbs raised. We pulled over. "Where are you headed?" I asked. "Mt Cook!" they said together. We helped them load their bags into the trunk and were off.

We swapped stories about mountain peaks, the friendliness of Kiwis and the feeling of never wanting to leave. When the conversation lulled, I turned to my iPod, trying to think of something fun and happy that everyone would know. I put on Jason Mraz's "I'm Yours". The familiar chords evoked smiles from our guests, and we all sang along. The road twisted by crystal clear blue lakes and jagged, barren mountains. Though none of us had ever seen Mt Cook before, we all knew what it was when its unmistakably large, snowy peak breached the horizon.

We were one Brit, two Germans and an American, forgetting our differences, united by our destination. The two girls were no longer hitchhikers but rather friends to whom I was connected. When we finally reached the girls' hostel, they both gave us hugs and fresh, hand-picked apples as tokens of appreciation. They disappeared inside and I knew they were gone forever. What they made me realise will stick: the road is not full of bad people. In fact, most of the strangers we fear are headed in the exact same direction as we are.





## Nepal Earthquake

BY EMMA LODES

**O**n Saturday 25 April 2015, a massive, 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit Nepal, the worst Nepal has seen in 80 years. At the time of *Critic* going to print, the death toll had passed 5,000, but continues to climb; time will tell what the full extent of the damage is. Kathmandu Valley is densely populated at about 2.5 million and, due to poor infrastructure, has been absolutely devastated by the quake.

Why was Nepal rocked by such a big quake, so out of the blue? The same process that created the staggeringly beautiful Himalaya mountain range — the tallest in the world and Nepal's primary source of income via tourism — has just nearly wrecked the country built so precariously on the slopes it formed. The area around Kathmandu Valley is one of the most seismically hazardous regions on the planet: Himalayan earthquakes in 1905, 1934 and 2005 killed tens of thousands in Nepal, India and Pakistan. A major quake in the Kathmandu area seems to hit every 75 years or so.

Earthquakes occur when tectonic plates come in contact and get stuck due to friction, building up stress that eventually ruptures. The Nepalese earthquake occurred on a major boundary between the Indian and Eurasian plates. Hundreds of millions of years ago, these plates were on opposite sides of the globe, but over geologic time the Indian plate drifted north towards the Eurasian one and began slamming into it, pushing up and squeezing rock between the plates like an accordion to create the Himalayas. They're still converging and uplifting at a rate of about 2 inches per year, which is pretty fast according to geologic time, and creates a hefty amount of strain on the rocks that make up the mountains.

The Nepalese are well aware of the risks of living in the Himalayas, and of the instability of their infrastructure. But the reality is, it's extremely difficult to accurately predict the timing of the next quake. All seismologists have to work with is an incomplete historical record of quakes — reconstructed from imprints of deformation on rocks and human records — analysis of the rock type and its resistance to strain, and the geometry and movement of tectonic plates. Today, GPS-based deformation models are key to understanding earthquake-potential deformation and strain.

Seismologists such as Susan Hough from the U.S. Geological Survey are busy installing more seismic monitoring networks throughout the Himalayan region, in the hope that soon scientists and locals will have a better grasp on Himalayan seismic activity and risk.



## A Friend in Need

BY FINBARR NOBLE

**H**ave you ever paid a visit to a friend, acquaintance or even a stranger and had your host offer you a cup of tea or a biscuit or a line of prescription medication? I recently have, which — naturally — got me thinking of the ancient Greek tradition of *xenia*. *Xenia* roughly translates to "guest-friendship" and is the ancient Greek concept of hospitality. It represents the generosity and courtesy shown to strangers far from home or to general friends and associates who are guests of the host.

Essentially, it consists of two basic rules. The first rule is that the host must respect the guest — they must offer the guest food, drink and a bath, this being back in the day when personal hygiene was a little harder to maintain. Indeed, by way of an example, one sweltering summer's day I was driving up the country in my old car, a worthy vehicle but one sadly lacking anything resembling air-conditioning. I picked up a couple of hitchhikers who turned out to be Christian missionaries (I didn't know we had those in New Zealand but apparently so). I drove them back to their missionary college and they, having sat through two hours of my delicate road-trip odour, kindly invited me in for a shower and a meal, thereby perfectly performing their duties under *xenia*.

I then churlishly proceeded to get into a theological argument with another missionary about whether a just God could exist given the evidence of the world around us. Anyway, in doing so, I violated the second basic rule of *xenia*, which is the guest must respect the host: it is incumbent upon the guest to be courteous to the host and not be a burden.

The concept of *xenia* was born out of Greek mythology. In Greek myths, gods and goddesses were always disguising themselves as mortals and roaming around the Mediterranean getting up to shenanigans. Consequently, you could never know for sure whether the shabby road-weary guest in your house was just some wandering vagrant or the mighty Zeus on his way to lecherously pursue some woodland nymph while dressed as a swan. It was wise, therefore, to treat every guest, however lowly, with respect and generosity; to be honest, it's still a pretty good idea today.



## Clothes Make the Man

BY STEPH TAYLOR

## 'New face' of IS has Dunedin link

In "Scarflies Go Wild" this week, this old-boy appears to have done his OE on the extreme side. An Australian doctor, branded as the poster-child for ISIS, has been found to have previously failed first-year health science in Dunedin.

## Women to get a break

It's 2015 and apparently jokes about women belonging in the kitchen are still used in headlines. Fear not though, this article was about a drought support event for rural women in Middlesmarch.

## Clothes make the man

Steve Hall took out the iD International Emerging Designer Award, alluding to the fact that Dunedin boys will be wearing samurai and ninja-inspired clothing in the future, rather than snapbacks and drop-crotch pants.

## 200kg house pig 'Pigeon' draws big interest

When a story about a house pig features in a local newspaper, you definitely know you live in New Zealand. Mosgiel's latest celebrity, Pigeon the two-year-old pig, makes big headlines; obviously it was a slow news day.

## Look after your mates'

Oh look ... another youth binge-drinking story in the ODT... lol.

## Pensioner gives neighbour a spray

If you aren't on the best terms with your neighbours and they are starting to rub you up the wrong way, take note from this Dunedin man: the pensioner "doused his neighbour with a garden hose" after tempers flared during a high-pressure situation.



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# di lusso B A R

## Love is blind

Critic's infamous blind date column brings you weekly shutdowns, hilariously mismatched pairs, and the occasional hookup. Each week, we lure two singletons to Di Lusso, ply them with food and alcohol, then wait for their reports to arrive in our inbox. If this sounds like you, email [critic@critic.co.nz](mailto:critic@critic.co.nz). 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.

### Becks

Commerce kid with lots of goodies.  
We wish him all the best.

After being set up for the blind date by my flat mate, it came as a surprise that the Critic editor promptly emailed back saying "are you free tonight?".

Despite it being my night to cook dinner in the flat, I 'summoned the courage' (4 beers and 3 shots of vodka) to head to Di Lusso at 7pm to meet my date.

After being dropped off fashionably late bearing gifts and wearing my tuxedo. I walked in expecting some kind of Frankenstein's monster. To my surprise, I was greeted by an absolute beauty.

She was rather shy and tried to keep the spotlight on me, but I just wanted to know everything about this fine specimen. We ordered some cocktails to lubricate conversation and it wasn't long before we got to know each other very well.

The conversation topics became more and more intimate ending up with me explaining that "...I don't do romance... My tastes are very singular...". I thought that she wouldn't understand but she was intrigued, and timidly stammered: "enlighten me then".

Needless to say we didn't spend much more time at the restaurant. We headed straight back to mine, and after downing more vodka in my room together, we then started to become far better acquainted...

The clothes were quick to come off, and after a little bit of passionate kissing we were in my bed and sparks were flying. After we were comfortable, this sex romp became far more interesting.

I opened up my sock drawer and revealed to her my elaborate assortment of toys and restraints. She looked shocked but also somewhat excited. I tied her down with the cuffs and used the gag. We enjoyed a night full of filthy and tormentous sex. Once we were both absolutely spent, we slept and then the next day she left back to her flat. We have exchanged numbers and if I play my cards right we might indulge in another wonderful night sometime soon.

### Posh

She needs to learn the game.  
What an opportunity.

Being roped into this wasn't what I had planned for my Wednesday night. I arrive fashionably on time, and he wasn't there. Classic.

After stumbling across a Yik Yak from my date the day before, "will anyone pay me 100 dollars if I took a dead possum down my jacket and told her I did my own taxidermy", the expectations I had for my date's appearance were substandard.

To my surprise he wasn't horrendous, and was actually pretty decent. However, he showed up in a tuxedo and dropped numerous gifts at my feet. I was confused.

He was polite, intense, smart, really intimidating. I asked what he liked to do outside of uni? He just looked at me and asked 'I just want to know more about you'. After I told him there's not much to me, he claimed that 'he liked to exercise control on all things'. I thought to myself... this fucking loser is trying to recreate 50 Shades of Grey. I decided to play along.

He would ask me questions like 'do you do romance?' After I answered he kept giving me gestures that implied that I should ask him the same thing?... "uhhh do you?" He began to tell me that his tastes were very singular.

I thought it was funny, until when he showed me inside his bag, there were copious amounts of different objects that he had reconstructed into sex toys. I decided to call it a night and head home. Even though I knew he was taking the piss, which actually resulted in a fun night, I didn't quite know if he was kidding when he said he wanted to tie me to the fridge and plough me with a banana.



## OUSA President's Column

### Dunedin City Council Local Alcohol Policies

Media coverage demonising students has been more prevalent than usual this year. Orientation and Hyde Street both attracted media coverage which was inaccurate, unbalanced and blamed all the world's problems on students. The level of harm at Hyde Street, according to the statistics, was lower in 2015 compared to previous years. However, reading the media headlines you would never know the significant improvements which have occurred at Hyde Street over the last four years.

Calls to ban Hyde Street have come from some quarters, but media are the ones piling on the most pressure. I for one will not be bullied by shock jock journalism into calling off Hyde Street.

In response to the attention on alcohol and students, the Dunedin City Council has set up a working group involving local stakeholders. This includes the University, Police, landlords, bar owners and residents. The intention of the work-

ing group is to minimise poor behaviour and alcohol related harm. OUSA is on the working group to represent students.

Moaning about media coverage is not productive, although I could not resist doing so here given the prevalence of the poor coverage in recent times. It is worth going back a few months before the holier-than-thou outburst started; to when new local alcohol policies (the Local Alcohol Policy or LAP) were proposed by the DCC. This will help explain the view of OUSA on the LAP.

The LAP targeted two distinct aspects - bars in town and supermarkets/liquor shops. Oddly, the proposed LAP restrictions on bars were tougher than the restrictions recommended by Geoffrey Palmer law commission report. Also oddly, the proposed LAP restrictions on supermarkets and liquor shops were weaker than those proposed by the Palmer law commission report. I say odd because just 30% of alcohol consumed in New Zealand is consumed in bars.

OUSA's position is clear: bars are one of the safest environments in which alcohol consumption occurs. Bars have controls that other locations do not have. With supervision, food, water, security and a legal obligation not to serve those who are over intoxicated, policy should encourage alcohol consumption to occur in public establishments.

When students (or anyone else) go out, they make

a choice about where to consume alcohol. Policies, like the DCC LAP, should encourage people to consume alcohol in the safest environments. The raft of restrictions proposed for bars in town will push more alcohol consumption into unregulated environments, increasing the chance that harm will occur.

OUSA has a professional safety management approach at all events. We want everyone to have a fun and safe time, and for people to treat each other with respect.

Too often, suggested alcohol policies are dog whistles for "no-alcohol" or "bloody students". Given that it is impossible to prevent alcohol consumption, and nor should such attempts be made, discussion about harm minimisation needs to accept that alcohol consumption will occur somewhere.

Countless countries around the world prove that alcohol can be consumed in a safe manner in public places.

The challenge is to develop measures which eliminate the negative behaviours associated with alcohol consumption. Let's hope that the authorities can work together with students, rather than taking the media approach of blame and shame.

**Paul Hunt**

president@ousa.orgnz



Congratulations to **OMSA - Otago Malaysian Students' Association** who were placed 2nd in the Malaysian Students New Zealand University Games or Bersatu Games as it is fondly called. The strong team of 70 did so well, gaining 5 gold medals, 1 silver and 6 bronze medals.

## Nominations open for the OUSA Best Landlords awards!

Is your landlord awesome as heck?  
Do they deserve props for their understanding, accommodating ways?

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