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FEATURES

20 CAMPUS WATCH CONFESSIONS

Donning a puffer jacket, grasping a thermos of hot chocolate for dear life and looking disconcertingly like a burnt marshmallow on legs, Olivia Collier set out on one of the coldest nights last week to search high and low for the best stories pertaining to our very own guardians of the night: Campus Watch.

BY OLIVIA COLLIER

24 THE CAPPING SHOW CULT

"You're a man trying to get people to join your cult." You've got seconds to think of something funny, and you're in front of more than 30 other people your age who think they're funny too. You've got to be funnier. An inside look at what it's like to be a part of the Capping Show, the process of getting into the production team and the build up to the grand performance.

BY JACOB HOUSTON

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In Loving Memory of Ally Willen

Born 27 May 1994 – Lost to nature 25 April 2015.

"Sometimes, the smallest things take up the most room in your heart."

ou are my dearest Duckling. From the very first day of meeting you, I knew you were special. I knocked on your door and you had the biggest smile on your face, something I was to see every single day. I had only met you once before you asked me for a huge favour. You couldn't quite reach the top of your African tapestry; you texted me to help pull it up. Me being me, I didn't want to bother using the front door, so from that day onwards, whenever I came to see you, I always jumped through your window. I opened your window for the last time the other day and THAT was the most hardest moment of this. I knew once I closed that window — the window that linked our hearts together, the window I used to scare the living daylights out of you, the window I jumped through whenever I wanted to just be in your presence - I would be saying goodbye to you forever.

You were one in seven billion. There is no one quite like you. Your positivity and passion radiated to every person you met. You showed kindness and compassion, with endless confidence that you knew who you were and what you wanted to be. Every person you came across, you touched with your heart. You are quite right that whenever you meet someone, you leave a print on their heart — and they on yours — but I cannot even begin describing the enormity of the print you left on my heart.

Anyone who knew Duckling, whether for a second or a lifetime, could see how beautiful she was. She always encouraged you to follow what made you happy, to do things that were outrageous, because why not? But most of all, she always had the time to be there for everyone. If you were ever upset about something, she was always there to cheer you up, and if you ever wanted someone to listen about great news, then what better person to bounce up and down with you?

To my dearest Duckling. I love you, I will always love you. I will always remember you. You were perfect to me; you may have disagreed about perfection, but in my eyes you were this perfect human bundle of joy. My two favourite sayings of yours, because you always said one or the other each day to me were, "Duuude, that sounds awesome! You should totally do it!" and "Wait. What? Why? No ... Biggie. Come on. Dude." Whether you were happy with my decisions or scowling at me because I had been doing something cheeky, I cherished each and every moment of being with you. It was a wasted day when I didn't see you. Thankfully that wasn't often at all.

My heart goes to Ally's parents, Michelle and Todd, her family and extended family here in

New Zealand, friends and all those lucky enough to have crossed paths with her. We all miss you, Duckling. We all love you.

Goodbye, Duckling.

Forever in my heart, **Biggie**.



For friends and loved ones of Ally Willen, there will be a memorial service held in the Main Common Room at **7pm** on **Tuesday 12 May 2015**.

LEAVE SOMETHING GOOD BEHIND

"Travel isn't always pretty. It isn't always comfortable. Sometimes it hurts, it even breaks your heart. But that's okay. The journey changes you; it should change you. It leaves marks on your memory, on your consciousness, on your heart, and on your body. You take something with you. Hopefully, you leave something good behind."

-Anthony Bourdain

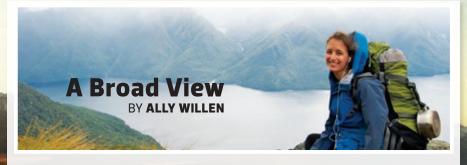
arlier in this semester, Ally Willen wrote a beautiful piece for A Broad View, a column aimed at giving international and exchange students the opportunity to tell us what makes New Zealand unique to them. We've had some great write-ins, but Ally's was particularly special. Rather than purely telling us what is different here, she gave us an emotional insight into what her first tramping experience was like, something many of us have had a lot of experience of in New Zealand.

Opting for a tough track to begin with, but still completing it, she made us think about why we're not pushing ourselves to greater heights. In her words, "our limits exist only because we create them."

Make the most of your time here everyone and do whatever you can to ensure you do leave something good behind. We only have one life in this world and sometimes it's much shorter than we hope for.

Gone, but never forgetten Ally. Our thoughts are with all your friends and family.

Critic



y knees still ache, and I waddle to class with swollen feet. Completing my first Great Walk, the Kepler Track, was as beautiful as it was painful. I came to New Zealand with intentions of answering each invitation with a firm "yes" because I didn't want to miss out on any adventures during my semester abroad. When Friday afternoon rolled around, I couldn't have identified the track on a map. Though this was my first tramping trip, I felt a strange amount of confidence about the 60-kilometre, 1,400-metre-high trail that lay ahead. I piled into a rental van with new friends and strangers and was on my way.

We started with a flat 15-kilometre stretch that lured me into a false sense of security. Our second day spanned 23 kilometres, to the highest peak and down again, and in that afternoon I learned more about myself than I thought was possible. While I climbed, my legs burned and my back ached, yet I had to push forward and conquer the desire to quit. I learned that I could quiet the pain, that my mind was stronger than my body. In that moment, I understood that while situations may be beyond our control, we have responsibility in choosing our mindset.

With each new blister, cramp and sore muscle, I was one step closer to completing the Kepler. I had only one chance to soak in the gorgeous views and landscapes. Never again would I be so interconnected with that particular mountain, and I refused to allow pain or a bad attitude to taint my experience.

I survived, and would have kissed the asphalt in the parking lot if not for the strange looks from fellow travellers. Before leaving, I laid in the grass and felt a sort of bliss and pride that I had never before experienced. Kepler taught me that our limits exist only because we create them, and I feel a more genuine sense of confidence about my next Great Walk. I will be equipped with a new type of mental strength I did not know I was capable of.

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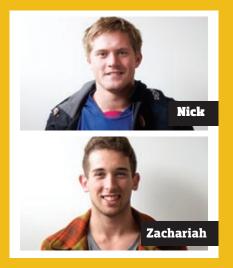
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NEWS news@critic.co.nz

New Campaigns and Education Officers

» RESULTS ARE PROVISIONAL PENDING 5 DAY ALLOWANCE FOR APPEAL

BY LAURA MUNRO



he OUSA By-Election for the position of Campaigns Officer and Education Officer has officially closed.

With a total of 298 votes, Nick Findlay won the position of Campaigns Officer. Also running for the position was Sean Gamble, who received a total of 295 votes. Henry Napier received 201 votes, and there were 34 votes for no confidence.

Zachariah Roy Al-Alami, who received a total of 309 votes, won the position of Education Officer. Fellow candidate Laura Harris received 298 votes and Anton Hovius received 183 votes. There were a total of 44 votes for no confidence.

On Friday 1 May, the week before voting

began, Education Officer candidate Anton Hovius made a complaint to OUSA that some candidates had breached the 100-word limit for their blurbs. Hovius said this gave the candidates an unfair advantage, as it is difficult to make all the points you wish to make in 100 words.

The candidates were told to reduce their word count and did so on the same day. However, the blurbs were already printed in Critic. For this reason, candidates had one vote deducted per five words that breached the word limit.

The candidates will begin their positions immediately. •

McDonalds McCrease McHours

» McCONTRACTS GET UPSIZED

BY DAMIAN GEORGE /

Note that the provided a deal with McDonald's to put an end to the controversial contracts which give staff members no guarantee of work.

Treen says the push for ending the contracts gathered momentum when the union decided to label the contracts for what they were, hence the term 'zero-hour'.

"There was a public outcry and the issue gained significant media interest and significant public interest," Treen says. "People were quick to realise this was not good enough in the 21st century."

Treen labelled the decision history-making and one of the best achievements in his two decades with the union. "There haven't been guaranteed hours in the fast food industry for many decades," he said.

"This decision empowers workers. It's not just more convenient, but employees also know their employer can't change their hours as a management tool. That's what I think the zero-hour contracts were about – it wasn't about cutting costs, it was a management tool."

Treen says employees will now feel more confident in asserting their rights, such as taking sick days, as the 'fear factor' has been significantly reduced. He says jobs will also be easier to do with regular shift patterns. Under the new agreement, contracted staff are guaranteed 80 percent of hours worked over a three-month period.

"Because we can't control all of those things like hours and breaks, it's very difficult for us to monitor the enforcement of workers' rights."

The abandoning of zero-hour contracts could extend into other areas, such as parliament jobs. Labour leader Andrew Little has recently called for cleaning and catering firm Spotless to ditch its zero-hour contracts for parliament staff.

"It's suddenly dawned on the government how many workers are on these agreements," Treen says.

McDonald's spokesperson Kim

Bartlett says the company is pleased to be able to offer employees more stability with their hours.

"We know having security of hours is important to our people, which is why on April 13 we announced a guarantee of hours would be formally written into our employment agreements. Since then, we have been working through the technical detail with Unite, along with other elements of the agreement."

The 80 percent security of hours is up to a 32 hours per week and based on the average of the previous fixed quarterly worked hours. •



PMDL Situation "Cannot Continue"

BY LAURA MUNRO /

he majority of the executive meeting was spent in strict committee – meaning Critic was not allowed to be in the room – to discuss two matters of personal sensitivity. No motion was moved related to the time in strict committee.

The executive accepted the letter it will send to the Planet Media Dunedin Ltd Board formalising last week's decision not to call on the \$240,367.87 it is owed. The letter, written by Admin Vice-President Isaac Yu, outlined that it will not call on the debt but the decision is "contingent on the short-term plan that the Board of Directors will produce".

"OUSA would like to stress that given the climate of Voluntary Student Membership, OUSA is under the greatest budgetary constraints it has been for many years. The current PMDL situation of increasing costs and declining revenue cannot continue ... the PMDL Board of Directors is urged to come up with a sustainable long-term plan for the future of PMDL and to act with commercial discipline."

OUSA outlined that, from its perspective, the board needs to consider what could be done in the short term to make Planet Media solvent. In the long term, OUSA believes the board needs to consider "what proportion of the student media constituent currently engages with the services provided by Planet Media". These services are Critic, Radio One, and the Planet Media Sales team.

President Paul Hunt asked the executive members their opinion on former Campaigns

Officer Alice Sowry retaining her position on the PMDL Board. Yu said "for the sake of consistency" it is best she remains on the board. He pointed out that if a current executive member were to take her place, the executive might not be able to reach quorum (the number of votes needed for a motion to pass) when voting on PMDL motions. Executive members on the PMDL board currently abstain from voting on PMDL issues due to a conflict of interest.

The executive agreed Sowry should retain her position on the board.

Hunt also pointed out the definition of insolvency in the Companies Act 1993 "so there is clarity on the exec".

It was brought to the executive's attention that the issue of PMDL's debt had been discussed in the past. Ramritu, who was Welfare Officer for the second half of 2014, said the issue was brought up last year.

"We didn't realise the seriousness of the situation ... It definitely wasn't as serious as I've now found out [it is]." Hunt said there was "no subsequent decision" made in 2014; it was just "brought to the shareholder's attention".

Yu read the figures that the executive was given in 2014. The figures showed that for one of the cost centres, "their revenue stream started at \$159,000 a year as of 2010, that subsequently dropped to \$65,000 as of 2014. So that's a 59% depreciation in terms of income revenue." "As far as their costs, it's gone up from \$155,000 to \$250,000 in the four-year period from 2011 to 2015. That's a net discrepancy of about \$180,000."

The executive was also made aware that the university recommended in 2014 that PMDL should dissolve and Radio One and Critic be run under OUSA. After the recommendation, PMDL wrote a letter to the OUSA executive outlining how crucial student media independence is.

"This is best achieved by a separate company with an independent board handling the governance of the media outlets."

After lengthy PMDL discussions, the executive then accepted the affiliation of the Otago University Investing Society. Recreation Officer Johnny Martin said "it sounds like there's some good brains behind it" but wanted to stress "the club itself won't be making investments".

The OUSA referendum dates were discussed. Questions can be submitted between 11 and 14 May. Voting will be between 25 and 28 May by electronic means only.

Finally, Ramritu and Postgraduate Officer Chris Martin will be looking into what OUSA can do to reduce plastic bags due to increased discussion on the topic in the media. Hunt said: "It's important [any action] is about getting people to voluntarily make decisions, not force them into anything."

Hermitude to Headline Re-Ori

» DUO "STOKED" TO BE BACK

USA has announced Hermitude as the headliners for this year's Re-Orientation week. The Australian duo, who played at Orientation Week 2014, will be supported by New Zealand hip-hop/R&B artist, Young Tapz. The pair will play on Thursday 9 July at the Union Hall.

Hermitude member Luke Dubs said the duo "are stoked to be bringing [their] show and new album to New Zealand and back to Dunedin".

"Last time we played at Orientation, we were blown away by the crowd and the reception and we can't wait to party with Dunedin students again," said Dubs in a press release.

Hermitude are touring New Zealand in support of their fifth album Dark Night Sweet Light, with dates also scheduled in Wellington on 10 July and Auckland on 11 July. Tickets are available from 5 May through TicketDirect at \$30 for students and \$40 for the general public.

BY OLIVER GASKELL /

OUSA Communications Manager Tess Trotter said that they are "excited to be bringing Hermitude back to Dunedin ... [They] are a quality act who have a proven high-quality live performance that incorporates a stunning AV (audio-visual) show."

Trotter also said OUSA has many other events planned, with a highlight being the return of "the incredibly popular International Food Festival". The event is set to host "a huge array of foods from across the globe as well as feature local Dunedin musicians".

Other events have yet to be announced; however, Trotter said that this year "welcomes back a return of concerts to [the] Union Hall" and that "the full programme will be announced in a couple of weeks".

Trotter said, "Re-Orientation is very much different in character to Orientation." There is also greater pressure due to it being set in the middle of winter. "There is far less opportunity



for large international and often national artists who are generally busy on the Northern Hemisphere summer-tour circuit."

However, she added: "Re-Ori provides a great opportunity to focus on providing events for a range of different student groups and demographics as well as showcasing the wide range of services OUSA has to offer."

Re-Orientation Week kicks off at the beginning of second semester on 6 July. •



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Six Years of Dunedin Fair Trade

» "FAIR TRADE CHOICES ARE POSSIBLE IN EVERYDAY LIFE"

BY BRIDIE BOYD /

NEWS

his year Dunedin is celebrating its sixth year of being a fair trade city. In celebration, the annual Fair Trade Fortnight is running from 8–22 May.

Sze-En Lau, Coordinator of the University Volunteer Centre said the Fair Trade Fortnight is "a great way to highlight all the different ways in which fair trade choices are possible in everyday life".

"It extends beyond food, to things like handicrafts and fashion. Fashion revolution is one we are highlighting this year, which encourages people look at who made your clothes, which we hope will inspire students to make fair trade fashion choices," said Lau.

The festival aims to raise awareness of fair trade and involves events all over the city, including at the University of Otago and Otago Polytechnic. The theme for 2015 is based on the Great Kiwi Fairness Debate; you can take a quiz on the topic at http://befair.fairtrade.org.nz/. On 8 May a Fair Trade Breakfast will be held at the Otago Polytechnic. Daniel Kinne, a visiting fair trade coffee farmer and a member of the Highland Organic Agricultural Cooperative, will be speaking at the breakfast. Kinne, who works in Papua New Guinea, will share with the wider community how fair trade has affected him and his community.

Kinne will also be appearing at the university as part of the Fair Trade Lunchtime Talk on 13 May. Kinne will address how students and staff can get involved in the fair trade movement. The talk will also feature a look at fair trade fashion, specifically giving guests the ability to see where their clothes come from and how they are made.

The University of Otago was New Zealand's first fair trade university, gaining the status in October 2013. The Otago Polytechnic also recently became a fair trade institution.



Transport Upgrades Won't Change Prices

» BUS HUB AND CYCLE LANES FOR DUNEDIN

he Otago Regional Council has met to discuss a transport plan for Otago and Southland, detailing the transport priorities from 2015 to 2021. For Dunedin, the plans include the building of a new central bus hub and protected cycling lanes along State Highway 1.

The areas of focus for Dunedin, said Chairman of the Otago Land Transport Committee Trevor Kempton, are the roading network itself and public transport.

"For the roading network, we are looking at the various modes of transport," said Kempton. This is based on the belief that, over time, cycling will become more popular as a means of transport. He says "there is always a question of safety for cyclists in heavily trafficked areas, like State Highway 1".

It is hoped that the central city bus hub will be located on Great King Street between St. Andrew Street and Moray Place. Other features will include the introduction of integrated ticketing, as well as "super stops".

At this stage, Kempton is unsure of the form of the bus hub: "whether it will just be a well-serviced set of stops ... or an off-road location has not been decided yet". Kempton said the hub is estimated to be complete in the next six years.

The developments are set to cost approximately \$3.9 million, with a recommended \$500,000 contribution from the Dunedin City Council.

While the protected cycling lane is likely to affect Dunedin students using bicycles to commute, the improvement of bus services could mean they also become a lot more student friendly.

"There will be easier ticketing. The new routes will be more direct, and there will be less going around suburban streets," said Kempton. BY AMBER ALLOTT /

The number of services going through the university area is unlikely to change, nor is the status of the current student discount.

University of Otago students, Bella Smith and Emily Chang, said they use the Dunedin bus service regularly and believe the proposed changes "will make Dunedin more like Christchurch". Smith and Chang said the upgrades would make their journeys "more efficient".

Other plans for the Otago region include a heavier focus on cycling, with Portobello Road being widened and continuing the construction of the State Highway 88 cycleway to Port Chalmers. A two-lane bridge is to be built at Kawarau Falls, downstream of the existing bridge but with improved alignment. Other areas of focus include plans to reduce road closures due to flooding and to reduce tourist-driver accidents.

10 Years of Student Shenanigans

» CHANGES SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF CODE OF CONDUCT AND CAMPUS WATCH

BY JOE HIGHAM

ach year the University of Otago conducts an Annual Discipline Report, which outlines student behaviour and its consequences over the past academic year. In 2014 numbers were significantly lower than they have been in past years. Critic compares the reports dating back to 2006, the year when the Code of Conduct was introduced.

2005-2007

NEWS

For the University of Otago, 2006 was a significant year in terms of disciplinary measures. The academic year of 2005 saw a 50 percent increase in student-lit fires; this further increased by 70 percent in 2006.

To curb the growing statistics, the university passed the Code of Conduct regulations in 2006. The regulations allow the university to punish students for certain types of behaviour committed on and off campus. The code is a set of rules that "prohibit disruptive, threatening, violent, deceptive and otherwise unlawful behaviour". If the rules are broken, the university can take disciplinary measures ranging from fines to expulsion.

At the time, OUSA publicly opposed the new regulations. OUSA president at the time, Paul Chong, said OUSA "opposes the way that this has been handled by the university". "Student opinion has been ignored, the legal status of this documentation is questionable, and the university has chosen to ignore that as well by voting on it today," said Chong.

Director of Student Services Karyn Thomson said the code "has been extremely effective. We have seen an overall improvement in student behaviour since it was introduced — so these guidelines and measures are working."

From 2005 to 2006 the number of offenders increased from 124 to 222, though this could be attributed to the Code of Conduct being introduced. Offences may not have changed, but the recognition and punishment for certain offences have.

The following year, to ensure students abided by the newly introduced code, Campus Watch was introduced. Campus Watch meant security on campus was dealt with by the proctor as opposed to police. The University of Otago is the only university in the country with such a service.

Thomson said Campus Watch has been "incredibly successful at providing a level of pastoral care to students that is unmatched elsewhere in New Zealand".

"The chance of students coming to harm is greatly reduced by their knowledgeable and helpful presence on campus, and we wouldn't be without them. There have been a number of occasions where Campus Watch staff have been available before emergency services can attend, or where they have identified suspicious behaviour and proactively prevented crime," said Thomson.

2008-2009

In the two years after the Code of Conduct and Campus Watch were introduced, instances of fires reduced from 321 in 2006 to 140 in 2008. The proctor's 2008 Annual Report to the University Council said there was a "marked improvement on the previous year reflecting the positive impact of Campus Watch with two years experience behind it".

In 2009 the annual Toga Party was held as a parade on George Street. In his annual report, the proctor said the party "descended into chaos ... Marching students were attacked with eggs, fruit and other material, which caused a large amount of debris and litter on the street and some damage to shop windows and cars."

Students caught throwing objects were forced to pay compensation, and \$1500 was given to the mayor for the damage to public property. In addition, \$2000 was paid to owners of damaged vehicles.

There were 147 visits to the proctor for disorder



in 2009, a massive jump from less than 80 the previous year. The Annual Discipline Report said the rise was "due almost wholly to the Toga Parade and the Undie 500 incidents".

2009 also saw a steady increase in incidents of students of students breaking glass. Incidents nearly doubled from 76 in 2008 to 141 in 2009. These students were caught and paid a fine for breaking the Code of Conduct. Since 2009, incidents of breaking glass have been decreasing annually. In 2014 only 57 incidents of willfully breaking glass were dealt with by the proctor, a decrease of almost 60 percent within five years.

Student behaviour was put under the microscope by local media in July 2009 when the Cook-a-Thon was held. The proctor wrote that the university was "inundated with the fallout both before and after the event with numerous heavily intoxicated students coming to grief one way or another".

This event provided reason for many people to oppose the renewal of the Cook's liquor licence; the proctor was one of those who spoke against the renewal in court. Judge Bill Unwin decided to allow a renewal but did mention that any similar events would put the tavern's licence at serious risk and negotiated an end to any future Cook-a-Thons.

2010-2011

From 2009 to 2010 instances of disorder and the total number of offenders seen by the proctor — decreased heavily. From a total of 463 students in 2009, 343 students were seen by the proctor in 2010; the offences of 15 were deemed serious enough for them to be sent to the provost and a more serious penalty recommended.

In June 2010 the university purchased the Gardens Tavern (Gardies), which is now the Marsh Study Centre, for a reported fee of \$1.75 million. The 2010 annual report said the closure caused a "very noticeable difference to the night-time behaviour and volume of foot traffic in the Castle Street area".

In 2011 the proctor dealt with 533 students, a 51 percent increase from the 352 in 2010. The annual report for 2011 said the increases "related to complaints about students living in flats in the North Dunedin area. This affects the numbers of students seen because one complaint about a flat often meant that the proctor would speak to several 'offenders' about the one incident."

In the same year, offences of theft and purposely lit fires nearly doubled the 2010 total. There were 88 willfully set fires and 14 incidents of theft.

2012-2013

In 2012 there were 246 willfully set fires; this decreased to 188 in 2013. The number of students willfully breaking glass also dropped from 75 in 2012 to 45 in 2013. However, the number of offenders seen increased from 512 in 2012 to 530 in 2013.

In 2013 the Captain Cook Tavern was officially closed due to a severe reduction in revenue.

James Arnott, one of the owners of the bar, told Critic at the time of closure that there had been a "massive change in student culture". He said students seemed to be drinking less, and when they did drink, it was generally in their flats.

In 2013 the University of Otago also increased the fines that could be imposed for students breaking the Code of Conduct. Fines totalling \$12,465 were paid that year.

2014

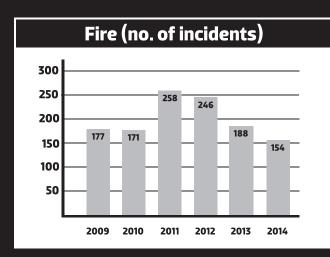
A total of \$23,587 in fines was paid in 2014, compared to the \$12,465 before the maximum fine was raised. This was an 89.23 percent increase.

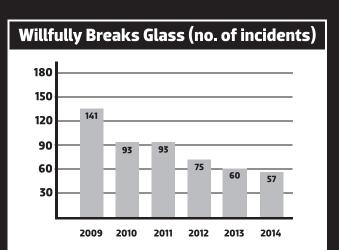
The number of offenders also reduced last year from 530 to 482. Instances of fires also continued to fall, with an 18 percent drop in fire-related incidents from 2013 and 2014.

Although the 2015 academic year is still in progress, Thomson said that "despite some media reports", the year's events have kicked off well.

"There were fewer problems at the Hyde Street Party this year than previous years, and most of more than 3000 people at this event did not cause trouble and generally enjoyed the event. Only six students were directed to the proctor's office as a result of incidents at Hyde Street."

"Overall," said Thomson, "behaviour this year had been good — with the number of street fires appearing to be down." **O**





James Shaw Interview

» BY POLITICS EDITOR **HENRY NAPIER**

G reens MP James Shaw is currently travelling New Zealand in his bid for the Green Party co-leadership following the resignation of Russel Norman earlier this year. He has a different perspective on politics than would be expected of a typical Greens MP. Last week, Critic sat down with Shaw to see what his plans for the future of the Green party are.

CRITIC: What changes will the Green Party undergo if you become co-leader?

SHAW: It's not like National or Labour where one person in the top job can significantly change the direction of the party. So when I say "these are the changes that I'm proposing", I would still have to get them past Metiria, the caucus and the rest of the party. So it's structurally built in that one person can't radically overhaul the party. Having said that, my main focus is to take the 28 percent of voters that considered voting Green last year and didn't and remove all of the barriers that are currently stopping them voting Green. I don't think it's realistic to say we'll get all of those people to vote for us, but the thing that was the big "but" for them was still - even after all the work that Russel [Norman] and others have done - our economic credibility, our ability to run the government and leadership. I'm making an appeal that we share their values and that we're also competent and capable.

CRITIC: When did it become apparent that the Green Party suited your views and ideologies?

SHAW: In 1990 when I was 16. I was sitting in the Wellington High School library in my last year of high school, and 1990 was an election

year. There was a debate between a Labour, National and Green candidate. The National and Labour candidates just completely turned me off; they were talking about stuff that I didn't think was relevant and they were kind of bickering, that Punch and Judy style of politics. Whereas the Green Party candidate talked about big issues, like "how do we live on the planet" and also the idea that we could actually change the political system so it actually produced better results. I went up to [the Greens] at the end of the debate and said, "How can I help?"

CRITIC: Is the environment still the focus of the Green Party?

SHAW: We don't see the environment and society and economics as distinguishable. I think the criticism in the 90s that we were just an environmental party was probably fair, and what we've done since is broaden the focus. I think we always said those three things were interconnected, but our focus was always on environmental issues. What we're trying now is to say, well, all these things are interconnected.

CRITIC: What, for you, is the most important issue that needs a legislative response?

SHAW: In my maiden speech I talked about extending legal rights to ecological features, so that they have defence. To me that is a very broad, modern environmental law that I think could make a lot of the problems we face a lot simpler to deal with and actually achieve the outcomes that we want.

Examples of that are the Whanganui River and the Urewera mountains actually have personhood. So the Whanganui River, for example, has the right not to be polluted, and obviously it can't take a court case, but locals can on its behalf. So if you set up a factory on the edge of a river, your legal department has to work out the risk that it's going to be facing a suit. To me that would completely transform environmental law and compliance, etc.

At the moment there is a raft of environmental laws, foremost [among] which is the Resource Management Act. The problem with the Resource Management Act is it's twice as long as it was when it was written, it's been messed around with, it's got internal contradictions and exclusions and things like that. So, if you think about it, in the time the RMA has been in place, 61 percent of our rivers have become so polluted that you can't swim in them without the risk of getting a disease. So it's clearly not achieving its objectives, but if you didn't have the RMA you could argue that it would be 100 percent of our rivers and it would be a whole lot worse, so it might have slowed down the rate but it's not working.

CRITIC: There was an assumption last election that a Labour-Green coalition was fait accompli. Is that still a reality now, following the change in leadership in both parties?

SHAW: We didn't have a coalition in waiting. That was the big problem last year.

"Obviously we've been having an exchange with National at the moment; if you're going to send troops over to Iraq to deal with ISIL who are doing public beheadings and then you're doing a free trade deal with Saudi Arabia who are also doing public beheadings, honestly what's the difference?"



We did not present a clear alternative to the electorate. Going into 2017, what we need to do is present to voters a credible alternative government, and say, "This is the team that is going to be running the country if you vote for us."

CRITIC: How does your background in the private sector factor into your perspective as an MP?

SHAW: Well, it's significant. I've worked in about 30 countries around the world, with a whole raft of organisations. It taught me a lot about what it takes to create change in incomplete systems. It taught me a lot about the nature of the global economy. It taught me a great deal about where there's some amazing things going on in the field of sustainable business around the world, and I think that presents an opportunity that New Zealand's currently missing out on and actually that was a big part of my motivation to come back home and get into politics.

CRITIC: Is human rights something you consider important when forming trade agreements?

SHAW: Yeah it is. It is significant. It's funny, we're actually having a conversation about this at the moment and it's "how do you engage with a trade partner that you think has got a really dodgy record on human rights?" Obviously we've been having an exchange with National at the moment; if you're going to send troops over to Iraq to deal with ISIL who are doing public beheadings and then you're doing a free trade deal with Saudi Arabia who are also doing public beheadings, honestly what's the difference? So I think some kind of intellectual honesty in what our policies are wouldn't go astray.

One of the things I'm really keen to do

is develop a model trade agreement. So, the Greens have been criticising a lot of trade agreements over time on the basis that they didn't take account of the environment or human rights or labour rights or so on. What I would like to do is for us to develop a model trade agreement that included clauses about those kind of concerns, so if we're negotiating with China or Saudi Arabia or whoever, we could say these are some safeguards that we want built in to any kind of treaty.

CRITIC: How do you account for National's unprecedented support, despite negative press? **SHAW:** National is the best political operators that this country has ever seen. They have got the best that money can buy and they have a lot of money. I mean a lot. You know, Helen Clark has one press secretary in her office; John Key has five. They are absolutely masters of the communications game.

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N ational's treatment of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) will eventually hurt the party. The TPPA is a multilateral investment agreement between twelve states. In short, this means a bunch of countries get together and make up some rules that they'll all abide by and, in turn, make a lot of money.

Such agreements are generally a good thing. They are hugely beneficial to our economy, and they often lead to better relations with the countries in question.

Yet the TPPA has had a few issues. Notably,

the fact that no one knows what it is and what exactly the rules being proposed are. All the public knows is the information that came to light through leaked documents. However, the extent of what was leaked is troubling.

Dr Josh Freeman, a clinical microbiologist, recently made a YouTube video condemning the TPPA. Specifically, he condemned the clauses that in effect will increase the price of pharmaceuticals in New Zealand.

National hasn't released any details, and rightfully so. They're still secret. However, standing up in the house and saying "we want to grow our exports, let's sign up to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, we're in ... are you?", as the prime minister did last week, invites scepticism. When reasonable and prudent people are standing up and saying the TPPA could be a bad thing, it's time to either keep your mouth shut or present the full picture. National isn't doing either.

Ironically, this resembles an arrogant government in its third term, which is exactly what Key cautioned against in his victory speech as having the greatest potential to harm the party.

News in Briefs

BY MAGNUS WHYTE



world watch

UNITED KINGDOM

An anonymous artist, "Wanksy", has been spray-painting phallic shapes around his town's potholes in an effort to draw attention to them to be fixed. He said the situation has "got really bad recently" and he has cyclist friends who have been injured by the potholes. According to the artist, his "art" has been working.

COLOMBIA

A Colombian journalist could face charges after sending death threats to himself so he did not lose his state protection. In September 2014 he went to the press with a flyer listing his name and seven other journalists (supposedly signed by a drug gang). Protection for the eight has reportedly cost the government US\$47,000.

MUMBAI, INDIA

An alleged thief who swallowed a gold necklace is being fed bananas and special liquids in the hope that he will expel it in his excreta. He was put on the special diet after x-rays revealed the necklace lodged in his food pipe. The thief snatched the necklace from a woman as she was walking home.

POPPA'S PIZZA

ince 1975

GREECE

A Greek court has convicted a dead man of stealing electricity and sentenced him to a six-month suspended jail sentence. The man's defence lawyer told the court that his client was deceased, and asked to defer the trial until he could deliver a death certificate. The court refused, and convicted his client in absentia.

5 FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

An elderly man has been arrested after he grabbed his neighbour's neck during an argument over the fact that his doorbell rang whenever hers did. The man allegedly came to the woman's door and yelled at her about their doorbells being on the same frequency. He was arrested on a charge of battery against a person over 65 years old.

FRANCE

Big Poppa brings you

A top French civil servant has resigned after spending more than €40,000 on taxis in 10 months. Agnes Saal, who has a chauffeur as well as a private car, said she needed taxis because she could not expect her chauffeur to work the same hours as she did. €6,700 of the bill was her son's use, which she has paid back.

⁵⁰ LUNCH PIZZA

7 ICELAND

An artist who turned an Icelandic geyser bright pink has defended his work after coming under criticism. Marco Evaristti was given a US\$740 penalty for dyeing the famous Strokkur geyser using food colouring. The artist is currently refusing to pay the fine, saying that it was harmless and that people's criticism shows their "concern, care and love for nature".

8 SHANGHAI, CHINA

A Shanghai newspaper editorial has criticised its citizens for stealing public toilet paper. Shanghai authorities ran a free toilet paper service for the city's public lavatories, where they discovered that users consumed an average of 1.6 metres of toilet paper per visit.

9 NORTH DAKOTA, UNITED STATES

A North Dakota state legislator who voted against a gay rights bill has been caught sending pictures on Grindr. Randy Boehnin, a Republican state representative and a staunch conservative, has twice voted against expanding legal protection for gays. The politician has since admitted he is gay and said he was relieved not to keep secrets anymore.



Grapevine

"The aim of this operation is to make available to a growing number of patients a medical product which isn't always readily available on the market, at a much better price for the user."



Colonel Antonio Medica, from the Italian army, has unveiled its first cannabis farm, which was set up in an effort to lower the cost of medical marijuana in the country. The farm expects to produce 100kg of marijuana annually, and also houses drying and packing facilities. Italian doctors can legally prescribe marijuana for medical conditions,

but the cost is not covered by the state, making it often prohibitively expensive for the patients who want to buy it legally at pharmacies.

"As church leaders we need to look after everyone in the parish, and their spiritual wellbeing. The first commandment is that we must honour God and have no other God before us, and having come from Taoism, tai chi is promoting another God."

John Willis — Central Southland Presbyterian Parish Council's Clerk. A church in Southland has told a group of elderly people that they can no longer practice tai chi because it conflicts other worshippers' "spiritual wellbeing". Twenty women had been using the church's hall to practice the martial art for years, but the church has put an end to the practice because it supposedly does not fit with the church's values. The women have now moved their exercise to another hall, reportedly saying their tai chi had no religious significance but was merely an exercise group for older ladies with arthritis.

"So far our appeal to provide an abortion for the girl has not been responded to. The legal structure that Paraguay has nowadays to respond to women and girls' rights — to sexually selective rights — is far behind the obligations of the state as they relate to international human rights law."



Prosecutor Monalisa Muñoz. A 10-year-old girl who was raped by her step-father in Paraguay and is now five months pregnant has been denied an abortion that could potentially save her life. Abortion is not permitted in the country even in instances of rape, incest or malformation of the foetus. Girls in Latin America under the age of 16

are four times more likely to die during childbirth than young women in their twenties, according to a report by the World Health Organisation.

"The Bud Light Up for Whatever campaign, now in its second year, has inspired millions of consumers to engage with our brand in a positive and light-hearted way. In this spirit, we created more than 140 different scroll messages intended to encourage spontaneous fun. It's clear that this message missed the mark, and we regret it. We would never condone disrespectful or irresponsible behaviour."

Vice-President Bud-Light, Anheuser-Busch. Bud-Light has been in the spotlight for a tagline on its beer that suggested the drink was the "perfect beer for removing 'no' from your vocabulary for the night". This is the second time in as many months that Bud-Light has had to apologise over its "up for whatever campaign". In March the company tweeted that it was okay to go around pinching strangers on St Patrick's Day if you were "up for whatever".



"It's just weird if I'm honest, there are so many things I can't do. If I'm at the hospital for hours, for example, I can't buy any food from the machine."



A British man, **Russel Stansfield**, caught stealing coins from a parking meter was banned from using vending machines or any other coin-operated devices until 2020. The only exceptions to the order allow Stansfield to use a pay phone to call emergency services and a Metrolink machine to purchase travel tickets.



Termites

eat through wood twice as fast when listening to rock music.

Children

grow faster in the spring.

20 million tons

weight of average iceberg

Karaoke

means "empty orchestra" in Japanese.

15 times

the average number of times a person laughs a day

Dunedin Railway Station

is the most photographed building in New Zealand.

<u>1 in 7</u>

of all minutes spent on the internet are spent on Facebook.

25,000 bicycles

end up in Amsterdam's canals each year.

Battle for the Black Jersey Begins

BY SPORTS EDITOR DANIEL LORMANS

R ound 12 of Super Rugby provided two important games, with the Highlanders running in seven tries against the Sharks and the Hurricanes winning a close game against the Crusaders that wasn't settled until deep into extra time. What stood out in both these games were the performances of the prospective All Blacks firstfives, which would have both pleased the ABs coaches and given them a selection headache.

SPORT

We know that Aaron Cruden has definitely been ruled out until next year with his knee injury and Dan Carter appears to be an automatic choice. Playing at centre and not kicking goals is a strange way to prepare for the World Cup and, as we pointed out in last week's issue, his inclusion appears to be based on reputation rather than performance, although he did look better against the Hurricanes. This effectively leaves two spots up for grabs and three leading contenders: Beauden Barrett, Colin Slade and Lima Sopoaga.

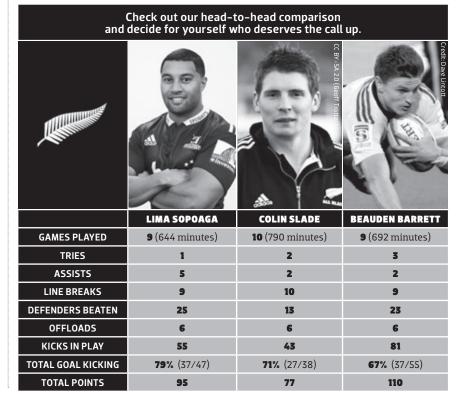
Barrett has always been an exciting player. He is probably the quickest of the three and always looks likely to create something when he has the ball in hand. His goal kicking has let him down a little bit so far this season; he has recorded the lowest accuracy percentages compared to Slade and Sopoaga. With 28 All Blacks caps already, Barrett looks to have been identified as Dan Carter's long-term replacement so he seems likely to be another automatic pick. This effectively means the real fight will be between Sopoaga and Slade to decide who gets a plane ticket to England and who gets to wait by the phone just in case the first-five injury crisis of 2011 returns later this year.

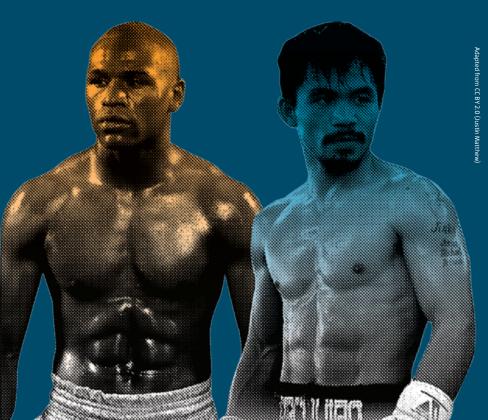
A man-of-the-match performance by Lima Sopoaga in the Highlanders' big win over the Sharks showed why an increasing number of respected pundits and people like me on Twitter are saying that he deserves an All Blacks call up. His goal kicking has improved over his four years with the Highlanders and he has been more reliable than Barrett or Slade this season. His general kicking game is effective as he keeps a flat attacking line rather than

dropping back into the pocket. Coupled with the guick and accurate ball provided by Aaron Smith, this brings greater territory gains and allows a more effective chase from his teammates. The relationship with the undisputed All Blacks halfback would also be a valuable asset to bring to the World Cup. He is dynamic in attack with his pin-point accurate chip setting up Waisake Naholo for a contender for the best try of the season before his around the corner offload led to Patrick Osborne's try on the other wing. It's not all good though as he has picked up more yellow cards and has conceded the most turnovers while in possession, but his try assist stats suggest a level of creativity and execution that is arguably better than the other two.

In their last game against the Hurricanes, Slade was one of the best players on the park, proving how effective he can be in attack as he made a number of cutting line breaks assisting a try for Carter before scoring one himself. Slade has always appeared a bit lightweight, and his extensive injury history suggests he is rather fragile. However, at 27, he is a few years older than Barrett and Sopoaga and may have grown out of his injury proneness. Since his move back to the Crusaders he appears to have bulked up a bit and has been injury free so far this season, which is a good sign for the future. It wasn't all perfect for Slade, though, as an errant pass led directly to Barrett showing his pace to score against the run of play, and he showed that he still struggles to consistently land penalty kicks from the 40+ metre range - something that becomes crucial in the knockout stages of a World Cup. An added dimension in this selection battle is Slade's decision to head overseas next year, a decision that reportedly aggravates ABs coach, Steve Hansen. This may be the defining factor that tips the scales in favour of Sopoaga.

At the end of the day, the statistics do not lie and there is very little separating Barrett, Sopoaga and Slade. A positive case can be made for each player, and for most people it will come down to what team they support. Hopefully the All Black selectors won't allow any club bias to affect their decision and will make the best decision for the whole squad.





Mayweather vs. Pacquiao Fails to Deliver

ne of the richest and most talked about sports events ever failed to live up to the hype as Floyd Mayweather bobbed and weaved his way to a points decision victory over Manny Pacquiao in his home turf of Las Vegas. "Money" Mayweather played the swagged-up villain while the "Pacman" was cast as the understated champion of the people. Unfortunately the fight happened about five years too late, but they still earned tens of thousands of dollars for every second they were in the ring — not a bad wage for an illiterate thug and a poor kid from the Philippines. Here is what people with more Twitter followers than us had to say about it.



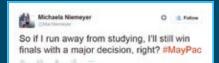


showed up... But Pac and a plan B never showed up. You have to be able to make adjustments! #MayPac

Better to show up with no plan B than show up with Bieber ...



We have to go back, Marty!!!



For us in the real world it doesn't work like this ...



Lest we forget the real champ ...

England Looks to Regroup after World Cup BY DAMIAN GEORGE

till trying to repair the damage caused by its poor performance at the Cricket World Cup, England will head into this month's test series against New Zealand on the back of a five-wicket loss to the West Indies in Barbados.

James Anderson took six wickets in the West Indies' first innings, but a limp batting display from England enabled the hosts to come from behind and level the three-test series 1–1. Jermaine Blackwood (47 not out) and Darren Bravo (82) steered the Windies to their victory target of 192 on just the third day. It completed a top match double for Blackwood after he made 85 in the first innings in a low-scoring affair.

The match was significant for England captain Alastair Cook, who made his first test hundred in nearly two years. The struggling opener followed up back-to-back 50s in the second test by scoring 105 in England's first innings of 257. The West Indies responded with 189 before England folded in its second innings to be rolled for 123. Jerome Taylor, a standout in the recent World Cup, took three wickets in each innings for the West Indies.

Anderson will now have the chance to bring up 400 test wickets in the first test against the Black Caps; the England swing bowler is sitting on 397 wickets and would become just the 12th bowler to reach the 400 mark in tests. The series starts on 21 May at Lord's Cricket Ground in London.

Fetish Ball

INTERVIEW WITH THE ORGANISER, RICHARD BARKER

BY LAURA MUNRO

hen I first talked to the Fetish Ball organiser, Richard Barker, I asked him to describe what exactly a fetish was. He laughed and said, "I would prefer you to go to Google for that." I took to Urban Dictionary.

A fetish is "a sexual fixation or obsession with a usually non-sexual object. Eg. socks, horses, monkeys, pain, bondage ... 'Holy shit, those socks really get me turned on because of this sock fetish of mine. 'Rubs socks on body'' "

Barker said that in regards to the Fetish Ball, a fetish is "that which is not normal and is of interest, but not necessarily sexual interest." Before I interviewed Barker, I attempted to do some research by googling "Fetish Balls"; every site was either blocked by the university proxy or was a Q&A forum about having a fetish for balls. I was going into this blind.

WOULD YOU SAY HAVING A FETISH IS BE-COMING MORE ACCEPTABLE, OR IS IT STILL HARD TO TALK ABOUT?

I think it's still extremely hard for people to talk about. Sometimes they fear, and it's a very real fear, rejection from their friends, neighbours, employers or religious colleagues. For me it's not hard to talk about because I am what I am, and I'm really proud of the suspension and associated stuff that I do.

IS THAT ONE OF THE REASONS YOU HAVE THE BALL?

Yes. The ball is definitely a place to introduce the public and the vanilla, which is the normal people in society, to some of the fetishes that are really available, and show them that they're not such a horrific thing. It gives them a chance to explore some of the alternative things that are happening in today's society in a safe environment. Plus it's a chance for them to meet like-minded people.

WHAT DO FETISHES AT YOUR EVENTS GENERALLY RANGE FROM?

What the demonstrations include are impact play, electro play, hopefully some wax play and various forms of suspension. That's the type of thing that you can demonstrate safely in public without too much danger. There's a group upstairs, they represent a number of clubs in the Dunedin and Invercargill area. They'll be happy to talk to people about their individual fetishes — examples may be cross-dressing or foot fetishes. The people there are skilled to talk about them and to introduce them to the right people.

I've heard criticisms that the promotion of fetishes such as BDSM create an increase in domestic abuse — what would you say to that? No. There's a saying in BDSM; safe, sane, consensual. If you just get some idiot that goes out there and goes "I'm a dom" and beats the hell out of you, then he's not a dom, he's just an idiot. He hasn't done something safe, he hasn't done it sanely, and you should not be giving consent. If you're going to play, make sure you trust the person, and if it's your first time, make sure you've got someone else there who can assist you, who can make you safe. Also, have a safe word.

WOULD YOU SAY FILMS SUCH AS FIFTY SHADES OF GREY HAVE SPARKED MORE PUB-LIC INTEREST IN THE TOPIC OF FETISHES?

Definitely, but (laughs) I'd also say that Fifty Shades of Grey is an abomination, and a boring one at that. If you take Fifty Shades of Grey, people go out there and think they're going to connect with a millionaire who has a particular lifestyle, who is safe and relatively sane, relatively, and that you're going to get away with doing things. It's not like that, life is life, people are people, Fifty Shades of Grey is just horrible.

HAVE YOU SEEN FIFTY SHADES OF GREY?

(Laughs) Most of it, various sections. It's definitely brought a lot of interest in BDSM but for all the wrong reasons.

SO WHAT IS THIS YEAR'S FETISH BALL GOING TO CONTAIN?

This year's Fetish Ball is going to open with a dancer coming through a fog, which we're going to create on stage. It's going to have a number of burlesque acts, one of which is a take off on Fifty Shades of Grey, strangely enough. It's going to have shibari suspension, which is a rope suspension. It's also going to have a number of flesh-hook suspensions, including a crucifixion-style suspension.

YOU TOLD US LAST YEAR THE MOST EXTREME ACT WAS THE HOOK SUSPENSIONS - HOW DO PEOPLE ACTUALLY ENTER INTO THAT PROFESSION?



Well, there isn't enough of it going on in New Zealand to be a sole career, so it's sort of a hobby. How did I enter into it? When I was very young, I went and saw a movie called A Man Named Horse, and a group of us got together and thought "we can do that", and we did it. But, then, I'm nearly 60; today there are various groups that they can contact and can learn how to do flesh-hook suspensions safely. For example, **skinpuppets.co.nz**.

YOU SAID YOU WERE YOUNGER WHEN YOU REALISED YOU HAD A FETISH. DID YOU FIND IT HARD TO GET INTO THAT PROFESSION? WAS THERE A FEAR OF WHAT YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT?

Well, I never actually got into it as a profession, we just did it as a hobby. The group I was mixing with was all insane (laughs), so, no, we didn't have any problems at all, we just thought it was a marvellous idea. So for our group it's never a problem, but then I've always been an extrovert in telling people what I do. I'm an importer; a large number of my clients know what I do because they see something such as my suspension gear, which is normally my frames and block and tackle. They'll go "oh, do you do climbing?" and I'll go "no" and I explain to them.

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO WEAR FOR THIS YEAR'S FETISH BALL?

I generally go along as a cowboy. I got tired of wearing leather costumes and spikes; I've discovered I quite like going along as an American cowboy (laughs). The spikes don't get in the way now when I'm doing flesh-hook suspension. Secondly, it's something different. My girlfriend is dressing as the Maleficent character from the movie. This is an adult dress-up party; you can come along as anything you like so long as you MILLI S make an effort.

IS THAT A FETISH OF YOURS?

Fetish suggests that it's a sexual interest (laughs). I'm not interested in sexually assaulting cowboys. But, yeah, I like wearing cowboy boots, I like wearing the 1930s gambler outfits, I like cowboy hats. I don't think fetish is the correct word, but, yes, it's my favourite dress up. **O**

THE DUNEDIN FETISH BALL 2015 16TH MAY 2015

@ SAMMYS
65 CRAWFORD ST
9.30 TILL LATE ~ DOORS CLOSE AT 10.30
R18 R.O.A.R. NO COSTUME ~ NO ADMITTANCE

Burlesque, Hook suspensions, Shibari, Fire, Explosions, Tastings, DJ's and unusual Things that go Bump in the Dark

2 FLOORS OF ALTERNATIVE FETISH FUN AND MEYHEM Costumes and Sensationalism – an adult Party for all

FACEBOOK:

THE DUNEDIN FETISH BALL (GROUP) TICKETS FROM COSMIC OR WWW.COSMICTICKETING.CO.NZ DOOR SALES AVAILABLE IF ANY TICKETS LEFT

GOT YOUR TICKET YET?



CAMPUS WATCH CONFESSIONS

by Olivia Collier

Donning a puffer jacket, grasping a thermos of hot chocolate for dear life and looking disconcertingly like a burnt marshmallow on legs, Olivia Collier set out on one of the coldest nights this week to search high and low for the best stories pertaining to our very own guardians of the night: Campus Watch.

respect Campus Watch, I really do. I tried to hold a conversation with a drunk girl once while I was sober. It was the most excruciating chat I have had with anyone, ever. There's only so many times you can reassure a person that the Justin/Selena split was for the best. Having been the drunk girl in this situation many a time, I know just how shit the chat can get. This is what makes the superhuman patience and restraint shown by patrollers so incredible. I kid you not, I've once yarned to one of these upstanding patrollers for a solid half hour on the merits of Matt Smith vs. David Tennant in one of the most in-depth discussions I've ever had about Doctor Who with someone who'd never seen the show. Not once in this half-hour-long saga was there a smirk or snarky comment. Nay, they treated every slurred word I spoke like it was the teachings of Socrates, and I thank them for that.

In addition to their superb chat (and many other services offered), Campus Watch also operate the affectionately nicknamed "Vomit Comet": a beacon of hope (disguised as a car) that picks up individuals who have far overestimated their ability to sink drinks like a true Scarfie bro and gives them a lift back to their flat. Apparently, I myself was treated to a ride in the safety patrol two weeks ago, which I have no recollection of whatsoever, but thanks heaps, guys.

From all the stories I collected over the night, one thing was made pretty clear — Campus Watch are the cat's pyjamas, so next time you see them, give them a smile and a wave (if you don't already), because Campus Watch are both the heroes we deserve and the ones we need.

9:15pm Stalking down the streets of North Dunedin, I looked for

the students who looked like the cool "in the know" kids who seem to be connected to every awesome story you come across. Unfortunately it became clear pretty early on in the night that I was very much not cool enough for them to be seen talking to. So here are the other stories that I scraped from the bottom of the barrel instead.

"My best friend and drinking buddy would always stop and chat to Campus Watch every time we went to town. Don't get me wrong, I like them and they're cool and all, but I mean, she would ALWAYS stop and chat. Even in, like, the middle of winter, in the rain and wind, and we're just wearing town dresses and thin jackets. One of the recurring things she'd always ask them is whether they were warm enough in their uniforms. They'd usually reassure her that everything was fleece-lined while I was freezing my fucking tits off."

9:30pm I see an approachable-looking lad outside a flat blasting the ever popular "Smoke Weed Everyday" remix by hip hop legends, Snoop (insert whatever animal name he's using now) and Dr Dre (who does not actually appear to hold a doctorate). To build a rapport, I introduce myself and ask him, "So how good is weed, right?" He is startled and looks like a deer about to take flight; I have to assure him that I'm not with the cops.

"I used to have this perpetually high American flatmate who got really paranoid whenever he smoked. So one time he saw a Campus Watch patrol and freaked out. We told him they were the campus police whose main job was to catch out druggies. He completely fell for it, so from that day on, whenever we came across Campus Watch, me and the flatties would stop for a really long chat, just to watch him sweat. This one time was the best though; he tried to boost it away when he saw one of the



cars slowing down near us, but he slammed face first into a pole, got a concussion and Campus Watch gave him a ride to the hospital."

10:22pm I lean against the red brick wall at the intersection of Dundas and Castle and light up a cigarette (purely to look more like an authentic journalist with hard-hitting questions). "So tell me" — the dude guzzling a SoGo down on the side of the street blinks up at me uncomprehendingly — "you got any stories for me about Campus Watch? I'm a reporter, you see." I gaze off into the middle distance and offer him a drag of my virgin cigarette. Sitting down to let him know that I'm not going anywhere, I see defeat in his My somewhat unwilling new friend is joined by two other friends, and I repeat the super-convincing ace-reporter act I gave to the first guy. Success.

"Most of them say hello to me even if it's obvious I'm hammered."

"I once told a Campus Watch officer that the best thing she could do for me was to cheer me on, since I was in a red card and losing miserably at a skulling challenge. The punishment for losing was way more alcohol than I could handle so I legit begged her to encourage me, and after a bit of apprehension she did. She got really into it (after much persuasion) and I ended up rallying for a second-place finish." "Earlier this year I had a massive spider in my room and out of six flatmates none of us were prepared to deal with it. So we were just doing the classic freak-out thing where we were screaming and just generally being terrified, when a Campus Watch officer pops his head through the window and asks if we need any help. This freaking boss of a man slides the spider into an empty wine glass and releases it back into nature like it ain't no thang. That's who I want to be when I grow up."

Walking down the street with my second unlit cigarette in my mouth, I make eye contact with a girl sitting on a doorstep and she gives me

"Most of them say hello to me even if it's obvious I'm hammered."

eyes as he takes another drag and tells me his tale.

"My flatmate got walked home by them one year — he showed up to the door with Campus Watch at about three in the morning covered in vomit and stinking like alcohol. Campus Watch told me that he saw my flatmate walking and could see that he'd had far too much to drink. The guy then gave us both a lecture about drinking too much and how it's an issue; all while my flatmate took it all in ashamed silence ... As it turns out, the vomit wasn't his, but was from a girl he was with earlier in the night. He had walked her home and she puked all over him."

11:20pm I start yarning to a friend I see chilling out on one of the lawns on Castle Street. We talk about the quality of the grass on this lawn and agree that it is good. She tells me some stories over a lukewarm can of SoGo while I'm sitting on the wet grass. The things I do for Critic.

"My old neighbour called Campus Watch one night and told them that she needed hugs. The next day her flat had two officers come by to check that 'the Irish girl who needed hugs' had been checked in on by her flatmates. They got chatting and they would stop by from time to time for a hot cup of tea. I think they're still friends on Facebook." a questioning look. I decide that honesty is the best policy, so I tell her I'm using it as a prop to look edgy. She tries to assure me that I look cool.

"I'd just gotten to town once and I met up with my friend who straightaway told me that she wanted to be 'the night'. I tried to get her to tell me what she meant by that, but all she would do is whisper quotes from Batman at me. She did do a really good impression though; Christian Bale would be proud. You know, if he wasn't such a dick. Anyway, so she decides that we're going to explore the back alleys of George Street. She had dragged me down a few alleys by the time we came across a Campus Watch quy. He was very concerned



for our safety since we were wandering through some dodgy places, and now my friend decides that she's not Batman anymore. She tells him we've only been back there for a minute, just while I was throwing up. So I'm staring daggers at her (I was not throwing up) and this lovely guy offers to get us a ride home in the Vomit Comet, since I'm apparently too drunk. The car pulls up and my friend spots some of her other mates. She gives me a hug, tucks me into the car and heads off back into town, while I get driven home almost sober after 20 minutes in town."

12:50am I am invited off the street to do a beer bong by some people I vaguely recognise from a party last weekend. I absolutely crush it.

"There have been countless times where we've had Campus Watch walk into the complex and hold up a beer bong for us. The ultimate GCs."

"I've always had pretty good experiences with Campus Watch, really. Except for this one time I had to be forcibly removed from the main library. I'm not proud of that. The dude that escorted me out was pretty chill though."

1:10am Walking down Leith Street later in the night, I come across two lads dragging a couple of road cones down the street. I stop for a chat and ask what their plan is for the cones. They look at me, stumped, and confess that they hadn't really thought things that far through.

"My worst interaction was probably when Campus Watch walked me home naked in the snow. Suddenly telling them that I was eye-browsed to do it didn't seem like such a legit excuse."

"Once I punched a window and got glass all through my hand. Now, I'm not one to give up on a night out until I am definitely 100% not able to go out. So I stuck my hand in a warm bowl of water and asked my flatmate to pull out the glass. We were doing this outside and a Campus Watch chick came up to us. She offered to hold my hand while he was doing it, and fuck being macho — I hung onto her hand for dear fucking life."

"This freaking boss of a man slides the spider into an empty wine glass and releases it back into nature like it ain't no thang. That's who I want to be when I grow up." Should you ever need to get hold of Campus Watch, either cause shit is going down, you need a ride home or you're just not getting enough hugs, their number is 0800 479 5000. An inside look at what it's like to be a part of the Capping Show, the process of getting into the production team and the build up to the grand performance.

You've just woken up, and you realise the world is in slow mo-tion," says the director.

All right, I'll play George Bush just doing his regular thing. That's pretty funny. But I guess that's been done before; maybe I should just make a character. Yeah, I'll play a farmer who thinks his molasses supplies have broken loose. And I'll call my wife Barb — yeah, that's a funny name. All right, go!

That was a take on one of the most nerve-wracking parts of the Capping Show audition process. There's some dancing involved, some pair work, but the improvisation is the best part (for those sitting on the sideline).

"You're a superhero whose arch-nemesis is the sun." Those are the instructions for the next student auditioning.

"You're a man trying to get people to join your cult."

You've got seconds to think of something funny, and you're in front of more than 30 other people your age who think they're funny too. You've got to be funnier. And you're sweaty. Much sweatier than usual.

The main script for the Capping Show is usually written by someone outside the show. The other half, with all the side gags and cutaways, is written by the cast and another group of writers. Fourteen people act, 10 people are writers (who help write the side gags), five people are backstage and shift the sets for each scene, there's your makeup artist, the costume designer, the set designer, the choreographer, the producers, the assistant producers, the directors, the audio technicians, the lighting peeps and the music group.

BY JACOB HOUSTON

The whole thing kicks off with writing. You show up for three hours every night, grab a few mates, and start writing up something funny. I'm not very funny. I wrote a few good sketches (some even got into the script), but I also wrote a lot of shit. I think I wrote a sketch about a giant elephant that shows up throughout different scenes and just tells stupid elephant facts, and the punchline right at the end of the show was that her name was "Irrelephant". It's a good thing there's a team there who make the cuts.

There's also a Capping Show writers' retreat. Sometime in the months



before the show, all the actors and writers go off to an undisclosed location for a night. You get shitfaced, you write a bunch of comedy and you play party games. We created a game that whenever the song "Hide and Seek" by Imogen Heap started playing, the lights were turned off and everyone had to run and hide. I don't know who was meant to start the search each time, but someone would.

For the parties, OUSA supplied us with a keg or two, a couple of boxes of wine and some non-alcoholic stuff. Most of the time someone would bring weed, and in my years it was usually the legal Thai High shit. But you're still theatre kids. So you rock out to "Bohemian Rhapsody", everyone gets drunk off three beers, and everyone is trying to get each other's attention and make each other laugh. There are often strange traditions at every party. At midnight, there is a weird eating challenge. I believe I once ate an entire can of raw baked beans but, even then, that pales in comparison to a guy who had to eat an entire orange (skin included). One of these parties was at my old flat on Howe Street, and there are probably still orange skin vomit remains behind the house. I've also got a video of some people eating a big raw potato and an entire banana — skin and all.

When I wrote and acted in the Capping Show, most people wrote good stuff, but there were a few that really stood out. A talented trio wrote a skit around Maui and the Son (not sun). At the writers' retreat we were blown away by some of the best amateur comedy we had ever heard, and then about five hours later, we were all showing off some of our writing.

The retreat provides a space for everyone to write, perform and develop their comedy skills together. Once the writing is done, we hand in all our manuscripts. The writers leave us. The directors pick the best sketches, pick who plays them, and we start rehearsing.

The schedule for rehearsals was very strict, taking up at least three hours every night. You don't miss a rehears– al. Typically it starts off with warmups, before you split into sketches and play around. Then you move onto harder rehearsals, in front of the directors, delivering your lines differently every time until you find something funny.

NO ONE EVER FORGETS THEIR FIRST LAUGH. IT'S INDESCRIBABLE.

You work with lighting, sound effects, costumes and makeup until things start to come together. Your uni assignment due date whizzes by, and you fail by default.

Then comes the big weekend. You're getting close to show time and the directors keep counting down the days. The weekend starts around 8am Saturday and doesn't stop until 11pm that night. You're there early on Sunday and stay until 11pm that night.

Then it all comes around to show time. It's hard to explain those precious, gorgeous hours before opening. You look outside the changing rooms and see a massive line of people wanting to see your work. It's a wonderful feeling knowing that everybody in this room is as excited as you. You do the warmups where you bleat like sheep and make the sound of wheat fields (don't forget, most of us are theatre students), you smash two cans of V, and you hear the hall outside fill with chatter.

It's tradition to dance to the music on stage before curtains open, so it'll probably be shaking about as we try to amp ourselves up. Energy is such a big thing and it has to beat nerves. The stage clears, the intro video plays and finishes. You're bouncing on the spot to keep your energy high. People might be cheering — it depends on the crowd. The curtains rustle open, and you hear your cue. So much preparation, so much effort and so much time, but not just your time — that's the thing. So many people have invested in this, in you; all these people are ingredients and the audience wants a slice of the cake you're dishing up. Don't drop it.

No one ever forgets their first laugh. It's indescribable. It's a wave of sound that brings you unequivocal happiness. It's literally the best sound you could ask for in that situation.

Many different students have taken part in Otago's famous Capping Show, contributing to the ever-changing,



hilarious, skit-based comedy it's known for. I sat down with some of the top dogs of the show and asked how they got involved. Alex Wilson has both directed and written the script for the show in previous years. Alex has a sharp wit and an excellent eye for what's funny. Amber Hilton, a hilarious sweetheart, worked as backstage crew and tried her hand at writing last year. Ahmed Green has a perfect grasp on comedy, and played Jesus in Let There Be Capping Show as well as a myriad of others.

Why did you sign up?

Alex: All the comedians (Monty Python, Eddie Izzard, etc) I looked up to as a kid had all learnt their craft from joining sketch comedy clubs at university. Capping Show was the closest thing to the Cambridge Footlights we had.

Amber: I first signed up as backstage because I thought one of the actors was cute ... oh God, this is going in Critic!

Ahmed: I kind of signed up by accident because I thought people were putting their names down for free tickets to something and I hate missing out on free stuff.

What's your favourite memory of the show?

Alex: I co-wrote a sketch that required our props master to painstakingly turn eight cardboard boxes into wearable WWII fighter planes. The cast would then wear these and perform a dogfight between two rival "cardboard-box plane clubs". OUSA funded all of this.

Amber: My favourite memory is probably from closing night 2013 — after we clapped the audience out, everybody clambered onstage for a spontaneous dance party as the band played "Get Lucky" one final time. Ahmed: Favourite memory of the show would be Tom Williams tucking his dick and ball sack between his legs in the wings, then turning around, bending over and showing us what he liked to call a "fruit bowl" just before we were about to go on.

What's your favourite sketch?

Alex: There was a sketch called the wedding sketch because it was a sketch about a wedding. It was mainly about two people discussing if the Smurfs were mammals, the moistness of a gateau and whether the word urban was racist or not. A character turned up halfway through called "Piping Hot". I like to think of it as the Waiting for Godot of student comedy.

Amber: Any of the ones where somebody strips to reveal a ridiculous outfit and starts to dance. Formulaic but iconic.

Ahmed: My favourite sketch would be the Maui and boy sketches; Grant Nagel is a genius writer and being with Tom on stage is genuinely one of the best life experiences you can have.

ALL THESE PEOPLE ARE INGREDIENTS AND THE AUDIENCE WANTS A SLICE OF THE CAKE YOU'RE DISHING UP.

> DON'T DROP IT.

Can you describe how you felt on opening night?

Alex: You're just buzzing — you have been committed to this cult-like comedy show for three months of your life and you have got to the point you no longer know if what you are performing is even funny. The directors have wound you up with some bizarre warmups they have just made up on the spot and you have been filled to the brim with whatever energy drink is sponsoring the show that year. You are bouncing off the walls and trying not to shit vourself from fear and diarrhoea. Then that first laugh just washes over you, 400 people all laughing in unison, and you know you are going to be okav.

Amber: Even though I was only backstage, I was nervous as heck that something would go horribly wrong, especially after seeing a sea of faces appear when the curtains opened up. But the moment we got that first set of laughs, I was riding on a high for the rest of the night.

Ahmed: Didn't know what to expect on opening night. I felt like I was about to sit one of those tests that you can't study for.

Do you think you're a funny person?

Alex: I'd describe myself as funny in the same way I'd describe a clown crying and pissing himself in the middle of a public bathroom as funny.

Amber: Yes, but none of my Twitter followers seem to agree with me.

Ahmed: Yeah, of course, doesn't everyone?

Ji lusso

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*. 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.

Napoleon

He's one of two males accidently sent on the same date. Silly *Critic*, but yay for a change from the usual routine.

ell Critic you certainly made my night interesting, kudos for the company. I started with a few pre drinks with some of the boys from my College then turned up to find no sign of my date.

Lo and behold another guy walks in and it all looks a bit strange I thought maybe you'd gone and done the right thing and given an openly gay male another guy to hang out with for the evening but eventually our girl walks in.

The two of us had been told we'd have to fight for her but it just ended up being a pleasant three way conversation with several drinks and decent food. With the tab empty we went on to the next bar. By the end of our rounds there I was noticing the tension between the other two. I'd well a truly given up possibility of playing the straight card for the night and maybe getting some experience on the other team. By this point in the night and as we were leaving, the other guy said he'd left his jacket behind so he searched the bar we'd just well the girl went back de lusso. I waited awkwardly on the footpath for a while eventually investigating Di Lusso again where the other guy promptly told me the girl had gapped and so that was the end of the night.

So sorry folks I didn't get my chance but I suspect she was hiding in the toilet just waiting for the other guy to get rid of me. Hope you guys had fun and thanks for the good chat well it lasted.

Pedro

He's the second guy sent on the same date. Whoops! From this story though, it looks like he came out as number one.

S o I just had a celebratory, end of the day big ol chop hit of the droppie....when Critic unexpectedly called me, great timing. I hauled my stoned ass into the shower, spruced up, shaved and rocked up at Di lusso just on time.

I heard some had found love at the Blind date, others a good lay. I found Napoleon Dynamite's doppelganger and his two-man posse of a support crew. What the fuck was going on! This was fast turning into a very hectic situation i was totally unprepared for in my scorched state.

The rules had changed due to a stuff-up in scheduling; we were told this would now be a 3way blind date with the lady on her way. I wasn't too fussed, my bank account is empty and free food and drink was still on offer.

Our date arrived and I started chopping drinks while Dynamite unloaded a torrent shyte chat, Listening to them rounding off mutual friends they had in common I was bored. With the help of booze and an unreal platter of nibbles, we managed to generate some banter and got the evening moving along more smoothly when out of no where Dynamite announced he is openly gay and aspires to be a priest. So crackup, how did I end up blazed and drunk on a date with a chick and a gay dude?

Dynamite was totally rinsed; he could hardly talk and looked like he was going to spit back up that platter at any moment. So when our date disappeared to the toilet I took the opportunity to send him on his way. Good on ya mate, have a good one.

I knew that after everything that had happened tonight, in order to maintain my position as the alpha dawg in our household/save some face I had to bring the girl home with me.

The night ended with a good ol' truck and trailer while my flatmate slept peacefully 10 feet away.

Cheers to Critic and Luke the bartender at Di Lusso for a crackup night.



Sorry Deb, it was our fuck up! It was a great night for nearly all involved though – two our of three ain't bad!

rrival 7:48pm (Late as per). I was shocked to find two men at the bar – had I interrupted their date? Was I even meant to be there? Critic did you fuck that up? Haha!

As soon as I arrived, I knocked back drinks rapidly in my nervous/ slightly awkwardly hilarious situation. We then had extremely interesting chat around the fire, covering topics which included: Priests, Homosexuals and Organ Pipes. During the date, I forgot both of their names but had a tactical move of getting them to add themselves on Facebook so I could pretend that I hadn't.

The tension finally eased when one of my dates revealed that he was gay. Then it came out that one was high and the other had had too much to drink. At this point we were all on the same level and got on like a house on fire!

Carousel: Wine and Cigarettes, plus a burn on the hand.

Back to De Lusso: Time for shots.

I went to the bathroom and returned to find that my straight date had told my gay date that I'd gone home. He had left before I had time to say goodbye – I just want to say bye and thanks for the date! Sorry I wasn't quite what you were looking for.

I later found myself at a pot smoking flat of boys...with my straight date (Thanks for the piggy back up the hill!). Living on the edge, we went for a climb on their roof – classic Dunedin. We had a sneaky pash with a view and then ended up in his bed. Unfortunately, it was a big turn off to find out he had a roommate – bro, get your own room.

Overall, it was an an interesting evening! I just want to say a huge thank you to Di Lusso (Bar crew were awesome) and the Critic for putting on the night– The platter was delicious and the drinks were great!

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Picture/Poem: The Imagery of Joanna Margaret Paul & Cilla McQueen

» HOCKEN LIBRARY | 18 APRIL – 25 JULY

REVIEWED BY LOULOU CALLISTER-BAKER /

p icture/Poem: The Imagery of Joanna Margaret Paul & Cilla McQueen is an exhibition centred on friendship. In its intimacy, its cleverness, and its written and visual imagery of Dunedin, the experience of the show is moving.

Although both artists traverse disciplines the exhibition undoubtedly emphasises this — Cilla McQueen is known for her poetry and the late Joanna Margaret Paul for her painting (and photography).

With ink self-portraits, bits and pieces of written and art works about Dunedin and details of their lives inside their homes and studios, walking through the exhibition is almost like scrolling through a shared blog made by two friends who have an inexplicable creative connection. It's an invitation into their shared world.

At one end of the gallery is a set of music stands with printed words flowing and echoing across the pages of the books that rest open on them. McQueen's voice reading her poetry rides along an eclectic mesh of music and sounds. On the opposite side of the gallery is a series of Paul's watercolours, which feature jars, flowers in vases, and table tops, lines of poetry written onto their surfaces. In the middle of the space, the two personalities seamlessly interweave.

Examining their works — the imagery, their love for words, the spaces in between — and their backgrounds, it's difficult not to imagine the two being part of an understated-cool scene when they met in Dunedin in the 1970s. The two had their regular jaunts: the Globe Theatre, Dawsons Gallery (run by Maureen Hitchings who married Hocken Librarian Michael Hitchings — a painting of the couple is in the show) — and Red Metro. They both had artist husbands: Paul was married to Jeffrey Harris and McQueen to Ralph Hotere. In New Zealand's cultural history, here had been a small community of great artists.

While Hotere and Harris may be more recognisable names, neither McQueen nor Paul was subservient or naive to male privilege or the firm establishment of the patriarchy within art institutions and communities. By consciously making work that reflected their personal experiences, the two were part of the prevailing feminist movement.

In the paintings and poetry of Dunedin's locations, like Carey's Bay, Port Chalmers and Aramoana, the show also generates either a nostalgia or fondness for Dunedin - for sun-glossed winter days spent walking the hills that enclose the harbour, for looking out across the water on a warm evening, or even for encounters with the handful of guirky, sometimes dark, creative communities nestled throughout the city that seem somehow different to creative communities elsewhere. "I like the darkness / inside our Dunedin houses / even in summer, the doors / that open into the hall, the / front door that opens into the sun", McQueen writes in a poem titled "Joanna", evoking the charming side of some of those old, damp homes we have all flatted in at some point.

Picture/Poem is an insight into a wonderfully articulated conversation between two artists. Although it contains works by two distinct personalities, the way the exhibition flows together shows how the two friends undoubtedly influenced and supported one another. Not often can an exhibition transform into an experience that is at the same time clever, engaging and filled with a sense of love and care.





Beetroot, Blue Cheese and Candied Walnut Risotto

I'm writing this on a flight back from Wellington where I have just blown my monthly budget and my mind on a weekend's worth of food. Oh my, was it worth it or what! One of the highlights was this epic beef cheek and red wine risotto that reminded me how much I love risotto. I sometimes wish I had a man to woo me with food all the time. Each time I think this, I remember that they require tending to and effort, so the idea is dismissed almost immediately.

owever, when I do want to attempt to woo a new suitor, risotto is my go to. Risotto is my favourite but making it for one is a little disheartening, so I jump at the opportunity to make it for someone. People seem to be under the impression that risottos are difficult, so tend to applaud when one is served to them. A good risotto just requires a little patience and a steady stirring hand; other than that they are dead simple. The last risotto I attempted to woo with was this beetroot, blue cheese and candied walnut risotto. It is pretty amazing. The poor young man was hooked; I was more pleased with the risotto's performance than his, so back to the Tinder board it was for me.

METHOD

 Preheat the oven to 200 degrees. Scatter the beetroot slices over a lined baking tray. Slosh over the olive oil until each piece is lightly coated and sprinkle over the salt and pepper. Roast until the beetroot is tender, so around 40 minutes (depending on the thickness of your beetroot). Once cooked, transfer to a food processor, leaving 12 wedges behind for garnish, and blitz into a fine crumb along with the balsamic vinegar.

- 2. In a small frying pan or saucepan, heat the caster sugar until it has melted and begins to turn a golden colour. Throw in the walnut pieces and toss to coat in the liquid sugar. Remove from the heat and leave to set and cool.
- 3. While the beetroot is roasting, begin the risotto. Saute the onion and the garlic in some olive oil over a medium heat until translucent. Tip in the arborio rice and cook this while stirring for a further five or so minutes. Pour in the red wine and stir gently until it has been absorbed into the rice. Slowly start to add the stock one cup at a time, constantly stirring until it

– INGREDIE<u>NTS</u>

FOOD

food@criti

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SERVES 6

Loosely adapted from Dish magazine.

- **4 large** beetroot, peeled, halved and sliced into wedges 1cm thick
- a few good sloshes of olive oil
- o salt and pepper
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- o ¼ cup caster sugar
- ¹/₂ **cup** walnut halves or pieces
- 1 onion, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups arborio rice
- ¹/₂ cup red wine
- 7-8 cups hot vegetable stock
- **30g** butter
- 1 cup finely grated parmesan cheese
- **6 sprigs** of thyme (or 1 teaspoon dried thyme), plus sprigs to serve
- 100g good creamy blue cheese

has been all but absorbed before you add another cup. Continue this until the rice is al dente and the mixture flows with your spoon rather than being thick and stodgy. Stir through the beetroot crumb until the bright magenta has coloured the risotto all the way through. Stir through the butter and the parmesan cheese so that it melts.

 Serve up the risotto and garnish it with the remaining wedges of beetroot, crumbled blue cheese, candied walnuts and a sprig of fresh thyme.



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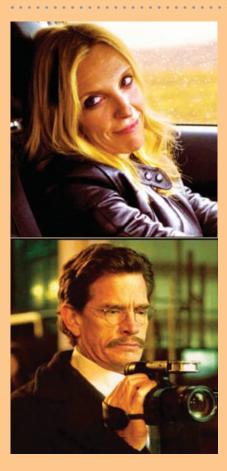




here's a fine line between a feel-good film and a predictably cheesy one. No matter how uplifting or audibly and visually stunning Boychoir is, Francois Girard's drama teeters along this line like it's a tightrope. Unfortunately, this film leans towards the predictable side on more than

Boychoir stars Garrett Wareing as 11-yearold Stet, an angry boy from Texas. After the death of his alcoholic mother and with the financial assistance of his estranged father, Gerard (Josh Lucas), Stet is placed into a private

one occasion.



REVIEWED BY SHAUN SWAIN

boarding school that specialises in music. It is at this academy that Stet can improve his promising treble voice. When Stet first arrives at the National Boychoir Academy, located in New Jersey, he is met with cold stares and finds it difficult to fit in with his peers. He also receives doubtful remarks from the tough-loving choirmaster, Carvelle (Dustin Hoffman), as he attempts to get Stet and the rest of the boychoir to reach their full singing potential.

With well-thought-out shots that highlight either the grittiness or the beauty of each rise and fall in the narrative, accompanied by both on-screen and off-screen performances of orchestral and choral music that paint an audible background for the rest of the film, the film is exquisitely made. Wareing's performance as the adolescent Stet is emotionally compelling and he is easy to empathise with — despite being more of an anti-hero than the typical Billy Elliot. Hoffman's sharp acting also leaves an impact not only on Stet's character but on the audience as well.

Unfortunately, Boychoir utilises dialogue as much as it does music and, as such, drags down a lot of its own merits with an incredibly uninspired and dry script. While the actors are not brought down completely by the tired system that scriptwriter, Ben Ripley, has thrust upon the film, it does completely unravel any genuine care the audience may have for the narrative.

Regardless of the film's gorgeous aesthetics and soundtrack, Boychoir is too clichéd for an audience to be completely invested in. It is one thing to become enthralled by characters, but it is another thing entirely to watch entertaining people mindlessly move through an unoriginal storyline.

Lucky Them

» DIRECTED BY MEGAN GRIFFITHS

Ave you ever wasted your life reminiscing over the one that got away? Maybe you pined after him as he sat in front of you in class until one day he just stopped showing up. Maybe she dropped you like last year's Karen Walker sunnies, replacing you with an upgraded, new and flashier version. Lucky Them is an indie film that explores this experience though Ellie Klug (Toni Collette), a music critic who has spent ten long years mourning the loss of her up-and-coming rock-star boyfriend, after his unexplained disappearance from their hometown.

Lucky Them follows Ellie as she searches for her ex-boyfriend, Matthew Smith (Johnny Depp). She is a music critic for Stax, a magazine whose once-prestigious standing in the music world has faded into the stained, dog-eared and somewhat dismal pages of history. Ellie's boss, Giles (Oliver Platt), tasks her with writing a feature article on her AWOL boyfriend.

Ellie's late-night tendencies involve concerts,



alcohol and apathetic sex with young musicians, which all point towards an inevitable midlife crisis. However, it isn't until the added pressure of revisiting the pain of Matthew's disappearance that she truly spirals into a black hole of despair. With the help of another ex-boyfriend, Charlie (Thomas Haden Church), Ellie goes on a journey to find Matthew, in the hope that he may still be alive.

With a storyline that could have easily come off as unoriginal and forgettable, the on-screen chemistry between Toni Collette and Thomas Haden Church adds to the film's refreshing take on love and loss; it gave me hope that even those on a fast track to life as a spinster with ten cats can still have their fairy tale ending — just not in the way we all expect.

I was also pleasantly surprised with the unexpected appearance of Johnny Depp, playing the small, but vital role of Matthew. Seeing those beautiful eyes brought a smile to my face.



» DIRECTED BY ROBERT REDFORD

CLASSIC

REVIEWED BY ALEX CAMPBELL-HUNT

n a somewhat Kanye West-esque fashion, Ordinary People is also known as the "movie that robbed Raging Bull of its Best Picture Oscar" and it's a shame that this has become a big part of the film's reputation. I haven't seen Raging Bull, so I can't compare the two; however, Ordinary People is one hell of a powerful, quietly heart-wrenching drama that deserves its high accolades.

The film examines family dysfunction and the process of recovering from mental illness. Ordinary People follows the Jarretts — an affluent Chicago family whose oldest son has recently died in a boating accident. The younger son, Conrad (Timothy Hutton), survived the accident and is now plagued by guilt and post-traumatic stress. After a failed suicide attempt, Conrad is sent to the straight-talking, dry-humoured therapist, Dr. Berger, played by Judd Hirsch. Conrad doesn't take to therapy right away, but after he endures further tragedies, combined with the regular tribulations of high school, he starts to benefit from his therapist's wisdom; Dr Berger tells Conrad that "if you can't feel pain, then you're not going to feel anything else either".

Donald Sutherland plays Conrad's concerned dad, Calvin, while Mary Tyler Moore plays Conrad's status-conscious mother, Beth - a particularly unlikeable character. Beth is often preoccupied with shiny surfaces and the squeaky-clean family facade, which causes her to resent Conrad for threatening it with all his pesky psychological problems. She is a victim of her circumstances to an extent but proves to be a destructive force - the most highly charged drama comes in the scenes where she clashes with the other members of the family. The drama is further heightened by the film's seemingly idyllic backdrop of mansions, a leafy well-kept suburbia, golf courses and the like.

There are some cheesy moments, and the filmmaking style sometimes feels a little bit dated. Fortunately, the writing and the performances are strong enough to transcend the occasional 80s daytime soap opera atmosphere.

Ordinary People has a life-affirming quality that is hard not to be affected by. •

Theatre Review: MAMIL

» DIRECTED BY GREGORY COOPER | 2 – 16TH MAY, FORTUNE THEATRE REVIEWED BY GEORGE NIVEN

y father is a MAMIL. I don't like to talk about it, but it's true. So while, initially, the main character of MAMIL sparked anxious flashbacks to the time my dad turned up to a parent-teacher conference night with only a thin layer of polyester-polyurethane copolymer between his crotch and my English teacher, I was able to put that aside (read: suppress) and enjoy the production.

Central to the story is a man-machine relationship not seen since Hogarth and the Iron Giant, or Anakin and R2-D2: that of Bryan Cook and his Italian bike. The show follows Bryan, a property developer who drives a BMW X5 and listens to his complete Tom Jones vinyl collection. However, this lifestyle all comes to an end during the 2007 financial collapse. His wife kicks him out and smashes his Tom Jones vinyl records. Downtrodden, Bryan spends his last few dollars on a bicycle to avoid the grocery-whispering weirdos on the buses and, from there on, his pedal-powered journey to bankrupt redemption begins.

The prolific Mark Hadlow is a middle-aged man in lycra in the play of that acronymic name, though, thankfully, the cling-wrap costume doesn't debut until the audience has warmed up to Hadlow's cheeky charm. Writer and director, Gregory Cooper, has crammed nine characters into the capacious body of Hadlow, who transfigures in a heartbeat from a dweebish auditor to a creaking grandfather. The efforts of lighting designer, Jane Hakaraia,



affirm each changeover, maintaining the dynamic even in rapid and frenzied bickering between one man, his Wagner-worshipping doctor and his disremembered member.

The script is clever, rude and perfect for a gregarious actor like Mark Hadlow to be at the centre of attention for 85 minutes. There are times when the show suffers from a narrowness of perspective, the racial stereotypes are trite — if not odious — and hearing about the tribulations of upper-middle-class white men can be tiresome. However, if you want to scratch that polished-theatre itch, laugh loudly and see deft character acting, then take advantage of the \$20 student tickets.

» WRITTEN BY JOHANN HARI

BOOKS

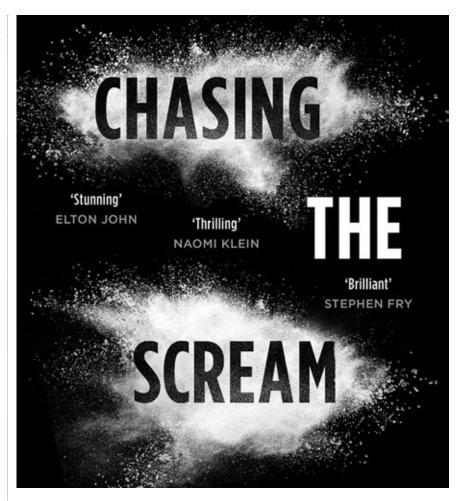
REVIEWED BY BRIDGET VOSBURGH

n Chasing the Scream: The First and Last Days of the War on Drugs, Johann Hari covers the bizarre origins of the drug war, the horrific state of the drug war today, what is most likely to be the actual cause of drug addiction, and the few places where people are finding better ways to deal with the problems caused by drug use. Hari manages this extensive range of complicated subjects in a markedly clear-minded way, making this an accessible and fascinating read. Though it does get heavy in some places. The information about the current lives of drug dealers and imprisoned drug addicts is disturbing and depressing, but knowing how awful things are is an important part of acknowledging that it is not okay for things to stay this way.

The scream of the title is a symbol chosen from the childhood of one Harry Anslinger, the man who started the drug war. When he was twelve, he was visiting a neighbour's house and came across the woman of the household screaming in desperation. The woman's husband sent Harry off to fetch a package from the chemist. He did so, came back with drugs, and when the woman had them she calmed down. Anslinger never got over this. It may seem like there was very little to get over, but apparently Anslinger found this woman's anguish so disgusting that from that moment onwards he was determined to eradicate drug use from the world. Unfortunately for the world, when Anslinger made up his mind it meant something.

Anslinger became head of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, and through a series of audacious manoeuvres managed to make a whole hunk of the world create drugs laws that aligned with his twisted worldview. It was all rather complicated and hellishly racist in ways I can't begin to get into here. Please read the book. But Hari gets it right when he says:

"At times, as I read through Harry's ever stranger arguments, I wondered: How could a man like this have persuaded so many people? But the answers were lying there in the piles of letters he received from members of the public, from senators, and from presidents.



They wanted to be persuaded. They wanted easy answers to complex fears. It's tempting to feel superior — to condescend to these people — but I suspect this impulse is there in all of us. The public wanted to be told that these deep, complex problems — race, inequality, geopolitics — all came down to a few powders and pills, and if these powders and pills could be wiped from the world, these problems would disappear."

I did have issues with a few things. The introduction uses transsexual when the person spoken of is transgender; those two words have quite different meanings. The Stonewall riots are attributed solely to gay people when trans ladies were very significantly there. It's a common misconception, but one that enforces an unpleasant piece of historical revisionism. Hari talks about a Professor Sigel, who "claims that the desire to alter our consciousness is 'the fourth drive' in all human minds, alongside the desire to eat, drink, and have sex and it is 'biologically inevitable.'" The desire to have sex is absolutely not present in all human minds. Asexual people exist, and we're a teensy bit tired of being casually dehumanised. I don't feel these mistakes detract from Hari's message, as they're entirely unrelated, but they do annoy me.

This book is best described as important. Rightfully, Chasing the Scream should change the world. Whether it will have the impact it should remains to be seen, but if you care at all about the future of humanity and have the time to read a book, it should be this one. • Cities: Skylines » LINUX, WINDOWS, OS X | DEV: COLOSSAL ORDER; PUB: PARADOX REVIEWED BY CARL DINGWALL

D o you remember Sim City? What used to be the great in-depth city builder was reduced to a disappointing, digital-rights-management-infested mess last year with the release of the series' reboot. Long-time fans of the series were left behind as the late Maxis, which was shut down earlier this year, adopted what felt like a lacklustre forced social experience and sacrificed a lot in terms of the core mechanics that made Sim City so great. So why am I starting a review of Cities: Skylines with a summary of Sim City? Well, because in all practical senses, Cities: Skylines is Sim City or, more accurately, what it should have been.

In Skylines you are essentially a city planner, deciding where roads, zoning and important resources should go to keep your "Cims" happy. A zone must be designated on roadside, which can be easily done through the different tools at your disposal. As is typical of city builders, you have to manage the demand for residential, industrial and commercial spaces, with your Cims taking up residence, working and shopping in those areas. You also need to provide basic services, such as power, water and access to health, police and fire stations, as well as enough education opportunities for all ages.

Once you get this down, your people will be happy, notifying you through a Twitter-like feed. Cims like expressing their opinion quite a bit and you end up with a lot of repeated phrases. You can enforce policies in different areas of the map, including water and power regulation, tax breaks or raises, and even a "recreational use" clause.

The interface of Skylines is quite intuitive, with many tools provided to help you to build your city. You can also check different aspects, such as pollution, education and happiness, through a set of tools that display a visual colour gradient. The many aspects you have to manage can border on overwhelming, but it is gratifying to get it right.

However, one aspect is more important than all the others — your traffic. As your city grows, you will have more Cims trying to get places. Expanding your city also unlocks new buildings at different milestones, as well as services to help you manage your city. However, if you fail to build your streets in a way that allows your Cims to travel to and from their home and work, as well as providing routes for the large number of industry trucks arriving from outside your borders, you will end up with buildings being abandoned and your traffic congested, with no one able to move anywhere in a reasonable amount of time. This will grind your services to a halt (for example, if garbage collectors cannot get to houses, rubbish will pile up inside) and your Cims will complain. You can use public transport to reduce the pressure, but it will only get you so far. Roads will become your best friend. Once you build a working road system, it makes the game immensely satisfying.

The game looks great, plays great and is a solid city builder, probably the best at this time. Even though there are a few issues, such as the space you can build in being limited to only nine selectable squares and having to manually demolish each abandoned building, it easily makes up for any flaws with its last feature: its connection with steam. Skylines has full steam workshop support, including game-altering mods that let you fix these problems easily. There are also handy tools to find out why your traffic is being congested, and pre-made intersections to help you build. This feature pushes Skylines into "must have" territory if you are a fan of this style of gaming. Just be prepared for it to soak up many hours of your life.



"The subversive and apocalyptic Scar Sighted is black metal as you've never heard it before."

Leviathan Scar Sighted » AMBIENT BLACK METAL | PROFOUND LORE RECORDS; 2015 REVIEWED BY BASTI MENKES

B lack metal has to be among the most preposterous and controversial subgenres in music. It is difficult to separate the music itself from the satanic imagery in which it is dressed, not to mention the murders and church burnings that have occurred within the black metal community. Yet even if the music could be considered separately from its absurd, self-serious culture, it is difficult not to have mixed feelings about black metal on a purely aesthetic level.

While the genre has produced some of the most gothic atmospheres ever recorded in music, a homogeneity plagues the genre to this day. The black metal community is deeply purist, meaning that attempts to deviate from the genre's conventions often result in derision. When black metal artists are literally labelled as "trve" or "untrve" by fans, they are hardly encouraged to innovate. In fear of being considered inauthentic, many black metal artists opt for a similar lo-fidelity production style. The result is a genre that often emerges from your headphones as the same grainy texture. In other words, black metal usually sounds quite similar.

It is a big deal when a black metal artist pulls the fingers at the genre's traditions and dares to be different. Though he will no doubt be slandered as "untrve" for it, one-man black metal band, Leviathan (Jef Whitehead), has released a new album that does exactly that. The subversive and apocalyptic Scar Sighted is black metal as you've never heard it before.

Ironically, the insularity of a one-man band seems to breed eclecticism in the context of black metal. Like other black metal lone wolves such as Xasthur and Sapthuran, Leviathan concocts his music entirely on his lonesome, meaning he can chuck in just about any external influence he likes. As a result, Scar Sighted features dashes of death metal complexity, industrial textures and the cavernous soundscapes associated with the dark ambient genre.

Thanks to the legendary production of Billy Anderson (Sleep, The Melvins, Neurosis), Leviathan's diverse approach to black metal sounds better than ever before. Forgoing the raw sound quality usually associated with the genre, Scar Sighted takes place in a monolithic soundworld. With its sumptuous low-end and echoing nature, Scar Sighted brings to mind images from H.P. Lovecraft's Cthulhu mythos. "Wicked Fields of Calm" in particular evokes shapes of evil enormity in the mind of the listener.

Unfortunately, there are often ethical qualms to be had about black metal, and Leviathan is no exception. Usually the artistic merit of black metal is undermined by the white supremacy and violence perpetrated by its musicians. Though racism and antisemitism are thankfully not present in Leviathan's music, the fact that Jef Whitehead has been charged with sexual assault and domestic violence makes it difficult to rave about Scar Sighted. I would recommend giving Leviathan's new album a listen but hesitate to encourage you to run out and buy it. **O**



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Singles in Review

» REVIEWED BY BASTI MENKES

New Tracks

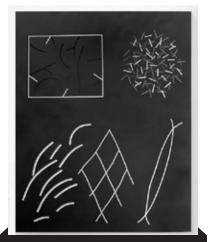


Chelsea Wolfe

"Iron Moon"

alifornian sorceress, Chelsea Wolfe, has spent the last six years taking sounds from the worlds of doom, drone, black metal, electronica and folk to create a style uniquely her own. Her most recent album, Pain is Beauty, saw her expertly crafting gothic soundscapes in which to cast her ethereal voice. Tracks like "Feral Love" and "The Warden" felt more like ghosts than songs, skittering along with a gossamer beauty.

By contrast, new single "Iron Moon" is heavy and corporeal. Riding in on a blown-out metal riff, it is easily the heaviest we have heard Wolfe yet. But it isn't all crushing darkness; the verses of "Iron Moon" are nothing but acoustic guitar and Wolfe's whispers, her speaking to you like a lover. This contrast between the intimate verses and the ten-tonne choruses makes "Iron Moon" powerfully dynamic. Featuring stellar production and one of Wolfe's strongest hooks to boot, "Iron Moon" suggests the upcoming Abyss may just be her finest album yet.



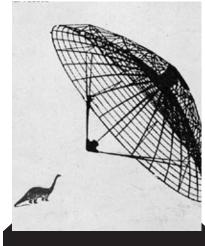
Future Islands

"The Chase"

hough heavily inspired by '80s synthpop, Future Islands are able to take these dated sounds and make them feel fresh and relevant. Future Islands' strongest asset is their frontman, Samuel T. Herring, a man with a receding hairline who looks rather like a Thunderbird. But when somebody as dorky as Samuel is able to growl and belt with such a powerful voice, it is enough to break your heart in two.

The lyrics of "The Chase" are nothing spectacular, covering familiar notions of love and loss. It is rather how these lyrics are sung that makes "The Chase" as moving as it is. Herring kills it once again, bringing to his simplistic words a palpable sense of anguish. His bandmates, William Cashion and Gerrit Welmers, are equally on form, providing a fluid and shimmering musical foundation for Herring's voice.

My only qualm with this latest single from Future Islands was the sense of deja vu it gave me. The synth arpeggios on "The Chase" recall their song "Spirit" quite strongly, just as its serpentine bassline reminded me of several other songs of theirs. Sure, Future Islands have done it again on this latest song, but is that necessarily a great thing?



Arthur Russell

"Ocean Movie"

A rthur Russell was an experimental composer who passed away in 1992. In his all-too-short life, Russell managed to collaborate with everyone from Allen Ginsberg to Philip Glass to Talking Heads, as well as release his avant-garde masterpiece, World of Echo. His music sees cello, keyboards and vocals stripped of their typical roles and painted with as though they are merely colours on a palette. The results are otherworldly and often very beautiful.

In June, a collection of nine previously unheard Arthur Russell recordings will be released as a compilation entitled Corn. One of these songs, dating back to the early 1980s, was recently made available on YouTube. The accurately-titled "Ocean Movie" is a sea of sounds both instrumental and indeterminate, bubbling together in a wonderful haze. It serves as an amazing reminder of just how ahead of his time Arthur Russell was. Texturally rich modern acts like Boards of Canada and Animal Collective owe this man a great debt.

horoscope

Do you struggle with making basic life decisions? Worried about never bumping into your campus soulmate, or whether to eat twominute 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



Y ou'll be getting a bit highly strung this week, so the best solution will be to put on your best exercise outfit (the one you always post #swole gym selfies in) and stretch in front of the mirrors at Unipol for as long as it takes to get someone's digits.

Taurus



S top tiptoeing around your feelings like a bull in a china shop. Get it together and say what you mean, because time is slipping away! Jupiter is passing through your quadrant, and the opportunity will be lost for months after Mars ascends.



G et rid of your Twitter account. What is Twitter anyway? How does it work? What does it do? Nobody knows; it's just a drain on your cellphone battery. Delete, and be free.



Y ou're usually a very organised person, but sometimes this can make you uptight. Let loose this week by burning your study schedule! Then cover yourself in mashed banana and frolic through the Gardens to The Sound of Music soundtrack. E eeling like there are untrustworthy people around you this week? You may be onto something here, as Pluto is rising over your friendships this month.



Leo

Consula International

Y ou're feeling a wee bit precious this week, with Venus being overtaken by Mars in your star zone, so surround yourself with ice cream, chocolate and cakes, and try to keep crying in public to a minimum.



D o not trust yourself with money this week, as your financial sector is looking hazy. To avoid temptation, withdraw some cash from an ATM and give your debit card to a trusted friend to hold onto for the week.



Y ou are already a style icon, but your hair will look especially fabulous this month if you experiment with a new haircut. Love will be found at the place of your next trim.

Sagittarius

Y ou've got a certain wanderlust about you this month that needs to be addressed. Whether it be planning a road trip with your #1 home dawg or jet-setting to a whole new continent, you'll find adventure waiting for you.

Capricorn



G o to the underground part of Suburbia this Saturday. Be standing directly in front of the DJ booth at 12am and prepare to come face to face with your Prince (or Princess) Charming. They will leave you believing in the power of love at first grind.

Aquarius



U ranus is stirring up some nasty shit this weekend — you need to relax and zen out a bit. Don't lash out at your friends just because Uranus is making you feel a bit tender.



You are a wonderful individual who leaves a positive impact on the world around you, but I'm concerned that you are not taking enough time out for yourself. You can save the planet and still find time to treat yo'self! It's all about balance, homie.



LETTER OF THE WEEK

The letter of the week wins a \$30 BOOK VOUCHER From the University Book Shop

We Are The Psychics

Dear Critic,

This morning I read my critic horoscope over a bowl of porridge and I exclaimed aloud; "Bull Shit!" I laughed in the face of the cosmos. How could planetary alignments predict I would have a freak accident on my way to a lecture??

Later on today I had a spectacular fall, resulting in grazed hands, knees and ego, as well as inducing a state of shock during my lecture I had rushed to attend.

Furthermore, when I was carrying a copy of the critic when I tripped.

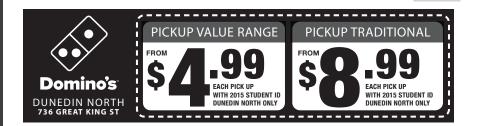
Spooky.

Heed the warnings!

Sincerely, Broken Piscean

YESSS! CONFIRMATION THAT I AM 156% A PSYCHIC GYPSY! This may be the proudest moment of my life.

Madame McMystery



Eat Your Greens & B12

Dear Critic,

Thanks for the article "My Vegan Week" by Kirsty Gordge! There were some great tips and advice in there. Some important things weren't mentioned though:

(1) Vitamin B12: Vegans are particularly at risk from a lack of B12. You don't need much, but a shortage can lead to permanent nerve damage. Fortified foods or a supplement (e.g., vegan B12 tablets) are the only real ways around this. Some people have low B12 levels in their liver to begin with, so if you are going vegan, please get a B12 test from Student Health or your GP.

(2) The Vegan Society of Aotearoa New Zealand (VSANZ): www.vegansociety.co.nz has a bunch of NZ-specific information and advice on being vegan.

(3) Good health: Animal rights and the environment were mentioned in the article as two important reasons that people become vegan, but the fact that eating a vegan diet (if done properly) is good for your health wasn't mentioned.

Thanks again,

Inga Coordinator Dunedin Vegans Group

Campus Watch 0800 479 5000

Decoy mum,

I appreciate your wanting to share a tip regarding campus watch which could come in handy for a range of people on campus. I'm writing this letter to suggest that, in the future, you are more aware of the effects of the framing of your tips. Your letter, I assume, had the best intentions, but by putting the onus on 'girls' to not walk home alone, you are perpetuating the idea that women are the ones who need to prevent violence at night. The letter would have been more useful, and better received, if it did not imply that women were doing something wrong by walking home alone. Thinking about the implications of what we say may feel uncomfortable, but ultimately, it is useful. Thanks for sharing the tip, and I hope all students (not just women) are now aware of this service.

(æ) Letters

Stevie Jepson

We'll Keep Out of This One ...

To everyone at Otago Uni,

Please stop attacking people!

It's so easy to assume that Dunedin is actually COD & when you attack someone they'll respawn, but this is not the case.

Walking home late at night is super dangerous, because you might attack someone. I know everyone's at least thought about it, but it's not worth the risk!

Attacking someone could physically and emotionally traumatise them, violate laws and common decency, and be very uncool. You could also go to jail.

If you're on campus and get the urge to attack someone, you can call Campus Watch, the police, or Emergency Psychiatric Services.

Always remember – it's much easier to NOT harass people than otherwise.

Xoxo your "bitch" stepmum

... And This One Too

Dear Critic

I'm just writing in to back up the person who wrote in advising girls not walk home alone after seeing the fuss on twitter. Come on people, it was just some good advice. In an ideal word girls should be able to walk home



at any time of night and it is hugely disappointing that they cannot. But the past has proven that this is not the case.

Campus watch urges students to lock there flats to prevent theft, in an ideal world we should not have to do this either but no one kicks up a fuss when they do. We're not blaming the victim for getting robbed, but it doesn't mean we shouldn't let them know how to take preventative measures from the weirdos in the world. I do recognise the need for other ways to fix the issue, but prevention at least helps you keep safe.

Yours Sincerely, Average Joe Blogs

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We should all be so prepared for our next great walk... our limits exist only because we create them. I can only hope to leave this life with such inspirational words.

David

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

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

Male or Female, between 18-55 years

- Have no medical condition
- Non-Smoker (for at least six months)
 - Not on medication (excluding female contraception pill)
 - Not taken any drugs of abuse

All participants will be remunerated for their time and inconvenience

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NOTICES

Andrew Little, Leader of the Opposi<u>tion //</u>

Visiting campus on Monday 11th May.

Letters should be 2 post them to PO B

e 200 words or fewer. Deadline is Thursday at Spm. Send letters to Box 1436, Dunedin, or drop into the Critic office. All letters must in

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explanation. We don't fix the spelling or grammar in letters. If a writer looks stupid, it's because they are

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critic@critic.co.nz

details,

even if you don't want these printed.

He'll speak publicly at 12.30pm – 1.30pm at the Main Common Room (near the Food Court) in the Main Union Building.

There will be a Q&A session, and all staff, students, and members of the public are welcome to attend.

OUSA referendum //

Held electronically from 9am 25 May – 4pm 28 May 2015.

Here are the questions so far: if students wish to submit further questions, please email **adminvp@ousa.org.nz** by Thursday 14 May.

1. Should the Otago University Students' Association Annual Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014 be received and accepted?

Yes/No

2. Should the Otago University Students' Association Annual Report for 2014 be received and accepted?

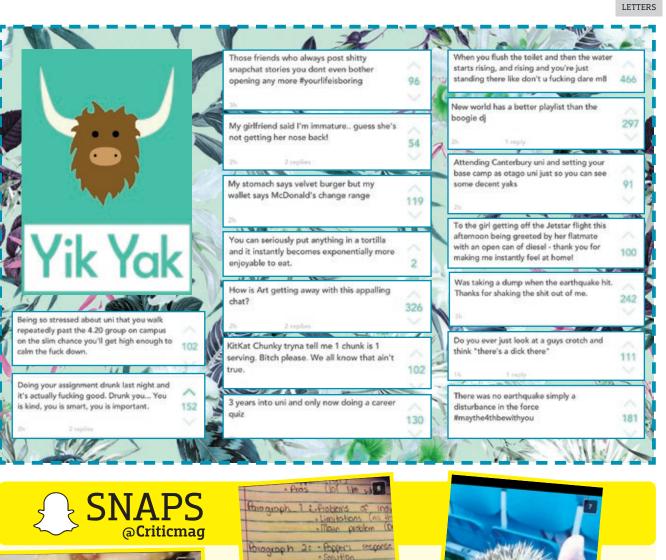
Yes/No

5. Should PricewaterhouseCoopers be appointed as Auditors for the Otago University Students' Association in 2015?

Yes/No

4. Should Anderson Lloyd be appointed as Honorary Solicitors for the Otago University Students' Association in 2015?

Yes/No





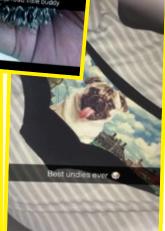
Gonna ace this essay At she Conclusion : "dops of Messenger now Taylor: Where did you go



Basic bitches are evolving

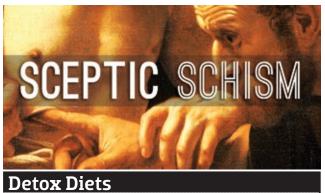






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COLUMNS

BY WEE DOUBT

Detox" diets make out the liver is like a dirty old sponge that needs to go through the washing machine. Actually, the liver is an organ that filters harmful or unneeded substances from the blood to be excreted as urine. It is self-regulating and will replenish its own cells at the same rate as any part of the body. Except in extreme cases, such as heavy drug or alcohol use when a real medical detox is required, it does its job perfectly well.

"Detox" implies that there are "toxins" in your body, building up and festering, making you sick, fat, exhausted, grumpy, ugly and worthless. It is not often clear which specific "toxins" these are, only that they are bad, bad, bad and need to be expunged from your disgusting wreck of a self in order for you to become a healthy, attractive, calm person. Along with very restrictive diets, such as the juice fast, you can buy a "detox" solution from a pharmacy for between \$30 and \$120. These products claim to have things around 20 times the probiotics of a serving of yoghurt or ginger for gut health. Wouldn't you be better off spending your money on yoghurt and ginger, along with a balanced diet?

Fasting is a popular detox, probably because you will almost certainly experience a flatter stomach for a short period. But take note that many of the effects felt by people fasting, such as breath that smells like nail-polish remover (released toxins!), are identical to those of ketosis, or starvation. You are just starving yourself.

If you abuse your body for years, you are going to have bad repercussions. Laying off the booze and junk food is always a good thing for your body. If you've been living off Snickers bars covered in melted cheese and dipped in tequila, then, yes, you will be feeling like shit. But forcing yourself to eat food you don't like for a couple of days or weeks will not have the same benefits as a long-term, healthy, balanced diet and regular exercise. Many detoxes are harmless unless they require a very restrictive diet for a long period of time. Any special concoction you have to spend money on is likely to be a scam. If anything needs to be "flushed out" of our systems, it's the idea that a "detox" diet will compensate for a lifetime of bad food choices and inactivity.



BY LONELY BOY

Each week Critic wants to hear from you if you're struggling to approach the man or woman of your dreams. Does she always sit on that front row seat and give the lecturer far more attention than you're comfortable with? Does he stroll past your window each morning and your only attempts at getting his attention have been taking a little longer to put clothes on?

Flick your stories to crush@critic.co.nz

ark black hair down to her jeans, skin glowing from her face to the slither of skin between her jeans and ugg boots. When she hit the dance floor, every Otago lad was looking at her, his jaw getting low low low low.

She was the girl every straight guy thought of at wank o'clock. Every Jim, Harry and Tom would try his chances with her like she was a High Striker at a carnival fair. Either coming at it directly as one of her 600 Tinder matches or hopping inside the Trojan horse as just a "friend" who was in for the long game, each message sent to her was delicately woven by sweaty fingers with a whole evening's worth of thought. She would receive more confessions than a priest whose every day was Sunday in Hoetown.

And what about me? I was just your average extra on stage. I knew her as the girl on my floor in our residential hall. We'd shared great laughs during O-Week and sought out each other's banter during meals in the dining hall. Every now and then we'd hang out in each other's room and talk about everything and nothing. Are we going somewhere? You're giving fewer signals than Malaysia Airlines flight 370, but I'm ready for you to crash in my ocean; my passion for you is as deep as the debris that was never found. But just like the finale of Vin Diesel's cheesy one-liners in Fast and Furious 7, you can't make somebody love you. I don't know how much longer I can keep bottled up. Next time we play fight-tickle, I am going in for the peck to see if the Area 51 that is your love is ready to become Area 69.





Unemployment in Dunedin BY DR DAVID CLARK, MP

DAVID CLARK

find it shocking that in Dunedin there are over 1000 young people who are not in employment, education or training. These are the people most likely to end up long-term unemployed.

There are lots of myths about the long-term unemployed. They are an easy target for criticism and beneficiary bashing. When the rhetoric is flying, it pays to remember that in 2007 New Zealand had about the lowest unemployment in the Western world.

Almost every New Zealander has held down a job at some time in their life. The spectre of intergenerational unemployment is real, but the numbers it affects are smaller than the ubiquitous sixty-point-Times-New-Roman newspaper headlines might suggest.

Unemployment is tough. Living off welfare payments isn't glamorous. Nor is the social stigma that goes with it. Getting knocked back at successive job interviews can be demotivating and depressing. It is particularly bad if you've never succeeded in getting a job before. If the only work experience you have is rejection, it is hard to keep coming back each day for more of the same. Worse than being unemployed is being unemployed with little chance of that changing. It is far easier to keep hope alive when you're upskilling. Education and training offer the promise of a better tomorrow, when you're more qualified than today.

Plenty of people struggle financially, and the stress that goes with it is hard on relationships. In a civilised wealthy country like New Zealand, compassion and social justice suggest that everyone should be provided sufficient to live in dignity. An increasing body of evidence shows it is in a country's economic interest to look after those out of work.

If a society looks after you when you're out of work by providing adequate financial support and ensuring you have training opportunities, economists and other social scientists say it is more likely you will go on to career success. More equal societies tend to have high social mobility; you have a better chance of going on to do higher value work.

Social mobility means we can all be better off. This principle can guide those of us who go on to shape society. For the 1000 Dunedin young people not currently in education, training or employment, it is safe to say, social mobility will mean more to them than most. A Broad View

Saturday Night Lights

Ξ.

BY JERIEL TAN

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** if you are an international student wanting to tell your tale.

I t's midnight at Pequeño's down an alleyway off Moray Place and the crowd's jiving to a cool live band playing a mix of old classic jazz, new-age rock and some interesting funky music that was probably written by the band members themselves. I see friends and family members of the band, obviously familiar with the music, making known their support and presence over the blaring music. Others, not as familiar, were getting into the groove with empty pint glasses and satisfied smiles on their faces. I was there some Saturday nights back, and having just come back from a year-long exchange in Argentina, I marvelled at how, if I closed my eyes, I could perhaps imagine a scene like this in an old porteño bar in San Telmo, Buenos Aires.

The capital of Argentina is obviously very different from good ol' Dunedin, but us scarfies and them porteños do share some similar traits. They bond over Fernet and coke, an Italian liquor that tastes oddly like cough medicine, while we combat the bitter cold with crates of Speights and the occasional bottle of Smirnoff (or whatever's cheapest at Liquorland that week). The Argentines enjoy the sun as much as we do, even though it's a scorching 45 degrees throughout the summer compared to us huddled out on whatever grass patch is nearest on a rare sunny Dunedin day. Oddly enough, for a country that's constantly in social, political and economic turmoil, the various Argentines I've met were a happily contented bunch who never failed to wear a smile or have a dirty joke to tell.

Back at Pequeños all properly warmed up after knocking back a couple of pints, I set out to enjoy the yet-to-be exciting night that 10Bar and co. had to offer, knowing that my friends on the other side of the world and their fellow porteños would very likely be doing the same.

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I 'm not usually much of a believer in conspiracy theories. I do not necessarily consider the phrase a dirty term as some do, conjuring up images of tinfoil-wearing loonies, but I do subscribe more to the "cock up, not cover up" theory of government than to the secret scheming cabal. I mean, the US government couldn't even cover up something as innocuous as a Bill Clinton blowjob, and when you compare one Monica Lewinsky to the hundreds of people who would have to be involved for one of the 9/11 conspiracies to be true, then the whole thing looks much more like massive government incompetence than a diabolical "false flag" operation.

However, every now and then something happens to remind us that our governments are perfectly capable of conspiring and do in fact do so. Most recently, for example, we've discovered that not only have our governments been conducting covert mass surveillance on their enemies but also on us. While they're welcome to try to plumb the depraved depths of my internet history, the fact remains that the governments of the Five Eyes literally conspired in order to do this and did so without the knowledge or consent of the people.

Project MKUltra reads like something out of a movie. It can loosely be described as the CIA's mind-control programme, and it ran from the 1950s until 1973. The CIA poured millions of dollars into studying and examining methods of influencing and controlling the mind. Fuelled by Cold War paranoia, they sought to enhance their ability to extract information through interrogation — psychological torture essentially — as well as looking at literal mind control of their communist enemies like something out of The Manchurian Candidate. They experimented on unsuspecting human subjects using various drugs such as barbiturates, amphetamines and, most famously, LSD.

In some experiments people were given LSD without their knowledge and then interrogated under bright lights with doctors looming behind them taking notes. The subjects were told that if they did not confess their secrets, their "trip" would be extended indefinitely. If you've ever had a bad trip, you'll know the sense of time being elongated — you fear that it might never end, that you'll be stuck in this hell-scape forever. To be told that it'll be continued into eternity by some wanker with a spotlight and a white coat — one can only imagine the terror.

Naturally, adverse reactions occurred like when one operative's coffee was secretly dosed and he became psychotic, fleeing across town seeing a monster in every passing car, but, hey, we've all been there. Regardless, I'm pretty sure John Key isn't a lizard person ...





Quake rocks and rumbles across South

In headline news this week, everyone felt a bit shaky after the 6.0-magnitude Wanaka earthquake. I was in the Richardson, and looking at that building makes me feel shaky.

Speed-dating slips behind the times

Apparently speed-dating has died in the South, and Tinder has taken over. One women, called "desperate and dateless Donna of Dunedin", told of her sadness over a speed-dating business no longer operating in Dunedin. Better get that Tinder vibe on, Donna.

Woman doesn't see attack pig as bacon

A "smelly, phlegmy, dribbly" pig has left a Dunedin woman feeling the pig love after she was attacked by the animal in her car. Apparently his personality won her over and saved him from being turned into bacon.

Idea of second-hand pontoon on lake floated

Nothing like a good punny headline to grab your attention, especially when it's about water and floating ideas.

Mary takes the plunge at 91

After reading this article, my life bucket list now includes bungy jumping at 91 years old.



May, National HIV Testing Month BY STUDENT SUPPORT

A s quoted on the New Zealand Aids Foundation website (NZAF), nearly 80% of HIV diagnoses are among gay and bi guys, but why, you ask? Well, gay and bi guys have much more anal sex than straight guys. You are 18 times more likely to contract HIV through unprotected anal sex than unprotected vaginal sex. There are two reasons for this. The cells in the arse are much more susceptible to HIV than cells in the vagina. In addition, both semen and rectal mucosa (the lining of the arse) carry more HIV than vaginal fluid.

However, it doesn't matter what your sexual orientation or gender is; if you have anal, vaginal and/or oral sex, you should test for HIV once a year. And the more anal sex you have without condoms, the more you should test. Why not get tested this month and participate in our first National HIV Testing Month. Go on, I dare ya!

Knowing your HIV status means you can get access to treatment and support, as well prevent yourself from passing it on to others. Using condoms and lube is the most effective way to prevent HIV. Did you know that you can get FREE condoms from the Recreation Centre and the Student Support Centre? Pop in and grab a handful any time we are open. For more information about National HIV testing month and to book a free, confidential HIV rapid test, go to **www.nzaf.org.nz**.

ZEKE!

I would like to introduce Zeke, who is a student on placement with the OUSA Queer Support Coordinator:

"I am a third-year social services student at Otago Polytechnic, my major being counselling. Being gay is a big part of my life and I found the coming-out experience in a not so open-minded community such as Dunedin was difficult. I had never met anyone else that was gay nor had I seen any sort of representation in the media that was a positive one. This is part of the reason I was inspired to start studying to become a counsellor.

I am available for one-on-one support through the OUSA Student Support Centre or one-on-one counselling work through the Kowhai Centre at Otago Polytechnic."

If you would like to have a chat with Zeke, send us an email at q.support@ousa.org.nz.

Till next time, OUSA Student Support Centre

PUT YOUR

TO RAISE EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUNDS FOR NEPAL

We aim to raise at least \$50,000 in the next 47 days the same number of days it took Sir Edmund Hillary to climb the 8848 metres of Mount Everest.

We encourage everyone on Campus and beyond to give \$5 towards our Givealittle campaign givealittle.co.nz/cause/ousaappeal

All donations will be given to the **New Zealand Red Cross**

FN





OUSA President's Column Starting on May 13

Starting on May 13 and running until May 23, is the great scarfie

tradition of the Capping Show. Campus Watch is the theme of the 121st show which promises to provide some great entertainment. Tickets always sell out, so be sure you get along to OUSA and purchase your ticket in time!

The first show occurred in 1894, making Otago's Capping Show the world's second longest running student show of its kind. While the themes have changed throughout the years, the Capping Show always provides insight and reflection on University life and wider society through humour and satire. Politicians, royalty, media, celebrities, and other dominant institutions are cannon fodder for the show's script writers. The themes often express the feeling of youth on the world and life. In the 1960s, for example, the show reflected the discontent young people had with the conservatism of older generations.

On occasions controversy has surrounded the Capping Show. The OUSA involvement arose because in 1984 'University New Zealand' had become dissatisfied with student behaviour at official graduation ceremonies and banned all student-run graduation events. At this point, OUSA took over the organisation of what would become the modern Capping Show.

One great aspect about the Capping Show is that students are the main performers and play a major role in the production of the show. After a tough audition process, the selected team rehearse for months, before 10 gruelling nights of performance. A big congratulations must go to everyone involved. Performing in front of a large audience, let alone your peers, is a tough ask.

A storyline is acted out during the evening, with various sketches and performances in between. The Sexytet and Sextet are a renowned feature of the Capping Show. Made up of some of the best singers on campus, the male and female choruses perform songs throughout the show. Another infamous inclusion is the Selwyn Ballet: the world's oldest all-male ballet, and the second oldest amateur ballet.

With Campus Watch as the theme of this year's show, OUSA would like to pass on our appreciation for their good humour and massive practical support of the show. Thank you Campus Watch!





Provisional By-Election Results Announced

OUSA would like to (provisionally) congratulate our new (provisional) Education Officer, **Zachariah Roy Al-Alami**, and our (provisionally) new Campaigns Officer, **Nick Findlay**. Provisionally welcome aboard! Thank you to everyone who ran, and everyone who voted.



Flatting Week 18–22nd May

On Tuesday we have the OUSA Best Landlord awards! Then on Wednesday and Thursday we'll be running a Flatting Expo in the Main Common Room with loads of prizes and giveaways, and free flatting clinics! Be sure to check it out.



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What's the haps with OUSA recreation

Blues & Golds: Nominations are open!

The University of Otago Blues and Golds Awards are the highest honours OUSA can present to students who have excelled in Sport or Culture, or services to these. If you know someone who deserves to be recognised, find out how to nominate them here: **bgawards.ousa.org.nz**

Semester 2 Rec Courses: Enrolments are open!

Enrolments are now open for our semester two recreation courses. To register, just head online to **www.ousa.org.nz/recreation/**

Poetry Comp Winners

Congratulations to Sarah Reese (with "Rambling" - see below), Calista Fung (with "Two Brothers") and Larissa Hinds (with "Walking Home") our 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in this semesters poetry competition. Also a shout out to Jessica Thompson (with "Uncertainty") and Joachim Torrano (with "I

was young when my heart broke").

discipline, I said

never comes easy. we have been pruning flowerbeds for years, our fingers bloodied on their spiny stems, sitting quiet in the afternoon sunlight trading

exasperated glances, and rose thoms prickle even through our gloves so that every evening we show each other the many holes which our acquaintance has over the years afforded us, and I said

discipline has its difficulties, having to cut back, and you said

only on money, only on the unimportant things, because, really — there was never any hope

of organisation, not the way things grow here over and under and sharp-edged

over and under and sharp-edge and continually out of hand.



7.30PM, MAY 13-16 & 18-23 COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AUDITORIUM TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE OUSA MAIN OFFICE, COSMIC AND COSMICTICKETING.CO.NZ

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THE CAPPING SHOW 2015

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