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18 125 YEARS OF OUSA

Over its 125-year history, OUSA has achieved and changed many things in Dunedin student life, from the introduction of the Capping show and hosting great parties like Hyde Street, to more serious matters of equality and support within both the University and the Association.

BY GINI JORY

22 BEIJING MUSINGS

Loulou takes us through her experience of living in Beijing on a university exchange, highlighting the cultural differences she experienced and the surreal nature of living somewhere utterly unfamiliar.

BY LOULOU CALLISTER-BAKER

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ON THE COVER Illustration by Ceri Giddens

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GUEST EDITORIAL » BUDGET 2015

t the time this went to print, Budget 2015 had just been released. While Twitter was swarming around the various announcements made about social welfare, health and education funding, it's important that we take a step back to reflect on what this budget says about our political system, how far it's come and what the budget means for the future.

Fifty years ago you would have struggled to find a progressive left-wing party that would lead a budget with a new social welfare spending programme. The likes of Norman Kirk would have run as fast as they could from such a suggestion.

New Zealanders are lucky that the liberal-conservative wing of New Zealand politics provides nearly a billion dollars to the poorest members of society.

However, this does create boredom in the New Zealand political system, for what can an opposition party do when the evil conservatives are doing their job for them?

Well, they can make awful speeches for a start. Labour leader Andrew Little made a historically bad speech last Thursday, which resembled an incoherent high school debate. Among the highlights was: "I don't know what [Bill English] is trying to hide, some sort of fiscal gender reassignment or something, who knows what it is." If you're confused about what this means, do not fret — we all are. The best response the opposition could come up with to oppose the budget was that the gov-ernment would make promises that it will ultimately fail to fulfill.

However, embarrassments aside, New Zealanders need only take a look at the rest of the world. Only this month, the UK Conservative government was re-elected on the back of its austerity plan. The plan systematically stripped government spending across the board. Health, social welfare and education all lost out. Granted, the austerity programme came as a result of far-stretching fiscal deficits that needed to be reeled back. Necessity, not preference.



Naturally, the National government is criticised consistently. Rightfully so. Whoever has their hand on the button needs to know we're all watching. Last month I interviewed Green Party MP James Shaw. He explained to me the strength of the National government. He said: "National is the best political operators that this country has ever seen. You know, Helen Clark had one press secretary in her office; John Key has five. They are absolutely masters of the communications game." James didn't say this as a compliment. But in a warped way it surely is.

National's first two terms were plagued with crisis. New Zealand saw a global financial crisis in 2008 that plunged the world into recession. The Christchurch earthquake in 2011 was a humanitarian crisis of historical magnitude, leaving New Zealand's third-largest city in ruin. Despite this, the National government has returned the books from a \$11 billion deficit to \$500 million short of breakeven in just four years, increasing spending along the way.

The National government is by no means perfect. It has neglected many areas of government and made some questionable propositions. John Key minimises his public opposition by not engaging seriously with major social issues. This is undoubtedly better for his political career than for New Zealand. However, National's management of government spending during a relatively tumultuous period in New Zealand history has been exceptional.

Whoever makes the defining decisions in the decades to come will do so on the back of the fifth National government's financial acumen.

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Party for Nepal Shakes off the Fines

» \$500 NOISE CONTROL FINE WIPED FOR RED CROSS DONATION

BY JOE HIGHAM /

house party held to raise funds for the crisis in Nepal had its fine for "unreasonable noise" revoked by the Dunedin City Council (DCC).

The party, held at the "Melocasa" flat on the corner of Union and Queen streets on 14 May, was organised to raise funds for Nepal after two major earthquakes hit the nation. Security and food were provided at the event, which was organised by students Sam Fraser and Zac Fraser. The pair flew bands, such as LAKES from Auckland, to play at the party.

Roslyn McGill, team leader for Environmental Health at the DCC, said the fine was imposed after "approximately eight noise complaints" were made in relation to the party.

George Steele-Mortimer, a resident at Melocasa, said they "stopped all live music at ten". However, "our mistake was leaving the equipment out on the stage, resulting in a couple of intoxicated individuals reinitiating the music". Steele-Mortimer said he believes this was the "only mistake" made all night. McGill said although the organisers agreed to stop the party early, "it got out of control after ten and that resulted in a seizure of equipment".

The resulting fine for not complying with the noise regulations was \$500, approximately the same as the funds raised. "When we heard that all our hard effort to raise some money for those who desperately needed it was going to be used to fuel the shutting down of more Dunedin parties, we were pretty barred up to say the least," said Steele-Mortimer.

The flat asked the council if they could instead donate the money to the Red Cross relief efforts, which the DCC agreed to. Steele-Mortimer said it's "fantastic to see humans with emotions behind the nine-to-five face".

"We are always taught to resort back to a 'rule book'," said Steele-Mortimer. "However, the best outcome in this instance was



to divert away from what the law states and do direct good to the people who needed it."

McGill agreed, saying the DCC had "run the gauntlet of a registry role versus trying to supply a good customer contact, and that was an excellent initiative by the flat to come up with that".

IMAGE CREDIT: SAMFRANKPHOTOS.COM

"[We] are aware that they attempted to have a party that was under control and we acknowledge their attempts and so we were happy to meet with them half way," she said.

The money has now been donated to the Red Cross to assist with its work in Nepal. •



\$52,250 Spent on Clubs Grants in 2014

BY JOE HIGHAM /

he executive began by bashing the comments the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA) President Rory McCourt made regarding the recently aired Sunday episode. McCourt reportedly told the Otago Daily Times on 16 May: "Sometimes students come to Dunedin for that 'student experience', and sometimes the university and [the association] promote that culture." According to the ODT, he also said: "It creates a culture where people want to break loose."

OUSA President Paul Hunt said he was concerned McCourt's comments "validate a false narrative" about student drinking behaviour. "In any segment of the population, there are always a minority who on occasions commit inappropriate behaviour," said Hunt. A motion was moved for OUSA to disassociate itself from the comments made by McCourt in the ODT article. McCourt has since claimed that his comments were misrepresented by the ODT and that he believes it is an "easy and unfair stereotype to label students as drunks".

The executive moved on to discuss paying NZUSA the second instalment of the \$22,500 in membership fees it owes. No motion was passed on this issue; however, Hunt said OUSA would wait to act on legal advice when it receives it.

Hunt said he had been in "heated exchanges" with the Sunday programme after their comments to Critic about his segment not being aired. TVNZ said it was "not about the content [but] about the delivery".

OUSA moved a motion to release its incorporated financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2014. The statements are now received and can be presented to the student body.

The statements reveal that OUSA ended 2014 with a surplus of \$7894. The total operating revenue was just above \$4.9 million, a 13 percent increase from 2013. Despite this increase, OUSA has had a drop in cash on hand from \$5.338 million to just over \$4.5 million, a decrease of 15 percent. The figures also reveal a sizeable increase in the grants OUSA has made to affiliated clubs. 2014 saw \$52,250 in club grants, an increase of 29 percent from \$40,595 in 2013.

Finance Officer Nina Harrap discussed reimbursements to staff who have spent personal money on goods or services while in the course of their employment. A number of executive member believed policy changes are not the best method of curtailing errant reimbursements, as "policy can be just as vague and confusing". The executive agreed that the best method to approach this issue seemed to be a change of cultural and social attitudes. Hunt said the executive needs to "hammer home the message that every dollar is a student dollar".



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Polytech Faces Hardest Test Yet

» TEU SAYS "ANY MODEL OF DRUG TESTING USED IS INVASIVE ON PEOPLE"

BY JOE HIGHAM /

NEWS

he Otago Polytechnic is consulting on a proposal to implement "just cause" drug testing for students in high-risk courses.

Consultation occurred between staff at the Otago Polytechnic and the Otago Polytechnic Students' Association (OPSA) on Monday 18 May. Leslie Scoullar, student support advisor and advocate, said the meeting included Andy Westgate, Otago Polytechnic's health and safety manager, "outlining the basic policy to the students". Westgate then answered any questions students had.

Although the polytechnic initially considered random drug tests, Director of Organisational Development Matt Carter said what they are looking at is "just cause". This means that if an individual is believed to be "under illicit substances, then testing could follow".

Carter assured those at the meeting that drug testing would "not [be] random ... you have to have a reason to suspect there is an issue".

The Tertiary Education Union (TEU) President Sandra Grey has publicly condemned the idea since it was announced. Grey said although the TEU wants a "safe working and learning environment," there is "no need to move to extremes in these approaches".

Another key issue is deciding where to draw the line on which courses are deemed to be sufficiently "high risk" to justify drug testing. Carter said "part of the consultation is about who it would apply to".

"At this stage," he said, "we're saying that it would apply to those [courses] where it was high risk, so machinery or adventure where they are out on the field in high-risk environments ... because a lot of our programmes are very hands on, that actually applies to quite a lot of our programmes."

Grey said there is no "need to test people in areas where there are no health and safety issues". She said the TEU "would want to see this limited to areas where there is a justifiable health and safety risk".

Grey says "respect for human rights" and protection of the "rights to privacy" need to be taken into account. The polytechnic needs to "balance that against the actual task being completed". Grey said "any model of drug testing used is invasive on people".

When asked what drugs they are going to test for, Scouller said "everything" will be under scrutiny if the policy is passed.

The consequences for a student being caught under the influence of illicit substances will be health-based, rather than involving severe penalties. "It has got to be a supportive situation," said Carter. "Of course, if you are operating heavy machinery then you need to stand down from doing that and we would offer rehabilitation assistance."

Carter said there will always be a "caseby-case basis" approach. In certain circumstances, "it may be considered as a student discipline issue, and maybe a warning". He said the "main message" he wants to get across is that the move is "about ensuring the safety of our students".

"In an applied learning situation ... there are of course high risks, and this is also about role modelling what many industries now expect once you get into the workforce."

No Smart Watch Bans for Otago Exams

» MASSEY BANS ALL WATCHES DURING EXAMINATIONS

BY BRIDIE BOYD

D espite not having any cheating instances with watches to date, Massey University has implemented a ban on all watches for students during examinations. The university said the ban was a reaction to "changing technology".

The watches, recently released by Apple, allow individuals to access the internet and documents and communicate with others. The ban, however, is for all watches, not just smart watches.

Spokesperson for Massey University, James Gardiner, said there has been "no negative reaction [from students] to date".

Students at the University of Otago, however, have expressed concern over potential bans, with one saying "the clocks in the exam room can be out, or hard to see, it is nice to have your own watch on the desk for personal timekeeping".

Director of Academic Services, John Price, has said that the university will not be putting a ban in place in the foreseeable future, but will "monitor the situation closely and will seek to amend its exam regulations if required".

Price said if a ban were to be enacted at Otago, he believes students would support the move. He said the university "believes students will support actions that decrease the opportunity for dishonest practice in examinations".

Price said the university's examination rules are specific about what is, and what is

not, permitted in examinations. Currently, "no devices with communication capability may be used in the examination room or adjoining areas (e.g. toilets) during the period of the examination." Cell phones must be also switched off and handed to the supervisor at the beginning of the examination. "Examination supervisors are trained to be vigilant for any suspicious activity," says Price.

Bans have not yet been put in place in any other New Zealand universities. However, universities have said they will monitor the situation. Bans on smart watches have taken off worldwide, with City University in London and Southampton announcing bans in recent weeks.

Religious Education Heads to High Court

» HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER CLAIMS BILL OF RIGHTS BREACH

BY AMBER ALLOTT /

complaint about the unfair treatment of a 9-year-old girl whose family opted her out of a Bible in Schools programme has escalated into a High Court battle that could see religious education removed from public schools. The Churches Education Commission, which provides bible courses to 660 New Zealand schools, will head to the High Court to fight for the continuation of these courses.

The McClintock family chose for their daughter to not take Red Beach School's optional religious studies class and were dissatisfied with how she was treated. The family said their daughter, Violet McClintock, was made to sit in the corner of her classroom and read a book alone. Represented by Auckland-based human rights lawyer, Richard Francois, the McClintocks have taken legal action. Francois argues that Violet's treatment, and the treatment of other students who opt out of similar programmes is discriminatory. Francois claims that Section 78 of the Education Act, which allows schools to halt regularly scheduled classes for up to an hour every week for religious instruction, breaches the Bill of Rights. Francois is going to make a full legal bid to have it repealed later this year.

The Churches Education Commission (CEU), the largest provider of Bible in Schools programmes in the country, is attempting to secure a place in the debate to argue for the benefits of the programme.

"We've got 657 programmes, 65,000 kids. This could have a huge effect on what we do. We'd like to be part of any debate deciding what happens in the future," a representative of the commission said. The commission could not divulge any further details before the hearing.

While Francois and the McClintock family argue that religious education takes time away from core studies, the CEU believes that taking the programme has many benefits and doesn't discriminate against non-Christian pupils.

"There are a few main reasons that people choose to have it. One of these is heritage, lots of non-Christians choose to attend to honour their heritage, or have Christian relatives. Schools find it useful to help children understand our society," said the CEU. "It helps kids relate to each other. It reinforces values the Ministry of Education has set out, and can help academic performance in other areas."

The commission argues that acknowledging the spiritual elements at school is highly important for children from all backgrounds.

Boston Bomber Sentenced to Death

» SUPPORTED BY LESS THAN 20 PERCENT OF MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS

BY ANGUS SHAW /

D zhoker Tsarnaev has been sentenced to death for his role in the 2013 attack on the Boston Marathon, which killed three people and left more than 260 wounded.

In April a jury found Tsarnaev guilty of all 30 charges related to the attack, which included charges of terrorism. 17 of these charges carried a possible death sentence and, despite pleas from his family members, the jury recommended the death penalty on six counts for the 21 year old. His execution will be carried out by lethal injection. The jury came to its verdict after just 14 hours, having seen explicit photographic and testimonial evidence.

The defense ineffectively attempted to mitigate Tsaenaev's guilt by presenting him as falling under the influence of his fanatical older brother, a claim that was supported by testimony from family. Despite this, as the jury gave its unanimous verdict, only two members indicated that they believed he had expressed remorse for his actions.



After the decision was made, US Attorney for Massachusetts Carmen Ortiz spoke outside the courthouse and thanked all those involved in the case. Ortiz said the decision shows "shows that even the worst deserve a fair trial".

"We came to this decision [to push for the death penalty] not lightly," she continued, "and there was a long process of conversations at different levels [in the Justice Department]". In a press statement following the trial, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh said that he hoped that the verdict could provide "closure" for those affected by the tragic events.

A Boston Globe poll conducted last month showed a severe lack of support within Massachusetts, with less than 20 percent of residents agreeing that Tsarnaev should receive the death penalty. The state outlawed capital punishment in 1984 and has not executed a convict since 1947. Tsarnaev was instead charged under US federal law on several counts, which gives the court the authority to issue the death penalty.

Tsarnaev will remain in the custody of US marshals until his sentencing hearing when, if he chooses to do so, he will have the opportunity to speak regarding his sentence.

If the execution goes ahead, it could mark the first execution of a terrorist in the US in over a decade. The execution date for Tsarnaev has not yet been set.

Former Egyptian President Faces Death Sentence

» ISLAMIC MILITANTS KILL THREE IN REACTION

E x-Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi has been sentenced to death for his involvement in a mass prison break in 2011. Morsi, who was Egypt's first democratically elected leader, was sentenced along with 120 others for the break, which was part of an uprising that brought him into power.

The ruling is the latest in a series of mass death sentences issued since Morsi was overthrown by the military almost two years ago. Religious authorities in Egypt will have to give their opinion before Morsi's sentence can be carried out.

Morsi is currently serving a 20-year prison sentence for ordering the arrest and torture of protestors in 2012. Morsi was elected president of Egypt in 2012, ending the 30-year reign of Hosni Mubarak. Twelve months after being elected, he was detained by the military and forced out of office following mass public protest.

After Morsi appeared in court in 2013, Amnesty International pleaded for Morsi to be granted access to a lawyer. Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui, Amnesty International's deputy director for the Middle East and North Africa Programme, released a statement at the time saying Morsi was "denied access to his lawyers while he was being interrogated and investigated". "This significantly undermines his right to a fair trial. His enforced disappearance is also a serious human rights violation in itself and must be ended right away. He must be either released or transferred to a recognised place of detention and immediately given regular access to his family and lawyers," said Sahraoui.

Members of the Muslim Brotherhood have responded strongly to the sentence, with Morsi and his fellow Islamists chanting "Down with military rule!" after the ruling was read in court. The brotherhood also issued an official statement calling for an increase in protests and condemning the sentence.

After Morsi escaped from Wadi Natroun prison, he was accused of conspiring with foreign militants to free Islamists, members of his Muslim Brotherhood movement. In response to the ruling, suspected Islamic militants shot and killed three court judges and their driver. The attack took place in the northern Sinai Peninsula city of al-Arish. Information about the shooting came from security officials who remained anonymous.

Support also came from one of Morsi's former ministers and a senior member in the Muslim Brotherhood, Amr Darrag, who issued a statement saying, "[Morsi's] trial has been a

BY OLIVER GASKELL/

travesty of justice, which has been scripted and controlled by the government and entirely unsupported by evidence ... they want to pass a life sentence for democracy in Egypt."

Egypt's judicial system has been subject to international criticism since Morsi's ousting due to the placing of harsh sentences on Islamists and secular activists, while top officials who served under Mubarak have been acquitted or given light sentences.

Sahraoui released a statement saying the verdict "shatters any remaining illusion of independence and impartiality in Egypt's criminal justice system".

"Convicting Mohamed Morsi despite fundamental flaws in the legal process and what seems to be at best flimsy evidence produced in court under a gag order, utterly undermines the verdict," said Sahraoui.

Since Morsi was forced from power, thousands of Islamists and other opponents of the new government have been jailed as part of a crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood and other supporters of Morsi.



What Is the Budget?

The budget is the annual allocation of government funds to state services and initiatives. The allocation covers all government spending from social welfare to health.

Every year a budget is announced that shows the government's spending priorities.

Here's a rundown of this year's budget:

Budget 2015

BY POLITICS EDITOR HENRY NAPIER

What's New?

- 1. \$790 million child hardship programme
 - Benefit rates for families with children will increase by \$25 per week
 - Increase in Working for Families: Lower income working families not on a benefit will get up to \$12.50 a week extra from Working for Families, and some very low-income working families will get \$24.50 extra
 - Increasing Childcare Assistance: the subsidy rate for low-income families will increase from \$4 an hour to \$5 an hour for up to 50 hours of childcare a week per child

- Removing the \$1000 2. Kiwisaver kickstart
- \$680 million for primary 3. and secondary education
- 4. \$305 million to social service initiatives
- \$210 million for 5. extra broadband
- Health spending increasing by 6. \$1.7 billion
- \$35 million for social 7. housing programme

- 8. \$35 million for social housing outcomes for Māori
- 9. \$52 million for developing crown-owned land in Auckland for housing developments
- 10. \$137 million for regional roads and urban cycleways
- \$100 million to rebuild 11 Lincoln University science facilities
- 12. \$210 million for KiwiRail to maintain New Zealand railways

Future Investment fund (asset sale fund): \$939m for 2015





In My Opinion: Henry's word National and the Auckland Housing Crisis

verage Auckland house prices have increased by \$100,000 over the last year. Every New Zealand bank agrees unanimously that a crisis exists. Even the Reserve Bank has urged the government to take action.

Last week National released its budget, which includes steps to tackle the housing crisis it won't admit exists. So the question remains, why?

The answer, as always, is political. As all bubbles eventually do, this one will pop. When that happens, we will see a nationwide run on property that will affect housing prices from Whangarei to Bluff. And then fingers will start to point.

Naturally, sceptics turn to central government. Questions will be asked: Why not more regulation? Why not more capital controls? Why not more tax on capital gains?

Practically, National is stuck between a rock and hard place. These questions will be asked regardless of its acknowledgment of the crisis or the measures it takes. However, denying that a problem exists will at least allow more political breathing room when the time comes.

What is surprising is National's budget. The Auckland housing market is clearly of significant concern to the Key government. Firstly, by implementing tighter tax on capital gains for property investors, the government hopes to throw some water on the speculation fire.

Secondly, the new immigration policies are set to slow the rising population of Auckland. The policy will favour immigrants with plans to settle outside Auckland.

Furthermore, the sale of state housing may also be in the loop of property bubble policies. While selling a third of state houses probably won't help beneficiaries, it may be National's answer to a decreasing housing supply. It also might just be a revamp of social housing.

Nevertheless, this is a multi-level response to a problem that apparently doesn't exist. Whatever happens in the next 12 months will likely define this government, and the decisions made this week will determine the light in which New Zealand views it.

BY HENRY NAPIER /

5

Greens: KiwiSaver for Kiwi Kids

» KEY: "IT WOULD COST AN AWFUL LOT OF MONEY"

he Green Party has revealed a new savings scheme aimed at tackling child poverty. The proposed scheme aims to enrol all children in a Kiwisaver fund when they are born.

The proposed fund would operate similarly to the current Kiwisaver scheme, with the government contributing \$1000 for each child. Children who fall below the poverty line would receive an extra \$200 per year, and the government would match any further contributions up to \$100. For families that do not fall below the poverty line, the government would match contributions of up to \$200.

Last Thursday however, it was announced that the \$1000 kick-starter has been scrapped.

The policy would also allow children to use their Kiwisaver fund to pay for their tertiary education at age 18 or, as with the current scheme, to place a deposit on a house.

Green Party co-leader Metiria Turei said

in a press release that the policy is "about providing middle- and low-income families with opportunities for their children that they don't currently have".

"By building the wealth of our kids, we can empower the next generation of New Zealanders to invest in their education and homes to help them build the future they deserve. It's game-changing," said Turei.

Prime Minister John Key has criticised the scheme, saying it will not be economically viable. "Realistically," he said, "it would be massively expensive and I think it would be really difficult to draw [the line] ... I think it would be quite an artificial policy that would cost an awful lot of money."

Turei said the policy would cost around \$250 million once all New Zealand children are signed up to the scheme. Turei justified the spending for the policy, saying child poverty was a priority for the Greens. "Every government makes choices," said Turei. "We know we can make different choices in any budget to invest in families, that is better for our economy, we've put those plans out at the last election and we will continue to deliver on those plans from now until the next [election]."

News in Briefs

BY MAGNUS WHYTE



world watch

COLOMBIA

A Roman Catholic bishop has offended believers at a conference on gay marriage and adoption. Bishop Juan Vicente Cordoba said that homosexuality was not a sin and that gays were welcomed by the church. He then wondered whether any of Jesus's 12 apostles might have been gay or Mary Magdalene a lesbian.

2 LEICESTERSHIRE, ENGLAND

A couple born just two hours apart at the same hospital have now married. The pair, now aged 26, were born on the morning of 14 March 1989 at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. They were childhood sweethearts who shared their first kiss 10 years ago.

BELARUS

The interior minister of Belarus has caused controversy by turning up at a World War Two commemorative parade in the distinctive tunic of Stalin's secret police. Many veterans and soldiers in former Soviet states chose to wear vintage military uniforms for parades this month, but the interior minister's uniform choice was far more controversial.

4 BEIJING, CHINA

Police in Beijing are patrolling the city's subways and trains to stop people wearing face masks and strange costumes and forming flash mobs, warning that such actions could jeopardise public safety by causing stampedes.

NORWAY

Three baby penguins have been stolen from an aquarium in a suspected student prank, prompting a desperate search to find the chicks before time runs out. Based on video surveillance evidence, five or six youths have been charged with endangering animals by breaking into the aquarium.

6 TEXAS, UNITED STATES

A home in Houston valued at nearly US\$400,000 has been put up for sale for \$1 and one compelling essay. The current owners, Michael and Stephanie Wachs, want the new owners of their home to not be burdened by a mortgage. They are asking the hopeful buyers to submit a 200-word essay.

7 ICELAND

The national public broadcaster in Iceland has begun broadcasting 24 hours of live lambing on national television. The audience can tune in to the sheep farm in the northern region of Skagafjordur from the comfort of their own homes. The broadcaster said that it was hoping to give an "insight into the traditional farming life".

LUTON, ENGLAND

8

Police are investigating a man who had a tattoo of Jesus done on his right arm then allegedly left without paying. On his left arm, the man also has a large tattoo of praying hands with the words "only God can judge me". CCTV footage also appears to show the man stealing £1000 from behind the counter.

9 SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

A teenager from Sydney is in a critical condition after playing Russian roulette. 19-year-old Josh Taylor was in the driver's seat of a car when he pulled the trigger of a Smith and Wesson gun and the single bullet was fired.



Grapevine

"Canada's ambitious new target and planned regulatory actions underscore our continued commitment to cut emissions at home and work with our international partners to establish an international agreement in Paris that includes meaningful and transparent commitments from all major emitters."



- Canada's Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq

Canada has been criticised for being the weakest among leading economies in the fight against climate change. The Climate Change Action Network has said that Canada's measures are not enough and is pressing the government to impose a moratorium on new oil sands development and a complete phase-out of coal from the electricity sector.

"I hope this verdict provides a small amount of closure to the survivors, families, and all impacted by the violent and tragic events surrounding the 2013 Boston Marathon. We will forever remember and honour those who lost their lives and were affected by those senseless acts of violence on our city. Today, more than ever, we know that Boston is a city of hope, strength and resilience that can overcome any challenge."

- Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the 21-yearold man convicted of carrying out a deadly terrorist attack at the Boston Marathon in April 2013, has been sentenced to death. The jury found Tsarnaev guilty last month of all 30 charges levelled against him — 17 of which could have sent him to the execution chamber.



"The operation represents another significant blow to ISIL, and it is a reminder that the United States will never waver in denying safe haven to terrorists who threaten our citizens, and those of our friends and allies."



- US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter. US special-operations forces based in Iraq have killed a top Islamic State leader and captured his wife in a raid in Syria. President Obama ordered the operation, which resulted in the death of Abu Sayyaf, described by the White House as having a senior role overseeing the oil and gas operations that are crucial to the militant group's financing.

"Snakes do have an ability to regurgitate food if they change their mind, but I was not sure if Winston was going to be able to regurgitate these even if he tried. You could basically see the shape of the tongs. There's a small clip that you slide forward to lock them, and you could actually see the outline of that through the snake. You could even see the bumps on the end of the tongs."

- **Dr Oliver Funnell.** A pet python called Winston has undergone surgery to remove a pair of barbeque tongs he swallowed. The snake was being fed a rat by his owner using the metal tongs when he latched on and refused to let go of the implement. A doctor at Adelaide University performed surgery to remove the tongs. The snake is recovering well at home.



"Now that the North American and European markets are completely saturated, profits and growth are limited, and dealers have a hard time finding potential buyers. They have had to look elsewhere for emerging markets. In the future, the drugs trade will thrive in regions where an important share of the population is



aged 25 and under, whose purchasing power has increased."

- Pierre Lapaque, UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Africa is set to become the "market of the future" for illegal drugs according to the UN. The continent is already a major transit hub for drugs on their way from Latin America to Europe; however, it is also becoming an emerging market for illegal drugs. Consumer spending on drugs has increased greatly in the African continent, and it is potentially a huge financial market. agricultural officer.



Astronauts

cannot burp in space. There is no gravity to separate liquid from gas in their stomachs.

A champagne cork

is more likely to kill you than a poisonous spider.

Peanut butter

is an effective way to remove chewing gum from hair or clothes.

A giraffe

is able to clean its ears with its own tongue.

57 sheets

of toilet paper is used by a person each day.

Only 30% of people

can flare their nostrils

29% of people

are supposedly virgins when they get married.



Winter Is Coming. So Is the End of the Super Rugby Season ...

BY SPORTS EDITOR DANIEL LORMANS

he Hurricanes look to have sealed their home advantage for the Super Rugby finals as they are 14 points clear at the top of the table with the best points differential and the most tries scored. Their end of season run-in sees them take on all four of the other New Zealand teams in the final rounds, with three of the games at the neutral venues of Nelson, Napier and New Plymouth. Even if they drop a load of points, they will still be in the finals.

The Crusaders are not out of contention of creeping into the top six, despite sitting eight points behind both the Chiefs and the Highlanders. Their Round 15 game in Sydney versus the sixth-placed Warratahs could be their most important match of the year as they sit five points behind them. A win would pull them right into the playoff race for the final few rounds, but a loss could effectively end their season. A "home" game in Nelson against the 'Canes before a final round trip to face the Brumbies in Canberra is a tricky way to end the season.

The Blues have been out of contention since the start of the season and are just out to play for pride and to possibly save their coach's job. With a bye and three home matches to end their year, it looks pretty easy on paper, and they could potentially spoil the party for both the Crusaders and the Highlanders if they can get up for their games at Eden Park in the final two rounds.

The Chiefs host the South African conference-leading Bulls in Round 15 before a potentially season-defining game in Round 16 with their clash against the Highlanders in Invercargill on 30 May, as there is a high chance both teams will still be level on points when that game kicks off. The Chiefs round off their season by heading to Brisbane to face the potential wooden-spoon-holding Reds before playing the Hurricanes in the last round, looking for revenge after the dodgy TMO call robbed them of victory in Wellington last weekend.

Last but not least are the Highlanders, who are still well on track to make it into the playoffs for the second season in a row. After their big game against the Chiefs, they end their season with equally tricky away trips to face the Hurricanes and the Blues. The Highlanders might suffer from having had their bye rounds near the start of the year, with the other teams likely a little bit fresher.

However it all shakes out by the end, it has been a fantastic season of rugby. We have seen a number of All Blacks playing their final games in New Zealand, but we have started to see who will be in the generation to replace them.

New Zealand Hosts FIFA U-20 World Cup

BY DANIEL LORMANS

N ew Zealand is hosting the FIFA U-20 World Cup for the first time, welcoming 24 teams from six world football confederations for 52 games around the country. The final will be held in Auckland on 20 June, while Dunedin is hosting three double-header group-stage games and one of the knockout matches. New Zealand's Junior All Whites will be taking on some of the strongest football nations, including Germany, Brazil and Argentina, and also some of the emerging football superpowers of Myanmar, Uzbekistan and North Korea. The tournament is perfectly timed to distract us from studying and exams.

The likes of Lionel Messi, Sergio Agüero, James Rodriguez and Luis Suárez appeared in previous editions of the tournament and have then gone on to play for the world's top clubs. A large contingent of the World Cup-winning German squad from Brazil last year had been successful in the lower age categories, so expect to see many of the players featured here next month popping up in a few years at the next World Cup in Russia.

DUNEDIN GAMES

Sunday 31 May Match 7: Mexico vs. Mali Match 8: Uruguay vs. Serbia

Wednesday 3 June Match 19: Mexico vs. Uruguay Match 20: Serbia vs. Mali

Saturday 6 June Match 30: Colombia vs. Portugal Match 31: Serbia vs. Mexico

Wednesday 10 June Match 38: TBA Round of 16 knockout game





"Growth for growth's sake is the ideology of the cancer cell." - EDWARD ABBEY

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IDENTIFY

Over its 125-year history, OUSA has achieved and changed many things in Dunedin student life, from the introduction of the Capping Show and hosting great parties like Hyde Street to more serious matters of equality and support within both the university and the association.

USA was founded back when men wore suits casually and women rarely showed their ankles. In 1890, a group of students launched the Otago University Students' Association. These were the same students who, two years previously, had launched the Otago University Review. This was a student newspaper designed to bring students together over issues and to ensure that the student "esprit de corps", or morale, would continue to develop. Ritual Song of Defiance by Sam Elworthy reveals that the origins of the Review lie in none other than the Debating Society. "The REVIEW [sic] brought



1919: the "Sextet" is established

1902: Women were elected onto the students' exec for the first time

students together over issues," Elworthy writes, and although "at first the REVIEW struggled to remain viable" due to editors being "continually plagued by a lack of articles and reports," the Review came out regularly each month until World War One. Practical student concerns were aired in the Review, and it was these concerns that led to OUSA's formation.

At a general meeting on 20 May 1890, it was decided that a student body would be valuable in running the students' room, organising capping events, organising socials and approaching the professional board and the University Council with any student concerns. Membership was open to all students and graduates for an annual fee of one shilling (equivalent to around \$40 today). By 1892, OUSA had 198 members from a total student population of 213, and while some members may have already graduated, this is still a fair chunk of the student body wanting representation within the university domain.

In the early days, OUSA was mainly concerned with student comfort and social activities. In 1890 a sub-committee was set up to negotiate with the University Council over the student rooms which, in typical Scarfie fashion, were never in good repair. Petitions were also set up over the loss of tennis courts, which were replaced with a mining school. In the following years, the OUSA Executive, comprised mostly of the wealthier students. discussed courses and fees, capping celebrations, lecture times and the lengths of holidays, as well as organising an annual ball and numerous social evenings. The association's professional structure brought a sort of corporate life to the university and it was soon taken seriously by the University Council after raising the money to have Allen Hall built as a new student area, with evervthing but the wages for the janitor taken care of by OUSA. In the later 1920s, OUSA also gathered funds to lease the Logan Park grounds from the Dunedin City Corporation. The association took control of the grounds, employing a groundsman and building a grandstand and running track on the area now used as the New Caledonian grounds.

The capping festivities were especially important for OUSA. In the late 1890s, Capping — the graduation ceremony for students — had a reputation for being disorganised and anarchic. In 1894 the University of New Zealand banned public graduation ceremonies completely, due to bad student behaviour. Until 1898, when public ceremonies were finally reinstated, students had to make do with a congratulatory function including their own concerts. Upon reinstatement, it was decided that a capping carnival would be held separately, with the public charged for admission. The Carnival attracted huge crowds and raised almost half of the yearly income for the Students' Association. This is now known as the Capping Show, with many of the acts similar to what we have today, a sextet, dancing and comedic acts all featuring.

While OUSA handled events and socialising, it also needed to address important issues. Women were asking for equal footing and representation within both the university and OUSA. While women had theoretically been admitted to the university from 1871, this was not the general case, as financial difficulties and resistance from male staff and students prevented many from attending. Those who did were largely segregated from men in the early years. There was open hostility towards women entering specialist schools such as medicine. When Emily Siedeberg, the first female medical graduate, began classes, she had pieces of flesh thrown at her as male students made their feelings towards a woman in their intellectual midst clear.

In such a hostile environment, women developed their own social clubs and organisations, including the Haringa club in 1889, and the University Kahanga in 1902. They eventually and cautiously began to assert their rights in other areas of the student body. Up till this point, OUSA had no female representatives as they had been ignored when the first constitution was written. In 1891 women were formed into a separate faculty with the right to elect a representative the



same way other faculties did. so long as these representatives were men. This changed at a general meeting in 1894, after some strong words from a Miss Polson, when it was decided that women should be able to represent themselves. But it was not until 1902 that the first woman was elected onto the OUSA Executive. A breakthrough was made in 1914 when Dorothea Tucher was elected senior vice-president, the first woman to stand for a position chosen by general ballot. In 1920 the Women's Faculty was dissolved, and women joined men in their respective faculties. New leadership roles were won for women with Johanna Bronsnan becoming the first woman editor of the Review in 1917 and Margaret Cotterhill becoming the first woman president of a student club of open membership (the Literary Society) in 1932.

Women had to fight hard against male students on most fronts; even with the above achievements, it took until 1982 for OUSA to have its first female president, Phyllis Comerford. Over the 1930s, female students began lobbying to be allowed to perform alongside their male counterparts in the annual Capping Show. They were finally allowed to join in 1946, and today we have new all-female acts such as Sexytet that the show would not be the same without. This year seven of the elected executive members are women.

Kyle Matthews has a long history with OUSA, beginning in his first year of study at the University of Otago. He says of the association, "OUSA really was a lifestyle choice. In 1994 I was spending more time there as a volunteer than I [was] on my studies, and it was 100 percent what I wanted to be doing at that time of my life." He was an executive member in 1996: "there was nothing particularly special about the executive, other than it was the next thing I wanted to do in that work. The institution and the work that it did was more significant."

OUSA can, at times, be an extremely politically minded group. The political hive-mind of our students has come to a head several times in the history of OUSA, especially over the later war periods. The Vietnam War received great attention, with Dunedin setting up its own Committee on Vietnam, OUSA became involved in 1965. when members of the executive moved that a letter should be sent to the prime minister protesting the deployment

of Kiwi troops in Vietnam. This was forwarded to the student council, which passed three resolutions opposing the government's actions in Vietnam. The Vietnam issue led to the radicalisation of a section of students, labelled "beardies and weirdies" by the government. The Drama Society began staging works of social commentary on the issue, and political National and Labour clubs grew and flourished. OUSA held weekly forums with guest speakers, and students wrote protest songs to be performed by the Folk Music Club.

War, however, was not the only subject on the mind of political students. In 1965, students protested the lack of government funding for universities at the opening of the new Library building by Education Minister Arthur Kinsella. Mixed flatting became an issue in 1967 after the new university vice-chancellor tried to oust a male student from a flat of three

"OUSA really was a lifestyle choice. In **1994** I was spending more time there as a volunteer than I [was] on my studies, and it was **100** percent what I wanted to be doing at that time of my life."

> female students. The then OUSA President Bruce Robertson spoke at a large live-in protest at the student union. This event led to the executive demanding more direct student representation on the University Council, which the council was not willing to give.

> OUSA had its fair share of radicalness in the 1970s, when parties, drug abuse and police busts were becoming a part of everyday student life. When students began electing less "boring" candidates, political issues began to appear more in the executive's agenda, which previously would have been passed along to the student council. In 1970 the executive passed a motion supporting the activities of Halt All Racist Tours, and later on that year students elected Ebraima Manneh, a black radical student, as OUSA president.



Former OUSA presidents Andrew Cushen (2004), Steven Sutton (2005), Nick Lanham (2003), Avesha Verrall (2001).

Not all students were happy with the way OUSA reacted to political issues though; in 1972 the Otago Daily Times ran a large article put forward by 52 students asking OUSA to end all involvement in political issues. This didn't happen. Instead, OUSA continued to challenge things. The association challenged the university more directly over issues such as the appointment of the proctor, which was seen as the university going too far and interfering in students' lives. In the early 1980s, OUSA openly opposed the infamous Springboks' tour, causing a divide among students.

Fiona Bowker works in the University Information Centre and has been involved with OUSA for close to 20 years. She was also the Critic editor from 2000 to 2001. "There is a lot of resistance to open student protest nowadays," she says, reflecting back on the days when OUSA and the university's students would conduct mass sit-ins over things like fee changes. There might be a slight sense of complacency among present-day students, but in the past radical and successful protests occurred with relative frequency. "Ebraima Manneh and [up to twothirds of the total student roll at that

time] occupied the Registry Building in what was, I think, the first such occupation at Otago," Bowker says, "in protest of new discipline regulations." Bowker believes that the most important thing it can do for Otago's students is to re-establish a more robust way of communicating with students — and, above all, stay alive and active.

Around the mid-1970s, gay and lesbian students began to openly assert themselves. An attempt to set up a Gay Liberation Movement failed, but a connection with Youthline was established. In 1979 the first "Gav Pride Week" was held, with students wearing a pink triangle and blue jeans to signify their sexuality. While this was surely out there at the time, fast forward to today and we have an active OUSA Student Support Centre with the only funded Queer Support Programme in New Zealand. This service is dedicated to making sure this university is one of the most inclusive tertiary institutions in the country. Hahna Briggs, the gueer support co-ordinator for 2015, said that it is important for students to have someone to come and talk to in a non-judgmental and safe space, as it can be frightening trying to figure

out your identity, and coming out to friends and family doesn't always have a positive outcome. As the co-ordinator, Briggs is in charge of running regular support meetings, educating and training on sexuality both on and off campus, as well as training volunteer interns for the Peer Support Programme.

OUSA's Support Centre covers a lot more than just Queer Support, though. They help with anything from lost property to flat disputes, grade disagreements to bullying. They offer a "no questions asked" food bank for students under financial strain, which includes recipes to make the most nutritious meals out of your food parcel.

OUSA has given students a voice through which they can present their issues in a dignified and respectable manner. Through issues of equality of the sexes at university and within OUSA itself, through riots and protests and standing up not only to university authorities but also to government ministers, OUSA has proven itself resourceful and active, making sure that students feel represented and are able to make changes where they see problems.

2015 OUSA President Paul Hunt said: "In the era of voluntary student membership, OUSA will need to ensure it vigorously focuses on meeting the needs and interests of Otago students in order to remain relevant. While this will be a challenge, OUSA's strong history and recent performance in the VSM era place OUSA in a strong position to continue to represent, advocate, support and provide a diverse range of services to Otago students."

OUSA has come far in its 125 years, and who knows what crazy things it will be able to achieve in the future



BEIJING MUSINGS

Loulou Callíster-Baher

Loulou takes us through her experience of living in Beijing on a university exchange, highlighting the cultural differences she experienced and the surreal nature of living somewhere utterly unfamiliar.

olin rolled his shirt sleeve up to reveal a barb-wired swastika with "Sons of Badness" tattooed into his skin. He grinned, like a child with a new toy, as he studied his arm. He didn't know what that tattoo's World War Two implications were, but, for Colin, this swastika was an appropriated symbol from the West (despite its Eastern origins), so it had to be cool. As he began to show us his other tattoos, two toxic green cocktails were placed on the table in front of us. The waiter winked at us, then handed a beer to Colin. Colin fanned out a wad of 100 yuan notes on the table then handed one to the waiter. He lit another cigarette and continued to describe important lessons of love he had learned through How I Met Your Mother.

Colin repeatedly informed us of the television show's genius. One night, for example, there was a great-looking woman sitting at a bar. Everyone had tried to hit on her, but each had failed. After a drink or two, Colin flexed his fingers, went up to the woman and informed her that she was cute but he didn't like her hair. The compliment-insult combination wooed her (apparently). Although she was the girlfriend of a gangster who sat leering at them from across the room, she was into him.

Colin suddenly stopped talking and pulled out his cellphone to show us photos of his pet turtle at every angle (here's one of its leg, here's its mouth, here it is front on). The turtle's eyes bulged, illuminated by the phone's flash. We nodded along, half lost on his broken English. The only time he stopped talking was when he went to the toilet. My friend and I looked at each other, wondering why we were doing this again. We devised a plan to politely thank him for the drinks (untouched after an initial and reluctant sip) and leave. I never saw Colin again, but for months after he sent me messages on WeChat asking me what I was up to and whether I liked Katy Perry's "Dark Horse". I didn't have the heart to either reply to him or delete him.

Bizarre — the whole thing was. Every day in China's capital, I experienced

things that induced breathless, bewildered laughter in me, or deeply confused silence. My reactions or experiences weren't particularly unique when compared to those of other foreigners living in Beijing (white-girl/ boy-in-China blogs have become a cliché), but — as another exchange student observed over a goodbye meal — those who have lived in China become part of an unspoken cult. They are bonded by their experiences of the unexplained and the bizarre. Within this cult is a further divide: the people who become addicted to life in China and the people who never want to return.

The acceptance of contradictions in daily life by Beijingers is both admirable and nearly impossible to comprehend. But to have a life within this giant ball of tightly interwoven complications, it is inevitable that its people embrace or ignore these complications if they want to keep on surviving. China has achieved the world's firsts over and over (the compass, paper, printing, gunpowder), sometimes hundreds of years before the Western



world stumbled across these innovations. And yet fear of Beijing's tumultuous, not-so-distant past (including the Great Chinese Famine from 1958 to 1961 as a result of Mao's Great Leap Forward, the Tiananmen Square protests of 1976 and so on) means open political debate or "alternative" opinions are still subject to censorship. Even while I was there, the 2014 protests in Hong Kong, often referred to as the Umbrella Revolution. meant Instagram was blocked in China with no warning. Beijing's desire for progress also dramaticallv changes the cityscape every day. And, in all the spaces in between, there are people - everywhere, doing absolutely everything. This context, paired with exposure to a sprawling population, means there is a statistical certainty of encountering the weird ... daily.

While on exchange in China, I attended Tsinghua University. Along with Peking University, Tsinghua is the top university in China.

Its international connections only strengthen its status — Apple's CEO, Tim Cook, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg (strangely enough, considering Facebook is blocked throughout China) and former Wal-mart CEO, H. Lee Scott, are all on the advisory board of Tsinghua's School of Economics and Management. In practically all respects (apart from the technicality of being

"...those who have lived in China become part of an unspohen cult. They are bonded by their experiences of the unexplained and the bizarre. Within this cult is a further divide! the people who become addicted to life in China and the people who never want to return."

> a foreigner), I did not deserve to be there. Tsinghua and Peking together take approximately 84 students out of every 10,000 in Beijing who sit the gao kao (basically an incredibly stressful university entrance exam) each year. In places where there is a (controversially) smaller quota, only about three out of every 10,000 are accepted each year. Wrapping my head around

these figures and the impossible study students had committed to their entire lives to attend Tsinghua lurched me into a prequarter-life existential crisis. Were all my achievements mere ploys? Had I ever tried hard at anything?

Dispersed among Tsinghua's students who were already god-like in my eyes were those that even the Chinese students deemed mythical. Hopelessly inadequate, I almost didn't want to know. But conversations over hot-pot dinners with friends crammed into our dormitory floor's kitchen often ventured into these topics. There were the sons and daughters of high-ranking government officials who kept their identities hidden and were evasive when it came to making friends. There were the known. frequently discussed gao fu shuai (tall, rich and handsome) boys and the bai fu mei (white, rich and beautiful)

girls. And there were the celebrities, including the "Milk Tea Girl" — a girl who became famous in China for her "purity" and "sweetness" after a photo of her as a school girl drinking milk tea was put online. On a campus where most undergraduates and postgraduates lived, often in cramped living quarters by New Zealand standards, there was a sense of community and, along with that, a culture of constant story telling.

But, despite Tsinghua's prestige as an institution filled with impressive individuals, it was not without its oddities. Several nights when returning late to Tsinghua's campus, I biked past an eclectic pack of stray or abandoned dogs roaming the street. They were determined and in pack formation, so they ignored me and continued on down the road. I never saw the pack again. Another time, around midnight, I had forgotten where I had left my bike. I was briskly undertaking the thirty minute walk from the North East Gate to my dormitory. Again, campus was deserted, but as I turned a corner, out of nowhere, a group of students erratically skated by. They seemed to have been teaching themselves to rollerblade on a long, barely lit road that intersected several large lecture buildings. On a different day, I went to collect my bike and became distracted when a large nut hit me squarely on the head. I looked up. Perched high up in the trees that lined the bike stands were the tiny old ladies who cleaned our dormitory. The strange encounters on campus reached a sickly turn when one morning, as students from my building headed down the small driveway to the intersecting campus street, each swerved to avoid a large puddle of blood, yet to be cleaned up. I momentarily observed the sad, solitary tissue drowned in the middle.

I knew there would be no explanation, no notice of what had happened, no email out to all the students. By then, China had started to affect the way I thought about and interacted with life. I was one in an expanding city of about 21.5 million people. Actually I wasn't "one"; I was no one. Apart from being the subject of constant stares as a foreigner, I was still nobody among a huge, constantly moving crowd. Not only did that mean making fast decisions and constantly moving forward, it also meant that when I was out and about, I was out for myself. Fondling on the subway, or getting off the train at peak times, were the small, troubling interactions that I always worried about. Authority or even a kind stranger to help you were rarities, not givens. It was exhilarating.

It is a mess of terror and thrill when you sit in the back of a taxi (seatbelts, of course, ripped out) racing and swerving through traffic, anticipating a night roaming from bar to music venue in the fast-disappearing hu tong (traditional, alleyway neighbourhoods) of Beijing. The taxi would pierce through the heavy veil of air pollution that, on several days while I lived there, was 25 times what the World Health Organisation gauges as an amount that compromises health. The taxi would sharply change lanes to avoid a bus, and the driver would laugh at our reactions and decide that was the time to strike up a conversation. The lights of the huge Bird's Nest (built for the Beijing Olympics in 2008) would glow then disappear. These lights would soon be replaced by the illuminated swirl that tops the luxury Pangu Plaza hotel. Every space was filled with endless blocks of buildings adorned with red Chinese characters.

One of my good friends in China was an Australian punk who became increasingly connected to the underground punk scene while we were there. This was partly because of his own relentless passion and partly because his Chinese girlfriend was an underground music veteran. His girlfriend, who had the chemical structure for acid tattooed into her arm and partied daily, insisted that we attend the Beijing Drunk Fest — an all-day punk festival in a tiny, DIY venue called DMC, four subway changes away from campus. After several hours inside DMC, drinking cheap Tsingtao beer and avoiding the flailing limbs of young moshers, I went outside to take a breather. Punk kids filled the seats around the table and my friends and I began to talk with them about their lives in Beijing. They were angry, they were talented and they fantasised about finding freedom outside China. The word "freedom" dripped from their lips; it sounded divine — I also wondered what it tasted like. For a few long minutes, we lingered in the fantasy of the worlds each other represented.



critic.co.nz ISSUE 13

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 Use your eyes

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LOOK AND LOOK AGAIN BEFORE YOU CROSS THE ROAD





Luke Munn **swfer**

» BLUE OYSTER ART PROJECT SPACE | EXHIBITED 9 - 30 MAY

B lue Oyster Art Project Space has been simultaneously stripped back and expanded for Luke Munn's swfer. One wall in the front room simply has the link "i-chat.mobi/" placed in cursive lettering onto its wall. In the same room, different – seemingly meaningless – letters flashing up on a webpage are projected onto the wall. In the gallery's second, smaller room is a CD drive presented on a single white stand. A mechanical, shutter-like sound also fills the room. But further engagement and exploration reveals multiple dimensions that come confrontingly close to some of the central anxieties of my generation.

The link written on the front room's wall, typed into a device connected to the internet, takes the viewer to a chatroom. The chatroom background consists of sugary, abstract patterns — most likely the presumed aesthetic choice of a young girl customising her blog or chat forum background. However, the proceeding (automatic) conversation that the viewer witnesses in this chat space has a much darker element than the bright background colours and sickly cursive font suggest, providing, perhaps, some reasoning as to why the university internet prevented me from revisiting the chatroom because the content was labelled "pornography".

The chatroom plays through an actual conversation from 2005/2006 between a male

paedophile and a decoy posing as a 13/14-yearold girl. These decoys were set up by an organisation that monitors paedophiles online and thus, as Munn describes, involves emulating an identity to seduce someone else. This practice traverses a controversial line between entrapment and protection. The uneasiness of this conversation is only amplified by the witnessing of it on a personal device, cleverly creating awareness of misuse of the internet and a situation of curiosity-turned-fear experienced in the viewer's private engagement with their screen.

BY LOULOU CALLISTER-BAKER

This seediness is echoed in the gallery's second room. Examining the materials used in the show, I initially missed "semen". But it was there — in the drive, apparently. And it makes sense. The male orgasm is a common physical product of seedy online use. The semen is in the CD drive and gets wiped on the CD as it spins around. The sound work filling the room is two channel, a field microphone and a contact microphone, and features an intensified CD drive sound (appropriately named "seedee"). In this room, multiple, interesting interactions are taking place — between the physical product of men consuming online content (like porn) and the sterile machines that exist to enable this. The ceaseless sound humorously connects the mechanical nature of the drive to the male human drive to reproduce. Despite its humour, the critical nature of the works reduces and exposes the viewer as they become integrated into this interaction.

ART art@critic.co.nz

Another element to the show, which I missed, was a performance by Nada Crofskey-Rayner. Crofskey-Rayner walked through the space, listening to profound statements from Tumblr that were run through an algorithm to try to (mostly unsuccessfully) make them into natural language. Crofskey-Rayner had the ability to choose who she interacted with but was restricted to repeating the last phrase she heard when she talked. Munn described this element of the show as a further exploration of the difference between a box and a body or, in other words, what it looks like to use an algorithm with human agency.

Although the initial "emptiness" of the gallery may make some may feel vulnerable - undecided whether to feel duped or to delve in the space's emptiness — one should take the time to appreciate how relevant the show is. swfer exposes a plethora of anxieties created by our online engagement by using the human body, online tools and the physical components that allow the online world to run (we still need servers and CD drives to maintain it all). Much like those who create art that solely exists online, Munn relies on the viewer to complete his art. This gives the viewer the power to misinterpret or reinterpret the purposes or concepts behind the work - and reflect on how we use the internet to fulfill our own seedee drives.





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Slow-Cooked Chipotle Beef Tacos

» ADAPTED FROM MY UNDERGROUND KITCHEN BY JESS DANIELL. SERVES 6.

BY SOPIHE EDMONDS

recently bought my new favourite cookbook, My Underground Kitchen by Jess Daniell. In the last 48 hours, I have cooked three meals from it and don't see myself stopping at that. I already have this week's feasting planned out, and it's all out of this book. There was a recipe in here for beef nachos. Corn chips are pretty much just wheat tortillas that are fried and, um, made out of corn so I figured, hey, let's just turn these into tacos.

I prepped all the slow-cooker ingredients the night before, put them in the bowl of the slow cooker with the lid on and put it in the

fridge overnight. The next morning I got up a few minutes earlier and cranked on the slow cooker before I left the house at 5.35am. By the time I got home, I had a slow cooker full of tender, juicy beef all ready for me to wrap in a taco baby.

- O 800a stewing steak
- O 1 onion, thinly sliced
- O 6 cloves garlic, roughly chopped
- O 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 0 1 tablespoon ground coriander
- ¹/₂ cup whole chipotles in sauce (I use the ο
- La Morena chipotles in the orange can)
- O ¹/₄ teaspoon cayenne pepper O 1lemon, halved
- 0
- 1 teaspoon salt
- O 500ml beef or vegetable stock

FOR THE BEEF

In a frying pan over a medium to high heat, sear the pieces of beef steak so that they are lightly browned on each side. Place all the ingredients in the slow cooker, pop the lid on and leave to cook on high for 10-12 hours.

Remove the beef from the cooker and shred with two forks. Combine with the cooked onions and half to a full cup of cooking liquid to keep the beef juicy. Reserve the rest of the cooking stock for the beans.

O splash of olive oil

- 0 1 onion, diced
- O 3 cloves garlic, minced
- O 75g tomato paste (about half a small can)
- O 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- O 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- O 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- O 1 tablespoon good quality, rich cocoa powder
- O 400g kidney beans, drained
- ο 400g cannellini beans, drained
- ο 400g can chopped tomatoes
- 2 cups cooking stock from the beef

FOR THE BEAN CHILLI

Sauté the onion in the olive oil until translucent. Add the garlic and cook for two minutes before adding in the tomato paste, Worcestershire sauce, balsamic vinegar, brown sugar, cocoa and beans. Cook until the sauce becomes syrupy then add in the tomatoes and beef cooking juices. Leave to simmer until it thickens, about 30 to 40 minutes. Add salt and pepper to season.

FOR THE TOMATO SALSA

- O 4 vine-ripened tomatoes, diced
- O ¹/₂ red onion, finely diced
- O ¹/₂ cucumber, diced
- O juice of half a lemon
- O salt and pepper to taste

Combine all the ingredients.

FOR THE GUACAMOLE

- O 2 avocados, flesh removed and mashed
- ο ¹/₂ red onion, finely diced
- O 2 cloves garlic, finely minced
- O juice of one lemon
- O salt and pepper

Mash all the ingredients together.

TO SERVE

O 12-16 small flour tortillas O fresh lettuce leaves O SOUR CREAM

O fresh coriander leaves

To assemble the tacos, layer ingredients on top of the tortillas.



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FN





Hades

» WRITTEN BY CANDICE FOX BY BRIDGET VOSBURGH /

ades is Candice Fox's first novel. Fox tells the story of homicide detective Frank Bennett, who has just been professionally partnered with Eden Archer, a woman who has some serious secrets. The novel is set in Australia and alternates between Frank and Eden's investigation of a killer who is harvesting organs and the story of Eden's upbringing by the titular Hades. Hades lives in a shack on the outskirts of a garbage heap and has made a career of disposing of various things for criminals, including dead bodies. When a client arrives with two children he and his gang have failed to actually kill, Hades slowly decides to raise them as his own. This childhood left Eden rather strange and, as the two work together, Frank begins to have suspicions about his new partner.

The point of view in **Hades** starts off switching between flashback scenes written in third-person italics about Eden's childhood and Frank's first-person narration. It isn't until chapter four that there's a scene in non-italicised third person from the point of view of the organ harvester. I found that sudden shake-up of an established structure rather jarring, which is a shame because otherwise Hades is well-written from a purely technical standpoint. Also, for reasons I will never understand, crime novels and thrillers are one of



those genres where writers often feel free to over-write. Fox doesn't do that all. I actually read her descriptive passages without ever wondering "Why am I being told this?" That is a rare and valuable gift.

This book's tagline is "What does it take to raise two perfect little killers?", which implies that Hades is specifically raising Eden and her brother to be murderers. He's not. (They do become murderers, which isn't a spoiler because that's the tagline. You're clearly getting murder-children here.) Hades doesn't have the most stellar morals, but he's also not stoked about his children becoming murderous vigilantes. He tries to prevent it. And the sections from Hades' point of view state Eden and her brother would have been normal if their parents hadn't been killed. I don't buy it.

Then there's the organ harvester. He believes that the weak should be purged from the human race, yet he's going around murdering healthy people to sell their organs to

sick people. I think the contradiction there is apparent. And apparently he intently studies his potential clients before approaching them, learning everything from their moral character to their extended family, but also doesn't check whether they have enough money to afford his services. Still, it's necessary to think a lot about a book to review it, but not so much to read it. If you like your thrillers reasonably competent and don't mind a touch of implausibility, go to it. **O**

ENROL FOR SEMESTER 2 MFCO102 Understanding Contemporary Media



Media is ubiquitous in our everyday lives.

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Exam Time: Eat, Sleep, Exercise, then Play



Quiz Up

Demand all your flatmates sign up, then compete in anything from Disney movies to the human body.



Dubsmash

This one is not library appropriate unless you're in a study room. Lip sync to your favourite lyrics and movie one-liners, then watch yourself in a recording video.



2048

This is dangerously addictive and could result in getting at least a few marks lost once you get the knack of the game. Swipe left, right, up or down to get the same numbers to add together.



Snake

It's the classic Nokia game we know and love and dearly miss.

TED

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Flat Tomato

If the exam is tomorrow and you must study: this sets you 25 minutes of intense work and then times your break. Yes, a stopwatch could do the same thing but then where's the fun?





REVIEWED BY BY ISAAC YU

where the second second

For the uninitiated, Killing Floor 2 is the 2015 sequel to the popular 2009 co-op first-person shooter by Tripwire Interactive — the same gun nuts who brought you Red Orchestra and Red Orchestra 2. The objective, much as the name suggests, is for you and up to five other players to survive increasingly difficult waves of "zeds" (bioweapons gone rogue) by setting up a killing floor. This involves welding doors shut to funnel zeds into as few pathways as possible so you can efficiently dispatch them. Between each wave, you have a brief reprieve to run around the map to look for ammo and to use your hard-earned dosh to purchase weapons and armour from the trader. Each wave gradually introduces more and more different zed types: starting with the cannon fodder Clots, whose sole job is to eat bullets and grab you if they get too close and progressing to the chainsaw-wielding Scrake, who will wipe entire teams if left unchecked. And just when you think you've gotten a handle on things, the game ends with a boss wave against a submachine-gun-toting cyborg Nazi. Let it never be said that Tripwire produces uninspired games.

Going against the grain of a lot of conventional first-person shooters where a single player can dominate a match, in Killing Floor 2 you're only ever as good as the weakest player on your team. Because of this emphasis on cooperation, each player can choose from the four currently available "perks" (with six more en route). Each "perk" acts as an archetype or a



class, with its own strengths and weaknesses. Assault-rifle-wielding commandos specialise in cleaning up the low-level cannon fodder zeds that will try to swarm you and provide a utility role in seeing enemy health bars and spotting cloaked zeds. The shovel-swinging Berserker excels in getting up close and personal, using superior survivability to parry hits from bigger zeds and stand its ground buying valuable time for everyone else to focus their fire. Supports excel at bringing down bigger zeds with a fistful of buckshot and can give ammo to everyone else, and the self-explanatory Field Medic keeps everyone hale and hearty with sci-fi-inspired guns and healing grenades. Each perk gives the player a specific task to do amid the chaos, and as each perk levels up (through killing, healing, welding, etc), you get to specialise further by choosing between two different skills every five levels (although you can change perks and skills after every wave to encourage flexibility).

Where Killing Floor 2 really excels is in how satisfying every part of the gameplay is; even the reload animations have a lot of realism and detail put into them - Tripwire used motion-capture footage of soldiers and special-forces operators firing and reloading guns to get every detail perfect. One of the skills, "Tactical Reload", not only speeds up the time it takes for you to reload a gun but changes the animations completely to be more streamlined and efficient. Regardless of what perk you are playing, you always feel rewarded for playing well, whether that is timing a perfect parry against a Scrake or firing a healing dart to save a teammate. The guns could sound a bit meatier, but each has a nice kick when fired and feels satisfying, especially when you're in the slow-motion "zed time" and lining up headshots.

While it is difficult to fully review a game that has only about 40 percent of the planned content available, what content is available is well polished but could use a bit more balancing. Because of Tripwire's fantastic track record as a developer — constantly updating its games with free content long after release — I have little doubt that Killing Floor 2 will shape up to be one of the best multiplayer games of the year, especially when all the perks are added in.



s a general rule, I don't laugh in cinemas. I don't cry, I don't text and I don't put my feet on the seats. While I do this out of respect for other cinema-goers, the main reason for my self-control is undeniably fear. It's also judgment. Therefore, it's understandable that I headed into Pitch Perfect 2 with this same sense of conformity cloaking my usually outspoken personality.

It wasn't long, however, before my resolve was shattered. Upon hearing the hyena-like cackling spilling from my lungs, I hurriedly endeavoured to tone it down a little, but the superb one-liners in Pitch Perfect 2 had me

REVIEWED BY MAYA DODD

giggling throughout the entire film.

Pitch Perfect 2 follows the Barden Bellas as they face the threat of permanent disbandment due to an unfortunate event involving President Obama's birthday and a wardrobe malfunction involving Fat Amy's (Rebel Wilson) goods "down under". In order to save their a capella family, the Bellas have to compete in the World Championships — a competition that no American group has ever won — and without the support of Barden University.

The girls find themselves going up against European champions, Das Sound Machine, who are revered in the world of a capella. Protagonist, Beca Mitchell (Anna Kendrick), has an internship at a recording studio, which makes it difficult for her to find time for the Bellas. When the Barden Bellas are on stage, their performance also reflects their newfound discord, especially when they try to match the extravagant choreography of Das Sound Machine. In need of help, the Bellas reach out to ex-Bella, Aubrey Posen (Anna Camp), who eventually succeeds in helping the girls rediscover their sound.

Sequels often fail miserably (see Pocahontas 2, Mean Girls 2 and every single Bring It On following the original). Pitch Perfect 2, however, does not fall into the same black hole as its well-meaning predecessors. However, with so many aspects to the storyline, the subplots became tumbled into a messy pile that lacked development and reduced the chances of deeper audience engagement.

Fortunately, the humour was more than enough to keep the audience entertained, and Pitch Perfect 2 was pretty aca-awesome.

The Ground We Won

» DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER PRYOR AND MIRIAM SMITH

REVIEWED BY HARLAN JONES

ilms that grapple with issues fundamental to our concept of national identity are always going to be controversial. The Ground We Won is a documentary that delves into the New Zealand mythology made strong by the likes of Barry Crump's A Good Keen Man and Greg McGee's Foreskin's Lament.

The Ground We Won is about rugby, farming, masculinity and the New Zealand rural lifestyle. The New Zealand it depicts is hard, a representation that, arguably, no longer aligns with contemporary New Zealand society. Irrespective of whether the New Zealand in The Ground We Won exists — or if it ever did — it is debatable whether we ought to celebrate or condemn the frontier values inherent in the film. It would be wrong, however, to simply dismiss the documentary as a propaganda piece. The Ground We Won is just as much about binge drinking, drought, divorce and bullying as it is about rugby and the community. It simply represents a slice of New Zealand life with an entirely non-partisan attitude.

The decision to film in monochrome is commendable, as the fog-covered paddocks and rolling hills of Reporoa retain their beauty, but in a more striking rugged way. The absence of seasonal colour change establishes a sense of timelessness and the black and white visually entrenches the binary oppositions that are so integral to the film's thematic concerns — win/lose, live/die, black/white.



The film's key strength is its ability to weave intelligently between narrative and documentary storytelling. We find ourselves laughing with the characters as though we're with them in the locker room. At other times we are moved to sympathise with them, but never are we truly allowed into their world. We're deliberately kept as observers.

The Ground We Won is not an ambitious project, but it's not pretending to be. It's a story about community. It's about people going about their lives searching for meaning. This film is understated, yet remains engaging and entertaining to watch.





Run Lola Run

» DIRECTED BY TOM TYWKER

R un Lola Run is a unique, adrenaline-fuelled film with an urban angst reminiscent of The Matrix and Fight Club and Guy Ritchie-esque atmosphere. However, the film stands easily on its own. With techno music, parallel universes and the late 90s involved, I can unreservedly say that Run Lola Run has something for everyone.

As you can probably guess, the film is about a woman named Lola, played by Franka Potente, who rapidly moves between places in Berlin with the use of her feet. Anyone who has spent as much as ten minutes in Berlin can probably tell that Lola's journey makes no geographical sense but, rather than confusing the audience, it accentuates the plotline. When her boyfriend, Manni (Moritz Bleibtreu) loses 100,000 Deutsche marks belonging to his gangster boss, Lola has 20 minutes in which to somehow obtain the money and save his life. We see the events of these 20 minutes unfold three times, and each time things play out a little differently. The butterfly effect is in action as small variations have larger and larger repercussions further down the line.

REVIEWED BY ALEX CAMPBELL-HUNT

The film's techno soundtrack is a huge part of its character; since it's right out of the late 90s, it sounds a little dated now, but it's still awesome. Tom Tykwer, the film's writer and director, was also the composer and, as a result, the soundtrack fits in perfectly; it's hard to imagine the feeling of urgent running being better captured in other types of music. Run Lola Run also makes effective use of the classics with tunes from Dinah Washington and Charles Ives.

It's also quite a dark film; the premise is kind of grim and almost every supporting character is a horrible person — even the ones who have only a few seconds of screen time. Initially, this is a bit overwhelming, but it doesn't take long before you're completely drawn into Lola's three stories and the action that occurs within these parallel universes.

ahea this Poké take help like neat

Paper Planes

» DIRECTED BY ROBERT CONNOLLY



REVIEWED BY ANDREW KWIATKOWSKI

hy do I care about Dylan's paper plane quest? After 96 minutes, this question has not been answered. Paper Planes is about an average 12-yearold Australian boy called Dylan (Ed Oxenbould), whose dead mother imparted to him the gift of folding the perfect paper airplane. His passion for paper planes fuels his goal of winning the World Paper Plane Championships, which are held in Japan. Dylan's father is a deadbeat who is still grieving over the death of his wife. The only person who seems to truly believe in Dylan's life-changing, golden-ticket dream is his spritely, veteran World War Two RAAF fighter-pilot grandfather (Terry Norris), who gets into all kinds of mischief with the protagonist.

Just like every 12-year-old kid in these types of films, there is also an intriguing love interest to be won over and bullies to deal with. Unfortunately, Dylan can only seem to make friends with animals; his rival, Jason (Nicholas Bakopoulos-Cooke), is more popular and mocks him at every step, while surging ahead in the paper plane competition. Isn't this just Ash Ketchum facing Gary in some Pokémon battle now? Dylan eventually gets taken under the wing of Kimi (Ena Imai), who helps bring his dream to life in a Karate Kidlike way, which ties the film together with a neat and boring end.

Not only does Paper Planes have a dull plotline, it also heavily copies moments from other films such as Love Actually, Karate Kid, The Fast and the Furious and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. With its pilfered film tropes and over-dramatisation of a 12-year-old's life, many older viewers will be left with absolutely nothing interesting or original to say about the human condition that could draw my attention away from, you know, grown-up, real-life issues like the fact that my tiny bag of M&Ms now costs \$7.70.

Paper Planes is a tiresome film that mashes together the best parts of successful and well-known films but, in doing so, fails to achieve what those movies did so effortlessly; instead, we are left with an overdone plotline and eye-roll-inducing moments as we've all seen those scenes before. •

CLASSIC

FIL.M

» ALTERNATIVE ROCK, BRITPOP | PARLOPHONE; 2015 **REVIEWED BY BASTI MENKES** ell folks, it actually happened. Six years after reforming, and twelve since their last studio outing, Blur are back. There are several reasons why this is great news. For one, Blur always represented the more irreverent and

Blur The Magic Whip

MUSIC

artful side of the Britpop era. Though Blur penned some of the most anthemic songs of that genre, they also managed to not succumb to Britpop's excesses. As a result, their music still sounds as vibrant now as it did back in their heyday. Furthermore, The Magic Whip marks the return of Graham Coxon, the band's iconic lead guitarist. With the exception of one song on 2003's Think Tank, Coxon hasn't played on a Blur album since 1999.

But according to Blur, all this isn't such a huge deal. Everything about The Magic Whip, from its guiet release to its pop-art album cover, suggests that you shouldn't take it too seriously. Musically, it's a fairly humble record. Many songs are comfortable, quintessential Blur, from the Modern Life Is Rubbish-like opener "Lonesome Street" to the grungy pop of single "Go Out". Thanks to the return of producer Stephen Street, The Magic Whip has the bite Think Tank sometimes lacked. With references to Hyde Park and the London Underground, The Magic Whip often feels very British.

That isn't to say, however, that vanilla is the only flavour The Magic Whip has to offer. There are small splashes of dub, Afrobeat and psychedelia throughout, sure to please fans of the eclecticism of Think Tank or Damon Albarn's other project, Gorillaz. Damon appears to have fallen deeply in love with Asia, making references to junk boats, Pyongyang and monasteries in Hong Kong. At times, the globetrotting lyrics and moments of foreign beauty can feel a little exoticist, as though the band members are shoving their passports in your face and excitedly pointing out all of the visas they have had stamped. Thankfully, there is an ambivalence in the lyrics to a song like "Pyongyang" that reassures us that Albarn isn't romanticising the cultures of which he sings.

When Albarn's eyes aren't on the horizon, he turns his gaze inwards and comes out with some truly lovely slices of introspection. On "There Are Too Many of Us", he laments the digital age, singing "For a moment I was dislocated, my terror on a loop elsewhere." The buoyant "Ice Cream Man" sees Albarn yearn for the amorousness of his youth, singing "I was only twenty one ... I was racing in my heart back then."

Regardless of its lyrical or musical style, The Magic Whip feels comfortable, as though Blur never really went away. Unfortunately, that also means the stakes feel pretty low. For all of its multiculturalism, The Magic Whip can't help but feel like Blur treading water to a degree. But let's not look a gift horse in the mouth. The fact Blur came back at all, especially with Graham Coxon on board, is something to be grateful for. The Magic Whip is a solid album, and fits happily alongside Blur's other records. •


» REVIEWED BY BASTI MENKES

Aphex Twin

Selected Ambient Works 85–92

R ichard D. James' first record as Aphex Twin has been hailed as "the birthplace and the benchmark of modern electronic music" (Warp). An odyssey of dreamy techno, SAW is the perfect soundtrack to a spell of late-night studying.

SAMPLE TRACK: "Ageispolis"



ustralia's best-kept secret is The Necks, a prolific jazz trio. Their 1989 album Sex is a wonderfully hypnotic piece, which sees the drums and double-bass provide a strong musical foundation for the cascades of piano.

SAMPLE TRACK: It's all one track, homie.



Casualties of Cool

evin Townsend took a break from extreme metal with his recent project, Casualties of Cool. Described as "haunted Johnny Cash songs" and "late night music", Casualties of Cool sees Townsend deliver an album of gorgeous country and deep-space ambience. The vocals of Ché Aimee Dorval are otherworldly.

SAMPLE TRACK: "Moon"



Space Is Only Noise

icolas Jaar's Space Is Only Noise feels like a diary, full of pensive lyrics and musical ideas that have been scribbled down. Most songs feature scatterings of piano, electronica and perhaps a melancholic vocal. The resulting album is fragmented and deeply personal.

SAMPLE TRACK: "Colomb"



Godspeed You! Black Emperor

MUSIC

F#A# Infinity

he debut album from Godspeed You! Black Emperor is a postrock masterpiece. An album of sparse, post-apocalyptic beauty, F# A# Infinity will provide a deliciously dark soundtrack to your revision.

SAMPLE TRACK: "The Dead Flag Blues"



hough the Scottish duo's least remarkable effort, The Campfire Headphase is probably Boards of Canada's prettiest album. Soft-focus synthesizers and break-of-dawn acoustics swim together in a lush aquarium of sound.

SAMPLE TRACK: "Dayvan Cowboy"

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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



brilliant money-making scheme will come to you in the shower this week. Make sure to keep a notepad and pencil in the bathroom at all times.!

Taurus



void wine over the exam period, as it will leave you with heartburn and acid reflux for your study sessions the following week. If you have a BYO to go to, fill a bottle of wine with the safer option of straight tequila and drink responsibly.

Gemini



rue love will find you in a rubbish bin of some sort, but don't worry, there won't be anything trashy about your future beau. Have fun skipping into the sunset together, trailing banana peels and Scarfie pie wrappers behind you as you go on your merry way.



s flat inspection time draws near, it will soon become apparent that the poster hung up in your living room is strategically placed to hide a hole that your flatmate kicked through the wall. Make them 'fess up before the landlord comes through.

nergy drinks are your friend during this week, but avoid caffeine on Friday as dire consequences will result. (Spoiler alert: You'll shit yourself.)

Virgo

Leo





here is a strong correlation between the colour orange and new friendships this week. Roast an entire pumpkin and share it with flatmates and neighbours; you may just make some new study buddies!

Scorpio

ime to be a Scorpio of your word and stick to all your commitments. You may find yourself constantly busy but the payoff will be worth it.

Sagittarius

t appears from examining your star chart L that you have just been released from something that's been dragging you down for a long time (maybe a stressful job?). This is the start of a new chapter in your life, and it will be the best one yet.

Capricorn



eeling stressed over study? A great way to relieve stress is to play vacuum tag! Simply turn your vacuum cleaner on and chase after your flatmates and friends to your heart's content!

Aguarius



void vacuum cleaners! I'm really trying to look out for you here. Study hard, and let the dust pile up on your carpet.



🚺 ou've been a bit angry lately — and understandably so! However, now it is time to make like Elsa, and "Let It Go". Close relationships will be the better for it.





LETTER OF THE WEEK

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

We're On It

Dear Critic,

There have been many inflammatory comments towards Maori on various social media sites due to the Maori sub-category entrance into the professional programme from Health Science First Year which has been put in place by the University of Otago and various Universities around New Zealand. I have found that their arguments are not factual enough but others still seem to jump on the bandwagon and put the Maori students of the course down with comments such as "Maori students still act hard done by and yet you passed this paper based purely on your ethnicity and achieve 50 percent of the minimum mark for white students", "I'm going to marry a Maori so my kids can get into medicine without doing any work" and "why should they get special consideration?" I feel like people don't have the right understanding about the Maori sub-category and why it has been set up so I was hoping that some day we are able to see an article in the Critic that is able to shine light on the facts rather than rumours that are spreading like wild fire.

Thank you,

Davina Wainohu

Get Some Love Going

Dear Critic,

I was saddened to see my university in the news for the wrong reason. Both students and residents seem to be engaging in a blame game. On one side, we have the narrative of a sensationalist media seeking to make a quick buck by throwing dirt on Otago's reputation. On the other side, we have the narrative of out of control drunken partying. While both narratives have a grain of truth, neither is completely founded in fact. It is unfair to blame one side for all the problems. While there are rotten landlords who charge exorbitant rents for poor services, we also need to honour our non-student neighbours by toning down the noise and mess. While the Sunday programme was one-sided towards students, resident Caroline Devine did not deserve to suffer harassment for voicing legitimate grievances. So, the lesson for everyone, both students and residents, is that we can either learn to live together or let Dunedin and Otago University fade into nothingness. Both sides have to learn to see beyond each other's faults and work together.

Andrew Lim North Dunedin

So Much Capping Lurve

To the University of Otago, OUSA and all cast and crew members of the Capping Show,

I would like to congratulate you on an amazing show. The months of hard work and dedication spoke volumes, exemplifying what Otago Students are capable of.

I wish that the TVNZ cameras had captured the singing of 'Gaudeamus igitur' at the Capping show or at my graduation ceremony over the weekend. This humbling song made me proud to be an Otago Student, creating an amazing feeling of community and spirit. I felt recognised for all of the hard work I put into gaining my degree.

The rich traditions and cultural history that Otago encompasses are unlike any other University in New Zealand. These should be the focus of the media. As a country we should treasure our Universities and celebrate student achievement, rather than promoting the very small number of people who are not so exemplary (who, might I add, are present in every group of society).

Sort it out New Zealand.

Sincerely, A proud Otago student. **Clementine**

She's Quite the Chef

Ps can you tell the girl who wrote the cuban sandwiches article that she is a genius and they were delicious.

Chloe

Golden!! Just wait until she tries the tacos :P
Sophie Edmonds – Food Editor

Don't Egg Freshers then

Gidday,

Myself and 4 other flat mates received a \$400 fine the day after the toga party from the proctor for egging freshers. There were literally crowds doing it and cops were driving past waving and smiling at us, they didn't appear to give a shit. Yet our flat and our neighbour's were singled out on our street that I know of. We received a \$400 fine and our neighbour's who are in a 9 man flat each had to give the proctor a \$100 food voucher. The house in the corner were egging campus watch and we're a lot worse than us and received no punishment at all. Also I might add myself a send 2 others in my flat are polytech students.

Cheers,

Egg Thrower

— LETTERS POLICY —

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



LETTERS

Domin DUNEDIN 736 GREAT	no's	PICKUP VALUE RANGE PICKUP TRADITION PICKUP TRA	B Dent ID
Yik Yak		When you take your jumper off in central then realise you aren't wearing a tshirt underneath	153
Eat whatever the fuck you want, if someone lectures you on your weight, eat them too :) 2h <u>3 replies</u>	< 69 69	I don't have a girlfriend But I do know a girl who will be real mad about me saying that.	410
Sometimes I think there's more pasta in my flat than common sense.	< 8 >	I wish I still had the body I had in high school when I thought I was fat. Now I really am fat	315
If you're aiming for med and you don't understand why there's a need for Maori/PI doctors, you're not going to make a very good doctor in NZ #realtalk	83	When you go to your older sisters place and she has 4ply #goals	228
Guy on tinder messages me "I know this is a huge turn off but I'm from Arana. Please give me a chance"	60	Here's a tip: If your diet consists of noodles, mcD's and scarfie pies, you will not pass exams. Brains need fuel. Have some veges.	82

ISSUE 12 **MOBILE ADVERT**

Regarding the advert in page 3 of last week's issue and in light of recent research, we do not recommend the purchase of phones from Pacific Mobile.

We apologise for any confusion caused. We are currently investigating the company and would like to hear from anyone who has been in contact with them.

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BY WEE DOUBT

ies can be deadly. Last month a story broke in the world of alternative medicine about Belle Gibson, an Australian woman who had made a living from her account of having cured herself of supposed terminal brain cancer with healthy eating. She said the cancer had spread to her liver and kidneys, and then to her blood, spleen, brain and uterus. She claimed to have undergone heart surgery, despite having no scars to show for it. She also claimed to have suffered a stroke. After declaring she had "cured" herself, she made a fortune with a whole-foods cooking app and companion cookbook, the profits from which she promised to donate to charity. Except she didn't. She never had cancer and she spent all the money on an expensive apartment, a car, cosmetic surgery, holidays and designer clothes.

There are several layers as to why Belle's story is so terrible. The worst thing she has done is potentially stop people who have real illnesses from seeking proper medical treatment. But Belle also claimed that "Western medicine" is intrinsically bad for you and entirely driven by profit. The pharmaceutical industry is, like most industries, corrupt in many ways, but most of the individuals working in it want to help people. Also, there is no such thing as "Western medicine". What we should call it is "modern medicine", as hard-working people from all over the world contribute to make our knowledge of health, medicine and treatment better. To say it is "Western" is to dismiss the work of people from non-Western countries. Another thing that should irk in stories like this is the claim that mainstream doctors don't know or care about nutrition. Nutrition is a very recent and major scientific discovery. It is not something doctors ignore.

Nobody gives a shit if you are a healthy adult and you want to eat a special diet to prevent cancer or live longer. If you claim to be able to cure headaches or low energy using unproven methods, that's pretty harmless too. But if you are not a trained medical person and you claim to be able to cure serious disease without evidence for your methods, you are putting people's lives in danger. I hope Belle Gibson's story will have an upside by encouraging people to be more sceptical of extraordinary claims. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.



BY RECORD PLAYER

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

am not sure what first drew my eyes to him — it could have been him as a person, but part of me thinks it was him and his bicycle. I first saw him on my way to my 9am Monday lecture. I was walking past the hospital, tired, dreading the week ahead. But this typical morning lethargy melted away when everything I could want on a bicycle just rolled by.

His long legs were perfectly gangly in their black skinny jeans. His loose black jumper paired nicely with the hard curve of his high-top Docs. The speed he attained on the bicycle implied a sense of daring, and yet he maintained a respect for safety and himself by wearing a helmet (well, it is illegal not to, but whatevs). Very quickly (like his bike speed) he became my health goth eye crush — my wonderfully bittersweet Monday morning delight.

At this initial distance, I could handle my crush. But things have intensified recently — one could say at a "record" pace. Yes, it turns out he is also a part-time DJ, with an obsession for collecting records. He doesn't like music of the mainstream kind — his interests are deep house, punishing techno and more. When I found this out in a chance discussion with a friend of a friend of his, all I could think of was how deep in my house he could go. Would he punish me if I went techno? Wild thoughts, but I couldn't help it — these ideas kept cycling through my mind!

Whatever the case, I just want you to know, DJ health goth, if we get married, I won't mind if our carriage is a bicycle built for two.





DAVID CLARK Budget: What's in it for you?

w ou can't build an economy on houses, dairy and natural disasters alone. The government's chance to get back on the front foot lay in last week's budget. They've told us they will fail for the seventh time to achieve a surplus, despite making it the central promise of the election campaign. And they're tinkering around the edges of the Auckland housing crisis with a tax on capital gains from property speculation — too little to stop the runaway train fuelled by supply constraints, and too late for the \$100,000 house price rise in Auckland last year.

For years, the Reserve Bank has been saying that New Zealand's financial system faces three key risks: high household sector debt, an over-exposure to dairying, and risks presented by global financial conditions — including New Zealand's trade exposure to the fortunes of China.

Successive governments have failed to diversify the economy sufficiently. Denmark's economy is instructive. Thirty years ago they had an agriculturally based economy of a similar size and shape to ours. They've grown agricultural exports at about the same rate we have. On top of that, they now have exports per person roughly three times ours. They've managed to diversify their economy.

The government seems distracted from important tasks like diversification. The arrogant, "out of touch and out of ideas" meme perhaps explains: National's thrashing in one of its safest seats in the Northland by-election; allegations of poor management of conflicts of interest; and internal positioning to be Key's replacement. National heads have been hanging whenever I've looked across parliament's debating chamber in recent weeks. Notwithstanding Key's warning to his own ministers not to be arrogant, the most common complaint I'm hearing is that he's fallen into that trap himself. The ponytail pulling hasn't helped.

As details of the budget become clearer over coming weeks, New Zealanders will be asking: what's in it for me? Am I in secure, well-paid work? Am I able to purchase my first home? Can I afford tertiary study? Seven years ago, Key was aspirational for New Zealand, but if the budget fails to show a credible path to the aspirations of ordinary New Zealanders, the faith they've placed in him to deliver on those aspirations will suffer the same fate as the elusive surplus — it will disappear. A Broad View

Go Conquer your Mountain

BY REESE SUN

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.

ast week, my Kiwi friend messaged me a screenshot of a rather successful YikYak — "Taking off my tramping boots after a long day of being an American exchange student." I laughed, putting my phone down to take my boots off after a weekend at the Silver Peaks.

Whether it's a sleepover at caves on Long Beach or a climb to a hut 1400 metres high on the side of a mountain, there's always a reason (excuse) to get out and take this breathtaking country in. And apart from the university, I really think that's why most students choose New Zealand — they come here as a seasoned tramper/surfer/biker, or they come to ultimately become one. The shared yearning for adventure and mountain air moulds the study abroad culture — but that's only half of it.

The other half comes from the heart and soul of North Dunedin; from the rows of flats that smell like fermented teen spirit; from the red cards; from the open doors of every party on Castle Street. More than anything, I have learned and loved from Dunedin, it's the openness and wild spirit of the Scarfie community. Coming from a school where your name always has to be on the invite list (unless you're a girl) and the most frequent question is "oh, where are you working this summer?" Otago has been the greatest reminder to celebrate being alive.

The list goes on and on for all the little things I'll miss — the ever-present Kiwi accent, dancing to the same five songs at Boogie Nights, watching the world go by sitting atop my favorite perch on my favorite tree in front of the clocktower. But most of all, I'll forever be thankful for the many people who, in so many different ways, have really shown me that it is not the mountain we conquer but ourselves — whether that mountain is an actual mountain, or a Friday morning exam.

Catch ya on the flipside, Dunners — we out.





Science, Bi tches!

The Anthropic Principle

BY EMMA COTTON

bout 13.8 billion years ago, a small bundle of matter expanded to form the universe. In that single expansion, the stars, the moon, the Earth, oceans, land and life all saw their beginning. The theory of the big bang, which has been pieced together by scientists over nearly a century, explains what happened, but it doesn't explain why.

Science has proven that we, as humans, are somewhat insignificant. Aristotle's model of an Earth-centred universe has long since dissolved and, after all, there are stars much larger than the one we orbit. In comparison to everything that exists, the Earth is nothing more than a particle of dust floating among other equally insignificant dust particles.

Recently, though, some scientists have taken a step back, realising that

even though we are small, we are also unlike anything else we know. We are alive. We have hypothesised that other life may exist somewhere, but we haven't found proof. As far as we know, nothing like us exists.

Our uniqueness is accentuated by our intelligence. We are conscious. We have complex emotions. We form bonds and study and intentionally change the world. The conditions under which we evolved are so particular that some scientists think the universe may have been created specifically for us.

This idea is called the Anthropic Principle. It is based on the fact that life would not have existed if a few important physical laws (like electromagnetic force) were even just slightly different. Nick Bostrom, director of the Future of Humanity Institute, explains on his website: "It's as if we're balancing on a knife's edge." A little too far to one side, and we would have never existed.

Theories that fit the Anthropic Principle range from the theological (an intelligent creator consciously created Earth) to the astronomical (some features of the cosmos are driven towards life). Either way, the Anthropic Principle puts humans back in the centre, even if it's a less physical centre than that of Aristotle's model.

The big bang was a supernatural event — meaning that it occurred outside what we have defined as the functioning laws of physics for our world. Though scientists normally base theories on procedural logic, they have realised that it is time to ask the question: Why? Now, they are finding that the answer might be us.



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n 15 January 1919, Boston suffered one of history's strangest disasters – a devastating flood of molasses. The "Great Molasses Flood" tore through the working-class North End district and deposited so much of the sticky stuff that apparently residents could still smell it on warm days decades later.

What was all that molasses doing there, you may well ask, as Boston is not exactly famed for its gingerbread houses? With a little knowhow, you can turn molasses into rum or industrial alcohol quite simply, and the Purity Distilling Company had built (shittily) a giant tank to house 2.5 million gallons of molasses to do just that. Although Prohibition would kick in the very next day after the tragedy, the company still had a license to distil alcohol for "industrial purposes".

On 15 January the massive tank was full of the finest Puerto Rican

molasses. Just after noon, something went horribly wrong. Witnesses later recalled hearing a noise like gunfire as the tank's rivets popped and the steel sides ripped open. Suddenly, 26 million pounds of molasses were tearing down Commercial Street in a 15-foot wave.

A giant wave of a sticky foodstuff sounds somewhat comical, but the surging molasses was a shockingly destructive force. The wave moved at upwards of 35 miles per hour, and the power was sufficient to rip buildings from their foundations, snap the support girders from an elevated train track and smash houses. The property damage alone totalled around \$100 million in today's rates, roughly equivalent to Hurricane Sandy.

The human cost of the disaster was even grimmer. The wave of molasses moved so quickly and so forcefully that anyone who was unlucky enough to be in its way didn't stand much of a chance. They were either knocked over and crushed or drowned in the goo. One man was lifted high up by the wave and got stuck to a wall where, safe though immobile, he watched the molasses drown a horse below. The flood took 21 lives, and another 150 people were injured. Any flood would have been disastrous, but the viscous nature of molasses made rescue attempts even trickier. Medics and police officers arrived on the scene quickly but had to wade through waist-deep goo to reach victims.

Even after the victims had been pulled from the muck, clean-up crews quickly learned that getting rid of 2.5 million gallons of molasses is no small task. They couldn't succeed with fresh water and eventually figured out that salt water would cut through the molasses and allow them to wash it down the drain.



LOOK UP BEFORE YOU CROSS THE ROAD



Love is blind

OVE 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.

Olive

She was up for anything and anyone. We could only offer a guy who sadly left her with no satisfaction.

t all happened so quickly. After encouragement from a friend I signed up to the Critic Blind Date. I'll admit, I was a bit nervous. As the date loomed nearer, I calmed down, and a pep talk from the flatties revealed some closet romantics in the house. It was now time for me to find my own.

Bolstered by their convictions of true love, I left the flat excited – and very late. Sorry for showing up 20 minutes behind your schedule, dear date. I promise that's not my usual style. But to be fair, you were a bit early.

While I was half expecting a girl, but a boy^{*} was just fine by me, and like any parent who's discovered their newborn cheated on the sonograms I decided that personality was what really mattered here.

I enjoyed myself. He was lovely, and held a conversation well. We had a couple of drinks, but neither of us are big drinkers, so there wasn't any drunk chat, sorry guys. There weren't any awkward silences either, which was an unexpected but wonderful surprise.

Despite not taking similar degrees, we had plenty to chat about. I learned about Hall Life, which still kinda sounds like a petri dish of American High School cliques, alcoholics and stress, but it's always good to get an inside perspective.

We took a few pics for Snapchat (mostly to prove to friends that I'd shown up) and bounced outta Di Lusso. And then I took his virginity – his Rob Roy ice cream virginity, that is. I was honoured to introduce him to such a staple of Scarfie culture. After a bit of talk he headed back to his hall, and it is with a heavy heart that I say there are no steamy details. Sorry! I'm telling myself he had an 8am lecture or something.

My date was a great guy, had a lovely smile, and I had an enjoyable night. Thanks Critic.

*man. We drank alcohol, you're a man."

Brandon

His story-telling abilities are questionable. Goddamn Freshers.

y mother always told me to "never judge a book by its cover"... she could not have been more wrong tonight. Arriving early at Di Lusso's, the bartender jokingly told me that the last three dates had been successful if you know what I mean, wink.

I'd been going over so many scenarios in my head as to how I will approach what walks through the door, so I bought a beer to calm the nerves. She finally arrived (quite late I might add – for some reason it's tradition for the girl to be late). I wasn't impressed.

Against the cliché, tonight's book cover perfectly depicted what story was going to accompany me this evening. It was like Mainstream meets Alternative, or something we can relate to a West Coaster meets Gloriavale – not exactly, but the worlds we lived in were different but in the same place.

Her chat was absolutely fantastic and it was a fresher frenzy as both of us were in the same year. But that's where the similarities stopped. In a hall, flatting; Love fitness, don't fitness; Health Sci, Bachelor of Performing Arts. I could go on, but it didn't make me run away. I was actually really intrigued and keen as to hear her story.

The bar tab was disappointedly unutilised, but it would take me a lot more that \$50 worth of alcohol to even consider going there. The food was fantastic and the fact she didn't eat unethically farmed food meant more for me, Yay! We were later asked to move as Di Lusso were gearing up for a raging Thursday night whilst I was gearing down ... for a quiet night.

She took me to Rob Roy's for my first time and that was great. But I wasn't going to let her be another first tonight so I said thanks, goodbye and punched on back to the hall. My highlight was to find out on Yik Yak later that night that she had enjoyed the evening and I quote "wish the night had ended in bed"... yeah, nah not happening.

Thanks Critic and Di Lusso ... I'd do it again at a drop of a hat. Loved it

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Thanks to everyone involved in Capping Show and all those who came to see the show! We'll see you next year!



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