

Critic

Est. 1925

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LOCAL ALCOHOL POLICY // EXECRABLE // STUDENT WINS GLOBAL ESSAY PRIZE // NZUSA DEMANDS PAYMENT // OTAGO UNI
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FEATURES

22 YAKTIVISM

Much has been made in the news about how school kids have used Yik Yak to cyber-bully their peers. However, Anthony says it is not only proof of social media's potential to bring people together, it has renewed his faith in the good will and altruism of his peers.

BY **ANTHONY GORDON**

26 HUGS AND OTHER DRUGS

The legalisation of MDMA, or ecstasy, has popped back into discussion. Also known as Molly, Eve, the Hug Drug, Love Drug or Scooby Snacks, we take a look into why legalisation would ever be considered and why hesitations remain.

BY **LAURA STARLING**

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YIK YAK: THE CURE TO INSTAGRAM?

» THE SOCIAL MEDIA THAT BRINGS US TOGETHER

Just after I read this this week's feature on Yik Yak and how users are Yaktivists in their own special way, I went on the app to look for some of the latest good examples. It is always a great excuse for a bit of procrastination.

My Yakarma (or Yik Yak activity level) is pretty low — my attempts to be funny get voted off pretty quickly, and my popular ones generally start off with "Critic wants to talk to someone who's experienced this or that ..." which really isn't a reflection of my day at all, just me exploiting Yik Yak for the chat.

Back to the day's posts, and the most recent one that popped up was "Does grief get better?". The replies to this "Yakker's" post were inspiring and it didn't take long to realise the majority of users had probably dealt with that same question, whether in the form of a loved-one's death, parents' divorce, or a break up. The replies ended up providing so many responses — from having faith in a higher power watching over you to finding the courage to decide grief wouldn't take over your life. Regardless of the right answer to this, it was clear anyone commenting had had to figure out their own ways to deal with grief.

It's this kind of relatability that might just reconnect us after years of social media having us fake our Instagramable lives.

Yik Yak has its fair share of trash talk, but we already know that people like to talk and think about sex a lot. Now they're just being a bit more honest with it — and with five quick down-votes, we all get to choose when a comment should be closed. Even better than any other app, Yik Yak embraces the location settings on your phone. We know everyone we're talking to is within close proximity, and that encourages a communal spirit — Scarfies be lovin' each other all over again.

Yik Yak will probably lose its momentum pretty soon, particularly when so many posts sound alike. But, for now, it seems to be helping at least a few people every day. If it means people can feel comfortable talking about their weird behaviours, their bizarre minds and their confused sexualities, then where's the harm? Keep the conversations going and maybe one day, the stigmas can be scrapped.

Josie x

JOSIE COCHRANE

CRITIC EDITOR

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Provisional LAP Allows Shots After Midnight

» ONE-WAY DOOR POLICY SCRAPPED BY DCC

BY JOE HIGHAM

The Dunedin City Council is a step closer to implementing a Local Alcohol Policy (LAP) to tighten the rules and regulations for Dunedin establishments.

The original LAP, which was proposed last year, included a one-way door policy from 1am, no shots to be sold after midnight and no alcohol to be consumed on the footpath after 11pm.

After seven days of hearings and over 4000 submissions from the public, a provisional LAP has been drawn up. The document, which was prepared by the Draft Local Alcohol Policy Hearings Committee, no longer includes the policies mentioned above.

However, the proposal includes a requirement for off-licence premises to be open from 9am to 9pm instead of the current 7am to 11pm. The proposal also states on-licence premises in non-residential areas will be forced to close at 3am instead of the current 4am rule. On-licence premises in residential areas will have to close at 1am. On-licence premises providing entertainment can be open until 4am, though this will require a door charge and a one-way door policy from 2.30am.

DCC General Manager for Services and Development Simon Pickford said the goal for the LAP is to "provide guidance to the District Licensing Committee when

considering application for alcohol licences". Regarding the provisional LAP, Pickford believes it has "struck a balance between the wishes of licensees and the wider community".

Those who made submissions to the council now have 30 days to lodge an appeal if they are not satisfied with the draft's content. If no appeals are made in that period, the LAP will come into force three months after the date the policy is adopted. This would be approximately the end of September.

OUSA President Paul Hunt, who was openly against the LAP when it was announced last year, said OUSA agrees with the decision not to have a 1am one-way door policy for all premises. This said, OUSA "disagree with the earlier closing time for bars and do not think bars should be required to have a cover charge if they wish to stay open later".

Fiona Morton, Hospitality NZ's regional manager for Southland and Otago said she is impressed with the proposals. She said the "policy is really well rounded and has been very impressively thought through by council".

However, Morton disagreed with the closing time of clubs and bars changing from 4am to 3am. "The LAP is not specifically designed to tackle the problem of the drinking culture we have in New Zealand. Binge drinking needs a

cultural change, and it is an educational not a legislative change that needs to happen. Everyone agrees that having people in licensed and regulated premises is the safest option," said Morton.

Hunt said OUSA's main concern with the tightening of legislation relating to alcohol is that more people will be forced to drink in private, as opposed to public, places. "OUSA believes, in accordance with research by a number of organisations, that policy should encourage alcohol consumption to occur in public environments. It is also important that, unlike the recent BYO accord, students are consulted about proposed policies," said Hunt.

Morton agreed, saying "by closing bars earlier, people who do not think their night is finished and are not able to get into the entertainment venues ... will just continue drinking at home."

Stephen Moore, a manager at Al Bar, considers this proposal to be a policing issue, rather than a bar or club issue. Moore says it's a problem "that comes down to how many staff the police have."

"They have four people at the Octagon on a Friday night, and if one person gets arrested, that takes it down to two. I do think that these changes are designed to help police who don't have the numbers at these times of night." ●



Bribing With Energy Drinks

BY LAURA MUNRO /

The first issue brought to the table was the upcoming election, which will decide the 2016 executive. After much discussion, it was agreed that nominations will run from 9am on 8 September to 4pm on 15 September. Voting will run from 9am on 21 September to 4pm on 30 September. Voting will be by electronic means only.

Affiliations for the Seafarers 7s Rugby Club, the Rotaract Club of Dunedin, and the OUSA Futsal Club were all passed. Seats were also appointed for the Blues and Golds panels.

The executive spent the next ten minutes discussing when they will get together for a BYO. This week was apparently "too hairy" due to their other commitments. Thankfully, the group decided next Friday will be more appropriate.

Admin Vice President Isaac Yu said the door knocking as part of their campaign for

more seats on the university council went "quite nicely". Yu said most flats they went to had one or more people willing to sign their petition. However, "it is pretty time consuming" so Postgraduate Officer Chris Jackson said they will require a great deal of "power on the ground".

Yu said for "Scarfie streets" like Castle and Dundas, the executive should "hit them around 5ish, no later than that, because they tend to get on the piss pretty quickly". At the time of print, the team had gathered just over 100 signatures and they have the help of 1000 Red Bulls to encourage sign-ups.

The executive then discussed the naming of the OUSA Recreation Centre, and whether its name should be reverted backed to Clubs and Societies, as it was pre-renovations. Recreation Officer Jonny Martin said "a lot of people still call [the building] Clubs and Socs, and some people get it confused with

Unipol". Finance Officer Nina Harrap argued, however, that "people generally know what you mean when you say both".

Martin said the name was originally changed so that it "encompassed all forms of recreation". However, others argued that some people have "very strong views" that it should be called Clubs and Societies.

The executive eventually agreed that changing the name is a good idea.

Harrap had organised a second bottle-buy-back day for Friday 17 July. This will run from 10am until 3pm in the Union courtyard. OUSA will give 10 cents per unbroken glass alcohol bottle; other bottles will be taken, but money will not be given "because it's a bit of a hassle". Another bottle-buy-back will be held in future, but only five cents will be given per bottle. ●



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NZUSA Demands OUSA Pays \$22,500 ... Again

» OUSA STILL SAYS NO

BY JOE HIGHAM

The New Zealand Union of Students' Associations (NZUSA) has sent a letter to OUSA in response to its decision to "reallocate" the \$22,500 it owes to NZUSA. The letter requests that OUSA pay the fee, which is the second half of its \$45,000 membership for 2015.

At the end of last year, OUSA decided to withdraw its membership from NZUSA. However, the NZUSA constitution requires a one-year withdrawal period in which the yearly \$45,000 must be paid. OUSA paid the first half of the fee earlier this year, but the executive recently decided it was in students' best interest to reallocate the second \$22,500.

The letter, signed by NZUSA President Rory McCourt, says OUSA has "failed to provide a proposal for alternative allocation of the levy promised at the 13 April National Executive Meeting". It further outlines NZUSA's intention to "invoice OUSA for the

second instalment" as per their "normal invoicing processes".

Hunt has said OUSA's decision to not pay the fee and instead reallocate the funds "won't change". He also argues that OUSA would spend the money more effectively than NZUSA. "When you are on the ground communicating with students every day, you know their concerns, their priorities, and you can make resource allocation decisions in a way that you know will work, and we will do so better than a body in Wellington that is not in contact with students regularly."

On top of the decision not to pay the \$22,500, OUSA has voiced a wish for NZUSA to be wound up permanently. "The conversation on how to best represent the student voice needs to happen outside of the NZUSA's structures and, as long as NZUSA continues to exist, that conversation is impossible to have," said Hunt.

NZUSA, however, says it is "disappointed" that OUSA has expressed a desire for the association to end, "especially with such little communication between [OUSA's] former and current presidents and the National Executive on these issues".

Hunt believes there "is some place for a mechanism to represent students nationally ... We don't disagree with that." However, "[OUSA] just thinks the structure of NZUSA is not the right one."

"It is the fundamental nature of having a centralised body in Wellington [that OUSA disagrees with]; we would prefer to see a model that was more nimble, that involved all of the student associations' presidents at one table and meeting regularly, rather than giving a lump sum to two people to do all the work." ●

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Health-e Campus Website Launched

» STUDENT WELLBEING "IS NOT JUST THE ABSENCE OF SICKNESS"

BY ZAHRA SHAHTAHMASEBI

The University of Otago's Student Health Services have initiated a new service in the form of a website, Healthy Campus. The website, an extension of the University of Otago website, was initiated by Director of Student Health Services, Dr. Kim Ma'ia'i, after a conversation he had with the vice-chancellor.

Ma'ia'i said they discussed how to make it easier for individuals, specifically students and staff, to easily access information about how to support themselves or someone they know. He said the site is a reference point for those wanting to learn what resources are available for their own wellbeing, as well as that of the university community.

Ma'ia'i said, "There is a huge variety of great work going on within the university community supporting wellbeing, though the level of awareness of it [is] variable." The website aims to provide a "visible sign-post", which will put people in touch with the resources and people

they need to support and promote their wellbeing.

According to Ma'ia'i, "the way we define and express wellbeing" has changed, and there has been "a definite shift in our approach to issues of mental health". Ma'ia'i said this shift has filtered through into younger people "who now feel more open and able to discuss issues such as depression and anxiety with less fear of stigma". Information on maintaining our health and wellbeing is important for everyone, but particularly for students living away from home while also being under a great deal of new stress and pressures.

The homepage of the new site says "health is a state of physical, mental, spiritual and social well-being, not just the absence of sickness". The site contains links to each of these aspects and to

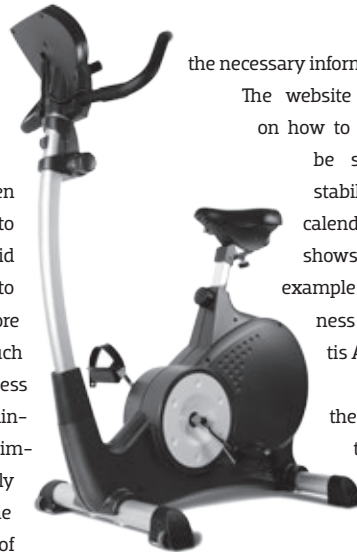
the necessary information and details.

The website also provides options on how to help others who might be struggling to maintain stability in their lives. A calendar on the homepage shows upcoming events, for example Grief and Loss Awareness Week and World Hepatitis Awareness Day.

Dr Ma'ia'i hopes that the website will be able to actively support the work of the soon-to-be-convened Healthy Campus

Working Group, which will oversee the enactment of the university's commitment to a healthy campus.

The website can be found at www.otago.ac.nz/healthy-campus •



Muscle Loss with Surgical Trainees

» DUNEDIN HOSPITAL SAYS ISSUE "NOT AS DRASTIC AS IS BEING MADE OUT"

BY BRIDIE BOYD

In the latest of a string of unfortunate events, Dunedin Hospital has lost the right to train orthopedic surgeons. This comes as the hospital is fighting to regain ICU accreditation, leaking roofs are forcing the cancellation of surgeries, food contracts are proving controversial and a deficit of \$42 million is expected.

Last week, the Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) informed members that those seeking employment or training with the Southern District Health Board or Dunedin Hospital should consider going elsewhere. The RDA suggested that the loss heightens the risk of future losses.

Dick Bunton, the SDHB patient services director, wanted to clarify that technically the accreditation had not been lost, the hospital simply lost the right to take on trainees. However, Bunton admitted the effects are the same.

Dunedin North MP David Clark said "losing orthopedic advanced training is serious" for Dunedin Hospital. "There is a knock-on effect. The hospital can no longer train students in this specialty and will struggle to attract the kind of experienced and talented surgeons to the hospital that it has in the past."

Clark said, "Dunedin is the last major metropolitan centre in New Zealand not to have a hospital upgrade." If that doesn't happen soon, he said, "further loss of accreditation will result".

Many have feared that the decision will have a negative effect on medical students studying in Dunedin. Deborah Powell, RDA national president, has said Dunedin is losing its reputation as a good city for health students to study in.

According to Clark, medical and nursing students "should be concerned". Clark said the "quality of their education is at risk. Students

should be preparing themselves in first-world facilities, not training for a shift to the third."

However, CEO of Dunedin Hospital, Carole Heatly, said the issue is not as drastic as is being made out and "it is important that these matters are kept in perspective".

"The issues highlighted affect a small area of the training opportunities we provide and are being resolved," said Heatly. "Dunedin Hospital continues to be an excellent teaching hospital. We are planning to improve our facilities in ICU and are very confident that this will address accreditation issues."

The Dean of the Dunedin School of Medicine, Professor Barry Taylor, also agreed any problems will soon be resolved and medical students have nothing to worry about. "[The] long-term future of training surgeons is well secured; this current issue is not a permanent one, and it will be addressed through quality improvement maintenance," said Taylor. •

Otago Student Wins Worldwide Essay Prize

» HOLMES WANTED TO TALK ABOUT "WHAT OTHER PEOPLE WEREN'T TALKING ABOUT"

BY LAURA MUNRO

A University of Otago student was recently awarded his certificate for winning an international essay contest earlier this year.

Martin Holmes, a third-year history student, was announced as the winner of a worldwide competition for his essay titled "The World Needs To Change". The competition, devised and delivered by the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF), focused on Gallipoli and its message for peace. Participants came from 38 countries around the world.

Martin was announced as the winner the day after ANZAC Day this year. Former New Zealand Governor General Sir Anand Satyanand travelled to Dunedin to award the certificate at the opening of Otago's Foreign Policy School.

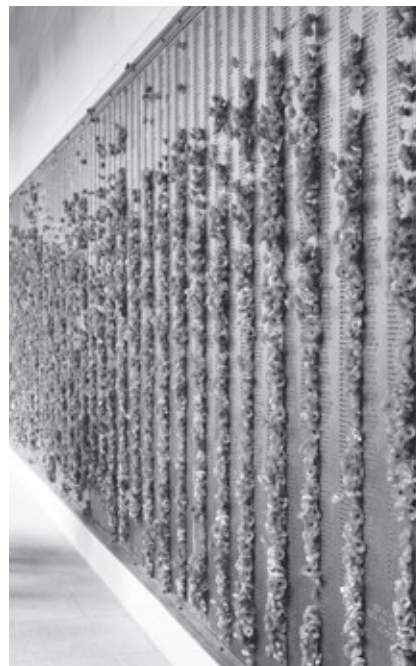
Holmes said he chose to write his essay, which is based on his great-grandfather's

view of the war, "to say something a little bit different about ANZAC Day and about what other people weren't talking about in regards to ANZAC Day".

"Everyone in New Zealand remembers the people that died, and the conscientious objectors, but not many people remember the angry men who came out of World War One very unpatriotic," said Holmes. "They just weren't recognised."

Holmes believes this is because these men are seen as "not very patriotic ... The people that died were very brave martyrs, the ones who developed shell-shock were very tragic, but the ones who became angry, bitter, and sometimes alcoholic, people don't want to talk about [them]."

Holmes said he never expected to win the competition: "I was shocked ... I feel quite honoured." ●



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Winning Essay: "The World Needs To Change"

BY MARTIN HOLMES

One hundred years ago, my great-grandfather participated in the Gallipoli Campaign. He was a career sailor in the Royal Navy, and had already served over a decade by the time the campaign began in 1915, being promoted to the rank of Able Seaman. He was a kind, quiet man from the traditional, conservative county of Essex. At this time he was probably a religious man.

In the space of a few years, my great-grandfather changed. He watched the campaign unfold from the deck of his ship, seeing the guns booming and the fresh-faced ANZACs return from the beaches bloodied and wounded. It was then he began to change.

When the war ended, he returned to Britain and very soon found himself joining the Communist Party of Great Britain. He did so because they had opposed the war from the start, seeing it as an imperialist bloodbath that only served to turn foreign peoples against one another. My great-grandfather did not see why he should have fought the Turkish, and nor did he see why the Turkish wanted to fight the British. The war for him was exposed as a rich man's war — for those who saw the world in terms of territory and resources, and who viewed the armed forces as mere instruments to be sacrificed for their goals.

What is remarkable about my great-grandfather is that this was not merely a phase — he remained a communist until the end of his life. In the 1920s he was discharged from the navy after he participated in a mutiny. He stopped going to Church, and although he accepted his pension (he had

after all served much of his life in the Royal Navy), he scorned militarists who wished to make World War One into something heroic. For him, the only war left to be fought was the revolutionary struggle that would consign tragedies like Gallipoli to the dustbin of history. Until his death in the 1970s, he continued to speak his mind despite moving back to the conservative county of his birth, and until his death he wrote furiously to local papers about the crimes of capitalism, imperialism and the British Empire.

One can only wonder what he would have thought about the modern world within which we live. For what happened at Gallipoli continues to happen around the world. What would my great-grandfather have made of the Syrian Civil War? The ISIL? The Arab Spring? The Naxalite insurgency in India? He would have held the same views he developed watching the casualties being moved onto the hospital ships, as the guns on his own ship roared as the shells pounded the Turkish enemy he did not know and would probably never meet. He would have seen these wars as capitalist conflicts — as futile spats between power blocs over political influence and natural resources. He would have written letter upon letter to British newspapers calling them to leave the Middle East, and to report the truth about European imperialist meddling. He would have lamented that soldiers are still fighting and dying for nation states nearly a hundred years after his precious Bolsheviks had shown a new path for humanity, a new way of international brotherhood. Ultimately, he would be shattered that the situation had not changed since



Gallipoli — except for weapons of technology, of course.

The views of my great-grandfather may seem dated. Indeed, they might seem utopian, or simply silly. But remember that he was there. He saw the Gallipoli Campaign before his eyes like you see the words before you on this page. Him — a career soldier who signed up at the turn of the century, who had worked his way up the ranks from a simple kennel boy, whose whole life was oriented toward King and Country. That experience permanently changed his entire worldview.

You might say that his ideas do not work, that the world he wished to build can only exist in fiction. But, at the same time, he is correct in saying this world does not work. A hundred years after Gallipoli, wars are still commonplace. People are still dying. World War One is held as the epitome of a futile, unjust war that should never have happened, but what about the ones since? Or the ones to come? If he was wrong then, he was only wrong in his methods because if Gallipoli has taught us one thing, it is that this world needs to change. ●

Greece Rejects EU Bailout

» REFERENDUM RESULTS A "VERY BRAVE CHOICE"

BY **ANGUS SHAW**



After rejecting an international bailout, Greece has chosen to play spin the bottle with its financial future. The final results of Monday's referendum show 61.3 percent voted against and 38.7 percent for the terms of the proposed 29 billion euro bailout.

Greece's governing Syriza party campaigned for a "No" vote in the referendum, claiming the terms of the bailout were demeaning. Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras spurned suggestions that the results of the referendum represent Greece defaulting on its payments. Instead, Tsipras has vowed to begin

negotiations for a reasonable deal for Greece to repay its creditors.

Speaking to Greece in a direct address on national television, Tsipras called the results of the referendum a "very brave choice".

"The mandate you gave me is not the mandate of a rupture with Europe, but a mandate to strengthen our negotiating position to seek a viable solution. As of tomorrow, Greece will go back to the negotiating table and our primary priority is to reinstate the financial stability of the country," said Tsipras.

However, some European officials have said that the vote to reject the European bailout would be seen as an outright refusal of negotiations with creditors. Jeroen Dijsselbloem, president of the Eurogroup (the informal gathering of the eurozone's finance ministers), issued a firm statement following Greece's decision.

"I take note of the outcome of the Greek

referendum. This result is very regrettable for the future of Greece. For recovery of the Greek economy, difficult measures and reforms are inevitable. We will now wait for the initiatives of the Greek authorities," said Dijsselbloem.

Following this, the Eurogroup met on Tuesday to discuss their options with Greece. They had expected Greece to submit a fresh plan for a bailout by this time; however, no new proposals were tabled.

Instead, the Eurogroup has given Greece until Thursday to secure a deal with its creditors. President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, told the EU parliament in Strasbourg that there are only "four days left" to reach an agreement.

All 28 EU members will meet for a summit on Sunday to discuss Greece's future — just a day after the new proposals are to be discussed by the eurozone finance ministers. ●

Another Australian Faces the Death Penalty

» MAN USED AS DRUG MULE FOR TWO KILOS OF METH

BY **OLIVER GASKELL**

An intellectually disabled Australian man could face the death penalty after being charged with attempting to smuggle illegal drugs out of China.

Lawyers defending Brisbane man, Ibrahim Jalloh, 26, have said in a press conference that Jalloh was tricked into smuggling more than two kilograms of crystal methamphetamine out of Guangzhou last June. An international drug syndicate allegedly took advantage of Jalloh's disability, using him as a drug mule.

The man named in the Chinese court as the representative of the syndicate struck up a friendship with Jalloh at casual soccer games before convincing him to travel to Guangzhou to collect "important documents" in exchange for \$15,000.

Jalloh, originally from Sierra Leone, was arrested at Guangzhou International Airport as he attempted to board a flight back to Brisbane. Jalloh was carrying a suitcase given to

him by the representative of the syndicate; he claimed he did not look at the contents of the suitcase as it was locked and he did not have a key.

In court, Jalloh said that he was told that the suitcase contained "some important documents". He added that if he knew it was drugs, he wouldn't "leave Australia to do this".

The syndicate member in question is facing separate charges of conspiracy to import drugs from China. The member is alleged to have sent another Australian drug mule, Queensland man, Bengali Sherrif, who has been jailed in Guangzhou. Sherrif was arrested just days after from Jalloh and is also awaiting the outcome of the appeal of his suspended death sentence.

Jalloh receives a full disability pension in Australia, and his lawyers have presented two independent medical opinions from Australian doctors stating that his disability made

him susceptible to being misled and hampered his judgement.

Chinese prosecutors, however, presented a medical appraisal from a Chinese mental hospital doctor saying that Jalloh was not disabled significantly enough to avoid criminal liability, making it likely that he will be executed if found guilty.

In court, Jalloh appeared to have difficulty concentrating and understanding questions in English; his shirt was also worn inside out, and he had difficulty expressing himself.

When asked about the drugs in the briefcase, Jalloh kept repeating "I don't have any knowledge of this". His mother, younger sister and aunt appeared in court to support him. ●



South Carolina Senate Approves Anti-Flag Bill

» CHURCH SHOOTING SPARKS FLAG DEBATE

BY OLIVER GASKELL

The South Carolina senate gave its final approval for the removal of the Confederate flag from the capitol grounds on Tuesday 7 July 2015. The governor and nearly all state senators support the removal, and petitioners have collected hundreds of thousands of signatures.

In a vote on the bill on Tuesday morning, 36 favoured removing the flag and three members supported flying the flag. The house of representatives also voted 93-13 in favour of the bill, sending it directly to the floor and bypass committee.

The house of representatives began debate last Wednesday on the bill to take down the flag. If the vote there is successful, the flag will be removed and stored in the state's Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum.

The use of the Confederate flag is emotionally debated as, for some, it symbolizes Southern heritage, and for many others,

"...the bill could be "a story of how we removed a symbol that helped heal a nation and a state in their mourning"."

slavery and racism. The debate arose in the wake of last month's shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, a predominantly African-American church in South Carolina, which left nine dead.

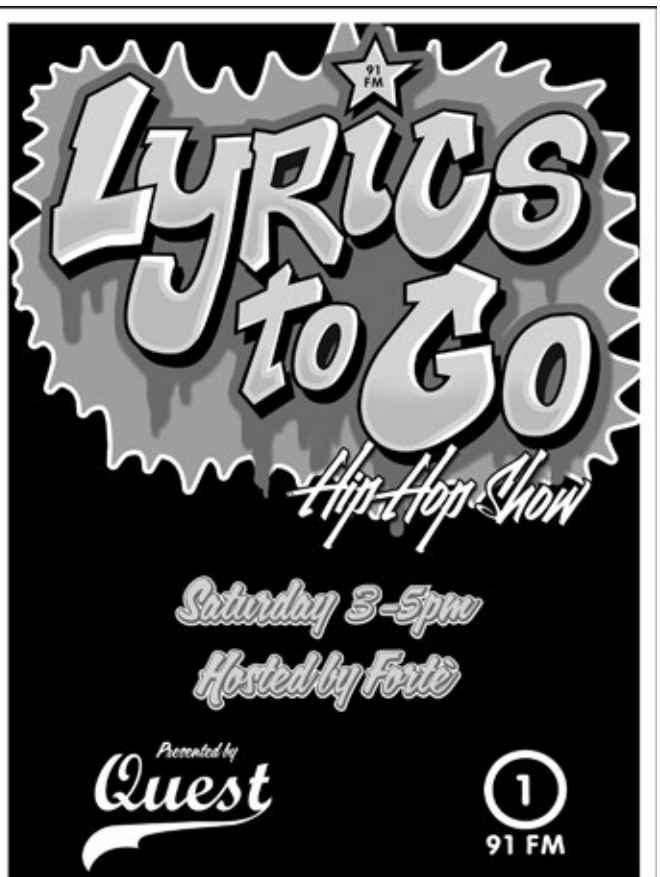
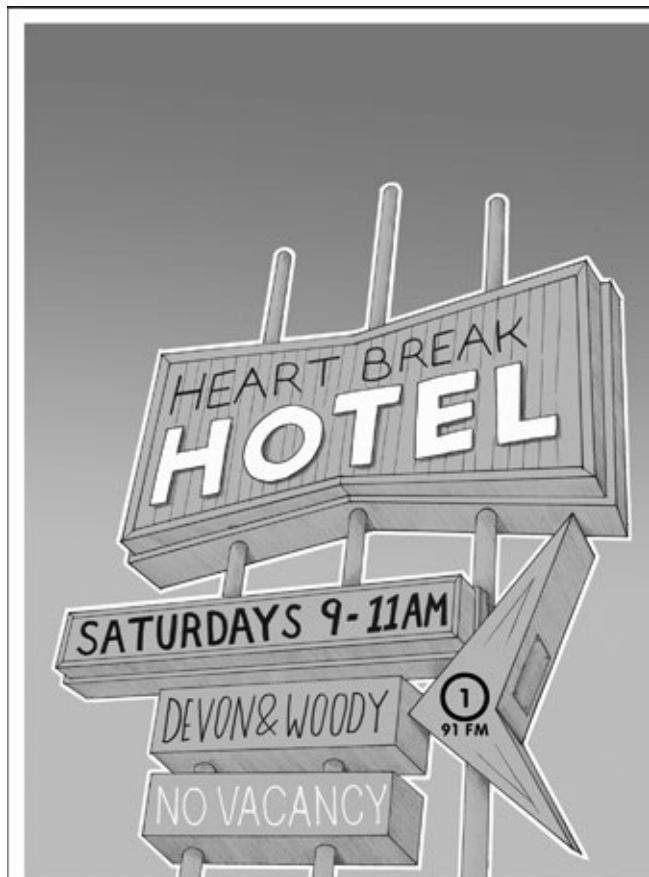
The shooter, 21-year-old white male, Dylann Roof, was arrested in North Carolina the day after the attack. After Roof's arrest, a webpage surfaced containing a racist manifesto penned by Roof and 60 photos, many of which showed him with the Confederate flag.

Democratic Senator Joel Lourie said on Monday that "the alleged killer used that flag as a symbol of hatred and bigotry and racism ... let today be the beginning of a story about a new South Carolina". Lourie added that the

passing of the bill could be "a story of how we removed a symbol that helped heal a nation and a state in their mourning".

Governor Haley also called for the removal of the flag after the shooting; she praised the senate and attempted to appeal to members of the house after a preliminary vote on Monday. "The South Carolina state today rose to this historic occasion ... coming together in the spirit of unity and healing that is binding our state back together and moving us forward in the right direction."

The bill, if passed, will permanently remove the Confederate flag from the statehouse grounds where it has flown since 1962. ●



News in Briefs

BY MAGNUS WHYTE



World Watch

1 HEIKENDORF, GERMANY

Police in northern Germany have seized a World War Two tank that was being kept in a pensioner's cellar. They also removed a torpedo and an anti-aircraft gun. The army had to be called in, and it took about 20 soldiers almost nine hours to extract the tank.

2 KEMEROVO, RUSSIA

Authorities in the Siberian region of Kemerovo say that 500 families will be given a ewe and a ram under a new scheme to ensure food security. Sheep were chosen for the scheme because as well as providing meat and milk, they have wool that can be used to make clothing.

3 NANJING, CHINA

Seismologists in China are using animals to try to predict when an earthquake may strike. The scientists have set up seven observation centres at zoos and animal parks and will be watching for changes in behaviour among thousands of animals.

4 CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

A woman who was found in the US state of California suffering from amnesia has launched an online appeal to try to find her identity. The woman, who goes by the name of Sam and is believed to be an Australian, was found by firefighters in southern California earlier this year.

5 DENMARK

A Danish company has gone to court to try to stop a rival from making square-shaped chips. Snack manufacturer, Kims, has been selling square-shaped chips for almost three decades in Denmark. But this year saw the arrival of a competitor chip of a similar shape and size.

6 HUNGARY


The Hungarian government is encouraging young Hungarians living abroad to come home. The "Come home, young person!" scheme provides a free flight and a monthly allowance of US\$356 to help with accommodation costs. So far about 800 people have signed up to the scheme.

7 SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

A mass wedding has been held in Seoul for defectors from North Korea. One hundred couples were selected to take part in the event at Olympic Park in the nation's capital. Ranging in age from their 20s to their 60s, the couples were joined by South Korea's Unification Minister, Hong Yong-pyo.

8 NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

Police are searching for a man in a wheelchair who is suspected of robbing a bank and rolling out of the building with \$1200 cash to make a clean getaway. The man appeared to be about 30 years old according to surveillance video.




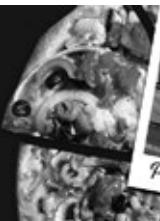
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Poppa's - Mmmmm!

Grapevine



You made a very brave choice. The mandate you gave me is not the mandate of a rupture with Europe, but a mandate to strengthen our negotiating position to seek a viable solution."



Alexis Tsipras — Greek prime minister.

Greeks overwhelmingly agreed that they would rather face an uncertain future and potentially trigger an exit from the euro zone than repay the country's European creditors and face further austerity measures. The outcome of the referendum all but guaranteed the rejection of the rescue loan deal from the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

"In order to face up to this scourge, we need to be prepared. We need to have enough troops, proper training and material means — we are in desperate need of material means."

Beji Caid Essebsi — Tunisian president.

Tunisia's president has declared a state of emergency in the country, nine days after the death of 38 tourists at a popular beach resort. He has warned that if similar attacks take place in Tunisia, the country is likely to collapse, and he appealed for material assistance from the international community.



"This case is not about a wedding cake or a marriage. It is about a business's refusal to serve someone because of their sexual orientation. Under Oregon law, that is illegal."



Brad Avakin — Oregon labour commissioner.

A bakery in Portland, Oregon, has been ordered to pay \$135,000 in damages to a lesbian couple for refusing to bake their wedding cake. The Bureau of Labour and Industries determined that the owner of the bakery caused the couple emotional suffering over religious objections to gay marriage.

"In many ways this negotiation has been going on for literally a number of years and over the past few days we have in fact made genuine progress. But I want to be absolutely clear with everybody, we are not yet where we need to be on several of the most difficult issues."

John Kerry — US secretary of state.

An agreement on a deal with Iran on its disputed nuclear programme could be sealed this week according to US Secretary of State, John Kerry. But the US was prepared to walk away if Iran was unwilling to move on important aspects of the deal.



"Before the World Cups were awarded to Russia and Qatar, there were two political interventions. Messrs Sarkozy and Wulff tried to influence their vote makers."



Sepp Blatter — FIFA president.

Sepp Blatter has alleged that the former French and German presidents applied political pressure before the 2018 and 2022 World Cup votes. Blatter said, "that is the reason why we now have a World Cup in Qatar". The voting process is now under investigation by Swiss prosecutors.

FACTS & FIGURES



Turtles

can breathe through their butts.

Every 9 minutes and 2 seconds

there is a birth in NZ.

Every 17 minutes and 32 seconds

there is a death in NZ.

Tongue prints

are different for everyone.

1 in 10

European babies is conceived in an Ikea bed.

The poison arrow frog

enough poison to kill **2200** people.

1000

There are more than **1000** chemicals in a cup of coffee.



Key Denies Economic Struggle

» ECONOMISTS WARN OF LARGE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN

BY HUGH BAIRD

Prime Minister John Key has knocked back suggestions from economists that New Zealand is headed for a large economic slowdown. Speaking at a post-cabinet press conference, Key said he was "not at all panicked". However, he did accept that there were "a few headwinds there".

The suggestions stem from a trio of worrying economic factors: low dairy prices, a Chinese economic slowdown and a possible Greek exit from the eurozone. A Greek exit from the euro may make the New Zealand economy more precarious, and the addition of an economic slowdown in China and diminishing dairy prices are likely to be detrimental to the country.

In a remarkable turn of events, the Chinese stock market — which had grown a massive 150 percent over the past 12 months — has, in just the last four weeks, plunged by 20 percent. More worrying for New Zealand is that China is struggling to make its growth target of 7 percent. This slowdown in China's economic growth means less purchasing of Kiwi exports.

Dairy remains New Zealand's largest commodity sold to overseas markets, making up 40 percent of exports. With the Fonterra



payout forecast at somewhere between \$4.70 and \$4.80 per kg of milk solids in the upcoming season, as opposed to last season's \$8.40, farmers are struggling to meet their breakeven, which sits at an average of \$5.40, factoring in the cost of running the farm and debt interest payments.

Cuts in spending from the agricultural sector are expected to have a large flow-on effect throughout the economy, particularly in rural areas. This leaves an expected loss of \$7 billion in GDP.

As dairy prices sit 60 percent below their peak price, predictions are that the Reserve Bank is likely to cut the official cash rate (OCR) three more times this year in July, September and October, taking the OCR down to 2.5 percent.

The cut in interest rates will likely ease the pressure of the failing dairy industry. However, lowering interest will likely accelerate the growing housing bubble in New Zealand, particularly in Auckland.

In its latest market report, ANZ warned of an economic slowdown and the need for a change in fiscal policy, suggesting more government investment is needed.

Labour leader Andrew Little has warned that an economic "storm" could be imminent. "We are on the cusp in my view of the perfect storm. Let's wait a few days and see how things play out, but we shouldn't be downplaying it."

Key, however, has urged economists to take a deep breath and doesn't believe there is any need for an economic stimulus, though he has said that the government is prepared to be flexible if things change. ●

NZ First Turned House of Cards

» BOARD MEMBER REVEALS MPS' SHADY TACTICS

BY HENRY NAPIER

NZ First Deputy Leader Tracey Martin has been replaced in what seems a rather controversial turn of events.

Last month the party's caucus voted on the deputy leader position, leading to the appointment of Ron Mark, long-standing rival of Martin. In a post on The Daily Blog, NZ First board member, Curwen Ares Rolinson, has revealed Martin's controversial past actions in securing the deputy leadership.



Rolinson insinuated that Martin and her mother Anne Martin, party secretary, targeted previous rivals for the deputy position over the last few years.

Rolinson accused Tracey and Anne Martin of actively marginalising former NZ First MP, Andrew Williams. Williams was indicated as a candidate for the deputy leadership at the time. In response, Martin supposedly led an internal party smear campaign against Williams.

"[Williams] was called a sexist. A bully. An alcoholic. Rumours were spread throughout the party that Williams had attempted to initiate a physical altercation with Winston," the post read. "During the run-up to the 2014 election, a series of odd and seemingly unconnected occurrences transpired. All of which served to humiliate, discredit, or otherwise attempt to marginalise Williams."



According to Rolinson, the campaign against Williams, led by Tracey and Anne Martin, eventually quashed the possibility of him challenging for the deputy leadership.

Since losing the role as second in command, Tracey Martin has publicly supported her successor Ron Mark, saying he is the best person for the job.

Rolinson and Martin were unavailable for comment. ●

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Super Rugby Season Grades Confirmed

» UP THE LANDERS!

BY SPORTS EDITOR **DANIEL LORMANS**

Now that the Super Rugby season is finished and the trophy is safely locked away down at Forsyth Barr Stadium, we can dish out final grades for our five New Zealand teams after an epic season of rugby. The Highlanders and the Hurricanes were a cut above the rest while the Chiefs ran out of steam, the Crusaders were never really in it and the Blues were hugely disappointing. We should all be Highlanders fans at Otago, but how did our other teams perform?

HIGHLANDERS

Finished: **Champions** | **A+**
Played: 19 Won: 14 Lost: 5

An absolute fairytale of a season for the southern men whom nobody believed in. Also the main reason why many of us missed our first day of classes as we celebrated with the Super Rugby trophy in the Octagon.

The Highlanders showed their promise from very early in the season and, even as their momentum slowly built, they somehow managed to keep their underdog status right up until the last minute of the final. Those who say the Hurricanes choked are not giving credit to the quality of rugby that the Highlanders brought to the competition this year. They were simply a joy to watch as they became one of only a handful of teams to win the title away from home. Jamie Joseph engineered a massive turnaround for the club after finishing 2013 with only three wins, and this was a season of attractive and attacking rugby that even

the Aussie commentators had to eventually give them credit for. This has seen deserved All Blacks call-ups for Waisake Naholo and Lima Sopoaga, while Elliot Dixon, (man-of-the-match from the final) has earned a Maori All Blacks call-up alongside fellow Highlanders forwards, Shane Christie and Josh Hohnneck, to face Fiji. With most of the title-winning squad contracted for next season, only a few spots are up for grabs if Jamie Joseph feels they can help improve a history-making squad that will be keen to emulate the Chiefs by backing up their first Super Rugby title with a second next year. Up the Landers!

TOP STATS: Sopoaga — most points (191), Naholo — most tries (13). **HIGHLIGHT:** Aaron Smith controlling the last minute of the final to ensure the win. **WORST MOMENT:** Starting the season with a loss to the Crusaders during O-Week. **MVP:** Waisake Naholo. The flying winger broke the Highlanders' try-scoring record and scored in all three of their playoff games to help seal the title. **FINAL GRADE: A+** Tuned out the haters, played great and put on a masterclass of knockout rugby.

HURRICANES

Finished: **Runners Up** | **A**
Played: 18 Won: 15 Lost: 3

After a great regular season that surprised everyone, the stage was set for the Hurricanes to make a bit of history with the combination of several players playing their last game for

the club, the shock death of club legend Jerry Collins, and a home final after a dominant season in which they beat the Highlanders twice providing a convincing narrative that pointed towards a Hurricanes win. They just forgot to turn up on the night. However, losing in the final should not take the shine off an otherwise successful year; they proved they deserved to be the table-topping team after a season of convincing performances and attractive rugby. The Savea brothers continued to bully teams with their size and power, while the quick skills of TJ Perenara showed why he is such a threat to Aaron Smith's hold on the All Blacks halfback jersey. The future should be bright for the Canes, but with midfield stalwarts Conrad Smith and Ma'a Nonu leaving for Europe, the Hurricanes might go backwards rather than forwards as they start next year as the only New Zealand team to have never won a Super Rugby title. Depending on the true depth of their wider squad, it will be hard to match the achievements of this season — we all know that hurricanes eventually run out of power.

TOP STATS: Most tries scored (63) and most four-try bonus points (9). **HIGHLIGHT:** Their unbeaten road trip over the first six rounds.

WORST MOMENT: Julian Savea fumbling a certain try in the final. **MVP:** Nehe Milner-Skudder. Looked absolutely electric every time he got the ball and will be an asset for the All Blacks at the World Cup. Epitomised the Hurricanes' exciting style this year.

FINAL GRADE: A Still a fantastic season, but coming so close will haunt them for years.

CHIEFS

Finished: **5th**

Played: **17** Won: **10** Lost: **7**

B

The Chiefs have been the best New Zealand team over the last few years but, despite looking dangerous at the beginning of this season, their shortcomings were exposed in their three losses to the eventual champion Highlanders. A final-round loss to the Hurricanes seemed to knock their confidence heading into the playoffs, and injuries played a part in their downfall as Aaron Cruden and some key forwards were banged up on the side-lines. Even Sonny Bill Williams looks to have lost some of his aura of dominance with his predictable hit-up and offload tactics being easily neutralised. The Chiefs gave up the most penalties and yellow-cards this season, so discipline will be something to improve upon for next year. It will be a testing off-season for the Chiefs, who could come back stronger next year or fade back into the mid-table obscurity they used to be so well known for. All Blacks call-ups for impressive centre Charlie Ngatai and halfback Brad Weber are positive signs for player development, and winger James Lowe is quickly turning into a potent asset with his speed and left-foot kicking options.

TOP STATS: Most offloads (298).

HIGHLIGHT: Keeping the Crusaders try-less in Christchurch. **WORST MOMENT:** Losing to a last-minute Highlanders' penalty in Hamilton.

MVP: Damian McKenzie. The young fly half and fullback really stepped up in the absence of Aaron Cruden and will be one to watch for the next generation of All Blacks.

FINAL GRADE: **B** Outclassed by both the Highlanders and the Hurricanes, so just missed out on honours.

CRUSADERS

Finished: **7th**

Played: **16** Won: **9** Lost: **7**

C+

Despite scoring plenty of points in some big wins, only a seventh place finish was possible for the team that went so close to winning the title last year. A pretty poor return for the competition's most successful team, which is full of All Blacks talent. A dip in form during the middle of the season with back-to-back home losses was the turning point as they slipped further and further from finals contention despite some very convoluted mathematics giving them false hope if results elsewhere were favourable. They weren't. It did seem as though the large All Blacks contingent in the Crusaders took this season a little bit easy, maybe having one eye on the World Cup. If this careful player management can help the All Blacks retain the World Cup, then the Crusaders deserve a big thank you for taking one for the team, but Crusaders faithful fans will be keen for a return to the top of the table next season.

TOP STATS: Most points (481) **HIGHLIGHT:**

Their seven-try comeback in the second half against the Cheetahs in Round 6.

WORST MOMENT: Losing to the Highlanders at home in Round 9. **MVP:** Dan Carter. A welcome return to form for the All Blacks fly half who managed better kicking accuracy than his rivals for the All Blacks number ten shirt. **FINAL GRADE:** **C+** A very "Cs get degrees" feel to the Crusaders season.

BLUES

Finished: **14th**

Played: **16** Won: **3** Lost: **13**

F

With only three wins all season, the Blues were lucky not to pick up the wooden spoon this year, finishing just above the Force after a run of early-season losses effectively ended their season in April. Coach John Kirwan inevitably paid the ultimate price for his disappointing few seasons in charge and has made way for All Blacks and Hurricanes legend, Tana Umaga, who will need to oversee a massive

change in fortunes at the club that failed to beat any of the other New Zealand teams all year. Some outstanding individual moments need to be rounded into a better team performance, and there is no shortage of talent up north to be able to pull this off. It wasn't long ago that many Blues fans were calling for the Highlanders franchise to shift north. It's funny how things change so quickly.

TOP STATS: Scored the most losing bonus points (6) and had the best tackle success (88%). **HIGHLIGHT:** Scoring their first win against the Brumbies in Round 9. **WORST MOMENT:** Being dismantled 44-7 by the Highlanders in their final game at Eden Park. **MVP:** Akira Ioane. The giant loose forward looks to be an absolute beast, and it's only a matter of time before he gets a shot with the All Blacks after impressing at the Under 20 World Champs. **FINAL GRADE:** **F** Positives were few and far between. Can't pass with this kind of record. ●



Image Supplied Highlanders



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YAK TIV ISM

by Anthony Gordon
@ant_gordon

New Hot

ancer asked if my ID was real
ght, I put my hand on his head
asked "is any of this real?"

3 replies

Had my first date last night. It was
alright, very underrated fruit.

237

2h 2 replies

Plot twist: Nemo takes a gap year
nd finds himself.

self turned my alarm off last
ky bastard made m

from my toilet

ed for 2016 because $2 + 0 +$
9 and that's seven more
s than hitler had.

91

3 replies

up drunk and thought it was
day. Flat mates sent me to
street dressed as batman.

83

rians are argueing is it
ef?

horrible moment as a uni
udent when you realize having too
much free time actually isn't all that
great.

42

1h

2 replies

We all have that friend who doesn't
have a hidden talent.

Much has been made in the news about how school kids have used Yik Yak to cyber-bully their peers, causing some commentators to call for its outright banning. I have to disagree; my experience with Yik Yak over the past few months is not only proof of social media's potential to bring people together rather than isolate us from one another, it has renewed my faith in the good will and altruism of my peers.

Pay yourself a visit to one of the many awful "news" websites largely frequented by small-minded older people and you'll no doubt come across some kind of "thinkpiece" explaining how this or that new social media platform is going to lay ruin to society as we know it by dulling human experiences and reducing interactions. These pieces do make for an amusing read: wildly inaccurate assertions about what "generation-selfie" does in our spare time and an almost consistent failure to use the word "meme" correctly (no, it's not a verb), for example. It's easy to be insulted by the old coots who are given a platform to rattle out uninformed assumptions about us internet-age kids, such as that our souls are so rotten, we can't possibly handle the responsibility of prudently using the new technology we're being handed. There is no doubt that the rise of online social media has caused significant issues, but it is patronising to assert that young people are incapable of using it positively.

Case in point is Yik Yak, the most recent social media app to take Dunedin by storm. Much has been made in the news about how school kids have used Yik Yak to cyber-bully their peers, causing some commentators to call for its outright banning. I have to disagree; my experience with Yik Yak over the past few months is not only proof of social media's potential to bring people together rather than isolate us from one another, it has renewed my faith in the good will and altruism of my peers.

Before we jump into this, we will power through a quick explanation of how Yik Yak works. Yik Yak amalgamates the features of a handful of social media platforms we're all familiar with. Like on Twitter, posts (called Yaks) are limited to 300 or so letters. Similar to Facebook, fellow users can demonstrate their approval by up-voting (or down-voting) and commenting on individual Yaks. As with Tinder, only Yaks posted within a certain radius of a user can be seen and voted on. And like the comments section of the New Zealand Herald website, everything takes place under the shady cloak of anonymity. Presumably, however, the developers of Yik Yak incorporated a feature that recognises and removes Yaks containing people's names. If someone were to post "OMG, guys, just spotted Stacey Jones getting finger-slammed by Matt B in the ground-floor laundry!!!", that Yak would be whipped off the feed quicker than poor Stacey's inhibitions vanished after cracking into her second bottle of Passion Pop.

The combination of anonymity, on one hand, and the ability to like and be liked, on the other, flies in the face of what social media has, until now, been all about. Facebook, for example, has been able to sink its blue claws into our lives because we all enjoy feeling like we are the object of other people's attention. We post content on Mark Zuckerberg's platform, and he rewards us with tiny endorphin hits known as notifications. Somehow, probably by virtue of our inherent vanity, social media has tricked our brains into believing our self-worth depends on how "popular" we are online. This is madness; we can all rationally see that the number of likes we get on our newest profile picture has zero bearing on the actual quality of our lives — we can't trade them for a Crunchie Bar — and yet we still can't tear ourselves away from checking (for the third time that hour) whether it's reached the 100 mark yet.

A successful Yak, on the other hand, delivers you only private satisfaction; since no one else knows it was you, its success or otherwise does not reflect your personal popularity but simply how amusing you were at that single point in time. Yik Yak's removal of any sense of online identity has produced a plethora of (mostly pleasantly surprising) results.

Yaks tend to fall into two very general categories. Firstly, there are amusing quips, anecdotes or otherwise relatable posts.

Up yak this if your kinda horny

131

Often they'll relate to current events (a certain View St resident pops to mind) or matters of pertinent interest.

More like re-snow week amirite??



288

The most amusing ones quite often have nothing to do with anything.

imagine if moa were not extinct & were super common, just boosting around all over the show.

144

Yaks that get the most attention tend to be written about a handful of topics: shitting, eating, drinking and sex. Rather than seeing these subject matters as an indictment of humans' general grossness, I choose to see them as a kind of sweetly endearing sign that none of us is too old for toilet humour and lame sex jokes. In fact, especially in an age where selective posting means scrolling down your Facebook newsfeed could lead you to think your friends live perfectly polished lives, it's refreshing to see that underneath this facade, we are humans who tend to all do, and take interest in, the same gross habits.

Last week, I saw two girls I know at a café. Eighty-seven percent of the time they were on their iPhones and, when they did speak to one another, the conversation largely went along the lines of standard exam-time chat. "So when's your last test ... aww babe, that sucks ..." — in other words, dryer than the biscotti they were nibbling on. "So great to catch up with this one for brunch" was the caption of the Instagram picture one then posted, accompanied by a photo of the other seemingly having a whale of a time.

It's easy to see why experts posit that over-exposure to social media sites, where people selective edit out the mundane and unpleasant parts of their lives, can result in feelings of inadequacy, loneliness and depression. Yik Yak, on the other hand, does away with this falseness. Human life is largely compromised of long periods of unpleasantness, mundaneness or, at best, mere contentment, spritzed with the occasional burst of joy and happiness. This is totally cool; normal human brain development requires time off. While being relentlessly pelted with images of your friends having a great time could lead you to convince yourself you're not happy because you're not constantly having a good time, finding out through Yik Yak that a lot of other people, most likely the majority, also spend some Saturday nights, I don't know, in bed watching *Come Dine With Me*, eating crispy noodles and masturbating could yank you out of this falsely constructed sense of inadequacy.

The other Yak category is where the original poster (OP) poses questions to the Yik Yak community. Some of these are fairly day-to-day questions; for example, where a certain tutorial is being held that day, or advice on how to give a decent rim-job.

Many posts, however, come from people unsure of themselves, questioning their beliefs or genuinely seeking life advice.

Yaks' anonymity has led to the posting and answering of questions people might not feel comfortable discussing in person. I'm not talking the lines of "I'm not sure how to bring up the 'what are we?' question with my girl, any advice?" — that's what mums/Yahoo Answers exist for. I'm talking posts like the screenshots above, along with many I've seen that go along the lines of "Does anybody else constantly think about killing themselves?" or "I'm straight but recently I've felt attracted to my flatmate, how can I make this go away?" These are the kind of questions where advice from someone who has been in the same position is invaluable and, given society's general intolerance

I'm just going to go ahead and assume I'm the only bisexual girl in Dunedin? Lonely life, show yourselves 🙄 3

I feel like there are a good chunk of bisexual girls here in Dunedin :~) 2

5m

Ugh I never know how to hit on a girl because im not sure if she's straight or what, some girls get so offended 😞 2



Yeah it's a little frustrating if they get offended, like please take it as a compliment and say no thanks, nbd 1

3m



Just straight up ask op, it's the only way as some girls with flirt with other girls to get male attention 1

I've got to the point where I'm so depressed all the time that seeing random people smiling & laughing at uni can throw me into a massive downward mood swing :(5



I hate seeing cute things on here, or in person. 1

21m



Remind yourself that it'd only their she'll you see. They are probably hurting as much on the inside 0

21m



What's wrong op? 0

towards acknowledging mental illness, Yik Yak allows those people to offer support without having to bare their soul to the world. Personally, being introduced for the first time to the possibility that my not super-peachy state of mind wasn't actually my own fault, but rather that I might be suffering from a mental condition, was an enormous moment. The fact that Yik Yak is doing this for folks on a daily basis is unequivocally a fantastic thing.

I have been cruising through Yik Yak for a number of months, and I've never seen any mean-spirited posts targeted at other students not be voted off the site almost immediately. When I spoke to the wardens of a number of residential colleges, none of them reported having any issues with the app. Arana College's deputy head, Patrick Chong, said, "I don't know what is this Yak you're talking about."

Dr Erika Pearson, a senior Otago lecturer in the Department of Media, Film and Communications, said: "Most of my students who've used it find it to be a really supportive group." She added, "If I were to hypothesise about why college Yik Yak can be quite supportive, particularly in Dunedin, it would be the fact everyone lives in the same group and goes through the same stresses at the same time and so there may be some kind of shared identity there."

The title of this article was always going to be "Yaktivism", purely because we can't resist a jazzy pun like that. However, as I worked on this piece, I came to the conclusion that anyone who contributes to the Yik Yak conversation is, in fact, a "Yaktivist", whether they realise they are or not. Of course, there are those who outright comment on Yaks offering their assistance or advice in response to a cry for help. But by merely commenting on and upvoting Yaks that normalise and publicise behaviour that's usually kept behind lock and key, you are contributing to a community's knowledge. Maybe something you've posted simply because you thought it was funny has been a breath of fresh air to somebody, making them finally realise that they ought not to feel ashamed about a certain aspect of themselves, or their personal choices.

This article is a love letter to our generation. While our grandparents received the miracle of atomic fission and created, oh, I don't know, a bomb that could destroy the world a hundred times over, we've inherited a platform that could easily be used to bully, mock and taunt, and instead used it as a platform for positivity and good vibes. If that doesn't make you a tiny bit optimistic about the future, I don't know what will ■

“Personally, being introduced for the first time to the possibility that my not super-peachy state of mind wasn’t actually my own fault, but rather that I might be suffering from a mental condition, was an enormous moment. The fact that Yik Yak is doing this for folks on a daily basis is unequivocally a fantastic thing.”







HUGS & OTHER DRUGS

LAURA STARLING

The legalisation of MDMA, or ecstasy, has popped back into discussion. Also known as Molly, Eve, the Hug Drug, Love Drug or Scooby Snacks, we take a look into why legalisation would ever be considered and why hesitations remain.

Clinical toxicologist, Dr Paul Quigley, recently told Radio Live that he felt there should be access to safer drugs as an alternative to alcohol and the often unsafe synthetic highs available legally. Quigley suggested that MDMA in its purest form could be a safer alternative. He also argued that the legalisation of MDMA would mitigate its presence on the black market and that users would have access to a less harmful product — it would be pure ecstasy and not cut with other substances. Quigley believes that control would provide a better, safer product.

When asked for his thoughts on the topic, Associate Health Minister Peter Dunne said he wasn't against discussing the idea, but did explain that it would be a very long time before anything like this was possible. Prime Minister John Key has flatly said that there would be no way for MDMA to be legalised while National is in government.

Advocates for the legalisation of cannabis have expressed frustration that people would consider legalising MDMA without first considering cannabis, arguing that the naturally grown plant is much safer and has had a much longer and ongoing campaign for legalisation.

The United Nations plays a pivotal role in the legalisation of all drugs throughout the world — not only MDMA, but also substances like cannabis and LSD. Any country under the UN abides by these standards, New Zealand included. The current drug standards upheld by the UN were created in 1960 (the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs) and 1971 (the Convention on Psychotropic Substances). This is where the class A, B and C drugs come in — A being the highest risk and C the lowest. Ecstasy, also known as Molly, is a class A drug, the same as heroin, but, according to Quigley, MDMA is comparatively low risk.

Research into how illegal substances actually work is limited. Every time someone

attempts to research the substances, they're unable to gain funding because the drugs are illegal. The issue is the same with cannabis. Even if people try to conduct studies in places where the drug is legal, their research is still often turned down for funding. When the money is available, researchers have to leap through many bureaucratic hoops before even beginning the research; most people don't have the time, energy or money to go ahead with this kind of research.

David Nutt is a neuropsychopharmacologist who specialises in how drugs affect the brain. In an article published this year, he explained how these drug control conventions have limited research. He argues that the UN's standards need to be revised to allow neuroscience to move forward. The strict UN drug laws are there to prevent recreational use and have been created to control the availability of drugs and their potential harms. Instead of research being conducted on the effects of classified drugs, various new synthetic drugs are being created that do not fall under the

UN's drug umbrella. This is where the legal highs come from. The Republic of Ireland has banned the sale of all drugs that may be used recreationally. Nutt stated that this will be extremely detrimental to pharmaceutical research in the country if it's actually enforced.

Nutt's main concern is that many of these drugs have medicinal uses, offering examples like using opioids as treatment for pain "and even cocaine for local blood control and anaesthesia in ear, nose and throat surgery". Outdated laws prevent people from making medical use of drugs because it's illegal and because it's near impossible to get funding from anyone. According to Nutt, clinical research suggests that MDMA could be used to help the dyskinesia (impairment of movement) of Parkinson's disease. As soon as legal forms were developed, people started selling similar versions of the drug for recreational use. After media explosions, all forms of MDMA were banned and the development of this drug has come to a halt because it is no longer affordable.

The strict regulations on drugs are intended to stop access to highly dangerous substances. However, for the most part, if people want to find a drug through dealers and even via the internet, they can. At the moment, these drugs aren't tested or regulated and, due to the unknown additives in these "black market" drugs, they are far more dangerous.

What We Do Know About MDMA?

MDMA increases the activity of neurotransmitters like serotonin, dopamine and norepinephrine (happy hormones!). Specifically, it causes a lot more serotonin to be released into the brain. This means that the user's mood elevates and they get that euphoric feeling MDMA is known for — hence the name "ecstasy". Initially the street name for MDMA was going to be empathy, after the feelings of love and camaraderie that it's known for. However, the name was changed to ecstasy because "empathy" doesn't really scream life of the party.

The effects of MDMA include euphoria and a sense of intimacy with others. So, often, you'll have lots of friends when you're on it — or at least feel like you do. Some studies have suggested that it may be useful as a treatment for PTSD and anxiety. One of its unique effects is that it can ease fear without sedation. Dr. Julie Holland, a psychiatrist at the New York University Medical Center, advocates for the medicinal use of MDMA as a treatment for these issues. She states that "MDMA is a non-sedating anxiolytic". Which means that it "completely ablates the anxiety response and the fear response in most people". This is useful because when someone comes into a psychiatric emergency room, they are often given anxiolytics like Valium and Xanax to calm down. However, these drugs also sedate people. The patients often just fall asleep for hours, and the doctors are unable to help them. Use of MDMA in this circumstance would be useful because it can reduce the fear and anxiety people feel, but they'll still be alert.

According to the New Zealand Drug Foundation, MDMA has both short- and long-term effects. In the short term, you can experience teeth grinding/jaw clenching, concentration issues, nausea and anxiety. It can also raise body temperature, heart rate and blood pressure. These are all things typically experienced during the high and rush. However, as with many drugs, there is a comedown period. The symptoms include more nausea and anxiety, mild depression, fatigue, insomnia — all things you'd expect after being on a high-energy drug.

Dr. Kristin Hillman of Otago's Psychology Department, who teaches on drugs and behaviour, shed some light on MDMA. She said that there are two main areas of risk. First, there are the physical risks, which include heart attack, seizures and hyperthermia due to the cardiovascular effects of the drug. These effects make MDMA potentially fatal. Just last year, a 16 year old in the UK, Daniel Spargo-Mabbs, died following multiple heart attacks as a result of an overdose. Another teenager in Sydney, aged 19, died last November following an adverse reaction to the MDMA pill given to her. She died within a

few hours and her friend was charged with supplying the drug, resulting in a criminal conviction for the tragedy.

One of the other more serious and scary effects of the drug is hyperthermia (getting too hot, as opposed to hypothermia, where you are too cold). MDMA produces a lot of energy, so it's commonly used by people who go clubbing so they can dance all night without noticing their exertion levels. MDMA can cause the body to lose its ability to regulate heat — so essentially users won't notice they're overheating. Another risk comes from not drinking enough water (because they don't realise they're dehydrated), which contributes to hyperthermia. At the same time, drinking too much plain water is also risky as it causes hyponatremia (low salt), also known as "water intoxication".

To explain: the body maintains an equilibrium of electrolytes, including salt, in the bloodstream. Sweating causes the body to lose salt, but MDMA users are at particular risk if they drink enormous quantities of water because it dilutes the salt in the body to potentially lethal levels. If their system becomes out of balance, their body systems can fail, leading to diarrhoea, vomiting, tremors and confusion, and the brain begins to swell. This brain swelling ("brain edema" or "cerebral edema") can lead to brain injury, paralysis and even death. To avoid this happening, it can help to add salt to your water, or have a sports drink that replaces the electrolytes.

Aside from the physical effects, Hillman explained that the other type of risk is that it is impossible to know exactly how you are going to behave under the influence of MDMA. You can end up "inadvertently killing yourself". There is a lot of variability both inter- and intra-individual. On the inter-individual level, two people can take the exact same amount of MDMA at the same time, and have totally different experiences. One person might sit still for their trip, and the other might try to fly out the window. Hillman also explained that on an intra level, you can take MDMA one day and have a fantastic experience, and then take the exact same drug a week later and have an

awful trip, completely different to what was experienced before. She said that people "build a false sense of confidence" after taking it a few times, "but it can act differently just randomly — that's always a risk". MDMA poses "a lot more risk than something like nicotine or caffeine", basic, common drugs that "always affect people the same way" on an inter- and intra-individual level.

It's important to note that taking higher doses of MDMA does not increase the likelihood of experiencing positive effects, but does increase the likelihood of experiencing negative ones.

Pure New Zealand

Keep in mind that all of the things we do know about MDMA are based on the assumption that it is indeed ecstasy that is being consumed. It is very rare to get your hands on the pure product in New Zealand. MDMA is created by a chemist. Essentially, if you own a pill press, you could put almost anything into it to create pills. Often MDMA is cut with other substances ranging from methamphetamine to household cleaning products like Ajax. This is where the main argument for legalisation comes in — pure MDMA is better than a mystery pill that might be MDMA.

It will be a long time before MDMA would ever be legalised in Aotearoa. However, according to Quigley, there is room for it to be legalised under the Psychoactive Substances Act (2013). The act means that producers of synthetic drugs are responsible for having their drugs clinically tested before they are sold. The aim of the act was to regulate the onslaught of highly dangerous synthetic drugs coming through the market.

Geoff Howard, a counsellor from the drug and alcohol counselling service, Drug Arm, feels that the risks of legalisation outweigh the benefits. He said, "alcohol is the most problematic drug in New Zealand." However, while MDMA may be safer to use, he is concerned that this is under the assumption people will use the drug with the recommended restrictions. The guidelines for alcohol use are very

“...people tend to forget, or not realise, that the “MA” in MDMA stands for methamphetamine.”

low but, as we all know, "the community doesn't drink like that. The reality is that people don't follow the guidelines."

Over time, people develop a tolerance to drugs, and will take more and more to get the same high. Howard is concerned that this will happen to MDMA users, and they will see the negative effects come through. Howard also said that "in the 12 years of doing this job, I have never seen addiction like that to synthetic drugs." He believes that the normalisation of drug use in the form of legal highs puts youth at risk. Popping a pill or snorting a line of something is already in the comfort zone of youth today.

He also argued that even if MDMA is legalised, this doesn't mean that people won't still cut it with other substances. It might be more regulated, and some people might use it responsibly, but what about those who don't? Howard thinks that legalisation would not improve the situation but rather would compound it. He is, however, completely behind medicinal use of MDMA.

Hillman reflected a lot of what Howard had to say about ecstasy. She said that alcohol has a very high harm index, and is "hands down" the most damaging drug in New Zealand — but this doesn't necessarily mean that MDMA is safer or better. Simply because we already

have the legal use of a dangerous drug doesn't mean we should add another dangerous drug into the mix and make it more readily available. She said that people tend to forget, or not realise, that the "MA" in MDMA stands for methamphetamine.

However, Hillman advocates for the controlled, clinical use of the drug for psychotherapy in treating the likes of PTSD and end-of-life anxiety. She also said that the case for medical or clinical legalisation can be made for any drug — if it can be helpful, then why not take advantage of that?

The discussion has been going on for years. There has always been debate about the benefits and downfalls of legalisation and regulation versus blanket prohibition of dangerous substances. This argument extends to the majority of drugs, not only applying to MDMA. There are risks in legalising a known dangerous substance, and it could backfire. But unsafe, impure versions of MDMA are circulating around New Zealand. Specialists are calling for this to change and are looking for a better answer, allowing medical and scientific research to be undertaken. We really need a better understanding of what we're putting into our bodies before we go ahead and use it for making new friends every weekend ■



How to Go to an Art Gallery

» BY LOULOU CALLISTER-BAKER

Art galleries are my sanctuaries. They are perfect places for quiet reflection and interesting interactions with created pieces or performances. However, I do have my off days. These are the kind of days where the sky seems an extra, disturbing tint of yellow or when it feels like everyone in the city has disappeared elsewhere, abandoning me. On these days, the gallery can turn from an escape into a surreal, frustrating place. Whether you are having an on or off day — or are simply in a new place — I have devised a few tips for how to go to an art gallery and what to do once inside

1) Find the art gallery.

Sometimes art galleries are obvious, planted directly in the city centre with big signs out the front. But finding the smaller spaces run by volunteers, or only one or two paid staff, often requires a complex process of locating a vague address online, then realising the gallery's website was last updated two years ago and its opening times are obscure. Finding galleries then become like hunting down a runaway, highly strung teenager and requires of you the patience of a saint.

2) Enter the gallery.

Galleries may seem simple to enter — walking through automatic sliding doors or using door handles are rather instinctive to us — but be alert! The sudden tension between you (the "gallery goer"), the attendant, another gallery goer and sometimes even an artist lingering in a distant corner has been known to cause an anxiety so fierce that one might suddenly desperately need air, a toilet or a hole to hide in. But, in the smaller spaces, there is no turning back!

Even worse than this tension is when no one seems to be in the gallery whatsoever. This happens regularly, and it still remains an unexpectedly haunting experience. Many questions go through your mind: is the gallery closed? am I trespassing and therefore a criminal? am I being watched? am I the art? is the attendant going to suddenly appear around a corner and are we going to give each other a huge fright then simultaneously apologise and try to forget it all happened?

Also, be prepared for the silence. The world's quietest room is said to drive a human crazy or make them hallucinate in under thirty minutes.

While gallery spaces are not usually built with "no echo" technology, any sound you make in a gallery is, somehow, crude and exaggerated. Of course, you can decide your nose sniffs are your right, but I once followed a person who came down with a serious bout of hiccups through three different rooms of a large gallery in Japan. They bravely walked on while everyone around them quietly went through perplexion, anguish and hysterical contained laughter. Silence does that.

Take several breaths and quietly congratulate yourself for getting this far.

3) Find the art.

Contemporary art no longer consists entirely of big oil paintings in gold gilt frames made by horny old men who have taken hot girls as their subject matter and sources for revitalising their long-buried youth. Now art is ... anything, really. And because of eccentric curators and boundary-pushing artists, art is not always easy to find. Sometimes a gallery goer can find themselves staring for ten minutes at the gallery's closed bathroom door. After what seems like a cyclic inner monologue, desperately reminding yourself that art is about the process and ideas now and vaguely considering what you will eat for dinner tonight, you decide you have spent enough time on the piece and move on. As you move on, you hear a toilet flush and the attendant walks out. Red in the face, you start to walk away from the door, but a small text on the wall catches your eye: Bathroom Door (2015). And then it clicks, absolutely everything in your entire life falls into place! It was art, it's all art!

4) Leave the art gallery.

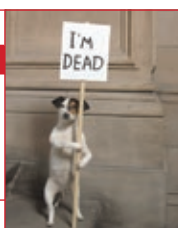
After going through this explorative process, don't forget to leave the art gallery. Hone that inspiration and start your own practice. You are an "artiste" now. ●

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DAVID SHRIGLEY I'm Dead 2010 Mixed media. British Council Collection. Image courtesy Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum © The Artist



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INGREDIENTS

SERVES 4

(slash just me if I am being greedy)

- **1 medium-sized head** of cauliflower, chopped into quarters
- **50g** butter
- **¼ cup** flour
- **2½ cups** of milk (the fatter the better)
- **1 teaspoon** wholegrain mustard
- **1 cup** grated tasty cheese
- **1 cup** grated smoked cheese
- salt and pepper
- **50g** pancetta or prosciutto

The Ultimate Cauliflower Cheese

BY SOPHIE EDMONDS

There is this restaurant in Auckland that I love called Depot. It is amazing. When I am feeling balla, I often go there. Clearly last week I felt like I was just rolling in it, and I managed to end up there twice. I am completely hooked on their wood-fired cauliflower cheese. Not only is it fired in a massive pizza oven, but also they use delicious smoked cheese to enrich the flavour. I closely observed the chefs prepare this, and I actually seriously considered buying a kettle barbecue this week for the sole purpose of making this dish extra smoky. I made do with my terrible flat oven. The end product was gobbled up so quickly I barely had time to figure out whether it neared Depot standards.

They make theirs with a smoked cheddar. I had a smoked Havarti in the fridge, which also worked a treat. Any smoked cheese will do — you don't need much, just enough to lend that wonderful flavour. If you are feeling a little too povo for flash cheese, just use a good extra handful of tasty instead.

milk has been added, and stir until the sauce is almost as thick as Greek yoghurt. Stir through the mustard, half the tasty cheese and half the smoked cheese. Season with salt and pepper. Remove from the heat.

METHOD

1. Blanch the large chunks of cauliflower in boiling water until tender. This should take about ten minutes. Drain and leave to dry on some paper towels. Heat up a frying pan with a splash of oil and brown the sides of each chunk. Let some of the edges go a little black — it gives extra flavour. Leave to one side.
2. Preheat the oven to 180 degrees on bake.
3. Melt the butter in a medium-sized saucepan over a medium heat. Add in the flour and stir to form a paste. Let the paste food and bubble away gently for two minutes. Add a half cup of the milk and stir until smooth. Keep stirring the sauce until it becomes super thick, then add another half cup of milk. Continue until all the
4. Arrange the cauliflower in a small- to medium-sized baking dish, breaking the quarters up into large pieces. Pour over the béchamel sauce and spread it around so it covers all of the florets. Sprinkle over the rest of the cheese. In a reasonably hot frying pan, cook the pancetta or prosciutto until it becomes crisp and crunchy. Transfer to a chopping board and finely slice so it resembles a large crumb. Sprinkle this over the cauliflower cheese.
5. Bake for 30 minutes or until the cheese on top has turned a dark golden colour.
6. Enjoy immediately.



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Love & Mercy

» DIRECTED BY **BILL POHLAD**

REVIEWED BY **MANDY TE**



Biographical films require a certain delicacy but, since someone's life cannot easily and wholly fit into a chunk of two hours, they often fall into the potholes of inaccuracy and over-dramatisation in favour of entertainment value. Bill Pohlad's artistic approach to Brian Wilson's life carefully illustrates the performer's increasing auditory hallucinations during his time as a member of The Beach Boys in the 1960s and as a man who had no control over his life during the 1980s.

After experiencing a panic attack, a young Brian Wilson (Paul Dano) returns to the studio while the rest of the group continue with their overseas tour. Intent on creating the group's best album, Brian goes to creative and quirky lengths to produce *Pet Sounds*, but his mental health begins to deteriorate as he struggles to overcome the voices in his head. The film operates with a parallel narrative, and the audience also sees an older Brian (John Cusack), who is going to buy a new car. At the car dealership, Brian meets Melinda Ledbetter

(Elizabeth Banks) and the pair share an honest yet slightly odd conversation that results in an affectionate relationship. As Melinda spends more time with Brian, her concerns for his wellbeing begin to grow when she notices the extent to which Dr Eugene Landy (Paul Giamatti), Brian's legal guardian, exploits and over-medicates him. Her concern becomes determination, and she attempts to help free Brian from Eugene's abusive control.

The film's sequencing coupled with convincing performances from Paul Dano and John Cusack showcases the multifacetedness of *Love & Mercy*. It's a biopic that pays tribute to Brian Wilson's musical process, such as when we see 1960s Brian using bobby pins to create tones on piano strings. It's also an art-house film, in which the audience is shown a blank screen that is actually an ear canal. With so many elements going on, however, Pohlad's attempts to juggle two narratives can sometimes feel too busy and become metaphorically overbearing.

With a conscientious director and cast, *Love & Mercy* gives us an intimate insight into the achievements and struggles of Brian Wilson in a way that is thoughtfully enjoyable. ●

Terminator Genisys

» DIRECTED BY **ALAN TAYLOR**

REVIEWED BY **ALEX CAMPBELL-HUNT**



Like many *Terminator* fans, I believe that the franchise should have ended it all after *Terminator 2* but, with a new instalment added to the classic franchise, I couldn't help but have a mix of high hopes and low expectations for *Terminator Genisys*.

Set in 2029, the film begins with John Connor (Jason Clarke) leading the human resistance to their victory over Skynet, the evil robot overlords — but not before the Terminator is sent back to 1984 to kill John's mother, Sarah (Emilia Clarke), and thus erase his existence. John's right-hand man, Kyle Reese (Jai Courtney), volunteers to go back to the

past and rescue her, but rather than winding up in the events of the first film, he arrives in another timeline. Sarah is already up to speed with the situation and has the Terminator (Arnold Schwarzenegger) in tow.

Already, the latest instalment earns points over *Terminator: Salvation* for featuring some actual time travel and cohesive references to the first film. However, *Terminator Genisys* isn't limited to this setup, as Alan Taylor includes some interesting and unexpected plot developments that not only build on the original film but also allow the movie to stand on its own.

Compared to characters in the earlier films, Sarah and Reese are one-dimensional. Sarah is immediately positioned as an action hero and has no real arc to speak of, which means that she does not become morally compromised or even struggle to maintain her sanity. Reese's character seems more like a plucky quarterback and has no psychological scarring from a life in combat.

Terminator Genisys doesn't aim for the emotional weight of the earlier *Terminator* films; there's little rumination on humankind's self-destructive nature and less is made of the whole doomsday theme. It almost becomes a comedy at times. However, Alan Taylor's unexpected plot developments and also lack of typical storyline developments allow *Terminator Genisys* to stand as a movie that provides an entertaining form of escapism. ●

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Far from the Madding Crowd

» DIRECTED BY **THOMAS VINTERBERG**

REVIEWED BY **SIMON KINGSLEY-HOLMES**



The success of Nicolas Winding Refn's operatic kick in the teeth with *Bronson* and Tomas Alfredson's hushed, emotionally muzzled *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* has given audiences high expectations when it comes to Scandinavian directors and the films they are tied to. Unfortunately, Thomas Vinterberg's adaptation of Thomas Hardy's novel, *Far from the Madding Crowd* is miles away from the work of both Refn and Alfredson. Instead, the audience is given a film that is inert.

Bathsheba Everdene (Carey Mulligan) independently runs a farm in Dorset, which brings her to the attention of the locals. Her intelligence and determination attract the interest of three men: a sheep farmer called

Gabriel Oak (Matthias Schoenaerts), Sergeant Frank Troy (Tom Sturridge) and a prosperous bachelor named William Boldwood (Michael Sheen). As Bathsheba tries to maintain her position in the local community and on the farm itself, she also attempts to mediate the attentions of the three men as they vie for her hand in marriage.

Based on an 1874 novel about class and gender struggles in the Victorian countryside, the film adaptation doesn't stray from the original plot, but while these elements should give it intrigue or exotic sensibilities, Vinterberg's version simply creates something fatally familiar and thus quite dull. The director's instincts appear to fit perfectly with the well-worn traits of Victorian drama, where desires

are hinted and manners are observed, but it's a vision that lacks originality and emotion. Tears forever teeter on the brink of repressed British faces in this disappointing bodice-ripper, and that becomes a real problem as *Far from the Madding Crowd* becomes a film that audiences have seen before.

Ultimately, the performances carry Vinterberg's film; Michael Sheen and Tom Sturridge portray two emotionally damaged alpha males exceptionally well, and Carey Mulligan also proves that she can easily carry this film. However, the film's relentlessly repetitive structure does not give her enough room to fully flourish.

With uninspired cinematography, unexplored character development and a generic musical score full of meaningful strings and lilting piano solos, *Far from the Madding Crowd* amounts to an unsurprising and disappointing two hours. ●

Theatre Review: Punk Rock

» DIRECTED BY **LARA MACGREGOR**

REVIEWED BY **CLEMENTINE FLATLEY**



Teenagers are fascinating. As a "teacher's pet" teenager myself, I was always engrossed in the tumultuous adventures of my peers. The lives of the adolescents portrayed in *Punk Rock* gave me an enjoyable glimpse back at those old adventures. One minute I would find myself experiencing fits of laughter — the next I was gripping my seat in pure terror.

Punk Rock is set at an English high school and revolves around the arrival of new student, Lily (Ripeka Templeton), and how her presence unsettles many existing student relationships. One student, in particular, develops a crush on Lily, and his inability to recognise her many sexual signals cleverly introduces one of the play's central themes: the complexity and potentially destructive nature of teen relationships. Although the plot focuses on how Lily manages to shake the social foundations of those around her, the play also looks into other teenage

interactions, like when Bennett the "bully" (Taylor Barrett) performs one of his many attacks on "nerd" Chadwick (Hamish Annan), forcing him to be covered in pink lipstick. These awkward, humorous, cringe-worthy and frightening adolescent experiences eventually take a dark and chilling turn — one that interrupts our growing attachments to the teenagers and offers the audience a complete whirlwind of emotions.

Punk Rock marks the first ever collaboration between the Fortune Theatre and the University of Otago Theatre Studies programme, with four theatre students starring alongside professional actors, as well as others undertaking backstage roles. While the dialogue was sometimes muffled and English accents were occasionally broken with Kiwi inflections, the quality of acting was professional — there were no "students" on stage, just actors.

With an impressive set and lighting design by Martyn Roberts, the school room was



completed to perfection, down to the last solar system poster, pen marks on the roof and dirty school windows. For fear of ruining the surprise, I shall just say that the set contained much more than meets the eye — something that reveals the planned meticulousness and cohesiveness of this theatre production and amplifies the play as a whole. ●



Interview with Jacob Rajan

» FROM THE INDIAN INK THEATRE COMPANY |

BY MANDY TE /

Indian Ink's play, *Kiss the Fish*, will be coming to Dunedin soon. Mandy Te caught up with Jacob Rajan to understand his background and how the Indian Ink Theatre Company was born.

What personally drew you towards acting and pursuing acting professionally?

I was never into performance art. I did do a science degree at Otago University; it was there that I realised that I really hated science. But I found myself gravitating towards the arts. The science part really didn't do it for me and it was something I was doing for my parents, really.

It was only once I left university that it felt like I left a deprivation tank and I started exploring all those other things. I joined a theatre club, I finished my piano exam, I took up painting classes — I was doing everything other than science. I started studying theatre and education. I felt like this was something I really enjoyed and was good at; my tutor encouraged me to audition for drama school and I did. I didn't actually graduate from drama school until I was 27.

What inspired you and Justin to create the Indian Ink Theatre Company?

A desperate need for work. We both had just graduated from our respective drama schools and particularly me, as an Indian, I wasn't going to get a lot of work sitting around waiting for the phone to ring. You know, the odd ad for curry paste or, you know, a weird role

in a fantasy play or something were the only things that were coming up. I sort of entered drama school with the idea that I'd create my own work anyway.

I strongly believe in having a director as an outside eye. Even when you're creating your own work, you need somebody else, and Justin fell out of the sky as the ideal candidate because he graduated from a drama school that specialised in the stuff that I was really interested in. We met and shook hands over a cup of coffee, and the Indian Ink Theatre Company was born.

How did the name for your theatre company come about?

When I graduated from National Drama School, I was the first Indian to ever graduate so it was definitely this new perspective [that influenced it]. Justin isn't Indian, but he has got such a great, amazing kind of structural brain. He actually trained as an architect originally. He works very strongly with the designer so all that he is bringing to our partnership.

So it was smooth sailing, kind of.

Yeah, it's coming up to twenty years next year, which is pretty phenomenal for any company, let alone a theatre company — in this country, anyway. Funnily enough, when we first met, we decided that we were only going to be around for three plays because we looked at the templates for theatre companies in New Zealand. They seemed to last maybe five

years max and then just fall apart because of the economic stress or creative differences. So we said, okay, we'll just do three plays. But by the end of *The Pickle King*, we still had a lot of creative grunt left and we renewed our vows and we created another three plays after that and we're still going.

Your play, *Kiss the Fish*, will be coming to Dunedin soon. Can you tell me a little about the inspiration for the play and what the collaboration process was like when it came to bringing *Kiss the Fish* to life?

Justin was in Malaysia, staying on an island called Penang Island. He was in poorer tourist accommodation, but up the hill from him was a five-star resort. It was entirely occupied by monkeys. The jungle had taken it back, and when he got to asking the locals what had happened, they said the developers had come in and they hadn't sorted any submissions for the village; they just started building this resort but they hadn't secured the water rights, which rested with the village. The village said no and, without water for their taps or swimming pools, the developers had to walk away. Then the monkeys took over.

That image of a fully functional five-star resort occupied by monkeys was a haunting one that had lingered with Justin over many years. So when we came to write this play, we had also been in Bali — another beautiful island — and there were a bunch of these resorts all around the place. The resorts were made and the jungle was slowly taking them back too.

In Bali, we fell in love with the Balinese mask tradition and they have this amazing comic mask called Topeng and we established a relationship with a mask carver and he made a bunch of masks that we were going to use in a show but we didn't really have a show to do it and so, then, *Kiss the Fish* was born.

Do you have any advice for people interested in pursuing theatre as a profession?

One of my favourite quotes is "film will make you famous, TV will make you rich, theatre will make you good". I think if you're going to pursue theatre, you have really got to be passionate about it because, honestly, there is not a lot of money in it. Think carefully about pursuing that and really know that that's what you want to do. ●



Mortal Kombat X

» PS3, PS4, XBOX ONE/360, PC | DEV: NETHERREALM, PUB: WARNER BROS

BY CARL DINGWALL

Mortal Kombat is one of those series that everyone knows about, even if they don't play games. People probably recognise its memorable theme song and two cheesy movies, the classic announcer shouting "FINISH HIM!" and, of course, its gratuitous violence and gore. So now that we are up to the tenth instalment of the game, you would think *Mortal Kombat X* would start to get a bit stale, especially since this is the sequel to a retcon reboot of the whole series. With new stage interactions and an overhauled roster, this is certainly not the case. Just be warned, this game isn't for the faint of heart.

The story mode is back, and this time around you are dealing with a disgraced elder god, Shinnok, and his attempts to steal Earthrealm's 'Jinsei' so he can become a powerful demon. The story jumps between two years after the events of the previous *MK* title and 20 years later, so the narrative can get

confusing at times. You are given a fighter to play for three to four fights, which are given context via cut-scenes and quick-time events. It mainly serves as a quick characterisation of all the new members in the roster, as well as developing returning fighters. It's cheesy, but enjoyable enough. There is also an online mode, but some versions (namely the PC and PS4) have reported issues.

The actual fighting is fast, brutal and can be unforgiving if you forget that your block button exists. Your special meter allows for enhanced attacks and blocks. Certain stage interactions use your special, which can trigger a cinematic of you bashing your opponent. You can also use it all up on a devastating "X-ray" attack, which is a brutal display of broken bones or, in the case of Cassie Cage, your opponent's testicles. It's violent and beautiful, but can get repetitive. Each fighter has their own move set, with three variants that allow you to change up your style with your favourite fighter.

Bringing *MKX* into the next generation of consoles allows for more stunning visuals, creating the most visually impressive version of the series yet. Particle effects, blood and water all look great, but not sweat, which appears more like clingwrap. The models themselves sustain damage during the fight appropriately too, and were toned down compared to the previous *MKs* for a more realistic portrayal. Characters are also given small lines of dialogue before and during the fight that change depending who you are fighting — but be prepared for bad Twitter references.

Fatalities are back, better than ever unless you get squeamish about blood and guts. If you win a standard fight, you get your chance to enter a combo to finish off your opponent by slicing, dicing, blasting, crushing and any other method the minds in Netherrealm could think of, with the insides displayed in all new, beautiful, disgusting ways. Each fighter has two unique fatalities available, and unlockable "brutalities".

Sadly, Netherrealm's attempt at adding online features to the game ended up forced and irritating. Factions are forced upon you when you first boot the game, and you have to choose between the five presented to you. If your faction doesn't win, you don't get access to bonus fatalities. We also see the inclusion of micro-transactions. You can now purchase "easy fatality" tokens that reduce the effort needed to pull off a fatality to only two buttons. Not only is this a mockery of the fatalities, it's embarrassing to both players involved — for the one who has to pay to pull them off and for the player who lost to someone who can't perform them without assistance.

To judge whether this game is for you, decide if you enjoy the series, the blood and guts, and don't mind a mediocre online experience on PC and PS4 (which may be fixed in the future). This game is fun with friends, except for those who can't stand the sight of their insides. ●

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Singles in Review

» REVIEWED BY **BASTI MENKES**

New Tracks



Beach House

"Sparks"



Chelsea Wolfe

"Carrion Flowers"



Alaska Thunderfuck

"This Is My Hair"

Baltimore duo, Beach House, is at the forefront of modern dream pop, a genre built on whispered vocals and shimmering walls of sound. A criticism frequently leveled at the genre is that in striving for its particular kind of gossamer beauty, dream pop often sounds too fey, too sentimental. Where is the gusto? Where is the oomph?

And, true enough, Beach House often sedates rather than exhilarates. Thankfully, new song "Sparks" has a lot of bite to it. Victoria Legrand's multi-tracked vocals begin the song in beautiful, lethargic fashion, before Alex Scally's squalling guitar shocks feeling back into our limbs. This juxtaposition of the sleepy vocals and the life-affirming guitar makes for a lovely textural tension. "Sparks" has melodic sugar in spades, but the dissonant feedback brings an ambivalence to the song that is perfectly matched with Beach House's themes of heartache and introspection. This dichotomous approach is hardly new, and can be traced back to dream pop heavyweights like My Bloody Valentine. However, there is something in the crystalline production and oblong structure of "Sparks" that makes it feel fresh.

"Sparks" has me excited again, about not just Beach House but dream pop as a whole.

Oh, sweet mother of the void. If you weren't already excited about gothic singer-songwriter Chelsea Wolfe's upcoming album, *Abyss*, then "Carrion Flowers" will seal the deal. Riding in on pulsations of black bass, "Carrion Flowers" is a percussive, industrial-tinged death march. The production is astounding, taking tasteful inspiration from the vaults of Nine Inch Nails and recent Gary Numan. "Carrion Flowers" unfurls slowly and villainously, each verse more dramatic than the last. As usual, Chelsea's voice is a haunted croon. The spectral calls of the chorus recall the very best moments from her last album, *Pain Is Beauty*, like the climaxes of "Feral Love" and "The Warden".

If darkness is your jam, you may already have your album of the year confirmed. August can't come soon enough.

You may already know drag performer, Alaska Thunderfuck, as one of the runners-up in the fifth season of RuPaul's *Drag Race*. An alien from the planet Glamtron who crash-landed on earth, Alaska is known for her charisma and theatricality. Not surprisingly, her larger-than-life persona translates perfectly to pop music. Though pretty gosh darn repetitive, "This Is My Hair" is nevertheless a catchy and engrossing dance number. The nose-dives of distorted bass make one instantly think of electro-house outfits like Justice and SebastiAn. "This Is My Hair" is definitely worth a listen, though you need to watch the music video for the full experience.



Chelsea Wolfe - CC BY 2.0 flickr - Allan Wan



Jono Das *Illustrations* EP

» JAZZ HIP HOP | 2015

BY DANIEL MUNRO

Jono Das is a man of many talents. Along with producing, he uses his creativity in design, art and videography. The title of Das's debut EP *Illustrations* is a reflection of him as an artist with "beats being his new drawing". The EP has been two years in the making, with the majority of the beats crafted during his time in Dunedin. You could almost thank the cold Dunedin nights for putting him to work on this project. As I sat and listened to the project on a dark and rainy day, I could almost picture Das creating this project in the same circumstances.

While 808s and bass-heavy tracks may be the craze with beat makers lately, you won't find those on *Illustrations*; this project is timeless. Das grew up in a jazz family, which is evident throughout *Illustrations*. The use of jazz drum samples, coupled with his production, creates a sound any 90s-era hip hop head will appreciate. Take the title track, "Illustrations": Das comes in with a soft melody before hitting us with rhythm drums, instantly getting the head bobbing. While his work is sample heavy, you could be forgiven for thinking the songs were recorded raw. The blending of samples into production is one of

the EP's highlights and makes this production stand out from the rest.

Not only are the beats impressive on this project, but also Das has enlisted some of New Zealand's hip hop elite to accompany his production. *Illustrations* boasts the likes of Third3ye, Raiza Biza and EO of Badcrop plying their trade. Don't get it confused, *Illustrations* is not purely a rap EP — the project also possesses soulful vocals from Yaynè and Lisa Wright. Whether it be hip hop or soul, Das has got it covered with genre-crossing versatility. Das's beats are not lost over the vocals of featured artists either; instead the production perfectly accompanies the vocals. Long interludes and intros set the vibe before getting into the vocals, which gives the listener plenty of time to sit back and enjoy their talents.

I'm a huge fan of this project and of Das as an artist. It is refreshing to see an artist with such a timeless sound emerging from an age in which production is so often over-digitised. The smooth production accompanied by some of New Zealand's finest artists makes for one of the best releases from an up-and-comer this year. Das proves that the hip hop coming out of Aotearoa is as strong as ever. ●





Selfish, Shallow, and Self-Absorbed: Sixteen Writers on the Decision Not to Have Kids

» EDITED BY **MEGHAN DAUM**

REVIEWED BY **BRIDGET VOSBURGH**

Selfish, Shallow, and Self-Absorbed: Sixteen Writers on the Decision Not to Have Kids is a collection of sixteen personal essays written by professional writers about one particular decision that perfect strangers often feel they have a say in: choosing not to have children. This choice should not be as controversial as it is, but the same can be said about any default from the dominant cultural narrative of house, car, babies and heterosexuality. These essays are worth reading, and not just for validation.

Essays about deeply personal decisions require a certain degree of self-absorption, and the majority of writers here are apologetic and eager to preemptively assign to themselves the "selfish" label. However, none of these essays is shallow. They are often painfully genuine and tell complex narratives of difficult families and difficult lives. The writers range from people who always thought they wanted children, right up to and including attempts to actually have them, before realising they didn't to people who never wanted children and couldn't understand the impulse in others, as though the disinclination was hardwired into them at birth. By far the writers' biggest commonality is that most profess to like children and enjoy spending time with them.

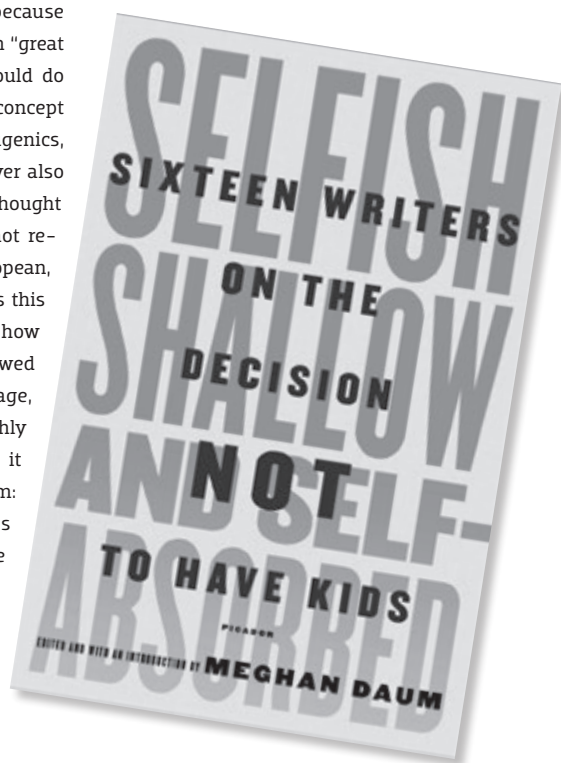
The standout essay for me was Paul Lisicky's "The New Rhoda", which focuses on the effect that living through the AIDS crisis as a gay

man had on his beliefs about what possible future existed for him. He presents a fascinating perspective, discussing how difficult it can be to even think of creating children using a material you've spent so long considering potentially to probably toxic.

On the other hand, Lionel Shriver's essay "Be Here Now Means Be Gone Later" becomes more repelling as it goes on. Shriver believes she really should have had children because she's intelligent and middle-class with "great genes" and therefore her children would do the world a favour by existing. The concept of great genes is the cornerstone of eugenics, and eugenics is deeply troubling. Shriver also states that she feels "dismay" at the thought that the population of the USA will not remain dominantly European (for European, read white) in her lifetime. She follows this with a passive-aggressive spiel about how terrible it is that Europeans aren't allowed to be proud of and preserve their heritage, as if that heritage wasn't thoroughly preserved and far too celebrated like it actually is. She goes as far as to claim: "Maybe by the time we're minorities in our own countries, we will have rights too."

Apart from Shriver's work and a few instances of cissexism (the association of reproductive systems with

gender), when I disagreed with the writers it tended to be in matters of philosophy. My disagreement was essentially what this sort of writing should generate. By reading *Selfish, Shallow, and Self-Absorbed*, you can learn a lot about your own perspective on the many facets of an unfortunately contentious issue, understanding what you whole-heartedly agree with and what, plainly speaking, makes you roll your eyes. ●



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LETTER OF THE WEEK

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Do others feel racism is rife at Otago?

Dear Critic,

I second what Davina Wainohu has said in her letter. Being a Pacific Islander and being in Health Science First Year is a great achievement itself but I don't think non-brown people realise the responsibilities we as brown people have. We don't just represent ourselves or our families, we also represent our country and communities. So the reason to strive in hsfy is much more than what you racists think.

Has anyone stopped and thought about why Maori and PIs have a lower entrance criteria than others? Our ethnicities are under-represented in health professions around New Zealand and NZ needs more PIs and Maori doctors etc. It's a fact and I think if you've lived in this country long enough then you might as well accept it and move on.

I have read every Critic magazine since its publication this year and I absolutely love it but not once have I seen an article placed on racism in Otago especially in HSFY. Do you not think it's a problem? Because every fresher has their fair share of issues in their first year at uni and I'll just tick off "offended and insulted by fellow students" from my list.

Sincerely,
Sheela Sharma

Duly noted - we're trying our best!

Dear Critic,

You guys wrote a nice piece on marriage equality being legalized in all 50 states of the US in last weeks Critic, and I found myself loving almost all of it - except for the parts where you referred to it as being a win for "gay and lesbian couples".

As a member of the queer community I find myself yet again reminding people that there is more than the L and the G in the LGBTQIA* rainbow. It's frustrating to find my sexuality being erased, ignored and often not truly understood as most forms of media either forget or avoid referring to non-binary sexualities. As a uni mag, I kinda hoped you guys would be an exception.

TLDR: please stop using gay and lesbian as if it covers all non-heterosexual sexualities.

Love,

a very frustrated pansexual

Romance comes in all forms

Dear Critic,

I was concerned about what you wrote in last semester's Love is Blind. Now I think this particular section of Critic is thoroughly entertaining; your idea to fund a blind date in exchange for the gossip-worthy details almost guarantees an amusing read to anyone with a sense of humor. Lately, it seems like a lot of the dates have ended up in bed. This is no fault of Critic's: you only print what they write. However, the way you presented last semester's column with the subhead, "She was up for anything and anyone. We could only offer a guy who sadly left her with no satisfaction." gave me the wrong impression. Here you had a nice guy and a pleasant gal, they both said they enjoyed the company and their dinner together, why the disdain over nothing more?

Is Critic only trying to hook up random people with the comfortable label of a one-night stand? Or are you actually trying to facilitate

real interactions and relationships? Either way, get your story straight, please. If it's the latter, perhaps you should consider a new title.

Signed,

Stick-up-her-butt

That's no way to make friends

Hey Critic,

this letter is actually addressed to the older dude I encountered at union grill today (Monday)

Hey, asshole

I'm sorry that you felt so entitled to a seat within the territory of the union grill that you didn't even bother to ask if you can sit down before dumping your backpack in the booth i'm sitting in. "I'm sitting here" doesn't constitute asking, by the way.

Responding to my obvious surprise with "what, do you own this seat or something?" isn't likely to endear me to you either.


Proceeding to get extremely defensive when I explained that it's kind of socially polite to ask and/or use the word please in these situations doesn't make you cool or powerful. It just makes you an asshole.

I know mature students get kind of a bad rap here (i'm assuming you actually study here and aren't just trying to reclaim your long-lost youth), but it's partly because of the actions of people like you. Don't perpetuate the stereotype, buddy.

Peace out
Alex

LETTERS POLICY

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



Yik Yak

The bouncer asked if my ID was real last night, I put my hand on his head and asked "is any of this real?"

246

Had my first date last night. It was alright, very underrated fruit.

213

If you went to the warehouse and didn't get bargain did you even warehouse?

22

At least my blood type is A+. Who needs grades anyway?

60

If you go to a BYO and don't save the queen did you even BYO?

28

I hate my family, so I leave crumbs in the butter

136

When you get with someone at a flat party and get connected to their wif by the end of the night... Successful hookup

29

Yakarma = 46,592. Tinder hookups = zero. I suck at social media.

65

You know you're a 90's kid when you have no good source of income and want to die

182

Surely I'm not the only one who thinks the new carpet in the link is a fucking disgrace.

24

Common sense is like deodorant . The People who need it most. Never use it.

101

28 park. Looked at a flat and saw a guys room with all the books I love and bad ass posters. I think I'm in love with you.

28

I dig. You dig. We dig. They dig. Not a very good poem but it's real deep!!

1

Leaving dunedin today and really going to miss the strong yak game down here. You're all amazing people

22

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SCEPTIC SCHISM

The Placebo Effect

BY DK MF

A sick mother is taken to a shaman who, through the tradition of rituals, uses the power of the ancients and spirits of the realm to heal. The shaman appears to take out the patient's guts, chanting and channelling energy into the affected area, before returning them into the patient, who then makes a dramatic recovery. We know it's the placebo, right? The power of mind over body? Well, no. This story may very well account for the placebo effect, but misusing it (as many pseudo-scientists are doing) as a "mind over body" power is fallacious.


Treatments like acupuncture and homeopathy have undergone placebo-controlled, double-blind experiments that clearly show there is no difference between them and the placebo effect. Therefore, proponents of these shams repackaging them as "the body can heal itself, and so our

treatments work through the placebo". The operative definition of the placebo effect is any health effect measured after an intervention that is something other than a physiological response to a biologically active treatment. In other words, it is any effect caused by something other than the treatment.

This misunderstanding arises from viewing the placebo as a single effect instead of the net result of multiple factors. These factors range from researcher bias, to statistical phenomena, to the patient's behaviour (remember when your friend got drunk from juice?). When on a trial, patients may eat better and exercise, feel better in general, and therefore rate certain factors higher than when they began (like improved pain levels). These factors, however, have no measurable effect on the pathology under trial.

When experiments for the effectiveness of placebos were trialed on asthmatic patients, results showed patients who had received the real treatment, a placebo pill or acupuncture all felt subjectively better, whereas the control group did not change. But the doctors found no objective change in asthma symptoms for any group apart from those who underwent the real treatment.

Modern medical science transcends traditional medicine because its efficacy is based on having an objective outcome that supersedes the placebo effect. Pain is a subjective not an objective physiological reaction; you can prick your way through pain, but there is no evidence that your mind can heal your cancer.




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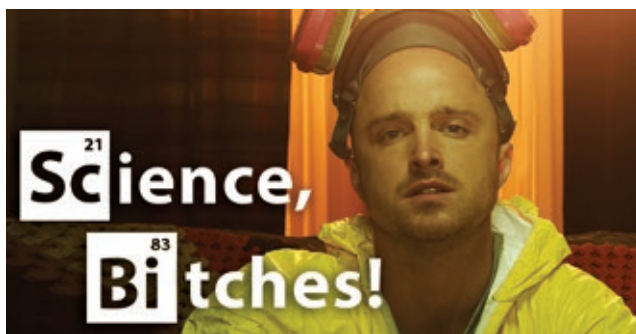
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Mother Nature Bites Back

BY SAM FRASER

If you've been to St Clair lately, you may have noticed a large section of the sand dune behind the Sharks rugby ground missing. It's a bit of a sight, so check it out next time you head to South D; the sand dune is now a cliff that waves have been eroding. There's a bunch of old cement blocks sticking out too, and some of the rugby ground lights on the top of the dune look like they're close to biting the dust. This erosion is the worst it has been during the four years I've been in Dunedin and is symptomatic of larger long-term problems at St Clair.

Spring tides occur twice a month during the full moon, causing both higher- and lower-than-normal tides. Chuck a large, high-energy southerly swell in the mix, and you have some potent circumstances for coastal erosion. This is one of the reasons for the erosion at St Clair, but a less obvious reason for the scarping of the dunes is development so close to the beach. "Coastal hazards" aren't natural, but are created by human activity. The coast is an extremely dynamic zone, which is always changing and should be allowed to change.

Natural sand dunes are always on the move, and their shifting is dictated by the movement of coastal sediments. When you place static structures in the coastal zone, such as a sea wall or a rugby field, you create a coastal hazard. The problematic St Clair sea wall has been talked about as an artificial headland that is redirecting wave energy down the beach onto the dunes; this isn't helping the situation. Add sea-level rise, and you have a real predicament. Humans are still at the mercy of the natural world. As long as we continue to build on coastal regions, Mother Nature will continue to bite back.



Sex Toys

BY T. ANTRIC

We, as Dunedin students, have a bit of a reputation. And unlike some of our other reputations, this one is perfectly legitimate. We are "poor". While we usually battle through this in admirable ways, there are times when being poor throws a spanner (or a dildo) in the works, e.g. buying sex toys.

Sex toys are awesome: use them alone, use them with a friend, take them to your book club (... ahem). But while these foreign objects can penetrate, be penetrated, wriggle, vibrate or do any number of ungodly things, certainly they can be cheap, but these aren't always so cheerful.

Whether you're looking at a veiny, vaguely horror-movie-esque dildo or a squishy, slightly squelchy fleshlight, this is one area of your sex life where cheap and dirty is not a great idea. (Cheap and dirty is probably never a good idea when we're discussing delicate bits.)

The cardinal rule when it comes to purchasing toys that will be in or around any areas one would consider sensitive is the harder, the better.

If the toy is glass or metal, lube that thing up and go to town. The squishier a toy, however, the more likely it is to contain phthalates, a chemical used to soften plastic and increase flexibility but which can be quite dangerous and introduce some icky stuff into your body. Even if a squishy toy doesn't contain these phthalates, softer toys are generally more porous, which means they can harbour bacteria, and there is no way to clean them 100 percent. Either buy body-safe, medical-grade silicon toys or, as a cheaper, quicker alternative, put a condom over the toy each time you use it.

You should always buy from a reliable seller too. Don't use websites with mangled English and a three-month shipping time and, if you are going online, check reviews. Sex toy companies are mostly pretty good; they'll package your package (ayy) discreetly and it will, more than likely, come up as something vague on your bank statements.

So splash out a little (until you finish university, it's on John Key), get a glass or metal toy where possible and aim for body-safe silicon and safe retailers. If absolutely none of that is possible, at least put a condom on it.

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Go, the mighty Highlanders!

BY DR DAVID CLARK, MP

It is hard to believe a week has passed since the Highlanders' historic first Super15 win. I was lucky enough to be at Forsyth Barr Stadium for the semi-final win over the Chiefs. Suddenly anything looked possible. Although the final was tense viewing, my hunch proved right, my bets were well placed and I now look forward to a swag of other Wellington MPs shouting me dinner when parliament starts sitting again in a week's time.

Not all news in the past fortnight has been so rosy. The loss of more training accreditation at Dunedin Hospital is needless and worrying. If the hospital were running like a well-funded, well-oiled machine, training wouldn't be under threat. As it is, the Intensive Care Unit is no longer allowed to train specialists, and now Orthopaedics is out for 2016 too.

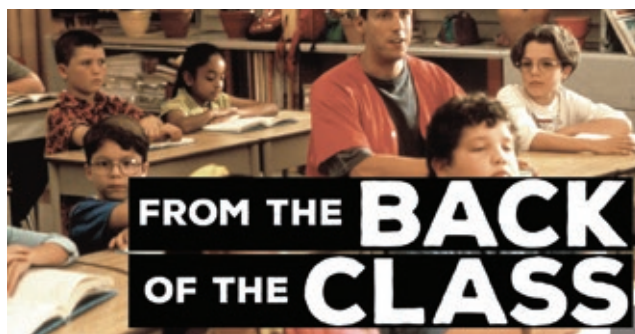
Medical and other healthcare professional students are being asked to bear with the situation. Just nuts. I am quite sure that if our scheduled hospital rebuild were underway, and health funding were adequate, management would be focused on providing the best training environment rather than constantly fighting fires or mopping up leaks (figuratively and literally).

Since time immemorial, Dunedin has trained a good portion of New Zealand's health workforce. The quality of this training in no small way explains this country's international reputation for medicine. But that is under threat.

By reputation, our small, tight nursing courses, medical schools and other health sciences work together and punch above their weight. We've always made health dollars stretch further in the South. But chronic underfunding and expiring buildings mean our reputation is under threat. It is time the government committed capital and laid out timeframes for the hospital rebuild.

A \$300 million construction project will inject valuable cash into Dunedin's economy but, more importantly, it will also ensure the future of our health science training. Modern facilities and a well-funded system will guarantee the ability to attract and retain the world-class specialists needed to teach the next generation of New Zealand health professionals.

Then, and only then, will Dunedin Hospital again function like a tight unit punching above its weight. Go, the mighty Highlanders.



Caves at Anderson's Bay

BY FINBARR NOBLE

Dunedin is beautiful, the people are hospitable and, unlike in other so-called cultural metropolises, you can still get an actual pint for less than the down-payment on a house. However, it was not always so idyllic. Many of the streets we walk upon, like High Street, Stuart Street and the suburb of Māori Hill, were built using the slave labour of Māori political prisoners in the nineteenth century.

You may have heard of the settlement of Parihaka in Taranaki, or not ... for which you are forgiven as for many years that was exactly what the government wanted. The settlement was founded in 1866 by chiefs, Te Whiti o Rongomai and Tohu Kakahi, on land seized by "the Man" during the post-war confiscations of the 60s. The nineteenth-century colonial government couldn't give a fuck about the rule of law.

Te Whiti, fed up with what he saw as government theft of land, initiated a process of peaceful resistance. In 1876 the government began surveying land in the Taranaki for settlement, and Te Whiti and his "ploughmen" began ploughing it up. As fast as the settlers could settle the land, the ploughmen would unsettle it — and as fast as the authorities could arrest the ploughmen, who offered no resistance, another crew would take their place.

Te Whiti's philosophy dictated that those of greatest mana should be the first to take up the plough, and so the jails of the North Island were soon filled with prominent Māori. All this mana imprisoned within its traditional spheres of influence was a political problem for the embattled colonial government. In January 1880 the prisoners were quietly moved to prisons in the South Island, including Dunedin, with the clear hope that, as the MP for Northern Māori protested, "... they might be got rid of, and that they might perish there".

You can still see the caves in Anderson Bay where they were held. 137 ploughmen were held in Dunedin prison between 1879 and 1881 and were forced to work on the city's infrastructure. Three of these men died. The men suffered great hardship, but the manner in which they carried themselves through it impressed the local population and did much to combat the racist stereotypes, such that upon the release of one group, locals farewelled their ship with a good ol' fashioned three cheers.

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Dunners Women Can Drink

BY STEPH TAYLOR

'Sexist' BYO limit complaint laid

A Dunedin woman has found the latest BYO accord hard to swallow, labelling it as having "sexist limits" towards women.

Exercise linked to productivity

Research that really is just common sense has discovered if you exercise, you are more productive.

Trucking along with Lego

Miserably failed at last semester's exams? Never fear, one Canterbury student has found the answer: being paid to build scale models of buildings using Lego.

Coldest winter in years?

Harden up

This public message by the ODT is supported by people who are sick of hearing about "OMG it was so cold in Auckland during the break! I had to go buy a new KW scarf to deal with it."

Heady moment



Prince Charles examines a pint of "Prince of Pales" he poured during a visit to the community-run Raven Inn pub in Llanarmon yn Lal, in Wales. The Raven is supported by the Prince's "Pub is the Hub" initiative, which fosters the reopening of former pubs as village hubs. The Raven reopened five years ago as a not-for-profit volunteer community venture.

Prince Charles has obviously poured a few pints in his day to earn the nickname "Prince of Pales".



Rogue Flatmates

BY STUDENT SUPPORT

O USA's Student Support Centre wants to help you with your issues: from dodgy flatmates to unfair grades, email your questions to ethel@critic.co.nz and she will respond to them for you each week, right here in Critic.

Dear Ethel,

We need some help with a rogue flatmate. There are five of us on our lease. About four months ago, one flatmate decided he didn't want to put in for groceries, cook or eat with us. Fair enough. But since then, he's been really unfriendly. We hardly see him and he doesn't talk to us — just grunts on his way past to his bedroom. When he's at home, he's always in his room. Anyway, now he tells us that he's moving out and he's got a cousin taking over his lease. We haven't met this cousin, but we've heard rumours and they're not pretty. We're not sure if we've got any say in who takes over his lease? Help!

If I had a dollar for every time I've heard this, I'd be living it up somewhere tropical where they actually have sunlight! Assuming you've signed the standard fixed-term lease in which you are all "jointly and severally liable" for paying rent and looking after the place, the law is clear about what needs to happen if one person wants out.

Think of a jointly and severally liable lease as being like a marriage; you're in it for the long haul. If you want a divorce, it'll be messy. If someone wants out ("assigning" their tenancy), the landlord and the other flatmates have to be in agreement. So, you are under no obligation to have a random living in your house without your agreement.

Having said that, it's pretty crap to be living with someone who's unhappy and clearly doesn't want to be living with the rest of you! So, we recommend a flat conversation first. Try to talk through what's going to be best for all of you. If your flattie's adamant about leaving, meet the cousin or be available to meet other people who might like to live there, but remember that the decision rests with you and the landlord, not the departing flatmate. Once you're in agreement, you all sign a change of tenant form and live happily ever after ...



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di lusso

B A R

Love is blind

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

Hans

He might have gotten with her friend before, but we're holding out for a romance.

I signed myself up for this partly due to a dare and partly due to a promising that I would do it in first year. Anyway, I dressed up to look classy, had a beer (or 5) before I got there, and arrived 10 minutes early. We ended up having a great yarn with the bartender (who knew that having wine on tap was a thing?) while I was waiting for her to show up. I was terrified that I would be set up with some 18 year old fresher. You may be old enough to drink and vote, but you're still children.

The bar patrons were more nervous than I was, with one asking me "What if she walks through that door and she's fat? What will you do?" Finally, this lovely blonde girl walked in about 20 minutes late (how rude), and I did not need to worry about her being ugly or fat. The conversation flowed well, and we talked about all the things you aren't supposed to talk about on a first date (religion, marriage, etc ...).

After the bar tab ran out, we headed off. I went in for the cheeky kiss on George St, and that later turned into a makeout session outside the museum. Sorry to the passers-by. She wanted to go home, so I walked her most of the way (her choice). Since it was early, I went back to town, got hammered and bought lots of random people drinks. Damnit. A cheeky Facebook stalk informed me that I had previously banged one of her friends, so this may not be that successful in the long run. Sadly there are no more salacious details. I let you down.

Cheers to Critic for the date and to Di Lusso for being awesome.

Anna

She names her boobs Mary-Kate and Ashley. The Olsen twins got some love.

My friends had really prepped the shit out of me for this date. I got told a strict list of all the things I wasn't allowed to do. I wasn't allowed to dance while I talked. I wasn't allowed to go in a costume then change halfway through and I wasn't allowed to have a fake accent. So with my usual pulling techniques being banned, I was nervous.

Naturally I rocked into this date a bottle of wine deep with the idea that I'd be matched with this hell-a-basic 19-year-old UniCol male. Safe to say he was the opposite, he was 5th year law in a bloody suit and tie! I'm pretty sure he even quoted a philosopher at some stage, which I'm not gonna lie was over my drunk ass head.

The wine and food was mean and flowed with the conversation. When the bartender tried to take away the platter, I swear a low growl came out. My date then bought us three shots each and that was me for the night: I was well and truly gone. I vaguely remember him taking me to Boogie – a decision I had no part in making. It was becoming obvious I needed to head home so he walked me and we had a make out sesh for a bit; this involved escalating to him lifting up my top and bra and exposing Mary-Kate and Ashley casually outside the museum. He then proceeded to whisper "the things I would do to you" in my ear.

As soon as we parted ways, I slipped on the ice and cut open my knee. #gobbyknees. Was a good night, he's got my number, and he knows where to find me. We're hoping for a spring wedding.



OUSA President's Column

Congratulations to the Highlanders!

We are stoked at the fantastic performance by the Highlanders in defeating the Hurricanes to win the grand final and take home their first ever Super Rugby title. OUSA was pleased to play a small part in the Highlanders' successful 2015 campaign through the "Zoooper Pass", which allowed for students to see the home games at the start of the season. The Highlanders showed tremendous spirit and skill throughout the season. Commiserations to the Hurricanes who also had an exceptional season.

What's happening at OUSA?

I hope Re-Ori was great for those of you who went along to the various gigs and events. The start of semester two presents a good opportunity to sign up to one of the many clubs and societies on campus, so do check them out. Pop over to the Rec. Centre at 84 Albany Street or go online to

ousa.org.nz/clubs/ for a list and contact details for clubs and societies.

University Council meeting, Tuesday, July 14th 2pm, Clocktower.

Last week I wrote about the importance of maintaining two student representatives on the University Council. The final composition of the new council is likely to be decided when the Council next meets on Tuesday 14th July. The ability of students to advocate on all issues is dependent on having sufficient representation at the University's top governance level.

Whether students are advocating for better learning conditions, maintaining the Hyde Street party, environmental reform, or for a campus which caters to a diverse student population, the University of Otago Council is the place where students need to be represented. Students are often at the forefront of innovation and social change. Regardless of what you, or even OUSA, believe is the issue of the day, we owe it to future generations of Scarfies to do our best to maintain two representatives on Council. Students will inevitably have a diversity of views and priorities and we

should have at least two representatives given the 18,000+ size of the student body.

Want to help out?

Come along to the Council meeting on the July 14th (Tuesday) at 2pm in the Council Chambers – that's on the first floor of the Clocktower. The purpose of attending the meeting is to demonstrate that Scarfies care about the future of the University. This is not a protest designed to disrupt Council business. This is an aspirational campaign demonstrating that students bring an important perspective to the Council. Being disruptive is the fastest way to ensure Scarfies do not achieve two student representatives. A strong student presence will show that we appreciate the importance of this issue and respect the Council's process.

If you haven't signed the petition yet, you still can! You'll find it at the OUSA Main Office Reception or at the front desk of the Recreation Centre.



Paul Hunt

president@ousa.orgnz

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